

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

December 2013 – January 2014

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## President's Message December 2013

As I write this message, it is only a few days before Thanksgiving. Perhaps by the time you see this column Thanksgiving will already have come and gone.



For those of you who did not participate in decorating our float for the parade last Saturday, it was a lot of fun and fellowship even with the temperature hovering in the teens with winds gusting up to 15 MPH. Many thanks to the following for helping to decorate our annual float entry: Mike McKay; Jens Rick; Patricia McKay; Jeff Sell; Sue Behler; Phil Marcotte; and Calvin McKay. Even though it was bitterly cold, everyone seemed to enjoy working on the trailer, eating doughnuts, and just having a good time together.

It was even colder Saturday night when the parade began. I had on several layers of clothes, and even that did not last very long in the 16 degree temperature. Those who braved the weather were: Tom Behler; Sue Behler; Patricia McKay; Delcy Herndon; Calvin McKay; Jeff Sell; Mike McKay; Lynne Sell; and, yours truly. Sue, Tom and I rode the float while the rest gave out almost 280 pounds of candy. This is a fitting tribute to our dearly departed member, Gary Atteberry, who loved to give out candy to the children lined up on the parade route.

Please volunteer to conduct a net as it is not hard and it is a lot of fun. The two meter net is every Tuesday at 9 PM and the 440 net is every Sunday at 7:30 PM. The script (preamble) for conducting the net is on the BRAARC Web site. Also, one can be provided in print, if needed.

Don't miss the opportunity to eat breakfast with fellow hams on November 30<sup>th</sup> at Sharon's Restaurant in Rogers Heights. Please plan to be at our December 5<sup>th</sup> annual potluck dinner (6:00 PM at Big Rapids DPS), participate in the infamous white elephant auction, and please bring food for Project Starburst to help those less fortunate.

73s,

*Jim*

## November 2013 Radio Club Meeting

**Club Nets** – Sign up

**Breakfast:** Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at Sharon's Country Restaurant

**Next Meeting:** Dec 5th @ 6 p.m. and white elephant, and N8PUG Food Drive

**Communication events:** Jeff Sell EC – 1<sup>st</sup> exercise 11-2-13 went well would like more participants. Next meeting Dec 12, 2103 @ 7 p.m.

ARES Net - 1x/ month 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 8 p.m.

Ham satellites will be going up this month

**Repeater status:**

- 2 meter - ok
- 440 meter - ok
- 6 meter – is transmitting but not receiving well

### **Discussion:**

Fundraising ideas,

Strategic Plan – What do we want to be, what constitutes board membership is officers plus those who the board designates

Need ideas for membership recruitment

Suggestions for future programs

Tom Behler submitted BRAARC Event participation Guidelines Version 2 Nov 3, 2013 to the club to be added to board policy for communication events – **passed**

### **Donations:**

George W80WN donated 2 books for the library

Atteberry's donated 30#'s of candy for the Festival of Lights Parade Thank You

### **Program: HF Propagation intro to the newcomer**

**Tech Corner:** Jon KD8GGA – burnt 4-1 balon @ 600 watts was supposed to be a 1500 watt

Jeff K8OE – security camera to hook up to laptop can print pics from has invisible and infrared also has motion sensor will send e-mail if senses motion.

**Guests:** Edward Anderson

**Refreshments for December:** Potluck

**Treasurer report:** Accepted

**50/50 Raffle Winner:** Edward Anderson

### **December events:**

White Elephant

N8PUG Food Drive

## Announcements:

Saturday, November 30, 9am, Regular Club Breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

Thursday, December 5, 6pm, BRAARC meeting/Christmas potluck at Big Rapids Public Safety Bldg.

Saturday, December 28, 9am, Regular Club Breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

Thursday, January 2, 7pm, BRAARC meeting at Big Rapids Public Safety Bldg.

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## Ni-Cad Rescue

Staff article

Nickel Cadmium (ni-cad) batteries are an older rechargeable technology still used in many applications. I have an MFJ 269 SWR analyzer that came along on a trip and was unfortunately turned on by the packaging material which pressed on the power switch. It was completely dead and worse yet, wouldn't charge when the external power supply was connected. The MFJ uses ten AA size ni-cad batteries and when removed from their snap-in case the individual cells had very low voltages. It appeared that they had been ruined by being left on for many hours.

