

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

Feb – Mar 2008

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Editors Note: Due to travel this letter will serve both February and March. Next issue will be April 2008

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Presidents Corner:



As much as this pains me, this will probably be my last column. As many of you know, back in December, the company that I worked for decided that they had too many engineers and I was one of them. So for the last month I have been looking for new employment opportunities. After much gnashing of teeth we have decided to accept an offer in Tallassee Alabama.

We had two big issues, one is the culture of the “Deep” South and the other was finding a place to live. Wherever we went, we ran into displaced Northerners, and all were very positive about the area and supportive of moving down there.

The other big issue is that Janet wants a new house (something we have never had) and she wants at least a few neighbors. Finding

something that we can afford, that we both like, and can allow me to practice my Ham Radio hobby has not been easy. As many of you know, almost all of the newer developments have rules against antennas and transmitting radio signals. To our amazement, one new development, located very close to work, has decided to work with us and make adjustments in their rules. I won’t be allowed to put up a big tower and beam, but I should be allowed 2 antennas, both verticals. The details aren’t finalized and things can still fall apart but we are very hopeful.

Thinking about this, I think that the opinion about Amateur Radio is starting to change, at least in the South. With Katrina and the publicity about Amateur Radio operators helping out in disasters, people are seeing a reason to at least tolerate our unsightly antennas and us. I am hoping that this may actually be a pattern that will flow across the country.

I think it also helps to confront the issue up front. It is a lot easier to negotiate before the deal is finalized than it is afterwards.

I hope to see everyone at the breakfast and at the February meeting.

Tom Bray
WB8COX

1. Important upcoming events:

A. Next BRAARC club breakfast Saturday: February 2 at 8:30 a.m. at the Chuck Wagon restaurant in Reed City. Talk-in on the 146.740 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

B. February BRAARC monthly club meeting Thursday: February 7 at 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids City Hall, Commission Room at 226 N. Michigan Ave., in Big Rapids. Use the entrance from the Big Rapids Furniture store parking lot and go straight back to the commission room.

C. Next Emergency Committee meeting Thursday: February 14th at 7 p.m. at the Osceola County EOC.

D. March club breakfast Saturday: March 1 at Crankers in Big Rapids. Specific time will be decided once the details of the "Ham in a Day" class are confirmed for later that morning. Talk-in on the 146.740 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

E. Ham-in-a-day class Saturday: March 1 at Ferris State University, Room 109, West Commons Building off Cramer Circle. (talk-in on the 146.740 Big Rapids 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions)

Registration begins at 8:30 am. The class runs from 9am until 12 noon. Lunch on your own from 12 - 12:45 pm. The class continues from 1pm - 4 pm. VE testing will begin at 4:30pm. The cost of the class is \$30.00 which includes the fee for the license test at the end of the day. For more information and to pre-register for the class and VE testing contact Fritz Pins at (231) 592-5251 or by e-mail at fpins@sbcglobal.net

F. March club meeting Thursday: March 6 at 7 p.m. tentatively at the Osceola County EOC facility in Reed City.

G. Mecosta County Basic Skywarn Training Thursday: March 20 from 7 – 9 p.m. at the West Campus Community Center on the Ferris State Campus in Big Rapids. Talk-in on the 146.740 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

2. Club nets:

A. 440 general net on 443.900 repeater Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.—to be resumed when 440 repeater is back in service.

B. 2-meter general net on 146.74 repeater Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m.

C. Local ARES/RACES net on 146.74 2-meter repeater the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 9 p.m.

3. If you would like to serve as net control for one or more of the BRAARC club nets, contact Tom Behler: KB8TYJ).

4. A BRAARC e-mail listserve or users group has been established for all BRAARC members to use as a forum for exchanging thoughts, ideas, questions, and any other concerns related to our club or amateur radio in general. If you'd like to join this group, please contact our club web master, Jake Spence, KI8CK. Jake will get you signed up on the list, and will give you verification that your registration has been completed and accepted.

January 3, 2007 BRAARC Meeting Minutes by Mike McKay, KD8DIB

Call to order: 7:19 pm by Tom, WB8COX

Guests: Jerry Covey, N8PHI; Steve Andre, WB8WSF; Glenda Andre, N8KPL

Secretary's report: December 2007 minutes submitted by Mike, KD8DIB and approved.

Treasurer's report: January 2008 Financial Report submitted by Sue, KC8IFP and approved.

