

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

July 2011

PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338 Pres. Jim Woolen Web Page: [www.braarc.net](http://www.braarc.net) Editor: Phil – [phildolly@power-net.net](mailto:phildolly@power-net.net)

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Where has the time gone by this year? We are already in the middle of June! My youngest daughter had her graduation "open house" at Northend Park on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Last month, I went to the National Institute for Standards & Technology (formerly the US Bureau of Standards) for my third year of Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award examiner training. It is also hard for me to believe that it has been six months since my mother's death at the end of last year.

We had a delightful club dinner at the Rock on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Twenty people attended and all seemed to enjoy the food and fellowship.

We provided communications for the "Girls on the Run" event on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Tom Behler seemed to think it went well. We will not be doing the Fly-In project at the Roben-Hood airport as they have secured another group to help out with this event.

Field Day will be held on June 25th. So far, Mike McKay, Gregory Woolen, Jeff Sell and

Don MacConnel have expressed interest in participating in Field Day activities, helping to set up, or loaning equipment for the event. Please consider participating in this worthwhile endeavor. Unfortunately, I will be in Indianapolis that entire weekend for a conference and cannot participate.

I hope to see you at the next club meeting on Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety.

73s,

Jim  
K4UIH

BRAARC Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 2, 2011

1. Please continue to update your information on the club roster.
2. Sign up for club badges ASAP. Sue Behler will look into having the badges created shortly.
3. We need net control operators.
4. Upcoming breakfasts – June 25<sup>th</sup> (field day) and July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Usual time, usual place.
5. All reports were approved.
6. Jim Woolen is trying to get in touch with Fritz concerning the Repeater committee.

7. Jeff Sell will attend a Makers Space meeting this summer and a Makers Fair this coming Fall.
8. IRA Link is still sporadic. Tom Behler will look into the status.
9. Annual Dinner Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Rock on FSU campus. Let Jim Woolen know if you can join them.
10. We are looking into ways to get the youth involved with Amateur Radio.
11. A New-Ham Orientation has been postponed until the Fall.
12. Club equipment insurance is due. It was decided to go with the old insurer (no longer supported by the ARRL). We will look into the future possibility of replacing the insurance with the new recommended company.

13. Phil would like you to let him know which two newsletters should be submitted to the newsletter competition.
14. Joe Aldrich has a 40 ft tower for sale. Contact him for more details.
15. Tom Behler announced a new series of Ham Radio Podcasts. You can hear them every Tuesday at 9 pm. They cover a variety of topics relative to Amateur Radio.
16. Video in Ham Radio could make a good tech corner, as well as a future program. We will continue to investigate.
16. Behlers won the 50/50 drawing.
17. Phil agreed to bring snacks for next time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Behler KC8IFP

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**Announcements:**

July 2 - Club breakfast, 9AM at Sharon's Restaurant in Roger Heights.

July 7 – Regular club meeting, 7pm at Big Rapids Public Safety Building.

July 9 – VE Testing - See website for information: request pre-registration 7 days in advance for testing. Call 989-400-1385; M-F; 9A to 5P. Testing in Canadian Lakes. See website for details, maps and contact points.

July 16 – ARES/RACES Trunk Swap - 1:30pm

4325 220th Ave, Reed City, Mi 49677-8594

Sponsored by the Mecosta Osceola ARES/RACES Group. Admission \$2, Selling space \$3, Setup at 7:30AM Talk-in 146.74 no PL. Reservations: bkn8nja@att.net (989)326-1937

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**Brain Teaser — WA4FRJ**

**Answer to Last Month's Brain Teaser.**

The Puzzle: If you balanced a broom horizontally on your finger, so that your finger was exactly on the broom's center of gravity, marked that spot and cut the broom in two, then you would have a long and a short piece. The long piece being most of the handle and the short piece being the bristle end and a small part of the handle. Now what will happen if you weigh both pieces? (pick all that apply) Ed. Note: Think about a seesaw.



I also want to thank Justin Macauley (KC8WGH) for helping me hold down the fort at net control, and for being available as a runner if needed.

The hams stationed at various locations along the 5K race route were quite noticeable in their emergency vests, and provided ongoing communication with net control as the race progressed. They also were available for possible emergency assistance to anyone who needed it.

In all, approximately 400 runners participated in the race. This included roughly 300 girls as the officially-registered participants, and an additional significant number of friends and other family members who wanted a little exercise of their own on a very nice June Saturday morning.

As always, our group was complimented frequently on our skill in handling the communications, and our presence was greatly appreciated by the event organizers. I want to personally thank everyone for their help, and look forward to doing it again next year as this event continues to grow.



## FEMA Admin Praises Hams

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

At the Earthquake Communications Preparedness Forum, held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in Washington, DC, FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate, had some kind words to say about ham radio. He noted that ham radio really is valuable "when all else fails."

The Web page describing the conference <<http://www.fcc.gov/event/earthquake-communications-preparedness-forum>> has a video of all the talks given at the conference. Fugate's remarks begin at the 18:45 mark . His remarks about amateur radio start at about 29:20.

I think it's great that the head of FEMA thinks so highly of hams. Before you get all excited about this, though, listen to all of Fugate's comments. He has some interesting comments about all of the different ways that responders gather information and provide information to the public in an emergency. I think listening to all of the remarks will help give those of you who are involved with emergency communications more of an overall perspective, and may even help you evolve our role into something that's more useful in the future.

At one point, for example, Fugate held up a cell phone and told the audience to think of this device as both a data point and a sensor. Folks with cell phones can help emergency responders by sending video and audio of the situation, preparing the responders for what to expect when they do arrive. I don't know how many ARES/RACES groups have incorporated video into their emcomm plans, but it sounds like it should be.

Also important, says Fugate, is a solid knowledge of communities, local geography, and place names. I'm not sure if that's normally a part of emcomm training, but it sounds like it should be.

I'll be the first to admit that I'm not an emergency communications geek, so perhaps I'm talking through my hat. It seems to me, however, that it's important to listen to what guys like Fugate are saying and work with them to make amateur radio even more relevant and useful in emergency situations.

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When he's not pondering the state of ham radio, you'll find KB6NU teaching classes; working on WA2HOM, the ham radio station at Ann Arbor's Hands-On Museum ([www.wa2hom.org](http://www.wa2hom.org)), or operating CW on the HF bands. You'll find his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), or you can e-mail him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).



## BREAKFAST

At Sharon's Restaurant in Rogers Heights  
Saturday, July 2, 9am

Come for a great breakfast buffet or order from the menu.  
We have a great time, come join us.



## The Rock

We had a great time at The Rock on the campus of Ferris State University. Everyone enjoyed the selection of food and the great conversation.





## Lost Equipment

WA4FRJ's MFJ antenna analyzer got lost. We think it may have been used when we were making antennas. If you have it please let Don know.

It looks something like this:

