

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

July 2015

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Presidents Message

Greetings,

On June 7
BRAARC started
the month's
activities with the
"Girls on the Run"
5K race. We had
6 members show

up for the communications duty. That included Jim (K4UIH), Gregory (KD8NRO), Joe (KD8KPS), Jens (KC8OIV), Jeff (K8OE), and myself. This was a good number of members to cover the race. The lesson learned was that 1 watt on 443.9 MHz is not adequate to provide adequate communications to the repeater. My bad, I thought the UHF repeater was always used for this event.

On Sunday May 31, Mike (KD8DIB) and I went out to the silo that houses the 6 meter repeater and retrieved it. The duplexer cans and antenna measured good on Mike's MFJ antenna analyzer so felt we were safe in just recovering the repeater. Testing in my basement didn't reveal a lot. I could hear the local oscillator at what I believed to be 17 kHz high. Further testing revealed that the transmitter was operating when powered up and modulated with the normal wake up message. I then attempted to talk to the repeater using my Icom 706 and it actually heard me and responded with a courtesy tone. At this point the repeater had a Cantenna for a load and a 2 meter mag-mount antenna for the receiver. Changing the mag-mount antenna for

a 6 meter dipole outside the house also worked. And changing the Cantenna to a 6 element 6 meter yagi also worked. Mike (KD8DIB) and I had a conversation one night and the report sounded good. Mike again expressed that a couple weeks before that he was unable to get the repeater to respond with 50 watts at a couple hundred feet.

Conclusion is that the repeater is mainly working. The only problem I am finding at this time is some noise in the monitor speaker that does not seem to be in the transmitted audio. The next step is to clean it up a bit, due a little more testing and put it back in service. The local oscillator seems to be that the IF frequency is not exactly where I thought it should be. In any event the received signal is in the center of the pass band.

FIELD DAY

June 27 starting at 9:00 will be breakfast at Sharon's. Following that will be the setup for Field Day. Mike (KD8DIB) has lots of toys to play with. But we will need a couple of HF rigs and anything you would like to bring. Basically we have a generator, masts, rope and tie downs, a master computer with logging software, etc.

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A couple months back there was an article about having a successful Field Day. We are not out to beat all the other clubs with tons of contacts and work hours and hours. My goal is to have a good time, enjoy the contacts,

and learn a bit about ham radio. So come out to North End Park and have a good time.

Thanks,

Dan (WA8AEN)

Minutes From The Meeting – 7 May 2015

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, More-Or-Less Permanent Secretary

NOTE (17 June 2015): These minutes are being published in the July edition of the BRAARC Newsletter, per consensus of the members at the meeting, 4 June.

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 7 May 2015:

(TVD: In the form of an explanation and apology: I had earlier casually asked another member if he would either take the meeting notes for me or ask someone to do so. I did not follow up, nor did I ask at the meeting to see if that would happen. These brief notes from the meeting are the result of my mental hiccup.)

Bruce, WB8TVD, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with 20 (or so) in attendance.

President Dan, WA8AEN, and Vice President Jim, K4UIH, were both away on extremely urgent and top secret missions, so Dan asked Bruce, WB8TVD, if he would preside at the meeting. Having completely lost his mind, Bruce agreed. He explained that the two were away and would be back for the next meeting and that this was not some evil coup d'état. He also noted that he might know what he's doing since he had been club president at least (TVD: the memory has gone) three times, two of which were actually on purpose.

A few reminders:

Please sign up for net control of our two nets. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Signup sheets for Girls-On-The-Run and Field Day participation were also circulated and the CROP Walk in October was noted.

(TVD: The secretary completely forgot about the sheets, and they were not collected at the end of the meeting. I hope someone actually found them.)

The next club breakfast will be 30 May, 9:00 am at Sharon's Restaurant.

The next BRAARC meeting will be 4 June, 7 pm in the DPS classroom.

In lieu of a program, since we had just gone through a recent Ham-In-A-Day and some of the newly licensed Hams were present, Bruce thought it a good idea to have those folks talk about their trips to the Amateur Radio world and Ham-In-A-Day. Someone (Shila??) suggested we all give a brief history of our own Ham experience. Better idea! We went around the room, and learned much more about each other than we knew before, and perhaps can remember, so we might do this periodically, if that is agreeable to all involved.

The secretary and treasurer reports were accepted as published.

Jeff, Mecosta County EC, gave an update, but the secretary does not recall his information as this is being typed.

Repeaters: Mike reported on each of the repeaters and his attempts to contact Jeff, WD8DLK, about the 6 Meter machine. Ditto the secretary's failing memory.

Upcoming Events:

Girls On The Run will be 6 June. The activity still needs a coordinator.

Bulldog Bike Race will be 20 June. We will need a lot of people.

Field Day is 27-28 June. We have gotten approval from the City to use Northend Park overnight.

Mike spoke about the upcoming fox hunt and potluck.

As part of our Tech Corner, Bruce made one command decision, but nothing affecting the club's survival. He asked if Mike would get together with Tom to look into what it would take to link the 146 and 440 repeaters. What equipment would be required? Would/could/should it be permanent or on-demand? How would it affect EchoLink? What controls would be needed? And such. There was no formal directive nor motion.

