

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

September 2012

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Inside this Issue:	Pres Mssg	1	August Mtg Minutes	1	Announcements	2
	KB6NU article	3	Brain Teaser	4	Tech Question	4
					Remembering WB8WIA	5



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last message to you as club president! The people in the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club are an awesome group! It has been my honor and privilege to serve in this capacity for the club during the past two years. There have been some things I've been able to complete and some things still needing completion after the new president takes over on October 1st.

A lot of club members attended Gary Atteberry's funeral on August 14th in Hersey. Since Gary served as a law enforcement officer most of his life, there were many representatives from different agencies across the region. It was apparent from the many people giving testimonies that Gary was a special person who will be sorely missed by all he touched during his time on this earth. What I did not know was that Gary was a marine, served his country in Viet Nam, and played in the Marine Corps Band. When the volley of the 21 gun salute was over, the playing of taps left the crowd somber and a little teary eyed. As I watched the three-man Marine honor guard remove and fold the flag from Gary's coffin, I could not help but feel both sadness and a sense of pride for his family. Our prayers and thoughts will continue for his wife Carmen, his two sons, and his extended family.

While Gregory (KD8NRO) and I (K4UIH) were among those honoring Gary's memory, other BRAARC members attending included Jens Rick (KC8OIV), Don MacConnel (WA4FRJ), Sue Behler (KC8IFP), Tom Behler (KB8TYJ), Mike McKay (KD8DIB), Patricia McKay (KD8GGD), Calvin McKay (KD8KQC), and Phil Marcotte (KC8QOV). Helen Popovich (KD8OGC) also attended with her husband, Don. Of course, our own John McDowell (KC8BAR) directed the celebration of Gary's life in his role as funeral director. If I missed anyone, please forgive me.

At next meeting, we will elect new officers, who will assume their positions on October 1st. Also, Jeff Sell will run a few short videos.

I Hope to see you at the next club meeting on Thursday, September 6th at the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety.

73s,

Jim

Jim Woolen
K4UIH

BRAARC Minutes Thursday, August 2, 1012

1. Next club breakfast Saturday, Sept. 1st at 9 am – Sharon's Restaurant
2. Next club meeting Thursday, Sept. 6th 7 pm – BR DPS

3. Larry Camp, ARRL Section Manager presented a program dealing with Federal Regulation 1985, PRB-1 Restrictions on antennas. He encourages all ARRL members to select "Section News" in their membership preference and write to their state senator concerning critical Ham Radio issues. He also discussed the public notice that deals with:
 - a. The role of ham radio in emergency and disaster relief
 - b. The determination of impediments to enhanced amateur radio communications.
4. Jeff Sell also showed a short video about the unmanned spacecraft, Curiosity, landing on Mars
5. Secretary's report accepted
6. Treasurer's report accepted
7. Repeater Committee Report
 - a. 6 meter- doesn't work well. We may need to remove it from its current location and find a more suitable place for it
 - b. 2 meter – appears to be fine
 - c. 440 repeater – getting some kind of interference that keys up the repeater every 28 seconds. Need to

- go to the repeater site and check it out.
8. ARES/RACES update - next meeting will be in September
9. Check out the cool QSL cards on the club website (Thanks, Mike!)
10. Big Bad Wolf Race – Sat, Sept 1st . Contact Jeff Sell if you can help. Meet at Northend Park 8 am. Race starts at 8:30. Same route as last year. Should be done by noon.
11. Our equipment insurance has lapsed. Jim W. and Mike M. will work on submitting a list of equipment to the new insurance company.
12. North Country Trail Mapping adventure went very well. Thanks to all who participated.
13. Nothing new to report on the idea to link the 2M and the 440 repeaters.
14. Jim Woolen will continue to work on getting new emergency vests.
15. It was decided to send flowers to Gary Atteberry and express our concern for his health.
16. Larry Camp won the 50/50 raffle. He donated the proceeds to the club.
17. Jeff Sell agreed to provide refreshments for the next meeting.



