

# BIG RAPIDS AREA

MAY 2006

# AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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## STRANGE ANTENNAS CHALLENGE

May 27-29, 2006 the Kurt N. Sterba Strange Antenna Challenge, k0s, will take place. We will begin the special event 10 AM Central at or near 14.200 MHz, and plan to remain in the general class portion of any bands used. OUR antennas are NOT permitted to be constructed of wire or metal pipe. Our past antennas have included such items as metal folding chairs, chicken wire, fences, ladders, and trucks. Non-k0s stations may of course use any antenna they wish.

Those wishing a Special Event QSL Confirmation should send a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to Erik Weaver, n0ew/k0s, 4857 E. Farm Road 136, Springfield, MO, 65809 (within 2-4 weeks please). Additional information and updates may be found at [www.n0ew.org/k0s/](http://www.n0ew.org/k0s/) as well as a field manual for those interested in learning more about transmatches and antennas, both normal and strange.

Following the ravages of a natural disaster this is a potentially life-saving skill enabling HF communications without use of normal antennas. Not to be overlooked however, is the simple pleasure of making a couple pieces of chicken wire or some scrap metal perform as well as your neighbors dipole! It certainly makes for great conversation at the next hamfest or club meeting.

This sounds like a FUN event! They have a great field manual about antenna building at their site. I recommend downloading the 5 meg file even if you don't care to build antennas out of ladders, metal garbage cans, Dodge K cars or crane booms.

## Get Your Amateur Radio License In One Day!

Saturday June 10th 2006 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
No Morse Code No previous knowledge or study needed  
All study guides, etc. provided

A Non-profit contribution/registration of \$30 required (this covers your FCC testing fee)

Testing: 3:00 PM (open to public, technician exam only)  
Only 40 participants allowed - Register early!  
Even if you know absolutely nothing about ham radio, you'll receive your Technician Class license in ONLY ONE DAY. Similar programs have had over an 85% success rate, in more than 100 sessions with the non-technical public, ages 15-95.

For Registration information or questions please contact Jeff @ 616-889-7101 or [jnawrot@kcraces.net](mailto:jnawrot@kcraces.net)  
Location information will be given at time of registration.

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## CLUB NETS

440 NET Sundays at 7:30 PM

### 2 Meter Net Tuesdays at 9:00 PM

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@arrrl.net](mailto:kb8tyj@arrrl.net) or phone 231-592-9854

There is a new 440 repeater in the area. It is located in White Cloud, The frequency is 444.975 With a +offset. eventually it will have a pl of 94.8. It is owned and maintained by KB8IFE, Jim Maike.

The next Club Breakfast will be at  
Grandma's Kitchen in Mecosta  
May 27 Saturday at 0830



