

BIG RAPIDS AREA

March-April 2007



AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Volunteers Needed for ARRL's Grassroots Legislative Action Program

My name is Robert "Scotty" Wright, KB8APS. I've been appointed by the Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE as the Legislative Action Coordinator (LAC) for the State of Michigan.

The ARRL recently adopted a program called "Grassroots Legislative Action". The purpose of the program is to organize hams, at the local level and communicate with their US Congressional Representatives on matters dealing with Amateur Radio.

Part of my responsibility is to recruit and train volunteers for the post of Legislative Action Assistants (LAA) within Michigan. Ideally I would like to have three LAAs, to work as a team, in each of Michigan's fifteen US Congressional Districts.

The duties of the LAAs are not overly time consuming; much of the work can be accomplished casually without the rigors of schedules. I break the duties into four groups:

- 1. Training and Organization.** Training materials and organizational forms are available as well as training seminars from time to time.
- 2. Familiarization.** Get to know your representative and staff.
- 3. Awareness.** Get to know the ARRL affiliated clubs and their members in a given district, either by visits or e-mails, emphasizing the value of a letter from a constituent. These three items should be done, hopefully, before a bill comes on the horizon.
- 4. Action.** Once a bill is introduced, a series of sequential action steps are planned. These are likely:
 - To ask selected LAA teams to visit the home offices of US Representatives or Senators who belong to key legislative committees that will consider the legislation first.
 - To ask all LAA teams to visit the home offices of their US Representatives of Senators.
 - Finally, to ask all members to write letters to their US Representative and Senators.

In each of these action steps all background material, information to be left with the Representative or Senator or his aide and boilerplate letters will be developed and provided to us by ARRL HQ.

To learn more information or to volunteer, contact me at kb8aps@arrl.net I will respond with some material for you to browse, followed by a phone call to get things started. Success of this program could determine the future of Amateur Radio as we know it today. If you would like to become involved in a worthwhile project, this could be it.

In the mean time check out the article "The ARRL Legislative Action Program Needs You" in February's 2007 QST by Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE

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Cadillac Hamfest May 5

Club Dinner May 11

**Dayton Hamvention
May 18-20**

Our Field Day June 23-24



March 8th Meeting Minutes by Mike McKay, KD8DIB

Call to order: 7:02 pm by Bob, AB8NC

Guests: Dan Dowdy, Mark Watkins: KC8CBX

Secretary's report: February, 2006 minutes read by Mike, KD8DIB and approved.

Treasurer's report: March, 2007 Financial Report read by Sue, KC8IFP and approved.

Announcements:

- Welcome back Jake, KI8CK
- Larry, KD8DIE - grounding rod issue
- Bev WD8PFC, Roof leaked into the bathtub, R7 came down, and furnace went out. Better now.
- Time Change on March 11, 2007!!! Spring Ahead.
- Mecosta County Skywarn, March 15 - West Campus Community Center 6pm to 8pm
- Osceola County Skywarn, Monday, April 16 - Leroy Fire Department 7pm to 9pm
- Packet net 1st & 3rd Wednesday on 2 meter & 145.090
- Packs of 40 Batteries at Menards for \$1.99 (not alkaline)

Old Business:

- A Repeater Committee Meeting is requested to address 440 repeater thermal problems, 2 meter and 440 backup repeaters status. Tom, WB8COX has repeater equipment available for donation. A motion was made to call for repeater committee meeting to discuss repeater issues was approved by membership.
- 6 meter update: John, KC8BAR continue to work on securing new location..
- Sue, KC8IFP will make contact with Big Boy about Celebrity server and report at next meeting. It was suggested to secure a date in September.
- PL discussion continued on repeaters due to possible future interference.
- Club Dinner update by Phil and will continue to check out locations and provide update to Bob AB8NC. Bob, AB8NC to check with Wild Rose Café. Proposed date of Club Dinner: May 11 with a backup date of May 18

New Business:

- April program will be Field Day planning.
- George Roman library - Please return books checked out that you may be finished with so that others may use them.
- All Member password requests go to Jake, KI8CK
- The proposed Elmer program for the SAR group dropped due to lack of outside interest.
- A Silent Key list with photos and histories will be added to the web site by Jake, KI8CK anyone with materials they wish to contribute please send to Jake.
- Next meeting: Mecosta county EOC, 225 South Stewart, Big Rapids on April 5, 2007 at 7pm.
- Special thanks to Mark Watkins, KC8CBX for allowing the use of Osceola County EOC facility for club meetings.

