

BIG RAPIDS AREA

OCTOBER 2005

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Katrina Communications

From Tom Behler KB8TYJ

PC Magazine Nov 8, 2005
Inside Track Column
By John C. Dvorak

The most overlooked participants in Katrina relief were the ham radio folks. Bush should give them all medals.

Two weeks after Hurricane Katrina, it was reported that over 100 Internet networks were still down in Louisiana, as well that had been in the path of the hurricane. So much for the notion that the Web is impossible to kill. Hard to have an Internet with no power! WiMAX and other solutions are useless, too, though I suppose a generator would be useful for WiMAX. Whatever the case, the most overlooked participants in the Katrina relief effort were the ham radio folks, who were doing whatever they could as ad hoc emergency dispatchers, creating their own network within the system. These dedicated persons pride themselves on their ability to do worldwide communications under adverse conditions, and the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) and its members, as well as others, were a big part of the aid effort.

Of course, since amateur radio is anything but trendy in today's Xbox, gene-splicing world, there was zero coverage of its contribution in the mainstream press, and these people are not the world's greatest self-promoters. At least some of us are paying attention. Good work, guys! Bush should be giving medals to you all.

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CLUB NETS

440 NET Sundays at 7:30 PM

2 Meter Net Tuesdays at 9:00 PM
Time change ! at 8:00 PM after November 1

ARES/RACES Net 2nd and 4th Wednesday at
9:00 PM on the 2 Meter repeater.

If you want to be the net control station, for 2 meter or 440 nets, contact Tom Behler KB8TYJ
email: kb8tyj@arrl.net or phone 231-592-9854



To become a member of RACES you must provide a copy of your Amateur Radio license, complete the FEMA IS-22 online course, have a clear criminal past as indicated by a Felony Background check, and you must complete a RACES registration form obtained from your county Emergency Co-ordinator.



Lillian Spence KC80MJ and Jake Spence KI8CK



Bill Stankey N8MZB



Bruce Werner WB8TVD



Jerry Buskirk KC8CII



Matthew Trombley KC8VJR



Tom Behler KB8TYJ and Jim Orlowski N8PUG

Sunday, October 9, 2005 turned out to be sunny and clear. With Fall leaves swirling in the wind, approximately 50 walkers took off from St. Paul's Church and participated in the annual CROP Walk For Hunger event. Whether down the "short" path in town or the "long" one across the Baldwin Street Bridge, our Ham operators were there to provide communications and assistance. A total of 9 club members participated in the event and managed to have a great time as well. Being together, providing a service, using our Ham Radio skills, and laughing and joking were all features of the day. What more can you ask for? Our Club does a great deal in providing service to our community. We are there for an uneventful CROP Walk or a tense and uncertain SKYWARN condition. Wherever we are – whatever we do--- we get the job done and have fun along the way. Come join us next year – you'll have a great time. Sue Behler KC8IFP

From www.freerepublic.com

Posted on 10/09/2005 10:07:46 AM PDT by [TechJunkYard](#)

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it's become clear that a major contributing factor to the tragic loss of life was the near total breakdown of communication systems. Once electricity, telephone, and cell phone services failed, people were unable to let rescuers know of their dire situation...and died as a result.

A simple, instant, and virtually zero-cost solution: A "National SOS" public emergency network that connects millions of Family Radio Service (FRS) radios already in use by the public with 650,000 amateur "ham" radio operators -- people renown and prepared for emergency communications. The output frequencies of FRS radios are easily received by the radio gear hams use daily. That's the magic link in this emergency communication strategy. The *National SOS Radio Network* wouldn't require new laws or any new legislation. It could go into effect, immediately. Once the ham radio community is made aware to listen for the public's emergency broadcasts on an FRS frequency, the national network will be up and running. FRS radios don't require a license, can be used by anyone of any age, and are available for as little as \$10 - \$15 at many retailers. FRS radios can transmit 2 - 8 miles (terrain dependent). And there are hams in nearly every community in America. (To see how many ham radio operators are in any town, visit www.qrz.com/i/names.html and type in a zip code.)

Most of us hams could easily monitor FRS Channel 1 (462.5625 MHz) on a wideband 440 receiver. The problem is, we can't legally talk back to them on our ham gear, so that means having another (FRS) radio handy. I think that it would be a mass off confusion. Everybody and his brother would be on the air. What do you think of this idea?

From: The ARES E-Letter, ARRL

Clarification: Modification of Amateur Radio Equipment for Use by MARS, CAP

MARS and CAP operators may (and frequently do) legally modify Amateur Radio equipment for their use in the MARS and CAP frequency bands, which are deliberately near amateur allocations for exactly this purpose. Indeed, neither MARS nor CAP requires certificated equipment, precisely so that modified ham equipment can be used. We regret any confusion stemming from a related item published in a previous issue. - K1CE

From: National Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol

Interoperability with other agencies is stressed. In most cases, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed with each agency before operation on each other's frequencies.

The Civil Air Patrol operates primarily on frequencies assigned by the United States Air Force. As a result, all CAP radios must comply with NTIA standards for transmitting and receiving. This requirement also applies to all radios used by other agencies that are permitted by MOU to operate on CAP frequencies.

This means that Hams can not transmit on CAP frequencies unless they are part of an agency with a MOU with CAP and the equipment is NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) compliant or have a CAP radio operator's license and pass only CAP related traffic.

From: Air Force Print News

In response to Hurricane Katrina, CAP units in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama supported more than 670 air missions during which CAP pilots flew more than 1,300 hours. These missions included search and rescue flights, emergency official transportation and impact assessments.

CAP, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, performs 95 percent of all continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center located at Langley Air Force Base, VA More than 56,000 volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. And members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 25,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing "missions for America" for more than 60 years.

October Meeting Minutes by Jim Orłowski N8PUG

Meeting called to order at 7 pm, at the Big Rapids Public Safety building, By Sue KC8IFP.

Guests: Justin Ball, Kevin Streeter KC8ZRT, Bill Jeffrey N8LPR, Al Snyder KB8FJB, Lenore Snyder KC8VSA.

Secretary's Report was read by Jim N8PUG and approved.

Treasurers Report was given by Sue Kc8IFP and approved.

Announcements: Crop Walk Sunday Oct 9 2005 start time 1pm at St Pauls Parish, Big Rapids. Those assisting on the Crop Walk need to be at the church at 12pm.

Net controls for the 2 meter net and the 440 net are needed.

Also a reminder that starting Tuesday November 1 the 2 meter net will start at 8pm.

Club QSO Contest: The mystery ham was Lillian Spence KC80MJ.

Big Boy Fundraiser: We Made 382.44!

Club Dues: The club voted to raise dues to \$25.00 beginning in January 2006.

Discussion on having a license class and VE exam: Phil Marcotte and Jake Spence will be in charge of this.

Next Club Breakfast 10-29-2005 at Grandma's Kitchen in Mecosta.

50/50 winner was Walt Nalezty WB8GAO.

President Sue Behler Did a very interesting presentation on some recently found items and pictures on the history of the Club.

Meeting adjourned 8:44 pm

Board of Directors List

Sue Behler President - PIO

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Matthew Trombley, Vice President, Webmaster

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Jim Orłowski Secretary

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Publicity Committee Chair

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Bev Callewaert Emergency Committee Chair

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Fritz Pins, Past president,
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George Rouman, Past president

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Don MacConnel Past president

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It always amazes me how quickly the Summer turns to Fall. One minute we're complaining about the heat – or maybe that's just me- and the next minute the leaves are falling and we're turning on the furnace for the first time. The leaves have been beautiful this Fall and I certainly have enjoyed them. Of course, I guess I can say that because I haven't gotten out there to rake them yet. Check back with my next month and we'll see if I still think they are so wonderful.

Thank you to all who have encouraged me in taking over as President of the Club. I hope to do a good job and help our club move forward. I am excited about the coming year, and wondering what it will hold in store. One of the ideas I had at the beginning of my term was to try to get more people to join and to try to get the current members more involved. Notice that word TRY here. I appreciate encouragement and hope others do as well. It would be WONDERFUL if we could have a large, busy club, but a significant part of that is out of my hands. I need to concentrate on what I can control. With that in mind I sent out 60 postcards to local hams in the Reed City, Big Rapids, Hersey, Mecosta, Evart, Barryton, Morley, Rodney, and Paris areas, inviting them to join us at our October meeting. How lucky we were to have 3 of these hams show up. Welcome Bill Jeffrey N8TPR, Al Snyder KB8FJB and Lenore Snyder KC8VSA! It was great to talk with you at the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at future meetings and events, and perhaps sometime you'll feel comfortable enough to join the Club. Two Ferris students also joined us at the meeting. Good to see you again, Kevin Strieter KC8ZRT and thank you for encouraging your friend Justin Ball in his Ham Radio interest. Hopefully other Hams will hang on to the postcard and come to see us at a future meeting.

