

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

September 2008

PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338 Pres. Steve Cowan Web Page: www.braarc.net Editor: Phil – phildolly@power-net.net

Inside this Issue:	August Meeting Minutes 1	Club Announcements 2	Club Calendar 3	Handifinder 4
	KB8NU Article 5	A Cat's Tale 6	Ham in a Day 7	Club Pins 7
	Member List 8-9			

August 7, 2008 BRAARC Meeting Minutes by Mike McKay, KD8DIB

Call to order: 7:03 pm by Steve, KD8DHZ

Guests: (bring a guest – everyone is welcome)

Secretary's report: July 2008 minutes submitted by Mike, KD8DIB and approved.

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

Announcements:

- 440 on the air w/ temp antenna. 440 Sunday Nets have restarted at 7:30pm.
- September Club Meeting: September 4, 2008 at Big Rapids DPS building
- We need net controls sign up with Tom, KB8TYJ – no net controls, no nets!
- 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.
- **Big Rapids Celebrity Server – September 9, 2008**
- **Mini-swap/foxhunt/picnic – August 23, 2008 masonic lodge, picnic and fox hunt.**
- Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club: www.facebook.com Group. Contact Mike, KD8DIB for more info or to join.

Old Business:

- Michigander report / slideshow by Mike, KD8DIB
- Name tags orders – an order for club name tags will be placed after September Club Meeting
- Big Boy celebrity Serve Fundraiser (September 9, 2008) being coordinated by new club members Val,

KD8IAM and Shila, KD8IAL. Thank you, ladies! Sign up before Sep 9.

- Swap / Picnic / Fox Hunt: NEW Date: Aug 23, 2008 Dish to pass, Things to sell, and foxes to find
- The HANDI-Finder Kit is available from Mike, KD8DIB more details below. (231)527-1688
- Radio Basic Class Committee: Members appointed Don, WA4FRJ & Phil, KC8QOV
- Nomination committee: Don, WA4FRJ & Steve, KD8DHZ still accepting nominations for all club positions.
- Repeater Committee Report...
 - In April temporary 440 super J antennal installed on Cramer Hall.
 - This July the new permanent 440 antenna installed.
 - This July the 2 meter tested ok and is transmitting at 30 watts. Transmit power increased to 35watts.
 - A new shelf constructed with salvage materials for 2 meter power supply to control mouse nesting. Also, tested battery backup on 2 meter.
 - Continue to explore relocation of 6 meter to Jeff Barstow's QTH location.
 - Working on duplication cat control programs for all repeaters.
 - The 911 macro for 2 meter reprogrammed and working.

New Business:

- Celebrity Server sign up sheet circulated along with sample table tent and brochures. hand outs supplied to members.
- Nomination Committee Report: Secretary-Shila, KD8IAL; President - Jim, N8PUG; VP – Mike, KD8DIB; Treasurer – Sue, KC8IFP Nominations still open. Vote for Officers at September meeting. Email Steve at kd8dhz@arrl.net

- Still working radio basic report by Phil, KC8QOV possible dates Oct, Nov, Dec.
- Motion to run ad in Tri County News Paper approved by members present for Mini Swap.
- Club Pin order form circulated. Pin are available for \$7.50 and order will be placed after September club meeting.

Program: Direction Finding – The Handi-Finder. Contact Mike, KD8DIB for more info on ordering a kit.

50/50 winner: Phil, KC8QOV donated back

Newsletter: Articles to Phil, KC8QOV before **Aug 20, 2008** (phildolly@power-net.net)

Club Breakfast: Saturday, August 30 at Sharrons in Rogers Heights at 8:30am.