Program: Dan Dowdy, Mecosta County Emergency Management Director - Public Alert Radios

A motion was made to hold a programming party and approved by membership. Tuesday, March 13 the net topic will be picking a date to hold the event. (Suggested date to be at the end of March)

50/50 winner: Gordon, KC8WFX

Newsletter: Phil, KC8QOV & Gordon, KC8WFX will get with Jim W, K4UIH to transfer Newsletter Editor duties. Send articles to Gordon by: March 20, 2007

Club Breakfast: Saturday, March 31 at the Wild Rose Café in Big Rapids at 8:30am.

Refreshments: Bob, WB8YPG for April 2007 meeting.

Adjourn: 8:36 pm

April 5, 2007 BRAARC Meeting Minutes by Mike McKay, KD8DIB

Call to order: 7:11pm by Tom Bray, WB8COX

Guests: Annika Buxton, Amy Smith, Joe Hogoboom, Kristi Williams, Racine Reeves, Joe Aldrich, Dan Dowdy

Secretary's report: March, 2007 minutes submitted to newsletter Mike, KD8DIB

Treasurer's report: April, 2007 Financial Report submitted by Sue, KC8IFP

Announcements:

- CW proficiency testing to come in the future.
- May 24, 2007 Girls on the Run - 5K walk/run in Northend Park - Communications support needed to start at 5pm. Contact Sue, KC8IFP
- Michigander Bike Tour - July 14-20 Midland to Mackinaw Tour - Communications support needed. Contact Tom, KB8TYJ
- May 19 Dayton, Oh Hamvention bus 5am departure from Ann Arbor (about \$60) See www.w8pgw.org for more info.
- The Kalamazoo group LOST team scheduled to present at May meeting
- Ham of the year award nominations return by end of April
- Dstar - Holton repeater 145.360 444.0125
- Coordination started for Dstar repeater by Tom B, WB8COX - assigned coordinated repeater freq.
- Cadillac Hamfest May 5 starting at 8am Location Cadillac Junior High
- May 10, 2007 Emergency Committee meeting at Central Dispatch

Old Business:

- Club Dinner May 11 a@ Wild Rose Café 6pm: reception 6:30pm: dinner \$11 per plate in advance (May 3 cut off date for reservations)
 - The Social Hour will be at 6, and dinner will be served at 6:30. Cost of dinner = \$9 per plate, plus \$2 gratuity, for a total cost of \$11 per person.
 - Main entree will consist of your choice of either chicken cordon bleu, or beef roll-up. (You can have one of each, or two of one.)
 - Meal also will include mashed potatoes and gravy, tossed salad, vegetables, and a beverage. Also, cheese cake dessert.
 - Please get all club dinner money to Sue (KC8IFp), our club treasurer, by Thursday: May third.
 - Also, please give her your menu choice when you make your reservations.
- Big Boy Celebrity Server - Sep 11, 2007 15 volunteers will be needed to staff event. A Motion to accept date was made and approved by membership.

New Business:

- Ham of the year award committee: Bob AB8NC, Don WA4FRJ(invited), Phil KC8QOV(invited), Frits NI8E (invited), Tom B WB8COX
- Location of May 4 club meeting to be announced - (Big Rapids City Hall confirmed on 4/11)

Program: Field Day Planning (see field day 2007 planning documents)

50/50 winner: Kathy, KD8FBH - donated part back to club

Newsletter: Continues to require member volunteer to assume editorship.

Club Breakfast: Saturday, April 28, 2007 at 8:30 am Mia's Restaurant in Hersey

Refreshments: May meeting Sue, KC8IFP

Adjourn: about 8:30 pm

A Note From The President ✕ MARCH 2007

President's Corner Bob Moody, AB8NC, March, 2007

We have had a couple members check out the Northern Lights Restaurant near Mecosta for the club dinner. Both expressed the opinion that the place seemed to be a bit pricey. Anyone have any suggestions as to where they would like to go for the evening of dining and fun? We will check out the Falcon Head again to see what their price is for this year. Also would like to have suggestions as to the date for this evening gathering. Let me know, please.

We had a very nice club meeting at the Osceola County EOC on March 1. It is a very nice facility. A great big hand to Mark Watkins, the Osceola County EMD, for allowing us to use the facility. Our next club meeting on April 5, will be at the Mecosta County EOC at 7:00 PM. The EOC is located at the Mecosta County Sheriff's Department in Big Rapids. Next month's club meeting will be on field day. Come and join us for fun snacks and good fellowship.

The club breakfast will be at the Wild Rose Café in Big Rapids. The café is located on East Maple Street next to Curries on March 31, at 8:30 AM. Also at 10:00 AM at the Ferris State EOC facility in the FSU Public Safety Building we will be meeting to program the public alert radio. These radios will then be distributed to various places around the county where people gather. Come and join us and find out more about the radio and get a chance to see the FSU EOC.

