

BIG RAPIDS AREA

JANUARY 2006

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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2-meter CW Class To Begin Soon! From Tom Behler: KB8TYJ

In keeping with the tradition we have established over the past few years, a CW class will be held on our 146.74 2-meter repeater in conjunction with the upcoming Technician license class. The class will be held every Monday evening at 8 p.m., and will run from Monday: February 6 through Monday: March 27. The class will be taught by "yours truly" KB8TYJ.

If you want to become acquainted with the Morse code so you can pursue a license upgrade at some point, this just might be the means to get you started. Or, if you already have passed the 5 WPM code requirement, and just want to brush up on your mastery of the code, you are welcome too.

The important thing to keep in mind here is that I will assume no prior knowledge of the code. We will start with the simplest of the letter groupings, and work our way through the rest of the characters you need for the code test as the weeks progress. I will provide frequent reviews of characters already learned through random letter groupings, word groupings, sentences, and, ultimately, QSO segments similar to those you are likely to encounter on the actual code exam.

As I do the class, I like to keep things informal, and even get input from those listening to see how everyone is doing. This not only livens things up, but also reinforces the idea that everyone is in it together.

I look forward to your participation in this fun teaching and learning opportunity.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS--CALENDAR

BRAARC meeting 2 February 1900	5
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Ham Fests	8
Skywarn Training 18 April	5
Emergency committee 9 February	8
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CLUB NETS

440 NET Sundays at 7:30 PM

2 Meter Net Tuesdays at 8:00 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@arrl.net or phone 231-592-9854

SIGN UP FOR NET CONTROL STATION

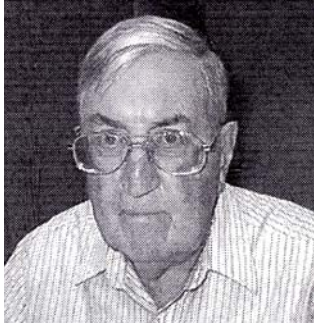
BRRARC YAHOO group is up and running, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/braarc> and click on "Calendar" link and go to January and February to see the Net Control stations, only ONE date filled so far, please signup by notifying Tom KB8TYJ.

The next Club Breakfast will be at
Chuck Wagon in Reed City
January 28th 0830

WALT NEVILL N8HDD SK

REMEMBRANCES, BY GEORGE ROUMAN, W8OWN

Walt known as N8 hi-diddle diddle by his many amateur radio friends retired from the Ford Motor Company and moved to Canadian lakes in 1972 becoming an active resource for our club almost since its inception even though he did not receive his Novice ticket until 1974 and his General ticket a couple of years later.



Walt was friend to all who knew him and could be counted on to do whatever was necessary to further the club's interest. He was our very important link to local emergency preparedness groups, especially the American Red Cross. He worked tirelessly to keep the club together and served as its Secretary-Treasurer for many years. When the club was unable to find anyplace in the area where we could meet, Walt kept talking to his contacts to keep a roof over our heads even on a month to month basis. When all else failed he obtained permission for us to use the Masonic Lodge for meetings. Walt, I believe, was the one who first worked with the Crop Walk organization to have us serve as a communications resource.

Walt and I worked together on several club projects and communicated by means of the "Helen connection". His wife and my wife were both Helens at Eastwood Elementary School and served as message carriers between us.

His other interests were many and he pursued them with zeal. Besides amateur radio, he kept busy at one time or another as Secretary of the Masonic Lodge, a Secretary of Habitat for Humanity, and Chairman of the Board of the Wesley Foundation; and he still found time for us.

Walt and Helen found it necessary to move to Oaklawn, Illinois in 1999 to be with his family and the club thought so highly of him that it voted to continue sending him the Newsletter since he so enjoyed reading them. Later Walt was elected to be a Life Member, a distinction that according to his wife he valued as a great honor.

In February of 2005 Walt found it necessary to enter a nursing home and when he could no longer read the Newsletters, Helen would read them to him so he could keep up on our activities.

