

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

July 2010

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Inside this Issue: August Meeting Minutes 1 Club Announcements 2 Celebrity Serve 3
Whatever 4



It's here! It's time for Field Day. This is one of the all time favorite amateur radio events. I really enjoy Field Day and I hope you do too. The club sponsors this event every year and invites all

members to join us for some time on the air. We need you there because member participation is what makes this event so much fun. It's a great event to visit with all of our great ham friends. So, I hope you'll join us.

Have you invited a friend or family member to join you at a meeting or event recently? Many of us encourage our family members to join the amateur radio fun. A certain member recently encouraged a family member to join the ham ranks. As you may or may not know, Helen Popovich earned her call, KD8OGC, a few days ago. Congratulation, Helen, we look

forward to hearing you on the air!

What is it about amateur radio that keeps you interested? Please bring you ideas to our club meetings, nets and events. We need your participation to bring the richness of amateur radio to our members and guests.

Have you been net control for a 2 meter or 440 net? Well I know one of our hams who just took the plunge and conducted a 2 meter net for the first time ever. Jens, KC8OIV sounding more like a professional than an amateur, ran his first net a few days ago. Thank you, Jens!

There is much to do to get ready for Field Day at the Big Rapids Superintendents Office. I hope to see you there. At least, join us for the Field Day breakfast at Sharron's Restaurant in Rogers Heights on Saturday, June 26 at 9:00AM.

Happy Hamming!
Mike, KD8DIB

June 3, 2010 – BRAARC Meeting Minutes

- Meeting called to order at 7:36PM
- Announcements were made.
- Request for coordinators for Rotary Polio Run (July 10, 2010) and Freedom Air Fest (July 17, 2010) were made.
- Treasurer Report approved by members present.
- Secretary report approved by members present.
- Sign up for Field Day circulated.
- Big Bad Wolf Adventure Race tabled until July meeting to be reviewed by Jeff, K8OE.
- Business meeting adjourned at 8:00PM
- Program: Field Day Dry Run – Set up antenna and operated club station.

Notes by Joe, KD8KPS – Submitted by Mike, KD8DIB

Announcements:

Next club breakfast Saturday: June 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.

BRAARC club meeting Thursday: July 1 at 7 p.m. the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids. **Presentation Topic:** TBD

Field Day - June 26 & 27, 2010: Breakfast kick off at 9:00 AM at Sharon's restaurant in Rogers Heights. Talk-in on the 146.740 Big Rapids 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions
Rotary Polio Run - July 10, 2010: Communications Event! Coordinator: open contact Mike, KD8DIB to volunteer

Freedomfest Air Show - July 17, 2010: kick off at 7:00 AM at Big Rapids Airport. Coordinator: open contact Mike, KD8DIB to volunteer

Big Bad Wolf Adventure Race - Labor Day weekend. Coordinator: Jeff, K8OE

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)

Field Day
June 26 – 27
Hope to see you there!!

Tech Test Gets a Little More Technical

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to amateur radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.

That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all. There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter how to troubleshoot basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter"? Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit"? Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of amateur radio. I think these are very important for new amateurs to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this--or shortly thereafter--the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, www.kb6nu.com. Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proofreading it right now.

While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they choose to do so. If you have any favorite websites that discuss making measurements with voltmeters or how to read schematic diagrams, I'd love to hear from you.

Who is the Proud Owner of This Station?



This station belongs to Phil Marcotte.

It is comprised of an Icom IC-2100 transceiver, an Icom T2H handheld transceiver, a Radio Shack 13.8v power supply, a Uniden Bearcat scanner and sundry other radio equipment.

If anyone would like to have their station featured in the newsletter please send a picture to Phil Marcotte at phildolly@power-net.net.

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Brain Teaser: Due to technical difficulties there is no brainteaser for this month. The solution to last months brain teaser will be included in a future issue. (Editor: I'm guessing that the letter 'e' does not appear anywhere in the paragraph.)

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