

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

November 2014

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## Presidents Message

During the last week of September BRAARC provided communications for the Hungerford Games. Four ham radio operators covered this event and

it lasted for more than a 12 hour period. Early October saw us providing communications for the Crop Walk. Eleven ham radio operators worked on this event.

With winter approaching we are seeing activity on the nets increasing. That is a good thing because during the summer the nets were getting pretty slim. Hopefully this activity will return to where it was a few years ago. Also with colder weather comes more contests. November Sweeps is one that I have participated in for years. I'm not there to work all night or make tons of contacts but if I get over a hundred contacts, it was a great contest. People like Tom Behler (KB8TYJ) loves contesting especially contests like the Pennsylvania QSO Party. The objective is to work as many counties in Pennsylvania as you can.

If I read the Facebook postings correctly, Jeff Sell (K8OE) is using WSPR and making automated contacts as far away as Norway using only one watt. And Jim Hessler (K8JH) is putting up a monster log periodic antenna and hosting W1AW/8 in October.

This month saw our old friend Don MacConnel (WA4FRJ) pack up his toys and headed to Florida on a permanent basis. It was quite a task sorting through all the treasures saved over the last 82 years. Now that Mike McKay has the Echolink nearly working maybe we will also hear Don on some of our nets.

November  
Activities—

Club meeting at 7:00 pm November 6 at Big Rapids Public Safety building.

Building the float for the Festival of lights and the parade on November 22.

Sunday night nets at 7:30 pm on 443.9 MHz

Tuesday night nets at 9:00 pm on 146.74 MHz

December Activities—

Pot luck Christmas Dinner, white elephant silent auction, and food drive on December 4

I did several searches for cutting edge technology but didn't find much that I hadn't seen before.

Maybe you have some ideas or thoughts we can share at the next meeting. Keep your eyes open.

Dan

WA8AEN

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## **BRAARC minutes for October 2, 2014 meeting**

Treasurer's report was approved as written.  
No secretary's report from September.

### **Repeater report**

Bruce (WB8TVD) is doing a search for six meter repeater replacement parts. The two-meter repeater is working and the replacement is in process of being modified for our purposes. The 440 repeater is working with no signs of the interference that was affecting it during the early summer.

### **Old Business**

Tom (KB8TYJ) reported the proposed two-meter repeater to 440 repeater is on hold until the new two-meter is up and running. This will allow some evaluation time to see what the operating range and coverage will be.

Jeff (K8OE) reported that recruiting of new members from the fire departments would proceed when the presentation package is finished.

Jim (K4UIH) reported on Hungerford Games. We really need more than 4 volunteers to do an effective job. More check points need to be monitored and the 12-hour day is a lot to ask.

### **New Business**

Tom (KB8TYJ) would like volunteers to checking at the IRC Connector between 12:30 and 1:00 on October 5. The walk will start at 2:00. The 440 repeater will be used for communications.

Mike (KD8DIB) is willing to work on the Festival of Lights if there are volunteers and candy contributions. The date is probably November 22.

Because the January meeting would normally fall on New Years day it was agreed to move the meeting to one week later on January 8, 2015.

Bruce (WB8TVD) won 50/50 drawing.

Jim (K4UIH) will supply refreshments for next month.

Submitted by Jon (KD8GGA) and Dan (WA8AEN)

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### **Announcements:**

Saturday, November 1, Club breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights, 9:00AM

Sunday, November 2, Return to Eastern Standard Time, set clocks back one hour.

Thursday, November 6, Regular club meeting at Big Rapids Public Safety Bldg

Saturday, November 22, Festival of Lights Parade – Decorate float at McKay's at 10:00A.M. Line up for Parade at 4:00P.M.

Thursday, December 4, Regular club meeting will be the Christmas Potluck, white elephant sale and food drive.

From:"ARRL Members Only Web site" <memberlist@www.arrl.org>  
Date: Wed, Oct 15, 2014 at 4:14 PM  
Subject: Michigan Section News

Greetings to the Hams of Michigan:  
October, 2014

The leaves are turning colors and beginning to fall as we prepare for winter in our beautiful state. Now is the time to check our antennas to make sure that they are up to the rigors of winter (as well as to ensure that our homes are ready for winter as well).

#### PRB-1 Update

Our Senate Bill 0493 was reported favorably out of the Energy and Technology Committee in September with a recommendation for immediate effect. Since that time, our bill has passed successfully through its second reading and is scheduled for its third reading during November. The Senate is scheduled to be in session for three days in November and we expect our bill to successfully pass the roll call vote and move to the House of Representatives.

In the near future, we will be contacting the hams of Michigan to ask them to send letters to their House members to advise them of the bill that will be heading to the House for consideration and to request support. We once again will provide the appropriate letter for you to send.

Complete details will be forthcoming on our PRB-1 website, but as of this writing are not yet finalized. Please wait until we advise that the time is right for letter writing. We have been very successful with the Senate and we feel that we can have the same positive effect on the House.

Stay tuned.....

#### W1AW/8 Returns to Michigan

From October 15 Zulu through October 21 Zulu, Michigan will be radioactive with dozens of stations on the air from home and club stations with the express mission of providing the amateurs of the nation and the world with contacts from W1AW/8. This is our second go-round and we fully expect to give out more contacts that we did in February. In order to beat our previous score of approximately 27,000 QSO's, we need your help. We have increased the number of stations on the air and now all we need is more folks to fight through the pileups.

