

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

January 2010

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Jim Orłowski, N8PUG SK

Jim Orłowski was a big man with a unique outlook on life. His laid back demeanor was all part of his strong, honest, forthright character. As father to Adam, his teen-age son, he was loving, supportive and always willing to bend a little. Jim understood the challenges faced by a bright adolescent caught between a mom and dad that had gone separate ways. He was tremendously proud of his son, and Adam was just as proud of his father.

Many times I would drive down to Jim's house on five mile and the three of us would go out for lunch. I always enjoyed the interplay between Jim and Adam. Jim would talk about Adam's skills as a basketball player and as a budding author of science fiction and fantasy, and Adam would talk about Jim's skills at ham radio and fixing things around the house.

Jim had significant physical challenges but never complained. He was slowly going blind, and his vision had become so bad that he finally had his driver's license taken away. That was tragic for Jim. Always an independent spirit, he suddenly had to rely on others for transportation. His family and members of the club, including Phil Marcotte, the McKays, the Behlers and I stepped up and assisted with transportation. He was always grateful, and we were rewarded by seeing how much he enjoyed club events. He loved the breakfasts and was particularly happy at field day. Some of my favorite pictures were taken as he talked to his friends or took a turn at running a rig.

Jim had a good fist and enjoyed RTTY and phone QSO's. Ham radio provided him with hours of good times that helped to relieve his loneliness and isolation. He and I would daydream about how we could get him transportation for running errands to nearby Amish markets and getting out of the house. He kept

talking about a four-wheeler and I kept pushing for a golf cart. Neither one happened but it was fun to dream.

Few things bothered Jim outwardly, but there was one coincidence that he did mention several times. He noticed that whenever Tom Behler, who usually ran Skywarn nets, was away, we would have bad weather that required a net. With Tom gone the net control job went to Jim. It kept Jim busy which was good, but some of the nets were late at night and kept him up, which wasn't as enjoyable. Through it all Jim was good-natured; but he was becoming convinced that the weather was only bad when Tom was away and would always ask how Tom always knew to leave town in advance of bad weather.

The last time I saw Jim was the Sunday before he passed away. His old G5RV antenna wouldn't load on twenty meters and he needed help to put up a new one. He put out an email asking for help but there were no responses. That Sunday I called him and, after being assured that the job didn't require me to go up on a roof or to climb a tower, I drove to his house. In less than an hour he was on the air with the new antenna. It worked like a charm and he was excited. Later he called to let me know he had talked to Venezuela with his new antenna. He was like a kid with a new toy.

On Wednesday Jim went into the hospital for bariatric surgery. I talked to him at the hospital the next day. He was weak and hurt a lot but was going to call me back when he felt better. The following day, Friday, he called and left a voice message giving me phone numbers I could use to call him. It was late by the time I got his message, so I held off returning his call that evening. Saturday morning Adam called to tell me that his father had died during the night.

Jim's death leaves a great hurt and emptiness. His distinctive and familiar voice is silenced and his homespun philosophy will never be shared again. We have faith that he is in a better place and we each have our own wonderful memories of this extraordinary man. We'll never forget him.

If we sort for the good, there is a bright spot. Jim's son Adam will carry Jim's beliefs, love and friendship into another generation and perhaps N8PUG will return to the air as a younger version of our friend. We don't know who it will be but we'll keep listening for him.

Don MacConnel WA4FRJ

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We have lost a dear friend and valued club member, James Orłowski known to most of us as Jim, N8PUG passed way unexpectedly on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009. I don't even know where to start to express how fortunate we all are to

have known Jim. He was the type of guy that would give you the shirt off of his back and the shoes from his feet without even a question. Certainly, the largest supporter of the club food drives for the last two years, a constant at all events, and a no nonsense Amateur Radio Operator who

would lend a hand where ever needed. His passing leaves a great hole in our community and his family's lives. He cannot be replaced but he can be remembered and celebrated. We will miss you, Jim. N8PUG, N8PUG, N8PUG this is KD8DIB; nothing heard... Good bye, friend. KD8DIB clear.

I propose we, as the Big Rapids Area Amateur Club, create a lasting tribute to N8PUG to celebrate the life of a fine man, father and ham. This tribute should be of a nature to reflect Jim's character, values and generosity. Please take some time and reflect on Jim's life. A portion of the January Club meeting will be dedicated to brainstorming about a fitting tribute and all are encouraged to bring their ideas.



## Club Members Win Ferris 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Geocache Prizes

David Huhtala, KC8WGA, is shown receiving a Ferris 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Geocoin from Jennifer Thede, IT Services Office Coordinator. David was a participant in a successful geocache hunt starting with clues at the



Fifth Third bank building and ending on the Ferris campus. There were ten caches on the campus, some quite hard to locate. He and the other half of team HuhMac, Don, WA4FRJ were all over the campus from the Richard Santer nature preserve to buildings on the campus. Finding and registering the caches placed entrants in a drawing for one of the beautiful bronze 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary geocoins.

Jennifer Thede and David Huhtala, KC8WGA

Another entrant, Calvin McKay, of team McKay comprised of Mike, KD8DIB, Patricia, KD8GGD and Calvin, KD8KQC, recently won a coin and has just been a winner in the drawing for a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T shirt. Way to go Calvin!