Refreshments at next meeting: Steve, KD8DHZ

Adjourn: 8:16 pm

Updated Club Announcements

1. Important upcoming events:

A. BRAARC Mini-swap, Picnic, and Fox Hunt Saturday: August 23rd at the Masonic Lodge Hall just off 19-mile road north of Big Rapids. Festivities will begin with the mini-swap at 9, followed by the picnic at noon, and the fox hunt later in the afternoon. Set-up for the swap will begin at 8 a.m. If you can help, or have any questions, contact either Mike McKay (KD8DIB), or Don Macconnel (WA4FRJ).

B. Next club breakfast Saturday: August 30 at 8:30 a.m. at Sharon's Country Kitchen in Rogers Heights. Talk-in on the 146.740 Big Rapids 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

C. Next BRAARC club meeting Thursday: September 4 at 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids.

(Note: Election of officers for the coming year will be held at this meeting.)

D. Big Boy Celebrity Serve fund-raiser Tuesday: September 9 from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Big Boy restaurant in Big Rapids. If you can help serve at this event, contact either Shila Kiander (KD8IAL), or Val Antor (KD8IAM). Even if you can't directly assist, please come and join us for a meal as a way to still support us in this important fund-raiser.

E. Next Emergency Committee meeting Thursday: September 11 at 7 p.m. at 911 Central Dispatch.

2. Club nets:

A. 440 general net on 443.900 repeater Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.—

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. Club officer nominations are now being accepted, with the actual election of officers to occur at our September 4th meeting. If you have any nominations for club officers, contact one of the members of our nominations committee, which currently consists of Don Macconnel (WA4FRJ), and Steve Cowan (KD8DHZ).

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

5. If you would like to order a BRAARC club pin, contact Patricia McKay (KD8GGD)—pins are \$7.50 each.

6. If you would like to order a "Handy Finder" Direction Finding Kit, contact Mike McKay (KD8DIB)—kits are \$20 each.

7. 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.

The Months Ahead

AUGUST

Club breakfast Sat. Aug. 2nd 8:30 am
Monthly meeting Thurs. Aug. 7th 7pm
Nomination of officers
Mini Swap/ Club picnic/ Fox Hunt –
Saturday Aug, 23rd Masonic Lodge
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
GRARA Swap Sept. 6th
Annual Big Boy Fundraiser Tuesday,
Sept. 9 5 – 8 pm
Emergency Comm Mtg., Thurs.
Sept. 11 - 7pm Central Dispatch
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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

OCTOBER

Monthly meeting Thurs. Oct. 2nd 7 pm
ARRL MI Section Convention Sat.
Oct. 11 ??– Kalamazoo
Holland Swap Sat. Oct. 18
SET exercise - ???
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
Emergency Comm. Mtg. Thurs.
Nov. 13 -7 pm Central Dispatch
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

Potluck event?
Locations of club breakfasts?
Ham in a Day class?
VE Session for the Fall?
Basic Ham Knowledge class?
Contests?
Any other activities?

Editors Note: In last months letter the article **W1AW/KL7 to Operate from Arctic Circle** was mistakenly credited to Mike, KD8DIB, when it should have been credited to Steve, KD8DHZ. My apologies.

HANDI-Finder: Do You Accept this Mission!?!

After an extensive research, development and prototyping stage, the HANDI- Finder was revealed at the August BRAARC membership meeting. Initial testing of the prototype produced interesting results that prompted several members and one “Government Official” to request their own top secret kit. Currently, a highly sophisticated production facility is being constructed in a remote location to assemble these kits in complete seclusion.

Additional kits are available to those with proper clearance (and approximately \$20.00). Your request can be made via secure channels to KD8DIB, Mike McKay at (231)527-1688.

If you accept this “Radio Direction Finding Mission” and are interested in building a HANDI-

Finder kit you will need to obtain the following materials any way you can. The construction process will require the builder to acquire a 9 volt battery, length of coax with a connector to fit your radio, handle material and construct two identical wire antennas. Consulting engineers will be available to assist with kit production.

The HANDI-Finder is only one tool that can be used for Radio Direction Finding. Join us at the next BRAARC Fox Hunt, test your skills, and maybe learn something new.

