

BIG RAPIDS AREA

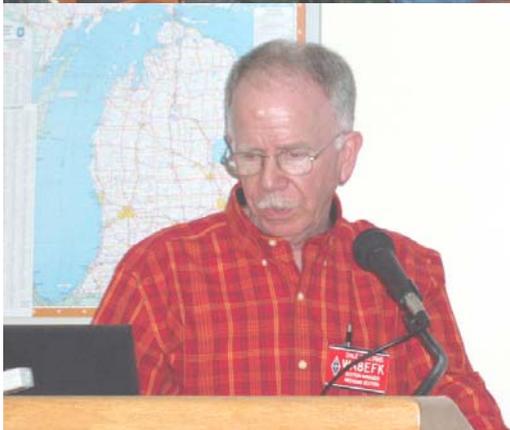
MARCH 2006

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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DALE WILLIAMS, WA8EFK ARRL MICHIGAN SECTION MANAGER PROVIDES INFORMATIVE SPEECH AT MARCH CLUB MEETING

The weather didn't cooperate, but that didn't stop us from having a great time at the March club meeting listening to Dale Williams, WA8EFK, ARRL Michigan Section Manager talk about the ARRL organization and how it serves the members in the Michigan area. Dale and his wife Judy braved the ice and snow to drive up from Dundee, Michigan. Several club members met them at Bennigan's for a delicious supper and then we all traveled to the DPS building for the club meeting. Although the attendance was smaller than normal, there were many interested and enthusiastic hams waiting to learn about the Michigan section, and to ask Dale questions about pertinent issues. It was a very enjoyable evening and Dale provided a lot of useful information. We look forward to having him back in the future - next time we'll pick a warmer month and hope he'll be able to meet more of you.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS-CALENDAR

BRAARC meeting 6 April 1900	5
BRAARC breakfast 6 April 0730	1
Ham Fests	8
Skywarn Training 18 April	5
Emergency committee 11 May	8

CLUB NETS

440 NET Sundays at 7:30 PM

**2 Meter Net Tuesdays at 8:00 PM
9:00 PM starts in April**

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

SIGN UP FOR NET CONTROL STATION

BRRARC YAHOO group is up and running, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/braarc> and click on "Calendar" link and go to January and February to see the Net Control stations, only ONE date filled so far, please signup by notifying Tom KB8TYJ.

The next Club Breakfast will be at
Wild Rose Café was East Side Cafe
April 1 Saturday at 0730

ICE STORM

Report on Mecosta County Ice Storm Red Cross Shelter Activation from Tom Behler: KB8TYJ, Mecosta County EC/RO

It has been said many times that amateur radio operators take great pride in their readiness to provide communications in actual or potential emergency situations any time of the day or night, at any time of the year. Well, on Saturday: February 18 and Sunday: February 19, the hams of Mecosta and Osceola Counties were given the opportunity to prove that point. As expected, we came through with flying colors and were duly recognized for our efforts.

As you may recall, our area (particularly the southeastern part of Mecosta County) experienced a major ice storm on Thursday: February 16 and Friday: February 17. Along with ice storms, of course, come the typical downed trees, downed power lines, and resultant power outages. The area around Remus was particularly hard hit in these regards.

On Saturday afternoon, around 1 p.m., thanks to a relay from Gary Atteberry, Osceola County's EC/RO, I was informed about a Red Cross shelter being established at the Remus Township Hall for victims of the power outage, and was told that our assistance was requested to provide back-up communications for the shelter operation. Back-up communications were needed, due to the fact that power was out in many areas, cell phone coverage was spotty at best, and even normal land-line phone service was questionable.

After contacting Kelley Taylor (the volunteer readiness and response program manager for the local American Red Cross chapter), and making preparations for deployment to the scene, Sue (KC8IFP) and I ventured out to the shelter location. We set up shop, and had an informal net up and running on our 2-meter repeater within approximately 2 hours. From the moment we arrived on the scene, the Red Cross personnel repeatedly expressed their appreciation for our being there. They found us to be a real source of comfort in a potentially highly stressful situation.

We then attended an initial de-briefing about the situation, and found out that the Red Cross officials were planning to keep the shelter open at least through the upcoming night, and possibly much longer. As a result, I immediately called for possible assistance to cover four-hour shifts during the entire net operation. And, true to form, our local ARES and RACES members rose to the occasion with both enthusiasm and an amazing volunteer spirit.