There will be stations on the air using most modes available such as CW, SSB, various digital modes including PSK, RTTY, and even Hellschreiber, which oddly enough, this unusual mode will be offered via a portable station located in Hell, Michigan! There will be some VHF activity in the heavier populated areas of the state as well.

We hope to hear you on the bands during this Michigan W1AW/8 week. Many thanks in advance of a successful event go to our coordinator Dennis, KT8X. Thanks for putting up with all of us!



Twitter: another tool in the ham radio toolbox

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It all starts innocently enough. You get a computer to do your logging, and before you know it, you're working digital modes. Then, you snake an Ethernet cable down to the shack or connect to your wireless router. Pretty soon, you can't do without having a browser window open to one of the DX clusters or ReverseBeacon.Net or QRZ.Com or all three simultaneously.

Well, now's there another Internet service that I can't do without down in the shack: Twitter! I get on Twitter all the time now when I'm in the shack, and I love it. It's truly enhanced my amateur radio experience.

One of the ways it's done this is by bringing me all kinds of interesting technical information. I not only follow @hackaday and @DIYEngineering, and @EDN.Com, but a bunch of hams who are doing fun things. I hate to list some, for fear of leaving some out, but I will give a shout out to @NT7S, @AA7EE, @mightyohm, @caulktel, @LA3ZA. There's even @HiramPMaxim (the P stands for "parody"). If you go to my blog at KB6NU.Com and search for "From my Twitter feed," you'll find links to some of the most interesting Tweets that have found their way to me.

I'm also following a couple of amateur radio retailers. Today, for example, @DXEngineering is offering \$55 off the RigExpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer.

I also use it to get information about weather conditions and band conditions. For example, I follow @edvielmetti, who is KD8OQG. He's always tweeting about local severe weather. A Tweet from him gets me to turn on my 2m radio to monitor the local SkyWarn net.

As far as band conditions go, I throw out a Tweet, asking about band conditions, and in seconds, I'll get reports from my followers here in the U.S. and around the world. I try to do my part as well. When I fire up the rig, I'll Tweet out a report of how the bands seem to me.

While all of this is great, it's really all about the people. I currently have more than 2,200 followers and I follow more than 900. I would never have met some of these hams if it weren't for Twitter, and I have since worked several of them on the air after first meeting them on Twitter. Last May, we had a "Tweetup" at the Dayton Hamvention. There were at least 20 of us there. How cool is that?

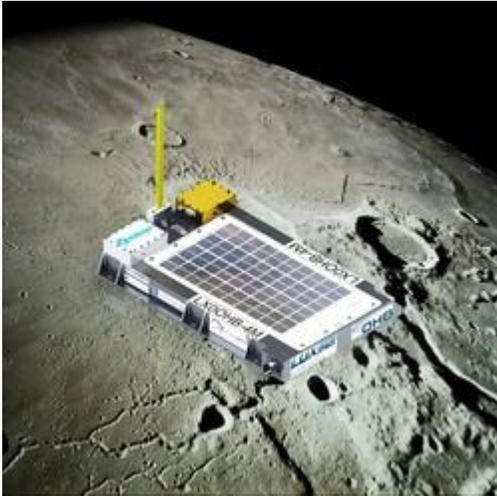
Twitter isn't for everyone, but I'd encourage you to give it a try. I'm having a lot of fun on Twitter, and I think you will, too. If you do set up a Twitter account, please follow me, @kb6nu. If you mention that you read this column, I'll be sure to follow you back.

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When not Tweeting about his latest amateur radio exploits, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW or teaching ham radio classes. If Twitter isn't your thing, you can still follow him by reading his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)

## 4M Moon Orbiter Carrying Ham Radio Payload Launching October 23

The Manfred Memorial Moon Mission (4M) [lunar flyby experiment](#), which will carry an Amateur Radio payload, was scheduled to launch from China on October 23 with lunar flyby to occur, nominally, on October 28. During the lunar flyby, the spacecraft will be about nearly 248,000 miles from Earth and between 7440 and 14,480 miles from the Moon.

The ham radio payload will transmit continuously on 145.990 MHz using JT65B mode, which can be decoded using a [version](#) of the free [WJST](#) software that Joe Taylor, K1JT, developed especially for this mission. The 14 kg battery-powered payload known as 4M-LXS, was



developed at LUXspace in Luxembourg.

The launch was set for approximately 1759 UTC on October 23, and the lunar flyby will take place at 0033 UTC on October 28. 4M is expected to begin transmitting on October 23 between 1917 UTC and 1927 UTC

Gislain Ruy, LX2RG, of LUXspace said ground stations in the Southern Hemisphere are best situated to [listen](#) for the spacecraft's first signals.

The onboard transmitter will put 1.5 W into a quarter-wave monopole antenna. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to LUXspace, AMSAT-UK, AMSAT News Service

**A model of the 4M spacecraft superimposed on an image of the moon's surface. [LUXspace graphic]**

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### Last Month's Technical Question:

Grounding the center tap on the secondary transformer will have the effect of:

- The voltage between center tap and one side of the secondary will be half that of the total induced voltage.
- The voltage induced in the secondary will be doubled
- Open circuit
- The voltage in the secondary will be halved
- The induced voltage in the secondary will always be positive with respect to ground

Ans: a.

### This Month's Technical Question:

The wavelength of a 500 MHz RF wave is approximately:

- 500 meters
- 0.6 meters
- 0.5 meters
- 1.0 meters
- 10 meters

(Most of you should be able to do this in your head. Hint: think about 2M and frequency.)

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

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

**November 2014**

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