

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

February 2014

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

Inside this Issue:	Pres Mssg	1	Mtg Minutes	2	Announcements	3	
KB6NU Article	3	New HT	4	Tech Question	5	Membership	6



President's Message February 2014

When you are young, time seems to go by so slowly. But, time seems to go by very fast as you get into your "senior" years. Last year (2013) has come and gone with the blink of an eye from my perception. Although I hope to

live at least another 20 years to age 90, it is apparent that my journey in this life is much closer to the end than it was at any other time.



In December, my youngest daughter celebrated her 21st birthday and got engaged on the same day. While I do really like and respect her finance', no father wants to entertain the thought of "losing" his daughter to another man. Oh sure, I realize this is inevitable; however, it still is very hard for me to accept this new phase of her life. They say they will wait until they both graduate from college two years from now. Time will tell all! No matter what – I am proud of Caitlin and feel grateful that God gave her to us!

Last week, my youngest son turned 18! When we decide on what university is best for him, he will be going off to college this fall to major in Sports Management. My hope for him is that he will be successful in college so he can achieve his dream of working in professional sports management. Since it took me 10 years to earn an undergraduate degree, I pray that he does not follow in my initial academic footsteps. Of my 5 children, he is the only one who became an amateur radio operator – and, I hope he continues to be a licensed "ham" for the rest of his life. Ham radio has given me so much pleasure during the past 56 years. No matter what happens – I am proud of Gregory and feel grateful that God gave him to us!

Finally, my wife celebrated her 64th birthday 5 days after Gregory turned 18. Cathy was 43 when Caitlin was born and 46 when Gregory was born. She had a miscarriage before Caitlin, two after Caitlin, and one after Gregory. To avoid another miscarriage during her pregnancy with Gregory, she had to give herself shots of heparin every day in her stomach. It would be an understatement to say

that Cathy was willing to do whatever was necessary to bring Gregory into this world. During his birth, she suffered preeclampsia and Gregory ended up in ICU for 5 days on a heart monitor. Gregory nor I just don't thank Cathy enough for her unselfish act of endangering her life in order to bring forth another life. I am proud of Cathy for this and many other reasons and thank God for bringing her into my life 31 years ago at a Christmas party.

So you might ask why this personal tone in this month's president's message. Perhaps it is nostalgia caused by the realization of that none of us can live forever --- or perhaps it is because I want each of you to remember you only get one chance at life and you should live it to the fullest! Keep your family close to your heart and let them know how much you love and appreciate them. Don't keep putting off things you really want or need to do because there may be no tomorrow!

The annual "Potluck Dinner" in December was attended by many who enjoyed all of the food prepared by many cooks. The White Elephant silent auction raised a record \$308.50 for the event. Lots of people brought canned goods and non-perishable items for a donation to Project Starburst in Jim Orlowski's name.

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 February 1st at Sharon's Restaurant in Rogers Heights. I really hope to see all of you at our February 6th monthly meeting! May God bless and watch over each of you.

73s,

Jim

K4UIH

January 2014 Radio Club Meeting

Club Nets – Sign up e-mail Jim Woolen if interested

Breakfast: February 1st at Sharon's Country Restaurant

Next Meeting: Feb 6th @ 7 p.m.

Communication events:

December 12, 2013 EOC meeting they have decided to do a study on linking the 2m and 440 repeaters to improve the ability to get into the 2m repeater and for ARES and RACES communications. There will be more discussion at the March EOC meeting

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

Discussion: Fundraising ideas, leadership, recruitment ideas, future programs

Program: video hamvention Last Man Standing

Tech Corner: 12 volt L.E.D.'s

Seller: happydeal88

link to Ebay for lights

http://www.ebay.com/itm/111213330613?var=410236453082&ssPageName=STRK:MEWNX:IT&_trksid=p3984.m1497.l2649

New Member: Edward Anderson

Refreshments for February: Jeff Sells

Treasurer report: Accepted

Results from food drive and white elephant:

White Elephant \$308.50

Submitted by:

Delcy, KC8HVR

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Announcements:

Saturday, Feb 1, 9:00am – Breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights

Thursday, Feb 6, 7:00pm – Regular BRAARC meeting at Big Rapids Public Safety Building

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Protect your gear from ESD – KB6NU

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test&Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.

- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs (http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

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When he's not worrying about ESD, Dan, KB6NU enjoys teaching amateur radio classes and working CW on the HF bands. 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.



On Thursday evening, January 16, 2014, I, Phil, KC8QOV, attended the MCAARC (Montcalm County Area Amateur Radio Club) meeting in Stanton. They are a struggling club and there were only six people at the meeting including myself. They conducted a semi-formal meeting with lots of non-business discussions. At the end of the meeting the president, Don, N8DE, had two radios to show the group. They were identical radios which he purchased just before Christmas. They are Boafeng UV-5R 2M/440/FM transceivers. I have one which I just purchased pictured here next to my 2M Icom T2H. The Boafeng is 1W and 4W and has lots of neat features. Don purchased his from Amazon.com for \$30 each before

Christmas and I paid \$37.50 for mine last week, free shipping. Look this radio up on Amazon and read all the features this little radio has. Don was able to pick up the Edmore repeater, which is a couple miles north of Edmore, from inside the church in Stanton on 4W. I found the radio a little tricky to program but got help from a YouTube clip. I've wanted a dual band radio for some time and this really fits the bill and the money isn't bad. Look it up and see what you think. I actually got the BRAARC 2M repeater once from inside my house with the rubber ducky antenna. Conditions must have been just right.

The Answer to last issue's Brain Teaser

Answer: Marty Jones.

We can rule out Fred from our investigation as he was the victim.

Calvin the Martial Arts Guy owns a green car. The thief owns a black car, so Calvin the Martial Arts Guy is not the thief.

The suspect who owns a black car was wearing blue shoes.

The suspect who weighs 190 pounds was wearing blue shoes.

The suspect who weighs 190 pounds is not the one who has red hair. Therefore, one suspect was wearing blue shoes, owns a black car, weighs 190 pounds, and is not the one who has red hair.

But Bill Edison was wearing brown shoes, Gregory the Fox Chaser has red hair, Larry Smith weighs 210 pounds, and Calvin the Martial Arts guy owns a green car.

Therefore, the only suspect who could be this suspect is Marty Jones.

Since this suspect, Marty Jones, owns a black car and the thief owns a black car, he is the thief.

Last Month's Technical Question:

Impedance in a circuit:

- a. Is measured in farads
- b. Is measured in henrys
- c. Is always independent of frequency
- d. Is expressed in ohms
- e. Is inversely proportional to reactance

Ans: d.

This Month's Technical Question:

In a series circuit, the X_L is 3Ω , X_C is 10Ω and the resistance is 15Ω . The phase relationship of the current:

- a. Voltage equals current
- b. Voltage leads current
- c. Current lags voltage
- d. Current leads voltage
- e. Current equals voltage squared

BRAARC Membership

Applicant Information

Name:

Call:

Class:

Phone:

address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Email:

ARRL Member: Yes No

Newsletter: US Mail Website – minimizes postage and printing costs

Spouse Information if joint membership

Name:

Call:

Class:

Email:

Licensed Children

Name:

Call:

Class:

DUES / Donation

Member (\$25) College Student(\$12.50) Youth(free if oldest licensed family member<18 yrs)

\$

Club Patch ____ X \$5 each - The club patch supports the repeater systems operated by the club.

\$

Donation – General Fund Repeater Committee Donation Emergency Committee Donation

\$

Total: \$

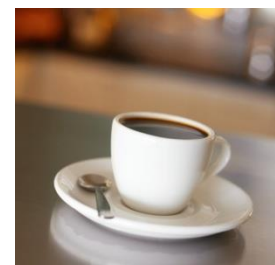
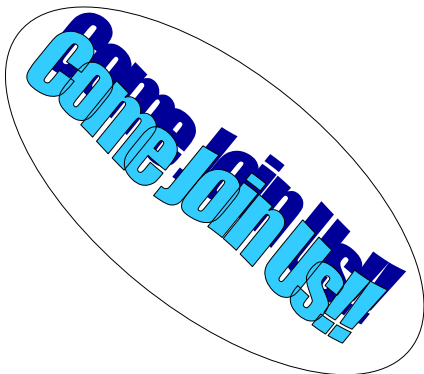
BREAKFAST

Sharon's Restaurant

9:00AM

Saturday, February 2

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



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

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

February 2014
PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338