After the October meeting I sent out a different postcard to some members we had not seen or heard much of recently. I just wanted them to know that WE MISS THEM and hope they are doing fine. I also wanted them to know that they are important to us and that we hope, sometime in the future, they will be able to join us again for a meeting or an event. Ham radio is a wonderful hobby, and we are a wonderful group of people who make up our local club. What a great combination!

The belief that we are a great club was reinforced during the weekend of October 22nd when Tom and I attended the Holland Swap. A forum held on that day was entitled "The ABCs of an Effective Club." Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, the ARRL Affiliated Clubs Coordinator led the discussion. Just sitting in the session and listening to the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of other clubs made me feel encouraged. The same problems we have – other clubs are experiencing. The same questions we are asking are being posed by other clubs as well. We are not alone. I also felt very proud and happy about our little club. We have accomplished much and have a lot that we can brag about. The efforts of our members are quite impressive. Imagine what a little more effort could bring us. "A little bit goes a long way." As I mentioned at the last club meeting, if you would like to be a part of a committee, and be more involved, we would love to have you. I hope to have an updated committee list in the next newsletter. At this time we have the following committees: Repeater, Emergency, Newsletter, Website, and Publicity. A recommendation was made to possibly add a Hospitality Committee and a Technology/Education Committee to that list. If any of these look interesting to you, please get in touch with me.

I would like to take this time to thank the membership for their support of our dues increase. I know this is never a "joyful" occasion, but I do hope that you feel your money is being wisely spent and is going toward a good cause. We will do everything possible in the coming year to hold down expenses and to generate additional income through fundraising efforts. If any of you have ideas for fundraising, please bring them to the next meeting, or give me a call so we can discuss them.

One last item I have to discuss is an announcement that appeared in the September 30, 2005 ARRL Weekly Newsletter. The full article has been included in this newsletter for your information, and concerns the 2005 TOY DRIVE FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS. What fun Tom and I had last year going to Toys R Us and picking out a toy for a boy and a girl! It brought back memories of taking Dan to the toy store and watching his

eyes light up at all the new temptations. We had a great time debating the best gifts to buy, and there wasn't any nagging or whining anywhere to be heard!!!

I would like to suggest a possibility that might make contributing to this cause easier for you. If you would like to contribute a toy, bring it to the next meeting. I will personally make sure it gets boxed up and shipped to the address indicated in the article. Of course, if you wish to make a monetary contribution instead, the address for that contribution is included in the article as well. A big box of toys from the Big Rapids Hams would be appreciated I'm sure.

That's all for now. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the next club meeting. Please come, contribute your ideas, and catch up on the latest events. You'll have a great time I'm sure.

Sue Behler
KC8IFP

Next BRAARC monthly meeting

Thursday November 3 at 7 p.m.
In the classroom of the
Department Of Public Safety building
435 North Michigan Ave in
down town Big Rapids.
Be There!



BRAARC YEARLY DUES INCREASED TO \$25.00

The decision was unanimous at the October BRAARC meeting. The dues for membership must be increased to \$25.00 per year. The club members present had a good discussion of our financial situation and offered excellent suggestions on both keeping expenses to a minimum as well as coming up with fundraising ideas. Please remember that your dues payment is DUE JANUARY 1, 2006. If dues are not paid before March 1, 2006, your name will be dropped from active membership. Thank you for your continued support of our club and the hobby of amateur radio.

Call: _____ Class: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Dues \$25.00 for 2006. _____ Donation: _____

Dues payable by January 1, 2006. Checks should be made out to the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club (BRAARC). Mail your check and this form to John McDowell, KC8BAR, Treasurer, P.O. Box 116, Reed City, MI 49677 or bring your dues to a meeting.

HOW OLD IS RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ?

P-342

No. 725,605.

PATENTED APR. 14, 1903.

N. TESLA.
SYSTEM OF SIGNALING.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 16, 1900.

NO MODEL.