Walt will once again be with us and Canadian Lakes this spring. He so loved the area and the fine home he had there he elected and received permission from the present owners of the home to have his ashes spread on the property.

You never forgot us Walt, and though you are gone, we will not forget you.



MID-WINTER POTLUCK

Sue, KC8IFP

Is it because of the name? If it weren't called "Ham" radio – would we enjoy food so much? Would we get together to have picnics, dinners, potlucks as often as we do? I think we probably would, but it just seems like food and ham radio operators go together. We do love ham radio – and we do love food. That was quite evident this past Sunday, January 16th when 19 of our members met at the Masonic Lodge for a mid-winter potluck. An abundance of delicious dishes enticed those present. There is always a wonderful variety and more food than any of us could finish off. Good food and good conversation. The potluck was also the opportunity to thank our own George Rouman for his many years of service as newsletter editor. A big thank you to Don MacConnel for organizing the event and gaining permission for us to use the Lodge. Thank you also to all those who helped set up and take down. To all who could not attend – don't worry. The annual club dinner is just a couple months away. I wonder, has anyone done a study as to whether ham radio operators talk more with their mouths full? I'd be willing to bet they do.

December Meeting Minutes
by Jim Orlowski N8PUG

7:00 Call to order.

Intro of Guests: Julie Ibershot(friend of Justin Ball). Tom Bray, Wb8cox.

Announcements: Hamfests: Traverse City 2-11-06

Marshall Hamfest 03-18-2006

Committee Reports

Repeaters: 440 Has an antenna or coax problem

Emergency: Meeting 02-09-2006 at 911 central dispatch.

Newsletter: Getting To Know you will be done By Gregg McDaniel

Old Business

Potluck Dinner: Sunday Jan 15, 2006 1:30pm, Masonic Lodge.

New Business:

Two meter Net Time will remain at 8pm Until Spring.

Future Programs

March 2 Dale Williams Mi section Manager

April 6 Field Day Discussion

May 04 Search and Rescue

June Field Day Discussions

Tech corner By Don on a kit in an altoid box

Breakfast location Chuck wagon in Reed City on 01-28-2006

50/50 Raffle was won by our guest Julie Ibershot.

Net Control: There are openings for two meter and 440 net controls, Please contact Tom KB8TYJ if you can fill one of these slots.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm.

Board of Directors List

Sue Behler President - PIO

suebehler@yahoo.com

Matthew Trombley, Vice President, Webmaster

trom9@fsuimail.ferris.edu

Jim Orlowski Secretary

n8pug01@yahoo.com

John McDowell, Treasurer and Publicity Committee Chair

kc8bar@arrl.net

Tom Behler - past president, EC/RO Mecosta County

kb8tyj@arrl.net

Gary Atteberry- past president, EC/RO Osceola County

c_gatteberry@charter.net

Bev Callewaert Emergency Committee Chair

callewaert@net-port.com

Gordon Trute, Newsletter editor

gordon-kc8wfx@usa.net

Fritz Pins, Past president, Repeater Committee Chair

fpins@sbcglobal.net

George Rouman, Past president

w8own@arrl.net

Don MacConnel Past president

don@omnitrack.com





A Note From The President

Did you feel that hint of spring time the other day? I must admit I stepped out of the house and wanted to start looking for the tulips and daffodils popping their heads out of the dirt. Then the realization hit me that we were still in the middle of January, and we had a long way to go before the flowers would be coming up. All you snow birds down in the southern states- enjoy the warm weather and know that we haven't put boots and windshield scrapers away yet.

