

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

August 2013

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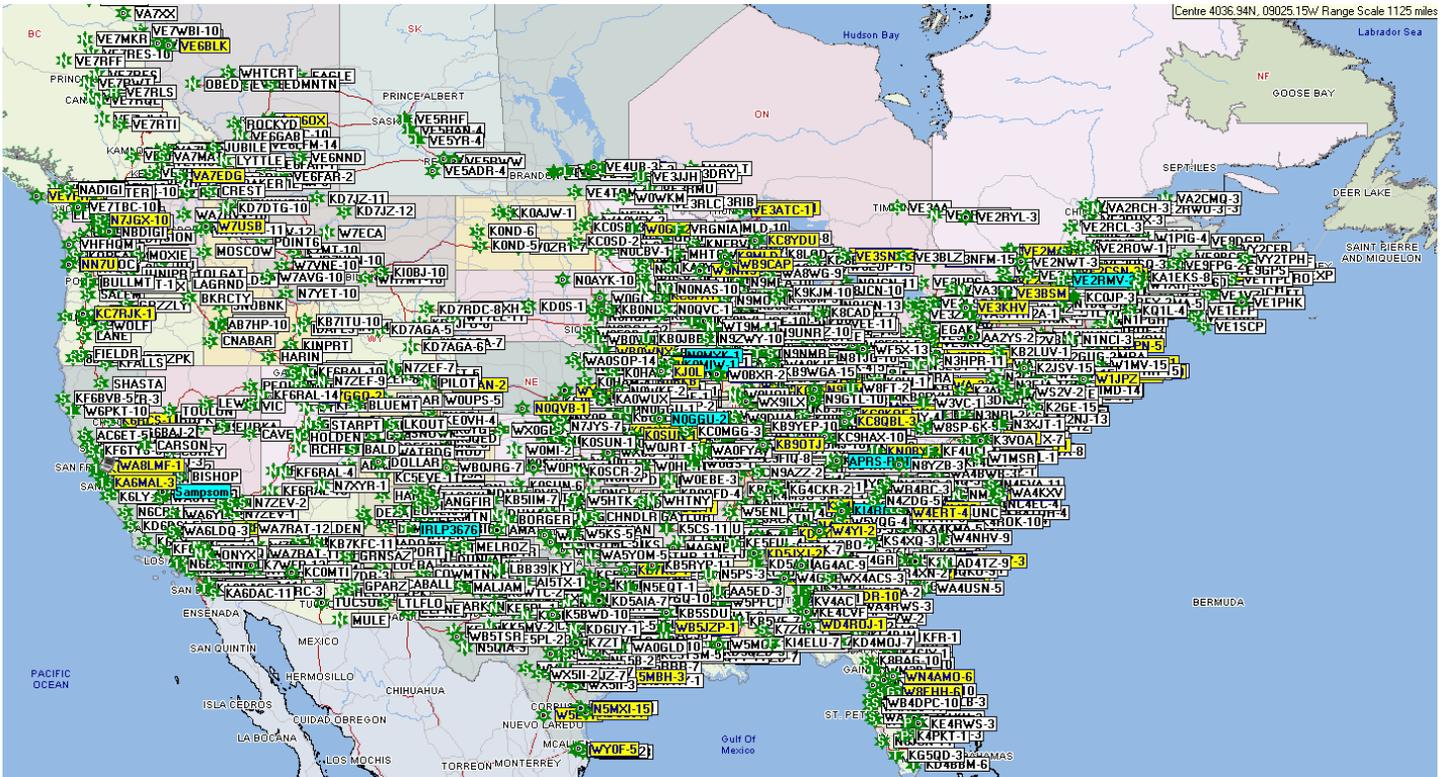
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President's Message

Sometimes I like to just sit and watch APRS traffic come in. I think Mike KD8DIB likes to also. APRS stands for automatic packet reporting system- see aprs.org. It was developed by Bob Bruninga WB4APR twenty years ago and it's popularity continues to increase. It is a form of packet radio and centered on 144.390. I gave a presentation on it to the club a few years ago but think it is about time to do that again since it has evolved since then. So I will save the details for a presentation in the near future but just mention a few fun things that Mike and I have heard lately. One day there was a bunch of aircraft on the system using their tail numbers instead of amateur call sign. Not sure how that happened but it was cool to see their altitude and airspeed. In the last week there have been two high altitude balloon launches on the system, much like we hope to do. Again it was fun to watch their altitude and airspeed but also the path of the packets to get to our radios. Let me just say that the KB8VEE digipeaters are very important in this regard. I sometimes digipeat off the International Space Station using an APRS HT and a rubber ducky. Finally you do hear bike races and other special events on a regular basis. I suspect that we will have some APRS stations in the Bulldog Bike Tour next summer. So I encourage you to tune in and decode those packets and see what great things are being done with APRS. Here is a map of APRS digipeaters thanks to WA8LMF showing how popular it is:





The next regular club meeting will be July 11 and there will be a presentation/demo on amateur paging.

73s, Jeff K8OE

July Meeting Minutes

Unavailable at time of publishing

Announcements:

Saturday, July 27, Club breakfast at Sharon’s in Roger’s Heights at 9:00am. All are Welcome.

Thursday, August 1, Next regular BRAAR Club meeting at 7:00pm at the Big Rapids Public Safety Building. Program: presentation/demo on amateur paging.

Are you a Bulldog?
By KD8DIB

The Bulldog Bike Tour sponsored by the Ferris State University Alumni Association was a big hit with the riders and hams alike. We had a little weather in the morning but the drizzle didn't dampen the spirits of the 60+ riders, 16 hams and numerous volunteers. The ride consisted of five routes covering 10, 25, 45, 60, and 100 miles all within Mecosta County. As you can imagine, this kept all of the hams hopping! We covered major intersections and turns on the course. A roving Sag (Support Aid Group) vehicle also had a ham assigned to help coordinate the operation of the mobile support. K8OE even was bike mobile during the event. However, his hand mic became waterlogged in no time due to the steady drizzle. We all hope your mic dries out soon!

Hams from the Cadillac Radio Club (<http://www.wexaukeearc.org>) also participated. This was a great opportunity to meet and get to know our friends to the north a little better. However, Gordon, KD8COJ wins the prize for the ham who traveled the longest distance. Gordon's QTH is Dearborn Heights and he came all that way just to work with the tour and us. Amateur radio truly does bond us in fellowship and service. You can contact Gordon via Echolink.

A special thanks to all who participated. We couldn't do these events without you.

Bill, N8NJA	Joe, KD8KPS	Dave, WD8LVZ
Gordon, KD8COJ	Jim, KC8NNX	Bev, WB8BEV
Tom, WB8WIV	Jim, K4UIH	Gregory, KD8NRO
Delcy, KD8HVR	Patricia, KD8GGD	Calvin, KD8KQC
Bob, KD8SUT	Doris, KD8TOH	Jeff, K8OE
Mike, KD8DIB		

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DXCC Card Checker at Port Huron Swap

Greetings,

I just received word that Stan, AC8W will be checking DXCC cards at the Port Huron swap on August 4. The PH swap will be located at Vantage Point, 5 Water Street, Port Huron, MI 48060.

The next opportunity for card checking at a hamfest in Michigan will be at the Kalamazoo Swap on October 20.

If you are planning to attend the Great Lakes Division Convention in Columbus, OH on August 3, there will be a card checker there as well.

73 for now,

Larry, WB8R

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

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

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