Announcements:

- Next Club Meeting Feb 7, 2008 at Big Rapids Department of Public Safety.
- We need net controls sign up with Tom, KB8TYJ

- 2 meter net on 146.74 repeater Tuesdays at 9pm
- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays – Digital Net on 2 meter repeater at 8pm - no activity
- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays – ARES / RACES Net at 9pm
- Email Jakeaspence@charter.net to join the Club Listserve.
- New IRA Link 145.47 with a 107.2pl, East of Lansing
- WM Traffic Net changed it's name to Mi Section VHF Traffic Net
- New 440 Repeater 444.575+ Can Lakes
- Repeater Status
 - 440 repeater is OK. High SWR – Antenna project to place new antenna on Cramer Hall.
 - Possible placement at KD8DIB's home as a temporary solution.
- Osceola Co. IS 300 & 400 Training – Contact Mark Watkins to sign up.

Old Business:

- Red Cross disaster assessment training – on hold until later date.
- Tom, KB8TYJ & Mike, KD8DIB Continuing to work on EOC Vanity Calls

- Technician Class – Ham in a day proposed: March 1, 2008

New Business:

Ham in a day – work session needed for those interested.

Tom Bray, WB8COX to put together recommendation for expansion of Library for membership to review at Feb Meeting.

Program: Disease and pestilence the state of the windows world And things you can do about it by Steve Andre, WB8WSF www.clamav.org

50/50 winner: Fred Radford, N8FR – donated back to club.

Newsletter: Articles to Phil, KC8QOV by January 21 (phildolly@power-net.net)

Club Breakfast: Saturday, February 2, 2008 at Chuck Wagon restaurant at 8:30am.
Saturday, March 1, 2008 – Crankers in Big Rapids at 8:30am.

Refreshments: Tom Bray, WB8COX

Adjourn: 9:30 pm



Tubs of Tubes

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU'

The other day I got a call from a guy whose website I'm working on. He says he's calling from the Ann Arbor Reuse Center and that they have two tubs full of vacuum tubes there. He asked, "Do you know anyone who might want them"?

"How much are they asking for them"? I reply.

"Ten cents a piece."

"How many are there"?

"I'd guess about two hundred."

"Well, tell them I'll give him 20 bucks for all of them."

He tells them that I'll give them \$20 for the lot. I hear some mumbling. He comes back on the line and says they're negotiating. After a minute or two, he says, "OK. You got them. How do I get to your house"?

I gave him directions, and in about 15 minutes, he pulls up to my house, gets out, opens the hatch, and pulls out two plastic tubs and a cardboard box with vacuum tubes in them. I can tell he was way off in his estimate. There must be at least 400 tubes in all.

There's nothing really exotic--most of them seem to have been taken out of old TV sets--but I did find a couple of 6J6s. These are the tubes used for the single-tube transmitter I have been thinking about building (see http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones_6j6.html for more info). In one of the tubs, there was even a socket for the 6J6.

There are also a bunch of 6KS7s. According to the RCA tube manual, these tubes were often used as RF or IF amplifiers. That sounds like the beginning of a receiver project, doesn't it? In fact, 6SK7s were used in the receiver section of the ParaSet (<http://www.mines.uidaho.edu/~glowbugs/paraset.htm>), a "spy radio" used during WWII.

And, of course, there are a bunch of rectifiers to make a power supply. Now, all I have to find some cheap transformers. Anyone know a good source for them?

When he's not wondering what he's going to do with more than 400 vacuum tubes, KB6NU works CW and PSK on the HF bands and blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com. You can reach him by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

[[NOTE: A photo of one of the tubs can be had off my website at <http://kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/12/tuboftubes>

Proposed Yearly calendar for discussion at February Meeting

2008 Yearly Calendar BRAARC

JANUARY

Club breakfast Sat., Dec. 29th -
Wild Rose Cafe 8:30 am
Monthly meeting Thur. Jan 3rd 7pm
Sunday 440 net - 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net - 9 pm
ARES net Wed. Jan 9 & 23 9 pm
Winter Potluck

FEBRUARY

Club breakfast Sat. Feb. 2 -
Chuck Wagon 8:30 am
Monthly meeting Thur. Feb. 7th 7pm (B.R. City Commission Room)
Emergency Comm. Mtg. Thur. 2/14 (Osceola EOC - 7 pm)
Affiliated Club Status is due
Sunday 440 net - 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net - 9pm
ARES net Wed. Feb. 13 & 27 9 pm

MARCH

Club breakfast Sat. Mar. 1 -
Crankers 7:30 am
Ham in a Day Class/VE Testing

Sat. Mar. 1st -8:30 - 5:30
FSU 109 W. Commons
Monthly meeting - Thur. Mar. 6th 7pm
(Osceola EOC)
Skywarn Training Thur. Mar. 20 7-9pm
FSU West Campus Comm. Center
Sunday 440 net - 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net - 9 pm
ARES net Wed. 12 & 26 9 pm
Club breakfast Sat. Mar. 29 8:30 am