It would be beyond the scope of this article to list all of the participants in our net on those two very cold winter days, but I would like to especially thank those folks who ventured out into the cold to cover the various designated shifts. Specifically, thanks to Fritz (N18E) for covering the 8 p.m. - midnight shift on Saturday evening. Thanks to Jake (K18CK) for taking the 12 midnight - 4 a.m. shift on Sunday morning. Thanks also to Don (WA4FRJ) and Kevin (KC8ZRT) for braving the elements to take the 4 a.m. - 8 a.m. shift on Sunday. And thanks to George (W8OWN) for helping wrap things up Sunday morning. I also want to thank Sue (KC8IFP), our club President and my better half, for literally dropping everything and changing her plans for the weekend to help out.

I can't begin to tell you how rewarding it is for me as an EC to see a volunteer effort like this come together so well. It is a credit both to our local ARES/RACES organization, and to each and every one who assisted. Granted, the shelter ended up serving only one family for a short time, but we were there to step in when and as needed in a situation that had the potential to be very serious and very demanding. We also learned from this operation about the trials and tribulations of quickly setting up antennas and making them function in a very challenging location for the 2-meter repeater. We did discover some issues that we need to address in terms of effective repeater operation, and we will work to resolve these issues at the earliest convenient time.

All and all, the shelter net operation was a highly positive experience, with a bit of "on scene" learning and training thrown in for good measure. Although we all hope that another emergency situation never occurs in our area, we also understand the inevitable. Emergencies, or potential emergencies, will happen at any time, and it is my hope that we will be even better prepared for any such situation in the future. It is my pleasure to serve as Mecosta County's EC/RO, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in service to others.



Kevin KC8ZRT



George W8OWN



Tom KB8TYJ

**MARCH Meeting Minutes
by Jim Orlowski N8PUG**

Meeting called to order by Sue Behler
Kc8ifp at 7:00 pm at the Big Rapids Dept. Of Public
Safety Building.

Intro Of Guests: A student form the license class was
in attendance. Also our guest speaker Dale Williams
W8EFK and spouse.

Treasurers report:

Announcements: Justin Ball Got his license, His call
is KD8CXQ.

Mecosta County BASIC sky warn training
is Tuesday April 18th, from 7pm to 9 pm
Location is the Big Rapids Public Safety
Building 435 North Michigan Big Rapids.
VE session Saturday April 1, 2006. Big Rapids Public
Safety building start time 9:00am.

Next club breakfast: Saturday April 1, 7:30am at the
Wild Rose Cafe(Formally the East side Cafe). This start
time is due to the Ve session scheduled for 9:00 am
that morning.

Old business: J-poles being worked on by Fritz Bev
has made pouches for them.

Ham of the year nominations were handed out. This
award will be given out at the annual club dinner.
Previous winners of this award were JIM Orlowski
N8PUG and TOM BEHLER KB8TYJ.

Tech Corner: Don WA4FRJ and Kevin KC8ZRT showed
a hitch mount they created.

50/50 winner was Gary Atteberry WB8WIA
he donated it back to the club.

Program:
Dale Williams W8efk ARRL Michigan Section Manager
discussed the ARRL and the ways that the ARRL works
to help all hams.

Adjourn.

A note: The Plaque for John East KB8QOL
is back on the wall at Radio Shack.

Board of Directors List

Sue Behler President - PIO
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Don MacConnel Past president
don@omnitrack.com

DECIMAL – BINARY

1	0001	6	0110	11	1011
2	0010	7	0111	12	1100
3	0011	8	1000	13	1101
4	0100	9	1001	14	1110
5	0101	10	1010	15	1111



A Note From The President March 2006

A little bit goes a long way. Yes, I know, I keep saying that. It must be that I actually believe it --- which is true. I'm looking ahead at all the events and activities planned for the next few months and thinking - there is a lot to do. With a little bit of help from all our members, we would be sure to handle all these activities and events and enjoy ourselves in the process. I hope you are looking ahead with as much enthusiasm as I am. I also hope you are checking your calendars and deciding whether you'll be able to join in the fun and lend your support whenever it is needed.