Order your kit today and join the fun!

More information can be found at <http://handi-finder.com/>

Contact KD8DIB, Mike McKay to Order at (231)527-1688

Order Today!



HANDI-Finder Kit

Included in Kit – PC board, 4047 IC, diodes, resistors, capacitors, battery holder, DIP socket, and switch.

Price – \$20.00

Builder Supplied – Antenna, coax, connector for your radio, 9v battery and handle.

Call – Mike, KD8DIB at (231)527-1688 to Order

BRAARC Construction Day – to be scheduled

Using a Mac in the Shack

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of years ago, I decided to switch to the Mac for business use. (I am a freelance website developer.) I haven't regretted it for a second. The thing just seems to work better.

Last October, I decided to switch to a Mac in the shack and purchased a used, iBook G4 Mac laptop. Unfortunately, I can't say that I've never regretted this move. The reason I sometimes regret this choice is that there just aren't as many ham radio programs available for the Mac as there are for the PC, and those that are available are either more expensive than their PC counterparts or don't work as well.

For example, let's take a look at logging programs. When I first started looking, I found one that was kind of expensive (MacLoggerDX - www.dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html); one that was free, but didn't want to work so well (RUMLog - <http://www.dl2rum.de/rumsoft/RUMLog.html>); and one that worked OK and cost somewhere in between the first two (Aether - www.aetherlog.com/). Considering that there are at least a dozen logging programs that run on a PC, this was slim pickings.

I ended up purchasing Aether, but was never very happy with it. For one thing, it took forever to do any kind of sort or look up previous QSOs. Another pain was that it carried over none of the information from the previous contact, so you had to enter all of the information from scratch, even if you didn't change frequencies or bands. It also had an odd way of doing notes about a contact, and I was disappointed to find out that it didn't import the notes from the ADIF file I created from the N3FJP logging program I used previously.

For PSK, It's CocoaModem I had much the same experience when looking for a PSK31 program. Instead of a the wide variety of PC PSK programs, I only found a couple of Mac programs that decode PSK. Fortunately, I am much happier with my choice here (cocoaModem - homepage.mac.com/chen/index.html). It's a great

program, with a polished user interface, and it's free, to boot.

The only problem with cocoaModem is that it doesn't support the wide range of digital modes that some of the PC programs do. One I'm interested in is SSTV. Unfortunately, cocoaModem doesn't do SSTV.

A Happy Ending Well, a couple of weeks ago, I'd had enough of Aether and decided to start searching for logging software again. Since RUMLog was still free, I decided to give the new version (v 3.0, March 15, 2008) a go. I'm happy to report that this version likes my computer a lot better, and I like using it a lot!

One of the coolest things is that it did import the notes from my N3FJP ADIF file properly. So, now, when I type in a callsign, the program searches the database, finds all the previous contacts I've had with that station, and then displays them in spreadsheet style WITH the notes. If I've taken notes about a previous conversation, I can pick up right where I left off. Very cool.

It also has a very nice way of showing you what countries you've worked, on what bands you've worked them, and whether or not you've QSLed that country or not. Not only that, it shows what type of QSL you have, either a paper QSL or a Logbook of the World (LOTW) QSL. And, after you supply your user ID and password, it will download your LOTW QSLs and update the appropriate QSO records. Very cool!

Still unresolved is what to use for contesting. None of the programs I've seen so far are useful for contesting, and I think that what I will end up doing is using my old PC laptop running N3FJP or N1MM software. I'm not a big tester, so I think I can live with that.

One thing is for sure--I'm not going back to the PC aside from some niche applications like contesting. The Mac's ease of use and ease of setup has won me over. For information on even more ham radio software for the Mac, go to www.machamradio.com.