This innovative event was planned to offer a great cache hunt that helped participants learn about Ferris's rich history. It succeeded on every account and our hats are off to the hard working Ferris team that arranged the hunt.

Ferris's Scott Thede and Randy Shanks were program speakers at a recent club meeting and introduced us to the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary geocaching event. For more information about geocaching go to: [www.geocaching.com/faq](http://www.geocaching.com/faq)  
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### **Announcements**

Next Emergency Committee meeting: Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 7:00PM at Central Dispatch.

Next club breakfast Saturday: January 2 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.

Winter Field Day: January 30-31, 2010. Jeff, K8OE & David, KC8WGA are coordinating. [Rules](#)

Kids Day: Sunday, January 3, 2010. 1pm to 5pm at the home of KD8DIB & KD8GGD.

BRAARC club meeting Thursday: January 7 at 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids. **Presentation Topic:** You can be a VE too! - Presenter needed!!!

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)

## Brain Teaser

Don MacConnel, WA4FRJ

We snuck in a little help as this puzzle is not super easy. As a reminder, the Dell Puzzle magazines always have a tutorial on solving logic puzzles as well as some easy and hard puzzles.

Santa is getting ready for Christmas - sorting presents, filling sacks and working out his route to make sure he can deliver all his wonderful presents to the children of the world in time for when they wake up Christmas morning. The trouble is, every year just before Christmas, all the reindeer have nothing to do and mostly stand around getting rather bored. They are always asking if they can help but there's nothing they can do until Santa's ready to go.

This year, Santa is prepared for them and he's set them a little challenge to help keep them busy. He's given them the following problem:

Five children from five different families living in five different counties in Michigan have asked for a different gift each. From the clues, the reindeer have to work out who's who, where each child lives and what present each has asked for. The first reindeer to solve the problem gets an extra portion of Christmas pudding on Christmas Day!

1. Neither Cliffy, nor Jennifer Antor (who does not live in Mecosta County), lives in Kent County.
2. Mickey McKay, who is neither Sarah nor Cliffy, asked for the pony (a gift that Santa would have particular difficulty getting down the McKay family's Newaygo chimney!).
3. Young Kiander is neither the child who lives in Mecosta County nor the child who has asked for a bicycle.
4. The gift due for delivery to Osceola County, which is not for the child surnamed Kiander, is a computer.
5. Liz, who has asked for the painting set, is not from Kent County. Her surname is not Marcotte and she is Finnish.
6. The child who lives in Montcalm County has asked for a guitar. Mickey lives in Newaygo County.
7. The child named Marcotte is wondering about a reindeer permit.....(just kidding)

Children's first names: Mickey, Cliffy, Jennifer, Liz, Sarah

Children's last names: McKay, Antor, Marcotte, Huhtala, Kiander

Counties: Osceola, Newaygo, Montcalm, Kent, Mecosta

Presents: Bicycle, Computer, Guitar, Painting Set, Pony

Tech Corner

Don MacConnel —WA4FRJ

Last August the Tech Corner article covered experience with CFL's (Compact Fluorescent Lamps). Here's an update on my experience with halogen lamps made by Sylvania. Three of their 100-watt halogens have been in service at my house for two years. They are in what I call heavy service areas. That is, they typically run about six hours a day. In the winter they run eight hours a day. So far all of them are going strong with no bulb failure or perceptible dimming. In the interim the three CFL's in my kitchen have gone out after eight months. It was interesting to note that the three CFL's failed one at a time over about a month.

The CFL's are also in heavy service of about seven hours a day. While the three 23 watt CFL's lasted they gave ample bright light after warming up a few minutes. The light quality was somewhat yellowish but acceptable. Do I think they're a good investment? Not yet. They did save the difference in wattage of 37 watts each over the 60-watt incandescent lamps used previously.

Right now with their less than specified life, CFL's are about a break-even cost wise. If they lasted like the halogens they would pay for themselves. Do I like them? Not really, the color is still strange and the warm up period is a nuisance. They also appear to dim over life. Halogen lamps stay bright and the color balance is excellent.

It may not matter much since the common 100-watt incandescent lamp will no longer be available after 2012. This was covered in the "The Way We Hear It," section in this year's November's newsletter. You can find it on [www.braarc.net](http://www.braarc.net)

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The Way We Hear it

Don MacConnel – WA4FRJ

Talk about unforeseen consequences. I like LED's but look at this:

“Cities around the country that have installed (LED) energy-efficient traffic lights are discovering a hazardous downside: The bulbs don't burn hot enough to melt snow and can become crusted over in a storm — a problem blamed for dozens of accidents and at least one death.”

Here's another. “Illinois authorities said that during a storm in April, 34-year-old Lisa Richter could see she had a green light and began making a left turn. A driver coming from the opposite direction did not realize the stoplight was obscured by snow and plowed into Richter's vehicle, killing her.

"Would the accident have occurred if the lights had been clear? I would be willing to bet not," Oswego police Detective Rob Sherwood said.”



Don't forget Breakfast  
Saturday, Jan 2, 2010 9a.m.  
@  
Sharon's in Rogers Heights



# Merry Christmas

# &

# Happy New Year

**January 2010**  
**PO Box 343 Parts MI 49338**