What a great meeting we had on January 5th! It was wonderful to see "the regulars" in attendance - you guys are the ones who hold this club together and make sure things get done. We were also lucky to see a new ham in the area - Andrew Cline, KD8BXU. Andrew got his ticket in the summer and was with us at the Labor Day Arts and Crafts Fair. He and his dad joined us for the club breakfast on December 31st and then at the meeting in January. Andrew and his dad just got an antenna up for him to use, so expect to hear more of him on the repeater. Please make sure he feels welcome - and who knows, we may have ourselves another net control operator in the near future. Jim Woolen, K4UIH and his son Gregory also attended our January meeting. It was great to see them and we hope to see them much more often when their schedule allows. Let's keep our fingers crossed that maybe Gregory will get bitten by the ham bug before long. Justin Ball and his lovely friend from FSU, Julie Ibershof, were at the meeting as well. Justin is planning on taking the license class and is working on getting Julie interested in the hobby. Julie was lucky enough to win the night's 50/50 raffle - come on Julie, who says ham radio knowledge doesn't pay?? Our last guest for the evening was Tom Bray, WB8COX. Tom is from Saline, Michigan but is in the process of moving to our area. I know he listens to the repeaters - let's make him welcome in our area and show him the friendly spirit that makes this club so special. I also hear that Tom is quite knowledgeable in the repeater field. Can we ever have too many people who know how to work with the repeater? Welcome to the Big Rapids Area, Tom, we hope to see and hear a lot more of you. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help in your relocation to this area.

A little bit goes a long way. That was the slogan I used at the beginning of my term as president and I feel it is still very, very important. We have a number of wonderful activities being planned for our club - but they need one thing. They need YOU to step up to the plate and help make them a reality. This club has an impressive history - and an inspiring future. Let's work together to make it as successful and inviting as possible. Along those lines, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Gregg McDaniel for agreeing to continue his work on the "Getting To Know You" column for our newsletter. Gregg was responsible for over 40 interviews with club members in the past several years. He is a busy family man and student at Ferris, but has consented to take up the pen again and write some more articles. So, be ready, Gregg may just be giving you a call and asking you some interesting questions about your life and ham radio.

Jake Spence KI8CK and Phil Marcotte KC8QOV have agreed to lead the license class scheduled to begin on February 1st. Thanks guys for stepping forward. The class will run 8 weeks and cover all necessary topics for the license exam. PLEASE HELP OUT and sign up to teach one or more class. I know you're out there! I know you know your stuff and would be great teaching the Technician material! Please think about making a contribution to our club and to the hobby by being a class instructor.

A little bit goes a LONG way. If you don't feel you can commit your time to teaching, perhaps you could help by spreading the word about the class. The more students, the more possible hams, and the more people sharing our wonderful hobby. Please help any way you can. Thanks Tom Behler, KB8TYJ, for agreeing to hold CW practice class Monday evenings at 8:00 pm on the 2M repeater. This practice net runs from Monday, Feb. 6th until the end of the license class and is for anyone interested in learning or improving their Morse Code ability.

We have some wonderful programs scheduled for the coming spring. I hope to see you at some meetings soon, when the weather permits and the gas prices don't keep you home. We'll be talking at some future meetings about our Annual Club Dinner, Field Day preparations, and some training ideas. Don't forget, Dale Williams, ARRL MI Section Manager will be our guest at the March 2 meeting. You are welcome to come to dinner before the meeting for an informal discussion - but if not, you'll definitely not want to miss his presentation. He is a friendly, knowledgeable guy - here's your chance to get all your questions answered from a man who knows.

A little bit goes a long way - gee, I keep mentioning that. It must be important. Here's another little bit that would go a long way to helping our club. Tom, KB8TYJ, has requested net controls at every club meeting and on many net sessions. Our net calendar, unfortunately, is quite empty at the present time. PLEASE SIGN UP TO BE A NET CONTROL for either the 2M or 440 repeaters. I have often heard that it is the chatter on the repeater and during the nets that gives the world the impression of our club. We don't want silence during net time, because there was no net operator who volunteered. Let's get those repeater machines humming--- let's show the world what a friendly bunch of hams we are--- sign up for net control, and use the repeaters.

Sorry I missed all of you at the Potluck. It sounded like it was a wonderful event, as always. Good food, good friends, a good time. Thank you to Jim Orłowski for taking over the official duties for me. I appreciate his helping to remember our latest SK Walt Nevill, N8HDD and to honor the one and the only W8OWN, George Rouman. Enjoy the month- hope to see you at the Chuck Wagon on Saturday, January 28th. Come on spring!!