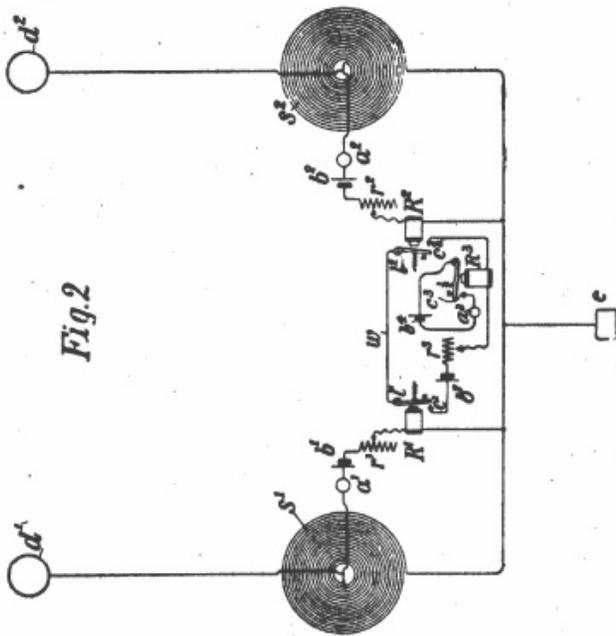


Fig. 2

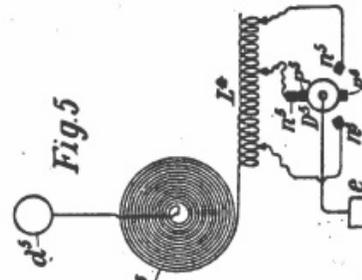


Fig. 5

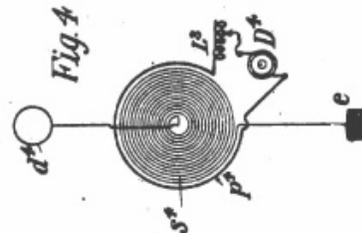


Fig. 4

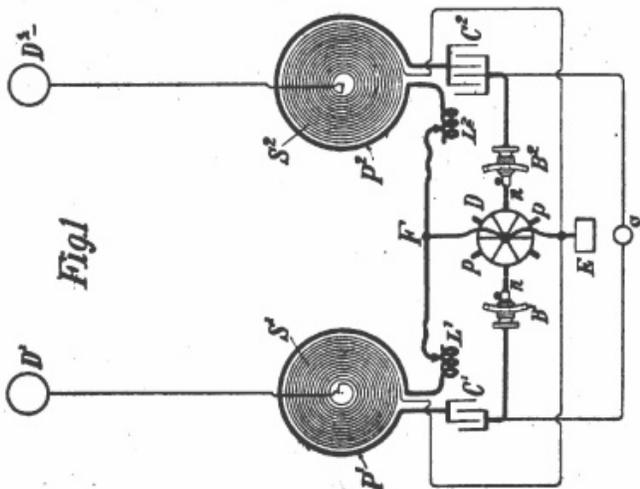


Fig. 1

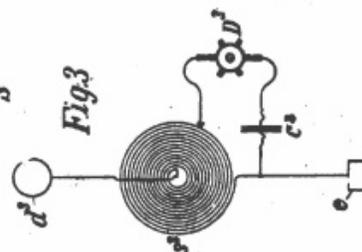


Fig. 3

Witnesses:
Raphael Letter
L. D. Morrill

Nikola Tesla, Inventor
by *Ken. Page & Cooper* Attys

BRAARC Web Site

The secure web page for members only is now up at bigrapidsarc.net

. You may use this page to view/read/print future newsletters online. This will have color pictures and will be easy to read. Your user name will be your call sign. Please send Matthew the password that you want to use so that he can add you to the list. Contact him at : trom9@fsuimail.ferris.edu

Those who no longer wish to receive a paper copy should let the Editor know and provide him with an email address so he can send out a reminder when the newsletter is posted to the website. Contact Gordon at : gordon-kc8wfx@usa.net

Hamfests in West Michigan
None in November scheduled

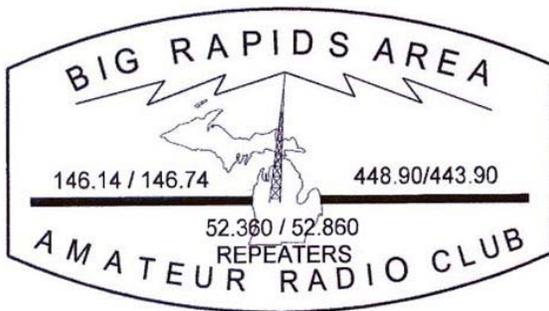
CLUB PATCHES

Club patches are available at a cost of \$5 a piece. \$3 for each patch will go into the club's repeater fund, so buy a patch and support our local repeaters. Patches can be ordered from John McDowell KC8BAR our club treasurer.



Club breakfast was October 29 at 0830 a Grandma's Kitchen in Mecosta. The next Club breakfast will be on November 26th, location to be announced.

Next Emergency Committee meeting will be Thursday 10 November 7 pm at Mecosta County EOC. Contact Tom Behler for details.



P.O. BOX 343, PARIS, MI 49338