

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

Don't be an April Fool!!

April 2010

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I can't believe that April is almost upon us. The snow is, for the most part, gone and the flowers are starting to poke up through the ground. It feels like spring! I hope everyone is rested up after our

long winter nap because we have a busy spring ahead of us.

It's starting with the Club breakfast, 4H Technology Club and VE Update on March 27th. The Club meeting and Skywarn #1 is April 1st. "Ham in a Day" is April 10th all day. The second Skywarn training is April 12 at 11AM at the FSU West Campus Community Center. Last but not least, don't forget the Michigan QSO Party on April 17. Check the web site (www.braarc.net) for updates, times and locations.

Wow, what a lineup of fun stuff to do for April. The hard part is going to be choosing what to do. I'm sure we will see many of you at most of these events.

I'm going to keep this note short and wish everyone a wonderful spring season.

Happy Hamming
Mike, KD8DIB

BRAARC Meeting Minutes

Big Rapids Amateur Area Radio Club minutes
3/4/10

Called to order 7:00 by President Mike KD8DIB.
Mike had the guests introduce themselves,
Gary, WD8ALT, and Dan, WA8AEN.

Announcements:

Annual Club dues: 30 paid members
April meeting: Acoustics/audio Simplified

Treasurers Report – Val, KD8IAM
Approved

Secretary Report – Joe, KD8KPS
Approved

Repeater Report – 2 meter has background

Old Business:

Club dinner – May 6 7 at 5:30pm, FSU Rock
Cafe', \$8 per person, pay at door

Skywarn Training – April 1 – Central Dispatch

Ham In A Day and VE Training – going forward
– West Commons – April 10, 2010.
Will figure out date for VE Training

Memorial Fund for Jim, N8PUG, is continuing.

\$150 approved to buy 4 soldering irons, tool box, and some tools. Then let 4-H borrow them for their Technology Club

Mike, KD8DIB – MI QSO party and Radio Day (April 24, 2010) coordinator needed.

Program – Packet Automatic Positioning Reporting System

Snacks – April, Gary, WB8WIA

Miscellaneous

Calvin, KD8KQC, won 50/50 drawing

Jim, K4UIH, won net drawing

Adjourned

Submitted by (interim secretary), Joe, KD8KPS

Club Announcements

Next club breakfast Saturday: March 27 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.

BRAARC club meeting Thursday: April 1 at 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids. **Presentation Topic:** Acoustics / Audio Simplified... What's it all about?

4H Technology I & II Club Meeting - March 13 & 27, 2010: 10AM to 5PM. Projects: [Scout Regen Receiver](#) & Blinkies

Mecosta County Skywarn Training: April 1, 2010 from 6pm to 9pm. Meceola Central Dispatch

"Ham in a Day" and VE testing session: April 10, 2010.

Annual Club Dinner: May 7, 2010 at 5:30PM - Join us at The Rock at FSU for this great meal.

Next Emergency Committee meeting: June 10 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)

Where are the Ham Radio Hackers?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the Ten-Tec Omni VII Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ten-Tec-Omni-VII/>), one ham wrote:

"If I was 17 years-old I would be hacking I-phones and other items like George Hotz, the 17 year-old from New Jersey who was able to unlock the Apple I-phone so that it could be used on other cell service networks.

"When I was his age, I was hacking dial telephones. Then one day the phone company showed up at my house. My parents were not impressed with my technical abilities.

"This morning there is a story that George has just hacked the 'un-hackable' Sony 3 Play Station. He says the hack was 95% software and 5% hardware.

"A quick check of the modifications site run by that guy over in Denmark, shows that there are NO MODS for the O7...interesting. I just wonder how many strange and wonderful things can be done with those 36 buttons/switches on the front panel. Can the O7 be made even better?"

In my reply, I asked, "Why stop at pressing some buttons on the front panel? Why doesn't someone really hack the Omni VII and develop a completely new software package for it?" Rigs like the Omni VII and the Elecraft K3 would seem to be perfect candidates for this kind of hacking.

Sure, there is an order of magnitude difference between a \$300 iPod and a \$3,000 radio, but we're big boys, aren't we? Besides, aside from overdriving the finals, what real damage can you do to the radio? It seems to me that even if you manage to screw up the software in the rig, you can get back to square one by simply re-loading the manufacturer's software.

Ham radio operators have a long history of modifying their radios. Page through any stack of QSTs or CQ Magazines from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and you'll find many articles describing modifications to the popular radios of the day. About the only thing hams do to their rigs today is to clip a diode to allow it to operate out-of-band.

What does it say about the technical capabilities of today's hams that we haven't yet done with our gear what some 17-year-old kid has done with the iPhone and the PlayStation? Why don't we have any third-party software for Omni VII or the K3? I think if a manufacturer actually encouraged third-party software development, they'd quickly gain a following and make their brand even stronger, don't you?

Taking the 100 out, 60% equals 0.6 and we can write:

Input power= output power/0.6

Input power= 3000 watts /0.6

Input power= 5000 watts = 5 kilowatts

Thus WDEE's transmitter requires 5 kilowatts of input power. Power costs are calculated on power in kilowatts X time in hours. Thus WDEE's transmitter uses 5 kilowatt hours per hour. If electricity costs \$0.12 per kilowatt hour, 5 kilowatt hours costs \$0.60. For 24 hours the cost is 24 hours X \$0.60 per hour or \$14.40. Please note that these numbers are for the Brain Teaser only and are not actual transmitter or electricity costs.

WDEE-FM, 97.3 MHz, is one of John's (KC8BAR) favorite stations and a lot of us also like the Oldies format. Their web site is: <http://www.sunny973.com/>

Mystery Station for April
Who is the proud owner of this station?



Mystery Station from Feb/Mar issue: KC8WGA, David: Lacking a write-up for this letter, David will have to give us the low-down on his station at the April meeting.



Club Breakfast
Saturday, March 27, 2010
Sharon's Restaurant
Rogers Heights
9:00AM



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