Spring is just around the corner. With Spring comes the thunderstorms with their severe potential. On March 15, we had Skywarn training with Mike Heathfield from the National Weather Service. It was a good presentation with a lot of graphics and illustrations. We all need to be aware of the potential for severe thunderstorms to develop and the threat of tornados that sometime accompany them.

Good hamming to all.

73's

Bob Moody, AB8NC, President

A Note From The President ✕ APRIL 2007

President's Corner—Bob Moody, AB8NC, April, 2007

Greetings to the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club. It looks like we are going to finally get some spring weather. Today as I sit here writing this article the sun is shining brightly, the sky blue and there may be some light fluffy white clouds overhead. I really do appreciate the beautiful weather.

There are many events coming up soon and we need to get info to you all about them. The next club breakfast is scheduled for April 28, 2007 at Mia's in Hersey at 8:30 am. The club breakfasts have been well attended with everyone enjoying the fellowship and food. The next club meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2007 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Big Rapids City Hall. This is located next to the Big Rapids Furniture and across from Dunkin Donuts.

The annual club dinner is scheduled for the Wild Rose Café on May 11, 2007 at 6:00 pm. We will be gathering for social time at 6:00 with dinner to be served at 6:30pm. The cost is \$11.00 which includes entrée, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables beverage and dessert. The entrée is either 2 Chicken Cordon-bleau, 2 Beef Rollups, or one of each. See Sue Behler with your choice of entrée and the money. We need to have all reservations made by the end of the club meeting on May 3, 2007, so that we give a head count to the people at the Wild Rose.

The next event is the annual field day which is scheduled for June 23-24, 2007. There is a scheduled change of venue for the place of the field day encampment to take place this year. More information will be shared next club meeting. See Tom Bray, WB8COX for more info and if you would like to be a band captain. Also you can order field day shirts and/or buttons from Sue Behler at the next club meeting.

Please check into the nets and join the fellowship on the airwaves. See you at the next event.

Good hamming to all.

73's

Bob Moody, AB8NC, President

RED CROSS background checks.

The National Red Cross has eliminated the requirement of Credit checks for the majority of the volunteers. This includes NCEC if they would decide to respond to a call for help on a disaster from the Red Cross.

Please keep in mind that ARRL ARES and RACES do not accept the Red Cross background checks and neither does the Red Cross accept the ARES and RACES background checks.

As an individual volunteer you are considered a spontaneous volunteer. Spontaneous volunteers in disaster affected areas who desire to participate with the American Red Cross in disaster relief operations activities (individuals age 18 and over with no prior Red Cross affiliation) can do so for up to seven (7) days without a background check on any disaster relief operation.

Helping the Red Cross on parades and other special events does not require a background check.

If you have any questions please email me at kd8bgq at arrl.net. If you wish to know more about the chapter's Response Technology Team.

NWS warnings chat room.

This public iemchat will alert NWS products when they are issued and will provide a text copy of the warning that goes on the NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio These "public"

rooms are open to anybody and are detailed somewhat here:

<https://iemchat.com/public.phtml>

The admin team has configured the server to be able to access the "public" rooms in a secure manner.

To connect via Gaim, click on Buddies menu and then "Add Chat".

The room name will be like the iemchat.com roomname, but with "zz" in

front. For example, "zzdmxchat" for Des Moines.

The server is "muc.appriss.com"

Please let me know if you have any questions.

daryl

Daryl Herzmann, RHCE

Program Assistant -- Iowa Environmental Mesonet

<http://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu>

Board of Directors List

Bob Moody AB8NC President

drwmoody@juno.com

Kevin Streiter KC8ZRT Vice President

stri13@fsuimail.ferris.edu

Michael McKay KD8DIB Secretary

michaelMcKay@ferris.edu

Sue Behler KC8IFP Treasurer

suebehler@yahoo.com

John McDowell

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

Jake Spence Webmaster

jakeaspence@charter.net

Past Time to pay your 2007 YEARLY DUES

Your dues payment **was DUE JANUARY 1, 2007**. If dues were not paid before March 1, 2007, your name has dropped from active membership. 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 2007. _____ Donation: _____

Checks should be made out to the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club (BRAARC). Mail your check and this form to Sue Behler 511 Spring Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307

HAM OF THE YEAR

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

Here are the reasons for my nomination:

signed



FIELD DAY T-SHIRTS ARE READY FOR YOUR ORDER

If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt or pin for field day place those orders now!

