

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

October 2009

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## President's Note

How do you start a presidential note? Hail to the chief... Hopefully, you know me better than that! I would like to start by thanking the past

President and his officers for their dedicated service to the club. I do think it takes good officers to keep a club running but it really is the membership that makes a club great. I've been an officer in our club almost as long as I've been an amateur radio operator. I am really enjoying the exploration amateur radio involves and the great friends I've made along the way. However, I do think we all need to reflect on what our club means to us. Thank you for your confidence in me for leading our club into the future.

What does the future hold for our club? I think we decide our own destiny by our actions and activities. It's not how much

we do, how many contacts we make or how high our Field Day score is. It is how we contributed to the mission of our club. You'll find our club mission as you read further. I hope each of you will take time to review this mission. I'd be interested in your comments about the mission and other aspects of the club. I want to hear what you are interested in and how we can get you involved.

Please feel free to contact me by phone, email, repeater, single side band, packet, or in person.

The membership is what makes the club great. We have 60 members as of last count. I think we need to continue to encourage our current membership to get involved but we also need to look outside to recruit new members. How many meeting did you attend last year? How many times were you net control? How often did you attend an event? Now I'm not expecting any answers here but what I want to know is... What are the barriers to you becoming involved with our club activities? We need you to be involved in events, make

presentations at club meetings, become a VE, run nets, and hold workshops. How can I help make this happen?

### **Club Mission / Preamble**

The Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club has been founded by persons of similar interests in order to:

1. Develop the bonds of fellowship among those persons interested in all aspects of amateur radio.
2. Facilitate the exchange of information and cooperation among members.
3. Promote radio knowledge by providing classes for the instruction of persons interested in becoming Amateur Radio Operators.
4. Serve the community as a communications and technical resource.
5. Supplement and expand the proficiency and knowledge of the members in electronics and communications techniques.

The Club Mission is our overall guide to the purpose of our club. Objectives are formed to promote the mission. Each objective is the guide to develop activities to support the mission and objectives of our club. I propose the following objectives to further our Club Mission. I look forward to your comments and ideas about how we can support these objectives.

### **2009/2010 BRAARC Objectives**

1. Increase activities that stimulate interest in the club for members and potential members.
2. Provide opportunities for hands on activities that are related to

amateur radio operation and technology.

3. Support local organizations through amateur radio service to such organizations.

Missions, objectives and activities... oh my! It sounds wonderful doesn't it? Now that this is all set we can sit back, watch the fun roll in and enjoy ourselves. Well, I'm sorry; it's not quite like that. All of us as club members are the ones to make things happen. There are some proposals for activities on the table right now. Some have champions and some do not. The CROP Walk, 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jamboree on the Air, Mini Ham Swap, and a VE session all are at various stages of planning and support. Can you help with any of them? Check out our website at [www.braarc.net](http://www.braarc.net) to learn more. Is there an event that you want the club to participate in that will help us meet our objectives? Let's hear about it.

Hopefully, for my first President's Note, this is what you were expecting. I want to close by saying; let's focus on doing activities that promote amateur radio and help our members enjoy this wonderful hobby. Happy Hamming!

Sincerely,

Mike KD8DIB

2009/2010 BRAARC President

### **BRAARC September 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Called to Order at 7:04 p.m.

**Guests:** Dennis KD8LBH (Walt's son)

Net control sheets passed around  
Ham Bucks passed out

**Announcements:**

Crop Walk for St. Paul's, 10/11/09. 2:00 p.m. Need Volunteers

**Reports:**

Secretary: accepted  
Treasurer: accepted

**Old Business**

Jeff K8OE is organizing communications for Leadership Mecosta Adventure Run, Saturday 9-05-09.

Further discussion on having gravel put on hill for 2 meter repeater.

Mike-KD8DIB was quoted:

\$25 yard

\$50/hour for machinery

\$50 delivery from New Horizons

Mike is going to meet with contractor to get an estimate.

Discussion on fundraiser at Crankers., Tabled.

Ham in a day class, November 7<sup>th</sup>, tentative date.

