

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

October 2014

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



Presidents Message

Hello,
I was born in Big Rapids and graduated from Morley Stanwood. I got my first ham

radio license in 1961. I spent two years at Soo Tech and two years at Michigan Tech. I worked in Jackson, MI at Sparton Electronics for 40 years. My assignment was to design and test transmitters and receivers for use in expendable military electronics. In Jackson I was a member of the Cascades Amateur Radio Society (CARS) for about 20 years.

We moved back to Big Rapids in 2009 when I joined BRAARC. I have enjoyed the club and its members. I am looking forward to the next year. If there are things you would like to see the club involved in please let me know. It is really your club and I will help where ever I can.

Dan, WA8AEN

Minutes from August meeting:

None to report

Announcements:

Saturday, September 27, regular club breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights at 9A.M.

Thursday, October 2,
Regular BRAARC
meeting at Big
Rapids Public Safety
Building, 7P.M.

Hi, everyone.

After months of wondering what happened to the Big Rapids Roben-Hood Airport weather info that had been broadcast on 121.125 MHZ, I finally called the airport this morning. And, guess what: the broadcast frequency for this info has been changed by the FAA.

The frequency is now 125.875, and it does work!

Tom Behler: KB8TYJ

“The Big Rapids Area Crop Walk For Hunger will be held on Sunday: October 5 at 2 p.m. If you would like to help provide communications for the event, and did not sign up at our September BRAARC Club meeting, please e-mail Tom Behler: KB8TYJ

tombehler@gmail.com

If you will be helping with communications, please arrive at the IRC Connector on the Ferris State University campus between 12:30 and 1

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p.m., so that we can assign station locations and coordinate our operations. We will use the BRAARC 440 repeater (443.9 MHz with the standard + 5 MHz offset) for our communications net.

If you have any questions, contact Tom Behler: KB8TYJ, Crop Walk Net Control

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Should QSOs from remote stations be given DXCC credit?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In July, the DX Advisory Committee Report recommended several rules changes for the DXCC program

(http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf).

Among them, was a recommendation that rule I.9 be changed such that a QSO is acceptable for DXCC credit only when the remote station and the operator's home station location are no more than 200 km apart.

As with any rule change, this precipitated a lot of comment in the amateur radio community. A thread on the eHam.Net forum (<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,98348.30.html>) got quite a few comments. N7NG had a nice blog post (<http://n7ng.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/remote-control-dxing-and-dxcc/>) on this controversy.

Perhaps the most strident post on this topic was written by WW1X (<http://ww1x.com/opinion/2014/08/14/in-defense-of-remote-dxcc.html>). He called these recommendations "uninformed, misguided, and detrimental to the future of our hobby." Detrimental to the future of our hobby? Seriously?

Of course, WW1X has a vested interest in this debate. He's the lead developer for RemoteHamRadio.Com, a company that charges other hams to use the "super stations" that they've set up around the world.

Note that the DX Advisory Committee is not saying that amateur radio operators should not use and enjoy these remote stations. All they're saying is that the QSOs made with them, unless they are located less than 200 km from an amateur's home station, are not eligible for DXCC credit. I'm sure that if you asked any of the members of the committee they would agree with WW1X that the remote stations serve a very useful purpose for amateurs who are not able to set up their own home stations.

WW1X prattles on about how "DXCC is not a contest. It's not a competition. There are no winners or losers. It's a personal achievement award, plain and simple." This is just silly. Of course it's a competition. As N7NG rightly points out if it's not a competition, why publish the DXCC Honor Roll?

What I think is detrimental to the hobby are hams who use RemoteHamRadio.Com to simply add to their DXCC scores. I see no sense in doing so, and furthermore, where's the personal achievement? Anyone who can afford to pay what they charge—and it's not a small sum of money—can work the rarest DX with one of those stations.

A friend of mine, Mark, W8MP, is a RemoteHamRadio.Com customer, and it's a boon for him. He loves being able to work DX from his home in a development where no outside antennas are allowed.

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

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

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