

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

January 2012

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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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### DECEMBER POTLUCK

At our Dec 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, we held the annual Pot luck holiday dinner with about

25 people in attendance. We had to change our location from the Big Rapids DPS to the Meceola Dispatch Center at the last moment, but it did not seem to hurt the attendance. Nor did the rain dampen enthusiasm. It was a great time for fellowship amongst all members and their families. The food was awesome with a lot of variety in dishes brought to the meal. As we did last year, the Woolen family provided the ham (and everyone said it was good).

The "white elephant gift" silent auction raised over \$100 for the club. There were some funny and interesting items which I imagine we will see again next year. Silent bidding took place while we enjoyed all of the fabulous food. Even though I did not bid on a single item, it seems that the Woolen family was the successful bidder on almost one-third of the total. Think I might need to leave my wife and

daughter home next year. Hi, Hi! Many thanks to Patricia McKay and Sue Behler for tallying the bidding and collecting payment for the items.



Also, thanks to Jeff Sell for sharing an 11-minute video on the largest rescue of people by boats in history! This video was narrated by Tom Hanks and told the story of how over 500,000 people were rescued by every imaginable type of boat from lower Manhattan during the 9/11 attacks. Until that day, the boatlift of over 300,000 British troops at Dunkirk during WWII was the largest boatlift rescue in history.

I do not know about you, but I never knew that this boatlift during 9/11 even happened because there has been virtually no publicity on the rescue efforts. We should all be proud of how ordinary people risked their lives to perform an extraordinary act to make sure all of the people were rescued from the docks. It makes me proud to be an American when I look at this video because it shows how people come together for a common cause even in the face of danger. Here is a link to the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDOrzF7B2Kg>.

## JANUARY MEETING

At our January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Tom Behler will present a program on Adaptive Technologies for Hams. I believe this will be a very interesting and informative topic.

## PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

It is hard to believe that the New Year (2012) might have begun when some of you are reading this newsletter. My youngest daughter will also have celebrated her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 30<sup>th</sup> (not her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday as I erroneously stated by me in the December newsletter). Gregory (KD8NRO) will celebrate his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 5<sup>th</sup> at the meeting – be sure to say “happy birthday” to him.

Next March will begin my 55<sup>th</sup> year in ham radio. It is hard to believe that my novice license was earned in 1957 at the age of fourteen. I earned my General ticket three months later. Those days everything was tubes, metal chassis, etc. During those early years, I built my share of homebrew transmitters, kits, and other related construction projects. My biggest project was

a linear amplifier that ran about 600 watts output. I used two power pole transformers together to create a center tap, and used a “variac” to get the voltage down to about 2,500 volts. I would let the final tubes (811A) get slightly red before I backed down the voltage. I used a Heathkit transmitter to drive the amplifier. I eventually built a modulator for the amplifier and just used the Heathkit transmitter to supply a drive signal. Oh, those were the days!

It is my sincere wish that all of you have a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends. And, I hope your celebration of the New Year will be safe and fun.

I Hope to see you at the next club meeting on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety.

73s,

*Jim*

Jim Woolen

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## Announcements:

**Club Breakfast:** Sat, December 31, 9:00am – 10:30am

Sharon's restaurant in Rogers Heights. Talk-in on the 146.740 Big Rapids 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

**Club Meeting:** Thu, January 5, 2012, 7pm – 9pm

435 N. Michigan Ave, Big Rapids, Mi 49307

Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, Presentation Topic: Adaptive Technologies for Hams.

December Meeting Minutes:

There was no formal meeting. We enjoyed a delicious potluck and lots of good conversation.





## BRAARC MEMBERSHIP

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:			
Call:	Class:	Phone:	
address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	Email:
ARRL Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Newsletter: <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Website – minimizes postage and printing costs	

### SPOUSE INFORMATION IF JOINT MEMBERSHIP

Name:		
Call:	Class:	Email:

### LICENSED CHILDREN

Name:	Call:	Class:

### DUES / DONATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Member (\$25) <input type="checkbox"/> College Student(\$12.50) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth(free if oldest licensed family member<18 yrs)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Patch _____ X \$5 each - The club patch supports the repeater systems operated by the club.	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation – General Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Committee Donation <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Committee Donation	\$
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31 each year. Please submit dues by the regular February club meeting to prevent accidental removal from club roster. Mail to: **BRAARC, PO Box 343, Paris, Mi 49338**

**BRAARC Forums Currently Testing**  
**By Mike, KD8DIB**

Do you need somewhere to ask a question and receive an answer from a local ham? Looking for a list of “for sale” amateur radio items? Well the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club Forums may just fit the bill. We are currently testing Simple Machines Forums on the BRAARC.NET website. If you are interested in learning more about BRAARC Forums click on the “Forums” button on the right hand side of the website menu or follow this link: <http://braarc.net/simplemachinesforum/index.php>

Registration is necessary but simple. Click on the “Register” link, review the Registration Agreement, and accept the terms. You will then be asked to enter a username, email, and a password. Additionally, you can decide to accept or not accept email from other forum users. The server will send you a confirmation email that you must click on the provided link to activate your registration. Once you activate your registration you will immediately have access to the forums for posting. Guests may read forums without logging in but guests may not comment.

Let us know what you think or if you’d like to be more involved. We are looking for Official Observers (moderators) to help care for the forums. Moderators monitor the forums and assure that users are using the forum in an appropriate manner. We have room for as many of you who want to participate as forum Official Observers.

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**BRAARC.NET Email and Website Hosting Service**  
**By Mike, KD8DIB**

Did you ever want a club email address? The long wait is over... There are two choices for that coveted yourcall@braarc.net email address. As web hosting service is changed over to GoDaddy.com, the opportunity for club members to have web mail or email forwarding is here. Please keep reading to find out more about your very own address.

While the hosting services offered free to the club by Peter Popovich served the club well for many years, the time has come to seek another web host. The options were evaluated and a decision was made at the November 2011 meeting to switch web hosting to GoDaddy.com. The transition from Peter’s server is going well and likely there will be minimal disruptions to our website. I think a special thanks to Peter should be given for his years of service to the club.

I can hear the anticipation now... How do I get my very own BRAARC.NET email??? Well, it’s super easy. As members renew their 2012 club dues, a forwarding account will be set up for you. This forwarding account will be yourcall@braarc.net. It will direct any mail sent to it to your email indicated on your club membership application. A forwarding account is great for those of you who have an email account you use regularly and don’t want to check a separate account.

If you do not have an email account and want one, the club has a second choice for email. It’s still yourcall@braarc.net... This is a full email account with webmail access or regular

POP access. If you are interested in this type of account or have questions, please contact me at [kd8dib@braarc.net](mailto:kd8dib@braarc.net).

There may be opportunities for club members to have their own personal web site too... Look for more information in the near future.

