

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

April 2013

PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338 Pres. Jeff Sell Web Page: www.braarc.net Editor: Phil – phildolly@power-net.net

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Presidents Message:

Here are some miscellaneous comments about things going on:

April 18 is World Amateur Radio Day. In the spirit of "use it or lose it", let's make sure we all get on the air that day. If we can find net control operators, we will have a 2m and 440 net at 8 pm that night. Or get on HF at any time. We will have a show of hands at the May meeting to see who all were able to get on the air.



It looks like it will be a big year for our club members to go to the Dayton Hamvention the weekend of May 17-19. I believe at least 8 of us are going down. It will be very interesting- I have not been in about 10 years.

For the next several months starting April 27, we are planning "play with radios" time right after the club breakfast. These will be at various parks in the area and weather dependent. If you just want to try to hit a repeater from the chosen location, bring your radio. If you want to ask someone about a certain radio feature, bring your radio. If you want to try a satellite contact (assuming a good pass), I will bring my radio. If you want to do QRP cw from a picnic table, bring your radio. How about VHF slow scan TV? Or amateur TV? How about a bike trip on the White Pine trail with your HT? Maybe we will start to test the balloon flight module then. Or work on an antenna for Emergency Communications. There are lots of things we could do together. We might even attract some attention from curious people that see us. Maybe even get the cops called on us (hope not!). Mike and I have talked a few times about a mini DXpedition. This could be like a weekend camping trip where we bring radios. It could be something simple like a trip to a county park. Or more ambitious like a backpacking trip to Beaver Island. Let us know if you might be interested in something like this. It could be great fun.

Field Day this year will be a little different being held on the private property of one of our members. This will enable us to have campfires. However, since this is on private property, it will be restricted to members only. Nonmembers can help us from their own QTH by making contact with us.

The April 4 club program will be bringing in your own radio or electronics project- whatever you are working on. I will bring in that SDR dongle and some other fun stuff. The program on May 2 will be a foxhunt! Normally this would be held the weekend of the Dayton Hamvention but since several of us are going to Dayton, we decided to do it at the club meeting.

73s, Jeff, K8OE

March Meeting Minutes:

Next club breakfast March 30th
Next club meeting April 4th
Secretary report accepted
Treasurer report accepted
6 Meter repeater okay
440 repeater okay
2 meter needs part. Receiver not working well. Replacement part cost \$780. But we're looking for a backup part.
Ham in a day March 23rd DPS building, more info on club website.
Emergency Communications 3 county simplex, d-rats, and repeater went good. Need to work on digital though.
There will be another fundraiser April 14th at Buffalo Wild Wings.
Field day June 22-23rd, we're looking for a location.
We're starting to get some details worked out on the balloon project.
MaryAnn Doty won 50/50 raffle.
Jon Hernden will be sending refreshments to the next meeting.

Submitted by: Monica, KD8GGB

Announcements:

Saturday, March 30, Club Breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights, 9am

Thursday, April 4, 7pm – 9pm Next BRAARC meeting at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids. Presentation Topic: Bring in your own radio or electronics project

Sunday, April 14, BRAARC fundraiser at BWW. Bring in a coupon for the Buffalo Wild Wings fund raiser on this date and the club earns 20% of the tab for all purchases. Good opportunity to help the club finances.



Weather Spotter Training

Free to the Public and Presented by
National Weather Service in Grand Rapids and
Mecosta County Emergency Management and Ferris State University

Saturday, April 27, 2013

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

West Campus Community Center - Ferris State
1414 Family Drive
Big Rapids, Michigan

*Weather Spotters are taught how to identify and report significant events
that have potential impact on the safety of a community*



For a Complete Schedule of all 2013 Training Sessions
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/grr/skywarn/training>



Ham-In-A-Day

On Saturday, March 23, 2013, the BRAARC sponsored a ham-in-a-day class for those who wanted to take the Technician Class exam. The class was presented by Phil Marcotte, KC8QOV, member of the club and newsletter editor.

There were 7 participants in the class and 3 of the 7 students passed their Technician exam;

Nick Herbert
Margaret Gandy
Ross Blair

They, of course, all got complementary one year memberships to BRAARC.

Gregory Schaefer was a walk-in for the exam portion only - and he passed his TECH exam.

We also had 3 license upgrades, as you know;

NEW Opt-In Email List Available

Did you ever want to get an update email from the club? You can now by signing up for the newest club service at <http://braarc.net/phplist> to receive club updates. The email lists currently include the following categories:

BRAARC Local Hams – the general information list.

Emergency Committee – keep up with emergency committee activities.

Newsletter Notification – find out when the next newsletter is available.

If there are other lists that are needed, please let the club officers know.

BRAARC Offers Email Forwarding Service to Club Members

Tired of that old everyday email address... Want an easy email address to give to friends... BRAARC has just the solution for you! The club is offering email forwarding accounts to members and your account is active today. There are no passwords to remember because all of your email is forwarded to the email account that you provided on your membership form. Try it out today!

Forward service email format: your_call_sign@braarc.net

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1	4	5	2	3	7	9	6	8
8	7	9	4	5	6	1	2	3
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4	9	7	3	2	5	6	8	1
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Solution to last month's puzzle

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