**Current BARRAC Member List**

AA8TM	JOSEPH	JONES	LAKE
AB8NC	ROBERT	MOODY	BIG RAPIDS
K4UIH	JAMES	WOOLEN	BIG RAPIDS
K8SHX	VINCENT	PANICCI	MORLEY
K8YHJ	ROBERT	CARPENTER	BIG RAPIDS
KB8FJB	AL	SNYDER	EVART
KB8JR	JACK	RICHARDS	BIG RAPIDS
KB8TYJ	THOMAS	BEHLER	BIG RAPIDS
KB8ZEQ	DANNY	GRAMER	PARIS
KC8AUU	TOM	O'BRIEN	FLINT
KC8BAR	JOHN	MCDOWELL	REED CITY
KC8BHY	JONI	BLANCHARD	PARIS
KC8CII	JERRY	BUSKIRK	BIG RAPIDS
KC8DID	MILAN	GREEMAN	BRYCENTER
KC8DNO	DAN	BEHLER	BIG RAPIDS
KC8IFP	SUSAN	BEHLER	BIG RAPIDS
KC8JOM	ROBERT	TYSON	HERSEY
KC8MMF	JERIEL	BEARD	BIG RAPIDS
KC8OIU	RENATO	CERDENA	BIG RAPIDS
KC8OIV	JENS	RICK	BIG RAPIDS
KC8OMJ	LILLIAN	SPENCE	BARRYTON
KC8PZA	MICHAEL	FOSTER	NEWAGO,
KC8QOV	PHILLIP	MARCOTTE	BLANCHARD
KC8RBO	JOHN	MAY	BLANCHARD
KC8RBP	CONNIE	MAY	BLANCHARD
KC8TDJ	CORA	JONES	LAKE
KC8UB	RICHARD	OSBORNE	HERSEY
KC8VSA	LENORE	SNYDER	EVART
KC8WFX	GORDON	TRUTE	BIG RAPIDS
KC8WGA	DAVID	HUHTALA	BIG RAPIDS
KC8WGE	BILLIE JO	STRAUS	BARRYTON
KC8ZRT	KEVIN	STRIETER	BIG RAPIDS
KD8BXU	ANDREW	CLINE	BIG RAPIDS
KD8CXQ	JUSTIN	BALL	BIG RAPIDS
KD8DHZ	STEVEN	COWAN	BARRYTON
KD8DIA	ROBERT	TYRYBON	WYANDOTTE
KD8DIB	MICHAEL	MCKAY	BIG RAPIDS
KD8DIE	LARRY	BELL	REED CITY
KD8DMG	JAY	CLINE	BIG RAPIDS
KE4CFV	WILLIAM	SCHULTHEIS	ESTERO
KI8CK	JAKE	SPENCE	BIG RAPIDS
KL7WI	RICH	HAWLEY	BIG RAPIDS
N8HDD	WALTER	NEVILL	OAKLAWN,
N8JCP	WILLIAM	BROWN	REED CITY
N8MZB	WILLIAM	STANKEY	CHASE
N8PUG	JAMES	ORLOWSKI	LAKEVIEW
N8SFG	NOWELL	LA ROCK	BIG RAPIDS
N8ZH	JON	HUHTALA	BIG RAPIDS
NI8E	FRED	PINS	BIG RAPIDS
W4NKL	PAT	PENNOCK	BARRYTON
W8OWN	GEORGE	ROUMAN	BIG RAPIDS
W8PET	PETER	CHESEBROUGH	BIG RAPIDS

Board of Directors List

Sue Behler President - PIO <a href="mailto:suebebler@yahoo.com">suebebler@yahoo.com</a>
Kevin Strieter Vice President <a href="mailto:stri13@fsuimail.ferris.edu">stri13@fsuimail.ferris.edu</a>
Jim Orłowski Secretary <a href="mailto:n8pug01@yahoo.com">n8pug01@yahoo.com</a>
John McDowell, Treasurer and Publicity Committee Chair <a href="mailto:kc8bar@arrl.net">kc8bar@arrl.net</a>
Tom Behler - past president, EC/RO Mecosta County <a href="mailto:kb8tyj@arrl.net">kb8tyj@arrl.net</a>
Gary Atteberry- past president, EC/RO Osceola County <a href="mailto:c_gatteberry@charter.net">c_gatteberry@charter.net</a>
Bev Callewaert Emergency Committee Chair <a href="mailto:callewaert@net-port.com">callewaert@net-port.com</a>
Gordon Trute, Newsletter editor <a href="mailto:gordon-kc8wfx@usa.net">gordon-kc8wfx@usa.net</a>
Fritz Pins, Past president, Repeater Committee Chair <a href="mailto:fpins@sbcglobal.net">fpins@sbcglobal.net</a>
George Rouman, Past president <a href="mailto:w8own@arrl.net">w8own@arrl.net</a>
Don MacConnel Past president <a href="mailto:don@omnitrack.com">don@omnitrack.com</a>

W8ZNH	WILLIAM	ECKELS	BIG RAPIDS
WA4FRJ	DONALD	MACCONNEL	BIG RAPIDS
WA8LKV	ALAN	VANANTWERP	TUSTIN
WA8TNQ	OSCAR	DENNIS	BIG RAPIDS
WA8WVI	RALPH	LEROY	STANWOOD
WB8COX	TOM	BRAY	REED CITY
WB8GAO	WALTER	NALEZYTY	REED CITY
WB8TVD	BRUCE	WERNER	BIG RAPIDS
WB8WIA	GARY	ATTEBERRY	HERSEY
WB8YPG	ROBERT	CROAKER	REED CITY
WD8DLK	JEFFREY	BARSTOW	RODNEY
WD8LDU	MAURICE	BOWMAN	BIG RAPIDS
WD8PFC	BEVERLY	CALLEWAERT	HERSEY
	MICHELE	WILLISON	BIG RAPIDS