There was no 50/50 drawing, and (to the secretary's recollection) nobody volunteered for refreshments for the 4 June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned sometime after 8:00 pm. In spite of Bruce presiding over the meeting, no members were injured in the conduct of business.

(TVD: The secretary – again – did not have these notes ready and available ☹ to Phil for publishing in the newsletter, so hard copy will be available at the 4 June meeting.)

Minutes From The Meeting – 4 June 2015

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, More-Or-Less Permanent Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 4 June 2015:

(TVD: The president and vice president, having returned and finding the club still functioning following their absence, were not expected to initiate any investigation, nor punishments.)

Dan, WA8AEN, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with 21 in attendance.

The evening's speaker was introduced by Jim, K8JR.

Tom Bosscher, K8TB, gave an interesting presentation about the annual Holland ARC "SPARK In The Park" event, which is an educational equivalent to a Hamfest. Instead of dealers and traders, individuals and groups set up tables or stations to highlight some aspect of Ham Radio to attendees. Tom described it at one point as a "science fair for adults." His slide show illustrated the event very well.

A few reminders:

President Dan inquired as to the location of the signup sheets that had been circulated at the last meeting. Secretary Bruce, who had presided, recounted the last time he had seen them as they had been passed around. He hoped that someone near the back, where they would have ended up, retrieved them at the end of the meeting. Nobody had, apparently.

The next club breakfast will be 27 June, 9:00 am at Sharon's Restaurant.

There was some discussion about the 4th of July holiday being in close proximity to the scheduled date for the next meeting. There were a few people who would not be able to attend, but enough said they would be there to keep the meeting on the regular date:

The next BRAARC meeting will be 2 July, 7 pm in the DPS classroom.

Please sign up for net control of our two nets.

We still need participants for Girls-On-The-Run and Field Day.

The CROP Walk in October was noted.

The treasurer report was accepted as published. Jens is missing John MacConnel's, WA4FRJ, new address.

Acceptance of the minutes was tabled until published in the next (July) newsletter. Bruce noted that the May minutes were set to go and he would get them to Phil ASAP. He will type the June minutes and send them along very shortly.

Jeff, Mecosta County EC: He has reviewed the equipment that arrived for the Mecosta County EOC and had two work sessions with several of the emergency personnel. He noted that the dispatch office was already on board, but the sheriff's office was in flux due to some changes being made in the organization.

He also noted that the Red Cross was still in a state of flux due to the uncertainty of the theater expansion. (TVD: Which has been postponed by the developer.)

The ARES net has been rescheduled to the first Tuesday of the month, to precede that evening's 9:00 pm club net. Both on the 2M repeater.

Jeff also noted that there is a possible grant for a new repeater (repeater only) from FEMA, but the deadline is 1 July, if we want to submit a proposal. The proposal needs only to be a short one.

Tom, K8TB, noted that he has lots of donated commercial VHF equipment. He also noted that the equipment is 25 or more years old, and would need to be converted to Ham Radio frequencies.

Repeaters: Mike reported on each of the repeaters:

6 meters: The machine has been down, so Mike organized a work party to investigate. They looked around and attempted to clean the units. The receiver is down, but the transmitter seems to be functioning properly.

The 2 and 440 repeaters appear to be functioning normally.

Recruitment: Jeff suggested that our (the club) focus should shift more to mentoring those who have recently been licensed. No action was taken, but it was agreed that this would be a good topic for continuing discussion.

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Bulldog Bike Race will be 20 June. We will need a lot of people.

Field Day is 27-28 June. We have gotten approval from the City to use Northend Park overnight.

Dan notes that the Special Service Club (SSC) paperwork and MARC updates are both on hold.

Girls On The Run will be this Saturday. Dan passed out some information and maps, but noted that they still needed people to man the checkpoints. It should not be a terribly long session. Dan will act as NCS.

The Bulldog Bike Tour will be 30 June. It kicks off at 7:30 am and can run 100 miles, leaving the ending time open. It's a tour, not a race, so the route and time are indefinite, but will end at the starting point.

Field Day: Northend Park has been reserved for our use, even during closed hours. Since the signup sheets are missing, please come forward and volunteer for the event.

We will have a wireless network and generator. We will need a lot of other equipment and some antenna masts. We also discussed some of the multipliers available.

Tom noted that he had not yet heard from the CROP Walk officials. Laura Dix, their coordinator, has told Tom that they appreciate what we do.

Last Month's Technical Question:

The reciprocal of conductance is:

- a. Admittance
- b. Susceptance
- c. Inductance
- d. Capacitance
- e. Resistance

Ans: e. Resistance

This Month's Technical Question:

A relay with a 600Ω resistance must operate with 100ma flowing through the coil. To use in a 110VDC line, a dropping resistor must be added in series. This resistor will dissapate:

- a. .5 watts
- b. 750mw
- c. 5 watts
- d. 15 watts
- e. 17.5 watts

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9	4	8	6	3	1	2	5	7
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Solution to last month's puzzle

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Announcements:

- Saturday, June 27, Regular club breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights, 9A.M.
- Saturday, June 27, following breakfast, field day, Northend Park
- Thursday, July 2, Regular Club meeting, Big Rapids Public Safety, 7P.M.

Check www.BRAARC.Net for further details and other announcements.

Don't forget breakfast and field day on Saturday
June 27

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PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338