Let's look ahead together and see what's coming up. April 1st - no fooling - should be a good day for some local students hoping to get their technician license. Our VE session is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st at 9:00 am. Any VEs from the club who can help on that day should contact George Rouman. We are also hoping that other hams in the area will use this VE session to do some upgrading. Just a few days later, our April meeting will focus on Field Day planning. You'll want to be there to give some suggestions for another successful weekend of ham radio contesting. The end of June will be here before we know it - let's all help make this Field Day one of the best. April will also see us planning for our Annual Club Dinner. The dinner is scheduled for May 12th at the Falcon Head Country Club. We'll be taking reservations soon so put that date on your calendar. We also need members willing to sit on the Awards Committee. Please help us acknowledge some special efforts by club members. Of course, the comic awards are always fun as well. The last reminder about the dinner is the request for nominations for HAM OF THE YEAR. Your thoughts are welcomed and valued. Moving on to May's meeting, we will enjoy another special guest presentation. This time Chuck Stark from the West Michigan Search and Rescue will speak about his organization and how it has been so helpful to the West Michigan area. He will also address the usefulness of Ham Radio in this field. Our own Fritz Pins will be there to present along with Chuck. As you know, Fritz has started a search and rescue organization in Big Rapids. West Central Michigan Search and Rescue is our local group headed up by Fritz. The May meeting should prove to be very interesting and informative.

My, that sounds like quite a bit going on. I'm sure there will be other things popping up along the way. A fox hunt might be fun when the warmer weather finally arrives. Of course, we are also looking forward to scheduling a construction event as well. Stay tuned for more developments. With ham radio there is always something to do and enjoy.

One last comment I would like to make is a big thank you for all who came out to welcome Dale Williams at our March club meeting. The ice and snow earlier in the day kept the attendance smaller than usual, but I do appreciate those who braved the evening. If you did come you were fortunate to hear Dale speak about the ARRL and its many services. We had a wonderful dinner with him before the meeting and enjoyed talking informally with him and his wife Judy. It was a great meeting and it was wonderful to see several of the students from the Technician class there. We hope after their success on April 1st, they will join our club meetings on a regular basis. Speaking of new hams, CONGRATULATIONS to Justin Ball. Justin successfully passed his Technician License exam and has the call KD8CXQ. I'm sure you have already heard him on the repeater. Good for you, Justin, and welcome to our wonderful hobby!

Looking forward to seeing more of you in the warmer weather. Come on out and support this fantastic club of ours.

Take care and best 73, Sue Behler, KC8IFP

ATTEND THE ANNUAL CLUB DINNER ON MAY 12TH

The club's annual feast and awards banquet is set for Falcon Head Golf Club at 13120 Northland Drive (Old US 131) just south of Big Rapids. Be there at 6:00 pm for a get together and a chat. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. The charge per person will be approximately \$18.00 – this includes tax and gratuity. Watch next month's newsletter for more details. The tentative menu is as follows:

Roast beef in Au Jus
 Roast turkey with dressing
 Potatoes Au Gratin
 Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
 Tossed Salad Bar
 Macaroni Salad
 Vegetable, Rolls, Coffee, and Tea



A cash bar will be available.

You may make more than one trip to the banquet buffet.

The VE license test 1 April 0900

Next BRAARC monthly meeting
 Thursday April 6 at 7 p.m.
 In the classroom of the
 Department Of Public Safety building
 435 North Michigan Ave in
 down town Big Rapids.



Skywarn Training is scheduled as follows:

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2006 Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 Place: Big Rapids DPS - multi-purpose room...435 North Michigan, Big Rapids

Even if you aren't technically from Mecosta county, you can attend this session if you need it to keep your certification as a trained skywarn spotter current. Remember, we like everyone who will be active in skywarn work to have training at least every two years. In addition, please remember that new spotter ID cards will be issued at this training session as well. Thanks, and best 73 from Tom Behler: KB8TYJ, Mecosta County EC/RO

Radiological Training – 0730 25 April at MSU in Lansing.

ARES/RACES Training – go to <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWep/IS/is22.asp>

HF test net – This is statewide, on the 2nd Tuesday each month at 7pm on 3.932 MHZ on LSB.

MiQP For First-Timers

By Dave Pruet, K8CC
k8cc@comcast.net

The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) is an operating event held annually with Michigan as the center of attention.

First of all, what is a "QSO party"? Over the years, this term has come to define an on-the-air operating event focusing on a particular geographic area. Amateurs inside the target area (in this case Michigan) earn points towards their QSO party score for making contacts with other amateurs located anywhere, while amateurs outside of the target area get QSO party points only for contacting amateurs inside the target area. To learn more about MiQP, check out the Michigan QSO Party web site at <http://www.miqp.org>. There you will find a wealth of information including complete rules, contest forms (summary, log, and multiplier count sheets), a list of county abbreviations, past MiQP results, operating tips and links to free logging software.