Announcements:

Saturday, Sept 1, 2012 – 8:00am, Big Bad Wolf Adventure Race Communications Event. North End Park, contact Jeff, K8OE, for more details.

Saturday, Sept 1, 2012 – 9:00am – Regular BRAARC Breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

Thursday, Sept 6, 2012 – 7:00pm – Regular BRAARC meeting at Big Rapids Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan, Big Rapids. Presentation topic: TBA



Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September 2012 issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me...Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1(a) addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on emcomm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for amateur radio. Emcomm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think?

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When he's not pondering how to improve international goodwill, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. He is currently feverishly trying to finish the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Guide. You can read excerpts from this upcoming book on his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Brain Teaser - Don, WA4FRJ

This month's Brain Teaser:

On my local railway track there is a tunnel which is 5 miles long. A train, which was 440 yards long, entered the tunnel at a speed of 50 miles per hour. How long did it take for the whole of the train to pass completely through the tunnel?

Last Month's Tech Question:

Which of the following diameters of six mile lengths of copper wire offers the most resistance?

- a. 1/32 of an inch
- b. 1/16 of an inch
- c. 1/2 of an inch
- d. 3/4 of an inch
- e. none of the above

Ans: a smaller diameter wire has greater resistance.

This Month's Tech Question:

The highest output from a power amplifier having an RP of 10,000Ω will be realized if the load impedance on it is:

- a. 10 kilohms
- b. More than 10 kilohms
- c. Greater or less than 10 kilohms
- d. Impedance coupled
- e. Capacitively coupled



BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 @ 9:00AM



Sharon's in Rogers Heights

Good eating Good times

Bring a new HAM/friend



REMEMBERING GARY ATTEBERRY WB8WIA by Sue Behler KC8IFP

What did you think of when you saw Gary Atteberry for the first time? I thought, oh my, this is a very serious, military man. Then he smiled, and I realized there was a lot more to Gary than his outward appearance. There behind that smile was a warm, caring, helpful, and playful individual. There are many things I will remember about Gary, but that mischievous smile is one of the greatest.



Gary was always there to participate in club functions and to lend a hand. If something needed to be done, Gary would help you do it. "Hello, hello, hello," he'd say as he walked up to greet you. No matter what his day had been like, or how he felt, he put his cares aside and dove right in to get the job done.

One of his favorite recent club activities was the annual Christmas parade. Gary had so much fun decorating the float and passing out candy to the children along the parade route. Who could forget that tall man wearing his silly colorful elf hat? And Gary made sure the kids had candy. He was always the biggest contributor of bags of candy for the parade. For this reason, we would like to honor Gary by naming our Christmas parade candy drive for him.

Gary was also a devoted family man. His love for his wife, Carmen, his sons Sean and Jason, and his grandchildren was very evident. Very often at the monthly club meetings, Gary would have an envelope with recent pictures of his grandchildren. He was a proud "Papa Gary".

As the guns fired, and "Taps" was played, we all said our goodbyes to our friend for the last time. Gary will be extremely missed by our club and by all who knew him. He was a wonderful man, a caring friend, and a great asset to our club. 73's old friend, until we meet again.



5	1	2	9	7	3	6	8	4
7	8	3	6	2	4	1	9	5
4	6	9	1	5	8	2	3	7
9	7	4	2	8	5	3	1	6
8	2	6	3	1	7	4	5	9
1	3	5	4	6	9	8	7	2
6	9	1	7	3	2	5	4	8
3	4	8	5	9	6	7	2	1
2	5	7	8	4	1	9	6	3

Solution to last month's puzzle

1			5			6	8	3
2			9			1		4
7		8	1					
	1				8			9
	9			6	7	5		
8		6		9			3	
			6			2		
				4	9			
9	7	1						

September puzzle

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