BRAARC MEMBER LIST AUGUST 2008

last name	first	call sign	street address	city	st	ZIP	phone	lic
ANTOR	VALARIE	KD8IAM	17849 OLD LOGGING RD	HERSEY	MI	49639		TEK
ATTEBERRY	GARY	WB8WIA	115 SOUTH MAIN PO BOX 147	HERSEY	MI	49639	231-832-5565	GEN
BARSTOW	JEFFREY	WD8DLK	12630 WILSON ROAD	RODNEY	MI	49342	231-867-3325	EXT
BEARD	JERIEL	KC8MMF	815 WINTER AVENUE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-3470	GEN
BEHLER	SUSAN	KC8IFP	511 SPRING STREET	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-592-9854	GEN
BEHLER	THOMAS	KB8TYJ	511 SPRING STREET	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-592-9854	EXT
BELL	LARRY	KD8DIE	435 W UPTON	REED CITY	MI	49677	231-388-2704	TEK
BRAY	TOM	WB8COX	260 HUNTERS RIDGE	TALLASSEE	AL	36078	231-388-3581	ADV
BRAY	JAN	KD8HTJ	260 HUNTERS RIDGE	TALLASSEE	AL	36078	231-388-3582	TEK
BUSKIRK	JERRY	KC8CII	20924 175 AVE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-2834	TEK
CALLEWAERT	BEVERLY	WD8PFC	18197 STONE HOUSE ROAD	HERSEY	MI	49639	231-832-9371	EXT
CARPENTER	ROBERT	K8YHJ	18222 220TH AVENUE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	616-796-3714	GEN
CERDENA	RENATO	KC8OIU	404 SANBORN AVENUE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-8814	TEK
CHESEBROUGH	PETER	W8PET	21021 MADISON AVENUE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-1433	EXT
COVEY	JERRY	N8PHZ	7774 140 AVENUE	STANWOOD	MI	49346	231-823-2170	TEK
COWAN	STEVEN	KD8DHZ	4303 15 MILE ROAD	BARRYTON	MI	49305	989-382-9452	GEN
CROAKER	ROBERT	WB8YPG	10411 SCHWYZ CIRCLE	REED CITY	MI	49677	231-734-6832	ADV
DEADY	STEVE	KC8RKI	11215 E. 72ND	REED CITY	MI	49677	231-429-7166	TEK
DENNIS	OSCAR	WA8TNQ	LOT C 11 606 BJORNSON ST.	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-6984	TK+
ECKELS	WILLIAM	W8ZNH	12322 175TH AVENUE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-5707	EXT
HAHN	MARK	N8WFX	34785 FOUNTAIN BLVD	WESTLAND	MI	48285	739-634-8492	GEN
HAIGHT	JAMES	WW8Q	20845 OKEMOS DRIVE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307		EXT
HAIGHT	NANCY	K8NJH	20845 OKEMOS DRIVE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307		TEK
HAWLEY	RICH	KL7WI	512 GREEN STREET	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-4761	GEN
HUHTALA	DAVID	K8TEE	606 BJORNSON L#1	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-3379	EXT
HUHTALA	JON	N8ZH	606 BJORNSON L#1	BIG RAPIDS CEDAR	MI	49307	231-796-3379	EXT
KIANDER	SHILA	KD8IAL	218 E. ASH STREET	SPRINGS	MI	49319		TEK
LA ROCK	NOWELL	N8SFG	700 SOUTH BRONSON	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-9080	TEK
LEROY	RALPH	WA8WVI	3211 CHERRY HILL ROAD	WESTLAND	MI	48186		GEN
MACCONNEL	DONALD	WA4FRJ	17961 ROUND LAKE ROAD	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-592-1434	EXT
MARCOTTE	PHILLIP	KC8QOV	558 20TH AVENUE	BLANCHARD	MI	49310	989-561-5091	TEK
MAY	CONNIE	KC8RBP	7395 3 MILE ROAD	BLANCHARD	MI	49310	989-352-6959	TEK
MAY	JOHN	KC8RBO	7395 3 MILE ROAD	BLANCHARD	MI	49310	989-352-6959	TEK
MCDOWELL	JOHN	KC8BAR	PO BOX 116	REED CITY	MI	49677	231-832-2251	EXT
MCKAY	MICHAEL	KD8DIB	20366 CAMPUSVIEW DRIVE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-527-1688	GEN
MCKAY	PATRICIA	KD8GGD	20366 CAMPUSVIEW DRIVE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-527-1688	TEK
MOODY	ROBERT	AB8NC	11886 HIGHLAND TRAIL	STANWOOD	MI	49346	231-250-0055	EXT
MOODY	SHARON	KB8SKM	11886 HIGHLAND TRAIL	STANWOOD	MI	49307	231-250-0055	TEK
NALEZYTY	WALTER	WB8GAO	10401 SCHWYZ CIRCLE	REED CITY	MI	49677	231-734-0172	ADV
NUNN	ALICE	K4APN	P.O. BOX 1158	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-0872	TEK
O'BRIEN	TOM	KC8AUU	1408 BLACKBERRY LANE	FLINT	MI	48507	313-235-5781	TK+
ORLOWSKI	JAMES	N8PUG	10386 5 MILE ROAD	LAKEVIEW	MI	48850	989-352-7128	GEN
OSBORNE	RICHARD	KC8UB	17317 RAPIDS DRIVE	HERSEY	MI	49639	231-832-2610	ADV
PARKER	THOMAS	KC8YOE	81 SPRUCE AVENUE	CEDAR SPRINGS	MI	49319		GEN
PENNOCK	PAT	W4NKL	7165 NORTHLAND BLVD. P[MB 12	BARRYTON	MI	49305	989-382-9691	GEN
PINS	FRED	NI8E	420 HUTCHINSON STREET	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-592-5251	EXT
RADFORD	FRED	N8FR	16491 MONROE ROAD	MORLEY	MI	49336	231-856-0460	EXT
RICHARDS	JACK	KB8JR	19060 200TH AVENUE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-9426	EXT
RICK	JENS	KC8OIV	17799 TRESTLE BEND DRIVE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-6325	GEN
ROUMAN	GEORGE	W8OWN	300 WEST PINE STREET	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-3114	EXT
SCHULTHEIS	WILLIAM	KE4CFV	4530 SAWMILL DRIVE E.	ESTERO	FL	33925		GEN

