

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

May 2010

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## President's Note

Here we go again, another busy ham radio month. We have much on the agenda again and I hope you are not missing out on all of this great fun. This past month, we

helped license eight new "Hams in a Day" and upgrade two existing hams. With this, now our work begins in helping these new hams get their signals on the air.

May's meeting "Radio Operations Roundtable" will begin this journey for these new hams. Bring your favorite HT or portable station. I would like us to spend a large portion of this meeting talking about the pluses and minuses of our favorite gear. All members will have a chance to help these new hams get on the air during the Communications Net demo. Don't forget to charge that HT because we will put them to use. I hope to see you and your HT there!

May also brings the Annual Club Dinner. This year we will be enjoying a great meal and companionship at The Rock. This dining venue is located on the campus of Ferris State University and offers a multitude of gastronomical delights. This is not the "chow" line of the past and I think you will enjoy this

experience. Maybe you'll even want to go back to college after seeing how the modern student dines in style. The cost per person is only eight dollars (\$8). We will gather at the fire place. All are welcome, hams and non-hams alike, for this special event.

Can't go to Dayton Hamvention this year? Don't sit at home moping in self-pity or sulky unhappiness, join us for the annual "I'm Not a Dayton Fox Hunt." Can you find the hidden transmitter? This year we will attempt to use the famous "Montreal Fox" automatic transmitter. Look for us on 146.565 at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 15. The general area for the hunt will be the Big Rapids Community Pool. Not up to the hunt, then join us at the Big Rapids Wendy's for lunch at 11:30 AM and hear all of the hunting tales.

Have you noticed the photos of the mystery amateur radio stations in the past two newsletters? This is a new feature and we want you to participate too. Send in your station photos along with a short description. I'm sure most of you guessed that last month's station was mine. It consists of an Icom 706MIIG, LDGZ-11pro tuner, home made computer interface and a Radio Shack HTX-404. I really like the ICOM 706, it is my main radio for VHF, UHF and HF. The HTX series of radios are a great HT for starting out and can be found on ebay or at hamfest for less than

\$100 usually with some accessories. I hope to see your station featured soon!

There are so many things to do this month and next, it's going to be hard to keep things straight. Don't forget that [www.braarc.net](http://www.braarc.net) has all the up to date news about our events. Check the website often for changes and updates.

Happy Hamming!

Mike, KD8DIB

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## **BRAARC**

### **4/1/10 Minutes**

**Called to order** at 7:04 by President Mike KD8DIB. Guests were introduced: Greg, interested in becoming a ham, John KD8KVO. Member news: Calvin has been working on his 4H project, Patricia brought the new club equipment that was purchased, Wayne has been working on his antenna.

### **Announcements – Check the website calendar application for events**

Skywarn Training – April 12 at 11am – FSU West Campus Community Center

Skywarn Training- April 29 at 6pm – Reed City Fire Department

Ham in a day & VE Testing – April 10

4H Project Day – April 17 from 10am to 5pm: Need volunteers, donations, set up assistance and elmers to work with the 4H Technology Club on their projects building scout regen receivers and crystal receivers

Club Dinner – May 7 at 5:30pm – FSU Rock Café – \$8 per person

N8PUG Memorial Fund – the Club is still collection donations that will be given to Jim's parents for his son Adam

Thinking of you card – sent around for Bill Eckles

Damage Assessment exercise – Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 9am to noon at the Morton Township Hall

Next meeting – May 6, 2010 the program with be Band and Antenna Characteristics or on-air operations.

**Treasure Report** – Val KD8IAM, moved and approved

**Secretary Report** – Joe KD8KPS, moved and approved (Joe did a great job as interim secretary; Shila will take over until the next election

**Repeater Committee** – Fritz was not present, Don reported that Fritz pulled the repeater and is working on it.

**AARL Special Service Club Status** – Shila is working on it and will report at the next meeting

### **Old Business**

**Ham in a day (April 10, 2010)** – Mike KD8DIB, brought brochures for the members to hand out, VEs are set, members can come and help out in the morning, the event is self funded.