## A Note From The President May 2006

What a wonderful time we had at the annual club dinner! The crowd was smaller than usual, but that didn't stop us from having fun. The food was delicious and I'm sure no one went away from the dinner hungry. Even the rainy skies couldn't dampen the festive mood. You'll read some more details of the dinner in another article in this newsletter, so I won't discuss a lot right here. Sorry that more of you couldn't make it - we hope to see you at next year's dinner.

Another occasion to get together and have a great time was the May club meeting. Chuck Stark did a terrific job of explaining the Search and Rescue procedures. His knowledge and experience in this area is amazing. I was happy to see so many club members there that evening to hear Chuck's presentation. If you feel like you have been bitten by the Search and Rescue bug - contact our own Fritz Pins N18E. As many of you know, Fritz has started a local Search and Rescue Chapter - Central Michigan Search and Rescue, right here in Big Rapids. This group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm, at the Department of Public Safety Building. Ham radio operators are always needed in this type of operation - so contact Fritz if you are interested in learning and doing more.

I'd like to congratulate two new hams. Congratulations to JAY CLINE, KD8DMG. Jay's son Andrew, KD8BXU has participated in several events with our club. Feeling like he couldn't be left out of the fun, Jay studied with our spring Technician class and successfully tested for the Technician license. Welcome, Jay. We're sure you and Andrew are in for some fun ham radio times ahead. Our second new ham is JULIE IBERSHOF, KD8DLJ. Julie, you might recall, has visited our club meeting several times. The first time, she won the 50/50 raffle!! We knew that was all it would take to get her back to future club meetings, and ultimately studying for her Technician License. Congratulations, Julie! We hope to hear you on the repeaters soon - and please feel welcome to participate in our upcoming events.

CELEBRITY SERVER NIGHT - yes folks, it's that time again. Thanks to Jake Spence for moving right along and getting our application for this special BIG BOY event. Hopefully you were at the celebrity server night last year. What a great time we had!! - although I did develop much more sympathy for the wait staff of the world. The CELEBRITY SERVER NIGHT has been planned for Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 8 pm. More information will be coming out soon - but put this date on your calendar right now. This is a SIGNIFICANT money maker for the club and a whole lot of fun. If you don't think you could work that night - do us a huge service - and TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AND RELATIVES. The more people we get out that night to have a meal at the BIG BOY restaurant, the more money our club will make.

FIELD DAY 2006 - ARE YOU READY? Field day 2006 will be here before we know it. Tom, KB8TYJ and Jake, KI8CK are hard at work planning the upcoming field day. We are hoping to make this a great two day event - and need your help to make it a success. Please volunteer your services - setting up, operating, providing snacks, providing equipment, taking down, and cleaning up. What was that - oh yes, "A LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY." Please volunteer A LITTLE BIT of your time -- it will go a LONG WAY toward making a terrific field day experience for all. We have quite a few new hams who we hope will come on out and experience their first field day. Let's make it a memorable event for them and all concerned.

Well, that's it for now. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our June club meeting where the final field day touches will be discussed. We have a lot going on, folks, come and be a part of it all. Sue KC8IFP

ARES/RACES Update from Tom Behler: KB8TYJ, Mecosta County EC/RO

As the Spring season draws to a close, and the Summer months approach, I thought I should take this opportunity to address a few ongoing concerns that are of relevance to our local ARES/RACES group. As always, if you have questions on anything discussed here, please do not hesitate to ask, and I'll do my best to clarify.

### SKYWARN AND CALLING-TREE-RELATED CONCERNS

As many of you know, the annual Basic Skywarn Training class was held for Mecosta County by the National Weather Service in mid April. At that training session, new Skywarn spotter ID cards were distributed. These new cards replace the cards that had been issued for the past two years. The cards have been created according to a new standardized numbering system which has been agreed to by the National Weather Service, and the Michigan ARRL section. If you would like a new Skywarn Spotter ID card, please contact me as soon as possible. Keep in mind that, in order to qualify as a trained and registered Skywarn spotter, you must have had Basic Skywarn training within the past two years.