Part of the New Scanner Law:

The People of the State of Michigan enact:
Sec. 508. (1) A person who has been convicted of 1 or more felonies during the preceding 5 years shall not carry or have in his or her possession a radio receiving set that will receive signals sent on a frequency assigned by the federal communications commission of the United States for police or other law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical, federal, state, or local corrections, or homeland security purposes. This subsection does not apply to a person who is licensed as an amateur radio operator by the federal communications commission. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

2006 YEARLY DUES

Please don't make this issue of the newsletter your last

Your dues payment WAS DUE JANUARY 1, 2006 !! Send in your dues payment right now so that your membership will not be interrupted. 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 NOW. 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.

HAM OF THE YEAR

It is that time once again to think about nominations for Ham Of The Year. To give you a brief history, we started the Ham Of The Year award two years ago. The award is meant to recognize one of our own members who goes above and beyond the call of duty. That member actively promotes the spirit of Ham Radio; is available to all for assistance and support; displays the personal and professional ethics of Ham Radio; and has made significant contributions to the benefit of our club. The award is accompanied with a \$25.00 gift certificate from Ham Radio Outlet. The first recipient of this award was Jim Orłowski, N8PUG. Last year, the award was given to Tom Behler, KB8TYJ. Now it is time to look for another member who fits this description. I can tell you that the hardest part will be narrowing the choices. We have many, many fine members who can be counted on to do whatever is necessary, and who show, by their example, the best of the Ham Radio spirit. Please give this nomination some serious thought, and fill out the following nomination form. We need to make this decision by the time of the Club Annual Dinner, which has been scheduled for Friday, May 12th at Falcon Head. You may bring this form to the next club meeting, or mail it to :

Sue Behler, KC8IFP, 511 Spring Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Please help us pick our next HAM OF THE YEAR.

HAM OF THE YEAR

I would like to nominate _____
for HAM OF THE YEAR.

Here are the reasons for my nomination:

signed _____

Phonetic Alphabet

A	Alpha	J	Juliet	S	Sierra
B	Bravo	K	Kilo	T	Tango
C	Charlie	L	Lima	U	Uniform
D	Delta	M	Mike	V	Victor
E	Echo	N	November	W	Whiskey
F	Foxtrot	O	Oscar	X	X-ray
G	Golf	P	Papa	Y	Yankee
H	Hotel	Q	Quebec	Z	Zulu
I	India	R	Romeo		

From KE4NYV.com

BINARY NUMBERS

The table shows the first 12 number places in binary and their decimal counterparts. Binary is set in Base 2, which just means 2 to the power set. Example: 2⁵ = 32

Binary													
Base 2	2 ¹²	2 ¹¹	2 ¹⁰	2 ⁹	2 ⁸	2 ⁷	2 ⁶	2 ⁵	2 ⁴	2 ³	2 ²	2 ¹	2 ⁰
Decimal	4069	2048	1024	512	256	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1

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 Michigan - 6 May 0800-1300
 Cadillac Amateur Radio and Computer Swap
 Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club
<http://members.fortunecity.com/wexaukee>
 Talk-In: 146.98 - (no tone)
 located at Cadillac Junior High School



NET TIME CHANGE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight savings time begins Sunday, April 2nd. On the following Tuesday, April 4th, the 2 meter net will return to its normal time of 9:00 pm. Please make this change in your schedule and be ready to join in on the net. The net will remain at this time during the summer months. Next fall a decision will be made as to whether we change the net time to 8:00 pm, as we did this winter, or leave it at the 9:00 time. **PLEASE SIGN UP FOR NET CONTROL.** It's quite simple folks - NO NET CONTROLS - NO NETS. There are many holes in the net schedule for the next 2 months. Step forward and be net control. It is a lot of fun - and not as difficult as some might think. Let Tom KB8TYJ know if you can do the job. He will send you a net preamble - and you will be ready to go.

Donate Your Old Equipment to Raise Money for BRAARC

Kevin Strieter (KC8ZRT) will be selling donated items on EBay to raise money for the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club. If you have any items that you would be willing to donate, please contact Kevin (phone: (231) 591-7116, e-mail: stri13@fsuimail.ferris.edu). This is a great way to unload your unwanted items, and it will help the club as well.

**Next Emergency committee meeting
 May 11th at 911 building, Central Dispatch
 Bev WD8PFC**

