

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

September 2014

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Presidents Message

This is my last President's Message as the new president will take on this task starting October 1, 2014. While I will

miss sharing my life with you each month, I'm sure the new president will also share with his distinct style.

By the time you read this message, I will have returned from taking Gregory (KD8NRO) to Bemidji State University in Minnesota. We left on Thursday (8/21) and returned on Sunday (8/24). I rented a mini-van in order to take all of his "stuff" to campus. Each way it was 14 hours (855+ miles). I was excited for Gregory to begin his new venture in college, but sad to leave without him. The house will be very empty without his presence.

My arthroscopic surgery is rescheduled for September 9th to hopefully "fix" the lateral meniscus tear in my knee. While I never look forward to medical procedures, I am looking forward to hopefully getting full use of my knee and leg again.

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

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.

Please join us for breakfast with your fellow hams on August 30th at Sharon's Restaurant in Rogers Heights. I hope to see all of you at our next monthly meeting on September 4th. Our speaker will be **Cindy Havens**, Service Center Manager for the Mecosta-Osceola Chapter of the American Red Cross. Cindy will talk about services provided by the Red Cross in disasters and emergencies, and the important linkage between amateur radio and the Red Cross.

May God bless and watch over each of you.

73s,
Jim
K4UIH

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August 2014 Radio Club Meeting (Delcy, KC8HVR)

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

Breakfast: August 30th @ Sharon's Country Restaurant

Next Meeting: Sept 4th @ 7 p.m.

Treasurer report: Accepted

Emergency Communications:

ARES – RACES: Net 1st Wednesday of the month @ 8 pm. Next Quarterly meeting Sept 18th Reed City 7 pm

Communication Events: Bull Dog Bike Tour went well

August 30th Big Bad Wolf Event needs volunteers (Jens will lead)

October 5th Crop Walk (Tom Behler, KB8TYJ)

September End of Month - Hungerford games need volunteers

Repeater status: 2 meter – ok. Replacement repeater is still being worked on. Hopefully this summer it will be ready to go

440 meter echo-link is down

6 meter – needs work

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

Hosting and domain renewals coming up.

Program: ARRL At 100 years old by Larry Camp, WB8R, (ARRL Section Manager):

30 minute video

discovered around 1900 on low frequencies

1914 ARRL started

hams would send radiograms instead of the telegraphs and by 1917 reached across the country

1915 1st QST was published

1918 WW1 the Navy ordered the shutdown of radio transmissions when the war was over the Navy would not let the hams go back to using the airwaves. It was taken to congress by the ARRL and privileges were reinstated. At this point there were approx 4000 members.

1923 intercontinental was started

1926 1st ARRL Handbook

1920's 1st contests were started

1933 1st field day

WWII all intercontinental transmissions were banned but were reinstated when the war was over.

1950's new novice license introduced

1957 space race began
1969 AMSAT formed ARRL still plays rolls in space ARISS
there is also Emergency Services and the ARRL hosts many special events and contests
1980's hams started testing hams
1990's ham radio started becoming computerized SDR can download radio and programs
1996 some frequencies almost lost to LEO and commercial wireless companies
2000 digital technology D-STAR-APRS and more

ARRL website bill HR4969 download letter send to US Congress

Movie is available for download on ARRL Website

Tech Corner: using memories in radios, the club has programming software for radios to borrow if need to program

50/50: Gregory Woolen (KD8NRO)

Refreshments for September: Sue Behler (KC8IFP)

Announcements:

Saturday, August 30, Breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights, 9am.

Saturday, August 30, Big Bad Wolf Race, 8-11:30am. Need volunteers.

Thursday, September 4, Regular BRAARC meeting at Big Rapids Public Safety Bldg, 7pm. Speaker will be **Cindy Havens**, Service Center Manager for the Mecosta-Osceola Chapter of the American Red Cross.



BREAKFAST

Sharon's Restaurant

9:00AM

Saturday, August 30

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



ARRL support for clubs could use some improvement

Often, when you hear ARRL officials speak, they extol the virtues of amateur radio clubs, saying things like, "Clubs are the lifeblood of amateur radio." For example, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, in response to my e-mail congratulating him on his appointment as the new ARRL Great Lakes Division director, said that his "plans are to push to keep things local, club-related, and bottom-up driven."

Of course, that kind of set me off. When it comes to club support, the ARRL is more talk than action.

One example of this lack of support is that there hasn't been an issue of the ARRL Club News newsletter for years. Even so, if you log into the ARRL website and look at your e-mail subscriptions page, you'll see that it says that it's supposed to be a monthly newsletter.

I'll also note that the ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, left this particular newsletter off the list of available newsletters in his June QST column. I don't know who at HQ is responsible for producing this newsletter, but the fact that there hasn't been one for so long speaks volumes to me.

Another example is the club commission program. Under this program, clubs get a \$15 commission when they sign up a new member. That's not bad, but the commission falls to only \$2 for renewing members. According to a former treasurer of ARROW, my club here in Ann Arbor, MI, \$2 just wasn't enough to make it worth his while to process renewals.

To be fair, it's not all bad news. The ARRL website does have a page with information on how to set up and run an active club (<http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-resources>). The ARRL also has a club liability insurance program is a decent deal for clubs, but that program probably doesn't require much effort on the ARRL's part. The ARRL is also supposed to refer new hams to clubs, but I'm not sure exactly how they do that, and I don't think ARROW's gained any new members from this recently.

Let me ask you. Is your club getting the support it needs from the ARRL? If so, I'd like to hear about what you think they're doing right. If not, I'd like to know what you think they should be doing to help your club.

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When he's not writing this column for club newsletters, 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.

Election of Officers

Club officers will be elected at the next regular BRAARC meeting on September 4. The following is the slate of officers:

- Dan Astleford – President
- Jim Woolen – VP
- Jens Rick – Treasurer
- Vacant – Secretary

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

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

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