The next bit of Skywarn-related news may seem discouraging at first, but it is actually very positive, and represents a new and exciting direction for our local ARES/RACES program. Over the past 10 to 12 years, we created and had been using an "Emergency Services Calling Tree", as a means of alerting important county facilities of actual or potential severe weather situations in our area. If you have been keeping up with our news letter and ARES/RACES activities during this time, you undoubtedly are aware that this calling service was deeply appreciated by the entities who requested it, and was one of the things that clearly demonstrated the value of what we do to the general public. To make a long story very short, it now appears that the aura of the calling tree is about to come to an end, with the implementation of the "City Watch" emergency notification system that is now being implemented in Mecosta and Osceola counties. However, this does not mean that our valued role in the emergency notification arena has ended; in fact, it may be about to become more pronounced and sustained than it has ever been. At our May 11 Emergency Committee meeting, Mark Watkins \*(KC8CBX), Osceola County's Emergency Management Director, assured us that we will be a part of the new system, and may even work more directly with Central Dispatch and other County emergency Management officials to improve alerts and notifications of actual or potential emergency situations in the months ahead. Details of this new arrangement are yet to be worked out, so stay tuned to nets and future news letters for updates.

### TRAINING

As you will recall from previous news letters, the matter of upgraded certification standards for both ARES and RACES members has been a major topic of discussion. Accordingly, the issue was addressed extensively at our recent Emergency Committee meeting. Of utmost concern was the question of how training, especially that pertaining to the new NIMS requirements, could be provided to the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time. After much discussion, it was decided to leave the matter of meeting the new training requirements up to each individual ARES/RACES member for the time being. We also were assured by Mark Watkins from the Osceola County EMD office that group training sessions would be occurring in the near future, to which we all will be invited.

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Even though they have been posted in a previous news letter, here are the upgraded ARES and RACES certification requirements:

\*\*\*\*\*New Michigan Section ARES/RACES certification Requirements:

Ares requirements: Valid amateur radio license Interest in serving in terms of providing amateur radio communications. Strongly preferred courses:

IS700—by October 1 of 2006

IS100—By October 1 of 2006

IS200—by the end of the 2007 fiscal year

IS800—by the end of the 2007 fiscal year.

RACES requirements: Valid amateur radio license Successful felony background check  
IS22

Completion of RACES application form (if requested by your county)

IS700—ASAP, and no later than October 1 of 2006

Is100—ASAP and no later than October 1 of 2006

IS200—asap and no later than end of 2007 fiscal year

IS800—asap and no later than end of 2007 fiscal year.

I have e-mailed everyone both the summary descriptions, and final exams for the IS700, IS100, IS200, and IS800 courses. Completing the courses should be as simple as reading the summaries, answering the final exam questions as you go, and then entering your answers on the official final exam answer sheet that is available on the FEMA.gov web site. If you do not have e-mail, and need copies of these materials in another format, please contact either me or another ARES/RACES group member. Once you complete each of the NIMS courses, please provide a copy of your completion certificate to your County EC. These certificates must be kept on file with the EC/RO. The EC/RO must give A copy of each NIMS course completion certificate to the appropriate County Emergency Management Director as well.

### COUNTY EOC STATIONS

Work on the Mecosta and Osceola County EOC ARES/RACES stations is continuing. This summer, efforts will center around streamlining the operation of the Mecosta County EOC station, by tweaking the digital and packet systems. The station equipment also will be tested on a number of occasions, using a variety of bands and modes. The Osceola County EOC station is coming along nicely as well. At least one VHF/UHF radio has been made operational on FM voice, and work will continue in the months ahead on setting up the newly-ordered equipment as time and resources permit. The ultimate goal is for the Osceola County facility to be identical to that for Mecosta county in all communication modes and capabilities. As all of this is happening, efforts will be made to acquaint interested ARES/RACES members with the new EOC equipment, and to train them on its proper operation.