**MI QSO Party and Radio Day (April 17, 2010)** – was discussed at the last meeting. Bill Kelso might activated the Osceola County EOC. Check the club website.

### **New Business**

**Girls on the Run** – is going in front of the commission to change the date from Saturday to Thursday. When approved the race will be on Thursday, June 3 from 5:30pm to 6:00pm. This is the night of our June meeting, so we will meet after the event at North End Park.

**Field Day, June 26-27, 2010** – the June meeting is set aside for planning of field day. The Big Rapids High School Administration parking lot is reserved. **Moved and Approved to set a budget of up to \$500 for the event.**

**"I'm not at Dayton" Foxhunt – May 15, 2010 at 10am** – Mike KD8DIB is planning to use an automatic transmitter.

**Ham of the Year** – ballots were handed out and Shila KD8IAL AND Val KD8IAM will take care of the award that will be presented at the club dinner.

**Polio Plus Fundraiser** – Don suggested we supply communications for this event and will have more information at a later date.

**Program** – Don presented a demonstration of Acoustics/Audio Simplified

**Snacks for May** – Val KD8IAM  
**50/50** – Wayne

**Adjourned 8:24pm**

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## Announcements

- Next club breakfast Saturday: May 1 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: May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids. **Presentation Topic:** Radio Operations Roundtable
- Osceola County Skywarn Training - April 29, 2010 at 6PM at the Reed City Fire Department.
- Annual Club Dinner: May 7, 2010 at 5:30PM - Join us at The Rock at FSU for this great meal. [Map Information](#)
- "I'm Not at Dayton" Fox Hunt - May 15, 2010 at 10AM to 11:30AM, Lunch at 11:30AM. listen on or about 146.565 for "MO", "MOE" or maybe even "MOI". Can you find that funny fox? Need a hint? <http://www.homingin.com/> [Montreal Fox](#)
- Next Emergency Committee meeting: June 10 at 7:00PM in the Osceola County EOC.
- K8KZO Dayton Hamvention Trip: <http://www.k8kzo.com/Dayton/dayton.pdf>
- **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)
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**Successful "Ham in a Day" Participants** - Welcome to BRAARC and congratulations on your new license.

- DAVE O'BRIEN, KD8NRN
- GREGORY STOIKE, KD8NRP
- JAMES BOURDLAIS, KD8NRK
- MARYANN DOTY, KD8NSP
- PAUL PARNOFIELLO, KD8NRM
- RONALD BRISSETTE, KD8NRJ
- SCOTT LINDSLEY, KD8NRL
- GREGORY WOOLEN, KD8NRO

**New Members in 2010**

- DANIEL ASTLEFORD, WA8AEN
- SUSAN BACHINSKI, KD8KPV
- PAUL BOOTH, WY8H
- DONALD MACCONNEL, WA4FRJ
- DOMINIC THEODORE, KD8NTC
- CHRIS WALL, KD8KPZ

Have you worked all of the new club members? Take some time and have some fun with our new members! This is an interesting group of new additions to the club that will be great to get to know. Please join me in welcoming these new members.

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Brain Teaser

Don MacConnel, WA4FRJ

Answer to the last Brain Teaser

Here was the question:

Try to answer quickly. Starting with an empty barrel, which happens first?  
carefully and you'll get a fast answer!

Hint: read the puzzle

- 2/3 full
- 1/4 empty
- 1/2 full
- 3/4 empty

The Answer:

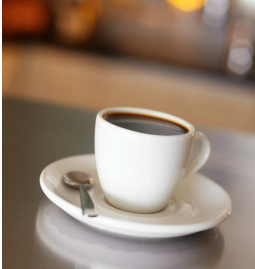
It was a little tricky. Filling the barrel we would first get 3/4 empty, then 1/2 full, then 2/3 full, then 1/4 empty. The wording was weird but then it's a puzzle...



Thank you for the help with the soldering stations. They sure work great! We would like you to volunteer to help us finish up the kits. We still have some stuff to do on them.

Goodbye for now.

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BREAKFAST  
Sharon's Restaurant in Rogers Heights  
Saturday, May 1, 9am



See you there!!

**May 2010**  
**PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338**

