

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

September 2013

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Presidents Message

Well I hate to say it but the summer is almost gone. I hope your summer has been a good one especially in any amateur radio activities. I have not made much progress on my antennas but still hope to before the snow flies. I have continued to make satellite contacts and still enjoy that. The club has been involved in several races and community



activities and these seem to grow every year. As a reminder we need someone to spearhead every one of these since it is not fair to our club officers to have to do them all. It really just means taking responsibility to make sure we have enough volunteers, interact with the event leadership, and make sure our volunteers know when and where to show up. Also you need to act as or appoint a net control. It would be a shame to have to turn down some of these events since community service is a big part of our charter. But we have just barely getting by in terms of leaders and volunteers for several of these events.

The next regular club meeting will be September 5.

73s,
Jeff, K8OE

August Minutes 2013

- Next club meeting September 5th at 7pm
- Next club breakfast September 7th at 9am
- Treasurer report accepted
- Repeater report by Mike Mckay
- 6m still needs work
- 440m okay

2m okay
Old Business

Jeff Sell and Mike Mckay went to the ARRL Michigan Section Outing. There were lots of seminars. And it was very interesting.

New Business

August 31st Big Bad Wolf race. Need a volunteer coordinator and lots of volunteers for communications. Jeff Sell will be participating in the race along with Gregory Woolen and Lynnes Sell in the team “Nerdy Ninjas”

Motion to renew repeater insurance accepted.

Program by Jim Hessler and Tom Bosscher
GridXpeditions

Explaining what grids are. There’s 488 and they went to operate a rare one in Detour, Mi.

Tech Corner

Jeff Sell showed a sound card interface kit possible club project.

50/50 drawing winner was Michael Stark

Elections are coming in September.

Next Refreshments by Jens.

Announcement:

Saturday, August 31, Regular club breakfast at Sharon’s in Rogers Heights, 9am
Saturday, August 31, Big Bad Wolf Adventure Race, 7am

Thursday, September 5, Regular club meeting at Big Rapids Public Safety Building, 7pm. Phil Marcotte will have a short presentation on his mission trip to Joplin, MO.

Saturday, September 28, Hungerford Games Trail Race. More later.
Saturday, September 28, Club Breakfast at Sharon’s



Monica Hernden, KD8GGB, has been awarded the Bill Salerno, W2ONV, and Ann Salerno Memorial Scholarship through the ARRL Foundation scholarship program. As you know, Monica has been the chapter secretary for the past year and is leaving us to attend college this fall.

Congratulations Monica, and best wishes as you pursue your education.

Taking a dose of my own medicine

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last week, I wrote a blog post on preventive maintenance for one of my writing clients.

Afterwards, I decided to take a dose of my own medicine and do a little preventive maintenance around the shack. I started with the Astron RS-35M, which provides the DC power that runs HF transceiver and my VHF/UHF transceiver in my shack. I had started noticing a few little things, such as the voltage adjustment being a little fussy, that I wanted to correct before the supply failed on me.

After removing the cover, I vacuumed all the dust out of the supply. The RS-35M wasn't very dirty, but even so, getting the dirt out of a piece of equipment is probably the first thing you'll want to do when performing preventive maintenance. Dirt impedes air flow. That can lead to higher operating temperatures, and as the lab manager that I interviewed for my blog post said, "Heat kills."

Not only should you vacuum any dust out of a cabinet, you should also clean the fan filters, if your gear has them. Dusty filters prevent air from flowing smoothly through equipment, and that means the fans don't cool as well as they should.

Once that was done, I did a visual inspection. One thing that you want to look for are components that look like they're getting too hot. Another thing to look for is evidence of arcing. Whatever is causing the overheating or arcing will eventually cause a unit to fail. Fortunately, I found neither.

Next, I checked to see that the components mounted to the enclosure were securely screwed down. In the RS-35M, the transformer, the bridge rectifier, and an electrolytic are mounted to the enclosure. Oddly enough, the bridge rectifier was quite loose, so I tightened it down. Also loose were the output terminals. I tightened these down as well.

Finally, I squirted a little cleaner and lube into the voltage adjustment pot and worked it back and forth. That seemed to do the job. That pot now works smoothly and cleanly.

I put the cover back on, reconnected the power cable, and got back to making QSOs. It should be good for another couple of years.

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When he's not keeping the gear in his shack in tip-top shape, 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.

I sent this to my homeowner association for their newsletter:

WHAT IS THAT GUY DOING??



Is he a spy or just some nut case? Well I am not a spy but maybe a little nutty. If you have driven your boat along the east shore of Blue Lake you may have seen me. My name is Jeff Sell and I am amateur radio station K8OE. The rig you see me using in the photo is part of my amateur radio gear and I am talking to other radio guys ("hams") by bouncing my radio waves off of a satellite. The satellite I use most often is called SO-50; it makes several passes a day at different times some of which are directly overhead. From one horizon to another takes about ten minutes so you will not see me doing this for very long. I like doing it from my dock in the summer since I get a clear view of the sky. In the winter I sometimes come out on the ice for the same reason. I have talked to hams as far away as California and Cuba and Mexico. Our conversations are very brief since many guys are trying to do the same thing. I have talked to only one woman, Julia, in New York. Our hobby is filled with mostly older guys like me. Another satellite is a favorite of mine and that is the International Space Station (ISS). Sometimes the astronauts talk to us directly but more commonly we bounce digital signals like text messages off of it. They even beam down TV images sometimes. So now you know what I am doing. I hope you stop reporting me to the cops. Just kidding, that has yet to happen.

Last Month's Technical Question:

The output voltage of a separately excited AC generator with constant frequency is dependent upon the adjustment of the: (This question comes from an older ham test book.)

- a. Iron choke cores
- b. Field current
- c. Brush position
- d. Phase angle
- e. time constant

Ans: b. Field Current

This Month's Technical Question:

If the reactance of a coil is 75Ω at 500KHz, what is the reactance at a frequency of 2500KHz?

- a. 15Ω
- b. 75Ω
- c. 150Ω
- d. 375Ω
- e. 650Ω

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

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

Come Join Us!!!

BREAKFAST

Sharon's Restaurant

9:00AM

Saturday, August 31

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

Great Food and Drink!

August 2013
PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338