Sue, KC8IFP

Next BRAARC monthly meeting
Thursday February 2 at 7 p.m.
In the classroom of the
Department Of Public Safety building
435 North Michigan Ave in
down town Big Rapids.



This years **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

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 NOW. 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 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.

Amateur Radio Technician License Class

The Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a class for individuals interested in getting their Ham Radio License. The class runs for 8 weeks and covers all topics necessary to acquire the Technician Class License.

WHERE: Big Rapids Department of Public Safety,
435 N. Michigan, Big Rapids
Classroom to the left of the main entrance

WHEN: Wednesdays from 7 pm until 9 pm
Classes held Wednesday, February 1, February 8, February 15,
February 22, March 1, (no class March 8th), March 15, March 22,
and March 29

PREREGISTRATION: Call Jake, (231) 796-7232 or
Phil, (989) 561-5091 or
Sue Behler (231) 592-9854
before January 25th

COST: \$20.00 to cover textbook purchase

LICENSE EXAM: Held on Saturday, April 1, 2006.

THANK YOU, GEORGE ROUMAN

My association with BRAARC has only covered about the last ten years. I don't have the history that a lot of club members do, and I'm not as active on the air waves as many. But this I do know. If you seek an example of the ham radio spirit and the willingness to promote the hobby, you need look no further than George Rouman. George Rouman, the one, the only W8OWN.

For many years now George has been a guiding force for our little ham radio club. He was one of the founding members and has worked tirelessly in his efforts to move our club forward. As a result of these efforts, we find ourselves with a viable, growing amateur radio club. An integral part of that growth has been the professional manner in which our club newsletters have been written and published. As editor of our newsletter, George expanded the club news from a mere page of copy to the monthly 10 page edition received by each member in their mailbox. George always searched out interesting articles and helpful ideas. His cartoons and jokes lightened the mood and put a smile on our faces. His information was accurate and timely. Many looked forward to receiving his monthly newsletter and catching up on all the latest in the ham radio world.

This past fall George decided to retire from his job as editor. After the initial panic of "Oh my gosh, where are we going to find someone to replace George?", we were lucky enough to locate Gordon Trute KC8WFX as our new editor. That left us with the need to show George how much his efforts have been appreciated and how much his membership and leadership in this club are valued. I know George wasn't expecting this acknowledgement. In fact, when I spoke to his beautiful wife Helen about it she was adamant that George did not want any recognition at all. Well, Helen knows how stubborn we can be. And I tried to let her know how much we really wanted to thank George.

We finally got that chance at our potluck dinner on Sunday, January 16th. Secretary, Jim Orlowski N8PUG thanked George for all his years of service and presented George and Helen with certificates for a "weekend get away" in Grand Rapids. Dinner and hotel accommodations are theirs to use whenever they would like. Many appreciative club members contributed to this gift. Their donations will also be used to establish the George Rouman Library. A committee of club members will select a number of ARRL books to be purchased and kept by the club. A list of these books will be published in an upcoming edition of the newsletter. Any club member wishing to "borrow" these materials will only need to get in touch with an officer and then "sign out" their requested book. We hope to periodically add more books to the library so that it grows and continues to benefit hams for many years to come.

Thank you, George. You are a role model and inspiration to all of us. The one, the only, W8OWN.

By: Sue Behler KC8IFP



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

Traverse City 11 February 2006
Marshall 18 March 2006

**HAMS to the Rescue!**

Emergency communications in the wake of Hurricane Katrina came not from the government, but from a private army of amateur radio operators.

by Bob Josuweit

Bob Josuweit is the Public Service Editor for CQ Amateur Radio. He can be reached at wa3pzo@cq-amateur-radio.com

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.

Emergency committee meeting
9 February at 911 building, Central Dispatch
Bev WD8PFC

