

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

March 2014

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President's Message



In last month's message, I was quite nostalgic about my two youngest children and my wife. In this month's column, I am continuing this theme with some narrative about my three oldest children.



My oldest daughter celebrated her 44th birthday in October 2013. Melissa is a beautiful lady who is an awesome mother, wife, and person. She is very involved with her church and spends many hours each week just helping others. She and her husband Chris run a fitness equipment business together. They will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year. She lives in Woodstock, Georgia, which is in the Atlanta area.

Melissa's three girls (my granddaughters):

- Alexis – my oldest grandchild at 24 – has my two darling great-grandchildren (Cooper is 2+ and Paisley is 3+ months). Her husband, Jimmy, is in the Army.
- Brittany – she is 21 – a student at Kennesaw State University – competed in many equestrian events.
- Christina – she is 18 and a senior in high school like Gregory – she is a cheerleader and her squad has competed nationally.

Also last October 2013, my oldest son celebrated his 45th birthday. William is a very hard working crew boss who travels quite a bit for his job to disassemble major projects. After living in Dallas and Phoenix for a decade, he returned to Georgia (also Woodstock).

Billy's son (my only grandson), Ashton, is 21 and also lives in Woodstock, Georgia. Ashton has appeared in the weekly TV "Walking Dead" series (<http://blastzoneonline.wordpress.com/2013/02/23/exclusive-interview-with-ashton-lee-woolen->

farmhighway-walker-from-the-walking-dead-tv-series-on-amc/), and he owns a commercial film production studio. He is a private pilot and does skydiving. Ashton and a friend won the 13th Annual Duck(R) Brand Stuck at Prom Scholarship Contest (<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/georgia-couple-crowned-grand-prize-151703942.html>).

My stepson, David Sikes, turns 39 this May. He and his wife, Rachael, live in Johnson City, Tennessee. David was only 7 when Cathy and I married almost 32 years ago. Even though he is not my biological child, he calls me Dad and I consider him to be my son. He served 3 years in the Army with a Patriot missile group.

As the late Paul Harvey would say in his famous radio broadcasts – “now for the rest of the story...”

February’s meeting was well attended, and Mike McKay’s presentation on the emergency operations center at Ferris during the off-campus shooting incident was very informative and generated a lot of questions. There were three short technical demonstrations by Jeff Sell, Jon Hernden and Gordon Trute. Jeff Sell provided cookies for all.

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.

Gregory and I will be attending the ARRL National Convention in Hartford, Connecticut in July. In addition to convention activities, we will tour League headquarters and the W1AW station. This convention celebrates the 100th birthday of ARRL.

Don’t miss the opportunity to eat breakfast with fellow hams on March 1st at Sharon’s Restaurant in Rogers Heights. I really hope to see all of you at our March 6th monthly meeting! May God bless and watch over each of you.

73s,

Jim
K4UIH

February 2014 Radio Club Meeting

Club Nets – Sign up – After signed up goes on website

Breakfast: March 1st at Sharon’s Country Restaurant

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

Treasurer report: Accepted

Emergency Communications:

ARES – RACES: Net 1st Wednesday of the month. Next quarterly meeting March 20th
7 pm

Skywarn Training: Sat. April 26th 10 am – Noon @ West Campus Community Center

Communication events:

Repeater status: 2 meter - ok
440 meter – ok testing (raspberry pie as interface with EchoLink)
6 meter – is transmitting but not receiving well

Website: turned off forums due to spammers, not a lot people posting. Says it is in maintenance mode

Discussion:

Still deciding whether or not to link 2m and 440 repeaters. Tom is working with Independent Repeater Association and someone from St, Louis would be a good advantage for emergency situations for those who cannot get into the 2m in the south end of county and the 440 for those who are in of the county. Would it be better to be on demand or on all the time.

Girl Scout communications event: Jim is looking into it and getting more details.

Looking into events to participate in.

Program: My Day in the EOC – Mike McKay – Shooting @ Venlo Place

Activated EOC, Timely notifications

People involved: City of Big Rapids- Police, County Sheriff, VP of Admin and Finance, Chief of Police FSU

Role of EOC: Coordinate, Provide Support, And Plan Future Activities

Coordinate: Facility Status, Mass Communications, and Media Center

Provide Support: Guests, Residents, and Responders

Plan Future Activities – Short Term, Long Term

Conclusions: Increased coordination, Successful Operation

Tech Corner:

Jon Hernden: RF Indicator – light turns on when radio is keyed can be set up to change to different color L.E.D.'s. when keyed and not keyed.

Gordon: Multiple power supply

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

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

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