**New Business**

Local Boy Scouts having 52<sup>nd</sup> Jamboree on the Air (field day for the scouts), would like our help. At Apil Heilmans home, Ocotober 17 & 18. All scout types encouraged to attend. Mike KD8DIB purposed ordering club patches 100@/\$228.00. Motion passed.

**Election of New Officers were as follows:**

President- Mike Mckay-KD8DIB  
V. President- Shila Kiander-KD8IAL  
Secretary- Jim Orlovski-N8PUG  
Treasurer-KD8IAM

**Wrap Up Items:**

Articles to Phil: September 20

Next meeting date: 10/01/09

Next club breakfast:9-26-09

Treats for October: George-W8OWN

50/50 Drawing: Wayne KD8KPY

Adjourn: 8:25 PM

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**Announcements**

Next club breakfast Saturday:

September 26 at 9:00 a.m. at our new permanent breakfast location-- Sharon's restaurant in Rogers Heights. Talk-in on the 146.740 Big Rapids 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

Next BRAARC club meeting

Thursday: October 1 at 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids.

Leadership Mecosta Adventure Race Communications: Thank you to the Volunteers who made this a great event!

Next Emergency Committee meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:00PM in the Osceola County EOC

**Communication Nets**

70cm / 440 Net - Every Sunday evening at 7:30 PM

2 Meter - Every Tuesday evening at 9:00 PM

ARES/RACES - Every second and fourth Wednesday at 9:00 PM (2 Meter repeater)

The 2009 Crop Walk will be Sunday, October 11, 2009 at St. Paul's Campus Parish on Damascus Rd. The walk starts at 2PM. We need volunteers to provide

communications along the route. Contact Jim, N8PUG

The 52nd annual Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air is Saturday, October 17, 2009. This is an all day event beginning at 10AM and running until 4PM. Your help is needed to bring Amateur Radio to the local scout troops. If you can help operate, bring equipment, or be an Elmer contact Mike, KD8DIB



Tech Corner  
WA4FRJ

At least one version of an Icom mike has an annoying problem with the PTT switch. Used on radios such as the V8000, 2350, 2200 and the 208H this mike has fine audio but a problem PTT switch. The failure may start out as an intermittent so that the transmitter drops out while the PTT is being pushed. The problem usually gets worse and operation of the PTT requires a very high pressure. Finally the PTT can stop operating altogether.

On my mobile, a 208H, the mike got worse and worse until it was very hard to have a QSO. My initial thought was to go buy another mike but with all of the built in radio operation features the mike goes for more than \$100. I guess lots of buttons cost lots of money.