T-shirts are available in sizes Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2X-Large, 3X-Large, or 4X-Large. The cost is \$16.00 per shirt. Pins are also available for \$5.00. Orders will be placed after the May meeting - so bring your order to the club meeting or contact Sue Behler, KC8IFP at 231-592-9854. **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE PLACED --- GET THEM NOW!!**

March Events

Do you have an event that needs to be listed here? There are a multitude of activities one can take part in. However, to have people attend your event they need to know about it. This section is devoted to the pursuit of fun and interesting stuff to do. Contact Mike McKay, KD8DIB at the next club meeting or by email to have your event included.

BRAARC Club Breakfast

Wild Rose Café on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at 8:30 am.
Talk-in on the 146.740 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

Club Meeting (Location Change)

BRAARC monthly club meeting Thursday: April 5, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the **Mecosta County**, Emergency Operation Center, 225 South Stewart Street in Big Rapids.

VE Exams

April 7, 2007 - Muskegon Area AR Council at 9am (walk-ins ok) Contact: Robert Carter (231)799-3634 WB8OQT@ARRL.net Location: Red Cross, 313 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon, Mi 499440

Local Hamfests

Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club, May 5, 2007 - 8 AM to Noon. Setup: 6 AM. Cadillac Junior High School, 500 Chestnut Street. Nearest main road is Hwy 131 (Business). Chestnut crosses Hwy 131 as Pine Street. Pine Street turns into Chestnut Street as one travels to the west from Hwy 131. Vendors, VE sessions, prizes, QCWA Meetings. Talk-in: 146.980 (no PL tone reqrd). Admission: at-the-door \$5. Tables: \$10. For more info contact: Alton McConnell, NU8L, 231-862-3774, email amcconnell3@hotmail.com

I.R.A. Hamfest - June 2, 2007 at the Hudsonville Fairgrounds 8am to 2pm. Info/reservations: Kathy at (616)698-6627 after 4pm. www.w8hvg.org
Talk-in on the 147.16 Link-System. Admission \$6, Tables \$8, Trunk Space \$6, and Camping fee \$10.

GRAHamfest 2007 - September 8, 2007 at the Kent County Fairgrounds, 225 S. Hudson, Lowell. <http://www.grahamfest.org> Talk in 147.26- (PL 94.8)

Skywarn Training

Monday, April 16, 2007 from 7pm to 9pm at the Leroy Fire Department.

New Packet Training Net

Beginning February 21, 2007 on the Big Rapids 2 meter repeater (147.740) and the Packet Net Frequency of 145.090. This net will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 8:00pm and is open to all interested in further understanding and use of Packet.

Net Control

We would like to hear you as net control soon! If you would like to serve as net control for one or more of the BRAARC 2-meter or 440 nets, contact Tom Behler: K

APRIL Upcoming Events

Do you have an event that needs to be listed here? There are a multitude of activities one can take part in. However, to have people attend your event they need to know about it. This section is devoted to the pursuit of fun and interesting stuff to do. Contact Mike McKay, KD8DIB at the next club meeting or by email to have your event included.

BRAARC Club Breakfast / Dinner

Breakfast at Mia's Restaurant on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at 8:30 am.

Talk-in on the 146.740 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

Dinner at Wild Rose Café on Friday, May 11, 2007 at 6:00 pm. Cost: \$11 per plate in advance.

Please contact Sue KC8IFP by May 3 for reservations.

Club Meeting (Location Change)

BRAARC monthly club meeting Thursday: May 3, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Big Rapids City Hall.

VE Exams

June 9, 2007 - Muskegon Area AR Council at 9am (walk-ins ok) Contact: Robert Carter (231)799-3634 WB8OQT@ARRL.net Location: Red Cross, 313 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon, MI 499440

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Dayton Hamvention May 18 - 20, 2007

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Communication Events / Fundraisers

Girls on the Run on May 24, 2007 at 5:00pm - Contact Sue, KC8IFP

Michigander Bike Tour running July 14 -20, 2007 - Contact Tom, KB8TYJ

Big Boy Celebrity Server Fundraiser on September 11, 2007 from 5pm to 8pm - Contact Sue, KC8IFP

Contests

Michigan QSO Party - April 21, 2007 www.miqp.org

Field Day - June 23 & 24, 2007 Contact Tom, WB8COX

Net Control

We would like to hear you as net control soon! If you would like to serve as net control for one or more of the BRAARC 2-meter or 440 nets, contact Tom Behler: KB8TYJ

BRAARC Web Site

The secure web page for members only is 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

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

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.



Spring is here!

Next BRAARC monthly meeting Thursday May 3 at 7 PM at the Big Rapids City Hall, 226 N Michigan, across from Dunkin Donuts. The program will be presentation by the LOST team from Kalamazoo.

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

Next Emergency committee meeting 10 May 7PM at Meceola 911 Dispatch .

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

MAR/APR 07

P.O. BOX 343, PARIS, MI 49338