Here's one thing that can happen when ni-cad's are put in series and then discharged. As the cells deplete their charge one or more may reach zero volts. The current from the other cells flows through these batteries and starts to reverse charge the zero voltage cells. From an electrochemical standpoint this ruins, or appears to ruin, the zero voltage cells. Sometimes a reverse charged cell can be brought back to life so it's marginally useable.

I took the zero voltage cells and placed a 10 ohm load on each one. After an hour or so the cells actually bounced back to a small output with the 10 ohm loads disconnected. Next I placed eight of the cells in a charger which will only hold eight cells. This particular charger is a Rayovac Universal Battery Charger, model P83 that I got from Amazon.com. It was about \$20 and has proven to be a handy charger for all sorts of batteries.

After about 10 hours on the charger the LED indicators turned off and the batteries all tested over the 1.2 Volts typical for a ni-cad cell. I charged the remaining cells and replaced all of them in the MFJ's battery box. It turned on and works like a champ. Will the restored batteries last as long as they did before be discharged? No, in my opinion they won't but at least I can run the MFJ, check SWR's and run all sorts of tests on coax.

Next time you lose one or more ni-cad cells, try discharging them as mentioned above and then charge them. You may just save some money by not having to replace them.



2013 Festival of Lights Parade in Big Rapids. The club decorated their entry at the McKay's home on Saturday morning, November 23. It was a very cold morning with the temperature near 22 degrees and a wind of about 10mph. Those riding and walking the parade route endured temperatures in the teens but enjoyed passing out lots of candy.



## Last Month's Brain Teaser:

Answer:

A hen and a half will lay an egg and a half in a day and a half.  
How many eggs would six hens lay at the same rate in six days?

Answer:

We are told that:

1.5 hens will lay 1.5 eggs in 1.5 days.

We can double the chickens (which doubles the eggs):

3 hens will lay 3 eggs in 1.5 days.

We can double the chickens again:

6 hens will lay 6 eggs in 1.5 days.

We can now multiply the number of days by 4 (which multiplies the number of eggs by 4).

Therefore 6 hens will lay 24 eggs in a 6 days.

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## Brain Teaser:

Six men, whose names are Fred Alberts, Larry Smith, Marty Jones, Calvin the Martial Arts Guy, Bill Edison, and Gregory the Fox Chaser were in an elevator together.

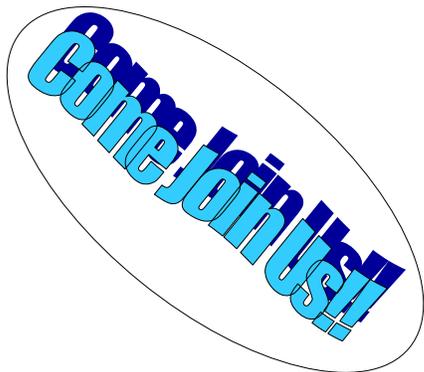
Suddenly, the lights went out. When the lights came back on, Fred Alberts' wallet was missing.

Detectives have investigated. They have questioned the suspects, the witnesses, and people who know the suspects. They have collected physical evidence (hair samples, fiber samples, etc.) from the crime scene. They have collected 14 clues, but have not been able to solve the crime.

Therefore, they have called in the world's greatest detective, YOU. You must now examine the clues and solve the crime.

- No two suspects have the same weight, color shoes, color umbrella, color car, or hair color.
- The suspect who owns a purple car was wearing tan shoes.
- The suspect who weighs 180 pounds owns a green car.
- Calvin the Martial Arts guy owns a green car.
- The suspect who owns a black car was wearing blue shoes.
- The suspect who weighs 150 pounds was wearing tan shoes.
- Marty Jones was carrying a purple umbrella.
- Gregory the Fox Chaser has red hair.
- Larry Smith weighs 210 pounds.
- The suspect who weighs 190 pounds was wearing blue shoes.
- The suspect who was carrying a red umbrella is not the one who was wearing black shoes.
- The thief owns a black car.
- The suspect who owns a white car is not the one who weighs 170 pounds.
- Bill Edison was wearing brown shoes.
- The suspect who weighs 190 pounds is not the one who has red hair.





# BREAKFAST

Sharon's Restaurant  
9:00AM  
Saturday, November 30

Come order from the menu or  
enjoy the breakfast buffet!!!



**December 2013**

**PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338**