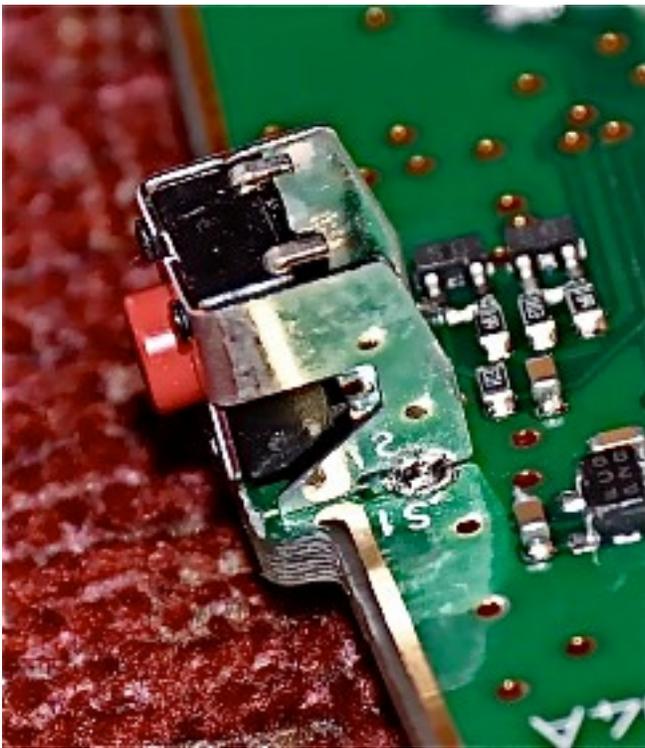
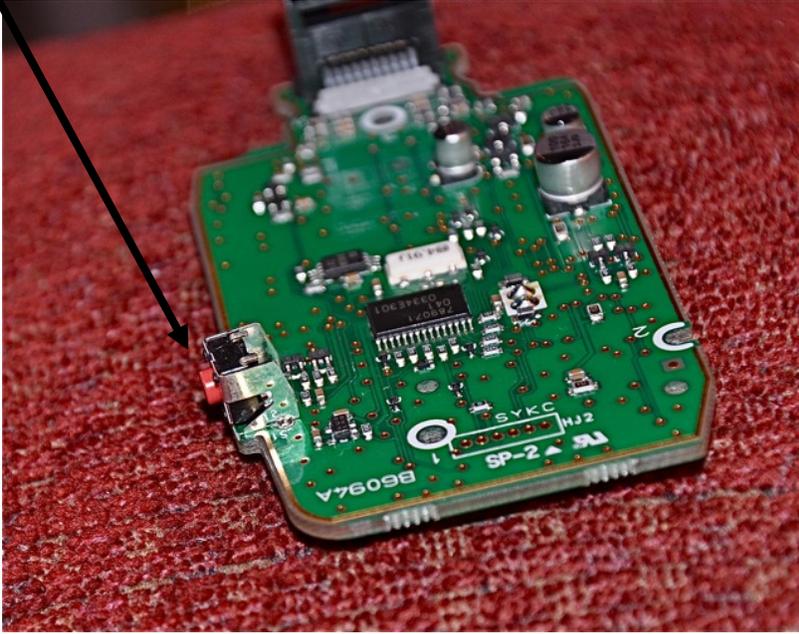
I pulled the mike apart and discovered that my PTT was a small tactile switch with a bracket on the mike circuit board. I've used similar switches and knew it was a low cost item. In my case the switch bracket was slightly bent from all the pressure and after removing the switch I found it had an intermittent connection. In this case the switch and bracket come as an assembly and I set about finding an exact replacement. I had heard that Icom could supply the part but this piece looked pretty standard to me. Sure enough I was able to buy an exact replacement switch/bracket combination. As a matter of fact I bought ten of them. I was in hopes that the same switch would fit other troubled Icom mikes.

Here's a picture of the circuit board from my mike with the new switch/bracket installed. You can see the small button on the left side of the picture. The mike works perfectly. Is this a do it yourself project? Yes, if you are good at un-soldering (you should have a solder sucker or equivalent), clearing PC board holes and soldering in a new piece.

The club will sell these switches for a buck. I'm saving several for myself just in case the darn thing goes bad again!

73, Don (See pictures next page.)

PTT



Who ate the canary???



## **Brain Teaser**

Don MacConnel WA4FRJ

An errand boy, probably a younger version of Phil Marcotte, was collecting boxes of cakes for the Mecosta County Fair. He collected boxes from various people and each box was labeled in Roman numerals with the number of cakes in the box. By the time the boy had collected the last box, he was quite hungry, and really needed to eat at least one cake.

Luckily the last box was marked with an underlined XI, meaning there were 11 cakes in it. He had the brain wave of turning the box around and underlining the number again to give the impression there were IX, that is 9 cakes. However, after eating the 2 cakes he was still hungry. How did he change the number shown on the box again and eat more cakes?

## **August Brain Teaser Solution**

Jessica, red hair, red dress  
Lucy, black hair, green dress  
Chloe, brown hair, blue dress  
Lauren, blonde hair, yellow dress

(You may recognize this from a year ago. More of you should have gotten the answer this time.)

# **Sharon's Breakfast Buffet**

Don't forget to join us for breakfast, Saturday, September 26

9:00am at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

Good eating!! Good company!!

Come for a little or come for a lot!





The organizers of the special event like to let the kids decide what bands and frequencies to operate on, but 20 and 40 meter SSB look to be good bets.

So, if you'd like to make contact with the BARC Juniors, Saturday might be your day.

I don't have any more information than this, but hopefully, it will be enough to encourage some of you to try to contact the kids.

Thanks, and 73 from Tom Behler: KB8TYJ, Louisville, CO