APRIL

Monthly meeting - Thur. Apr. 3rd 7pm
(B.R. City Commission Room)
Sunday 440 net - 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net - 9:00 pm
ARES net Wed. Apr. 9 & 23 9 pm
Annual Club Audit
Club breakfast Sat. Apr. 26th 8:30 am

MAY

Monthly meeting Thur. May 1st 7pm
Annual Club dinner
John East Scholarship Award
Dayton Hamvention
Girls on the Run Public Service Event
Sunday 440 net 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net 9 pm
ARES net Wed. May 14 & 28 9 pm
Club breakfast Sat. May 31st 8:30 am

JUNE

Monthly meeting Thurs. June 5th 7 pm
Club equipment insurance
Post Office Box rental due
Field Day – June 28th and 29th
Sunday 440 net 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net 9 pm
ARES net Wed. June 11 & 25 9 pm
Club breakfast Sat. June 28th 8:30 am

JULY

Monthly meeting Thurs. July 3rd 7pm
Roben Hood Airport Fly-In
Michigander Bike Tour
Special Service Club Renewal – even numbered years
Sunday 440 net 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net 9 pm
ARES net Wed. July 9 & 23 9 pm

AUGUST

Club breakfast Sat. Aug. 2nd 8:30 am
Monthly meeting Thurs. Aug. 7th 7pm
Nomination of officers
Annual Club picnic
Sunday 440 net 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net 9pm
ARES net Wed. Aug. 13 & 27 9 pm
Club breakfast Sat. Aug. 30th 8:30 am

SEPTEMBER

Monthly meeting Thurs. Sept. 4th 7 pm
Election of officers
Annual Incorporation papers due
Crop Walk
Sunday 440 net 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net 9pm
ARES net Wed. Sept. 10 & 24 9 pm
Club breakfast Sat. Sept. 27th 8:30 am

OCTOBER

Monthly meeting Thurs. Oct. 2nd 7 pm
SET exercise - Oct. 4th
Sunday 440 net 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net 9 pm
ARES net Wed. Oct. 8 & 22 9 pm

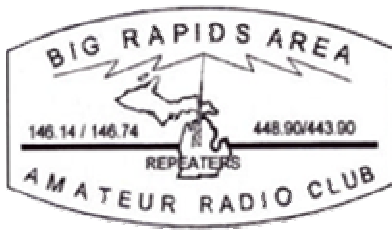
NOVEMBER

Club breakfast Sat. Nov. 1st 8:30 am
Monthly meeting Thurs. Nov. 6th 7 pm
Repeater coordination papers for MARC – alternate years
Sunday 440 net 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net 9 pm
ARES net Wed. Nov. 12 & 26 9 pm
Club breakfast Sat. Nov. 29th 8:30 am

DECEMBER

Monthly meeting Thurs. Dec. 4th 7 pm
Sunday 440 net 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2 meter net 9 pm
ARES net Wed. Dec. 10 & 24 9 pm

Brain Teaser: In Don's (WA4FRJ) absence I (editor) will inject my best guess at the answer to the number of gifts received during the twelve days of Christmas. I was not very mathematical or scientific in my approach but the answer I arrived at is 364 gifts. Don will either confirm or refute that answer when he returns from sunny Florida. I spoke with Don today (1/24/08) and he and Helen are doing well and enjoying their stay in FL. In fact, it almost sounded like they might like to stay there – at least for an extended period of time.



Ham In A Day

The Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a **HAM IN A DAY CLASS** for all individuals interested in earning a Technician Class Amateur Radio License. VE testing will be available for license upgrades as well.

Date:	Saturday, March 1, 2008
Cost:	\$30.00 includes license exam fee
Location:	Ferris State University Room 109 West Commons Building Cramer Circle Big Rapids, Michigan (see map on reverse side)
Time:	Registration: 8:30 am Class: 9:00 am—4:00 pm Lunch: 12:00—12:45 pm on your own VE Testing registration: 4:00 pm Testing begins: 4:30 pm
Questions:	Fritz Pins (231) 592-5251 fpins@sbcglobal.net

Preregistration for class required by Tuesday, Feb. 26th. Bring to the exam: photo ID (or two other forms of ID) and #2 pencils. For upgrade licenses bring any completed CSCEs, and a photocopy of your existing license. Coffee and treats provided. 30 days advance notice required for special testing.

This class is an intense 6-hour overview of the test material. No guarantee is made by BRAARC as to your testing success.

Time to pay your 2008 YEARLY DUES

Your dues payment **IS DUE JANUARY 1, 2008**. If dues are not paid before March 1, 2008, your name will be 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 2008. _____ Donation: _____

Dues payable by January 1, 2008. 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 or bring your dues to the next meeting.