SNYDER	AL	KB8FJB	PO BOX 1003	EVART	MI	49631	231-832-2778	EXT
SNYDER	LENORE	KC8VSA	PO BOX 1003	EVART	MI	49631	231-832-2778	TEK
SPENCE	JAKE	KI8CK	20598 OKEMOS DRIVE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-7232	EXT
STANKEY	WILLIAM	N8MZB	5221 MARQUETTE TRAIL	CHASE	MI	49623	231-745-8845	GEN
STRAUS	BILLIE JO	KC8WGE	3235 HOOVER ROAD	BARRYTON	MI	49305	989-382-7242	TEK
TRUTE	GORDON	W8AKJ	15775 COOLIDGE ROAD	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-5629	TEK
TYSON	ROBERT	KC8JOM	23191 HOLIDAY DRIVE	HERSEY	MI	49639	231-832-5626	EXT
VANANTWERP	ALAN	WA8LKV	23204 20 MILE ROAD	TUSTIN	MI	49688	231-829-3433	EXT
WERNER	BRUCE	WB8TVD	20839 COOLIDGE ROAD	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-2749	ADV
WOOLEN	JIM	K4UIH	14955 CHULA VISTA DRIVE	BIG RAPIDS	MI	49307	231-796-1426	GEN
YOST	KATHY	KD8FBH	613 W CHURCH	REED CITY	MI	49677	231-832-3166	TEK

Please take some time to look over your information.
 Contact Sue Behler, KC8IFP if you have any corrections.

You will have to wait until next months newsletter for the solution to the brain teaser!!!

