

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

October 2013

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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## Presidents Message

Have you ever made contact with a special event station? From the FCC website: "When transmitting in conjunction with an event of special significance, an amateur station ("special event station") may transmit the identification announcement using a special event call sign in accord with



the procedures detailed below. Substituting a special event call sign for its assigned call sign may help a special event station call attention "on-air" to its participation in the special event and to the unique opportunity for the amateur service community to exchange greetings with the station." Usually these 1x1 call signs are your first clue that the station is a special event station. 1x1 call signs can be requested through the website [1x1callsigns.org](http://1x1callsigns.org). It is quite fun to work these special event stations and even more fun to get the certificate that they usually send out. See attached for an old example. If our club has some special event in the future like a club anniversary, we should consider getting a special event call sign.

I would like to thank the other current club officers Monica, Jens, and Mike for their service this last year and the new officers Jim, Mike, Jens, and Delcy for agreeing to serve for this next year. The club remains in good hands and should continue to prosper under their leadership.

73s, Jeff K8OE

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## September Meeting Minutes

Either the minutes were not available at the time of printing this newsletter or I missed them as I am on vacation. Either way, my apologies. Editor, Phil Marcotte

**Announcements:**

Saturday, September 28, 7am, Hungerford Games Trail Race – see BRAARC website for more details

Saturday, September 28, 9am, regular club breakfast at Sharon’s in Rogers Heights

Thursday, October 3, 7pm, regular club meeting at Big Rapids Public Safety Building

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**Admission Tickets**  
\$5.00 in advance  
\$6.00 at the door

**Tables \$8.00**

**Fellowship Reformed Church**  
4200 Apple Ave  
Muskegon, Mi 49442  
6:00 AM to 8:00 AM Vendor Set up  
8:00 AM to 12:00 General Admission  
VE Testing 9:00 AM  
Demo 10:00 AM  
Demo 11:00 AM

**For tables or Tickets go to [www.mcecs.net](http://www.mcecs.net) click on Hamfest  
M.C.E.C.S./Hamfest, P.O. Box 386, Fruitport, MI 49415  
Contact :Jim Duram 231-638-7010**

## Should the FCC allow encryption?

One of the most fundamental rules in amateur radio has been the prohibition against the use of codes or ciphers meant to obscure the meaning of a message [Part 97.113 (4)]. Recently, that long-standing prohibition was challenged (<http://www.arrl.org/news/rules-change-sought-to-permit-encryption-of-sensitive-emergency-communications>) to allow encryption when passing emergency health and welfare traffic. The idea was that encrypting these messages would protect the privacy of individuals. In his Petition for Rulemaking (<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7022424684>), Don Rolph, AB1PH, pointed out that Australian amateur radio rules permit encryption for emergency services operation or related training exercises.

Oddly enough, the pushback against this petition has been loud and swift. The ARRL quickly came out against the petition (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-denial-of-petition-to-permit-encryption-of-some-emergency-communications>), and when I blogged about this issue (<http://www.kb6nu.com/im-jumping-on-the-anti-encryption-bandwagon/>), several hams replied that they didn't think allowing encryption was a good idea.

The main arguments against encryption seem to be that:

- \* It will make people suspicious of amateur radio operators and bring unwanted scrutiny upon amateur radio.
- \* Make self-policing more difficult.

Among the arguments for allowing encryption are that cryptography is a fundamental element of modern RF communications, and that not allowing it, negates one of the purpose of amateur radio. Namely, that one of the purposes of amateur radio is to "advance the state of the radio art."

In late September, the FCC dismissed this particular Petition for Rulemaking (<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-dismisses-encryption-petition>). It stated specifically that "the record does not support Mr Rolph's assertion that the prohibition on encrypted amateur communications is impairing the ability of the Amateur Radio community to provide effective support to public safety agencies during emergencies."

Of course, this discussion isn't over yet. Encryption is now employed routinely for even the most common types of digital communication, and as a newer generation of amateur radio operators take over, they'll want to experiment with these digital communications techniques. One commenter suggested that a portion of the 900 MHz band or maybe the 5 GHz band be set aside for experimentation with encryption. I think that is an idea worth exploring.

What do you think? Does encryption have a place in amateur radio?

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When he's not pondering FCC rules, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com)

**Tech Question:**

Due to technical difficulties and editors ineptitude there is no solution to last month's technical question nor a new question for this month. They will be in the November issue.

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# BREAKFAST

Sharon's Restaurant  
9:00AM  
Saturday, September 28



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

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

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

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