### LOCAL ARES/RACES NET

Finally, I'd like to close with a reminder about our local ARES/RACES net. The net meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 9 p.m. on the 146.74 2-meter repeater. The net not only provides a forum for the exchange of relevant ARES and RACES-related concerns, but it also provides an excellent opportunity for various kinds of "on air" training. For example, future ARES/RACES nets will provide training in the management of layered nets, the use of tactical call signs and "break tags", and proper net control procedures. One or more "table top" exercises also may be conducted in preparation for the October 7<sup>th</sup> state-wide SET exercise.

## ANNUAL CLUB DINNER - DELICIOUS AND DELIGHTFUL

Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> found 21 of us at the Falcon Head Golf Club enjoying the feast provided for our annual club dinner. And what a feast it was! The food was delicious, and the company was superb. After sharing some interesting conversation and a most delicious meal, the group enjoyed another annual tradition. Several club members received awards of various kinds. From the serious to the humorous - we honored those who make a difference. The following is a list of those awards given.

Ham of the Year Award - Gary Atteberry for your dedication to Amateur Radio and your willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in service to the Club.

King of the Hill Award - John McDowell for your dedication and service as overseer of the 2 meter repeater hill.

Inspiration Award - Lillian Spence - for being a true inspiration of the spirit of Amateur Radio to the many members of this club.

GIT-R-DONE Award - Jake Spence - for your work on the fly in, the tech class, field day, the Big Boy fundraiser, and the many other ways you give of your time.

Community Leadership Award - Fritz Pins - For your efforts in establishing a local Search and Rescue Organization - that others may live.

Longevity in Amateur Radio Award --Butch Bowman--for your dedication to the hobby of Amateur Radio and long-term service to this Club.

Certificate of Appreciation -

Pete Chesebrough- for your continued assistance and support with the 2 meter and 440 repeaters

Walt Nalezty - for your support and efforts as Assistance EC of Osceola County

Bob Croaker - for your support and efforts as Assistance EC of Osceola County

Gordon Trute - for your efforts at producing a first-rate club newsletter

Tom Behler - for your outstanding efforts in teaching the Morse Code portion of the 2006 Technician License Class

Matthew Trombley - for your outstanding efforts in teaching the 2006 Technician License Class

Fritz Pin - for your outstanding efforts in teaching the 2006 Technician License Class

Jeff Barstow for your outstanding efforts in teaching the 2006 Technician License Class

Don MacConnel for your outstanding efforts in teaching the 2006 Technician License Class

Education Service Award - Phil Marcotte - For spearheading and coordinating the 2006 Technician License Class

Jake Spence - For spearheading and coordinating the 2006 Technician License Class

Supportive Spouse Award - Helen Rouman - for your attendance at numerous Club functions and your support of the hobby of Amateur Radio.

Technology Advancement Award - Kevin Strieter - for taking your technology skills to new heights - even to the top of a coal mine.

Distinguished Leadership Award - Sue Behler - in appreciation for her service as Club President for 2005 - 2006

**BRAARC Web Site**

The secure web page for members only is [bigrapidsarc.net](http://bigrapidsarc.net)

Jake Spence in the new Webmaster for our web page.

. 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 Jake Spence KI8CK, the password that you want to use so that he can add you to the list. Contact him at :  
[jakeaspence@charter.net](mailto:jakeaspence@charter.net)

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](mailto:gordon-kc8wfx@usa.net)

**Hamfests Michigan -**

Midland Hamfest: 17 June 0800-1200 Location at Gerstacker Fair Center on the Midland County Fairgrounds. The site is just north of US 10 on Eastman Road, directly across from the Midland Mall.

Vendor set-up is at 6:30 am, with doors opening for the public at 8:00 am. Tickets are \$5.00.

For further Information & Table Reservations (\$5.00 each) contact us at: MARC Hamfest Bill Albe, N8FUZ (989) 835-4142 or e-mail: [billalbe@chartermi.net](mailto:billalbe@chartermi.net)

**Holland/Hudsonville 3 June**

The Independent Repeater Association

Contact Ray Abraczinskas, W8HVG

<http://www.w8hvg.org> Talk-In: 147.16 (PL 94.8)

**Next BRAARC monthly meeting**

Thursday June 1 at 7 p.m.

In the classroom of the  
Department Of Public Safety building  
435 North Michigan Ave in  
down town Big Rapids.



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

**Next Emergency committee meeting 10 August 2006.**

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

