

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

November 2015

PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338 Pres. Dan Astleford Web Page: [www.braarc.net](http://www.braarc.net) Editor: Phil – [phildolly@power-net.net](mailto:phildolly@power-net.net)



## Presidents Message

Greetings,  
I have received news from Yaesu that our repeaters have been shipped. They

should arrive before the November meeting and I will try to bring one of them to the meeting for show and tell.

In preparation for the new two-meter repeater Mike (KD8DIB) and I went to the repeater site to obtain more information. The Link repeater and our repeater share the same antenna set. Both transmitters are tied to the same transmit antenna and both receivers are tied to the same receive antenna. The two antennas are spaced between 40 to 60 feet apart vertically. That provides a goodly amount of isolation between transmit and receive for both repeaters. What concerns me is the two transmitters sharing the same antenna. Unfortunately the information written on the duplexer cans is obliterated on one of the cans and has two frequencies listed for the pass band for that can. We may need to do some testing before we install the new repeater just to insure the system is within specifications.

When Mike and I arrived at the site we looked up in the sky and observed a perfect contrail circle around the tower. I can't

remember seeing a contrail that returned the direction from which it came. Was it an omen?

I have been able to get Larry Camp (WB8R) to come to the next meeting and discuss what's happening at ARRL. His main focus is on Parity. I think he has a couple of videos and is always willing to answer questions about anything related to ham radio.

It is with sadness that I announce that we lost a member in October. Chuck Boboltz (WA8KEP) passed away. He had been suffering with stomach cancer for a long time and due to age and general health condition the doctors would offer no life saving measures. Chuck was not normally a member at the club meetings but he did enjoy attending the club breakfasts at Sharon's.

On a much lighter note we need to congratulate Jon Hernden (KD8GGA) on completing his four-year apprenticeship in the mold-maker trade. Congratulations Jon.

See you at the meeting,  
Dan WA8AEN

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**Minutes for the October 14, 2015 BRAARC Board of Directors meeting.**

The following members were in attendance:

Dan Astleford, Mike Mathews, Jens Rick, and Mike McKay

The main topic was club financing. Presently the general fund is in the red. All funds are earmarked for specific purposes except the general fund. It was suggested that when the CD for life memberships and special awards matures that a portion of that money be diverted to the general fund. An up coming bill will be the renewal of GoDaddy web hosting for about \$190. The new repeaters will cost about \$1200 but that should come out of the repeater fund.

Methods to secure more funding include investigating availability of funds at various businesses and foundations. A committee has been formed to prepare a mailer to local area hams explaining the benefits of the club and the activities it provides with the expectation that more local hams will join the club. Reducing the newsletter mailings to semi-monthly, quarterly, or twice a year would save costs and act more as an event calendar. Also the Holiday Pot Luck Dinner has in the past been an open event. By opening the dinner it can become more like a hamfest and increase the receipts from the white elephant auction.

The repeaters were discussed with the conclusion that the 2-meter and 440 problems are being addressed with the new repeaters on order and the 6-meter needs to be repaired. A service manual will need to be found to continue working on the repairs.

Dan (WA8AEN)

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**Minutes for October 1 Meeting**

Unavailable at time of print – will be available at the next meeting, Nov 5

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**Start an amateur radio virtuous circle**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ham\_instructor Yahoo Group ([https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ham\\_instructor/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ham_instructor/info)) recently, we talked about the classes that we are going to be offering this fall. About his Tech class, Bob, K0NR, noted, “Currently have about 30 students signed up. We keep thinking we’ll run out of interested people but they keep coming.”

I’ve noticed the same thing here, too. I keep thinking that I am going to run out of people to teach, but I have no problem at all filling my classes. In fact, I’d go so far as to say that the more people that have taken my class, the more people there are that want to take it.

Of course, this makes perfect sense. If there are more people out there who have amateur radio licenses, there are more people out there talking about amateur radio, and actually doing amateur radio. And, the more people out there talking about and doing amateur radio, the more likely it is that other people will become interested in amateur radio and get their licenses as well.





**BRAARC Membership**

**Applicant Information**

Name:

Call:	Class:	Phone:
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address:

City:	State:	ZIP:	Email:
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ARRL Member: Yes No      Newsletter: US Mail    Website – minimizes postage and printing costs

**Spouse Information if joint membership**

Name:

Call:	Class:	Email:
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**Licensed ChildreN**

Name:	Call:	Class:

**DUES / Donation**

<input type="checkbox"/> Member ( <b>\$30</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> College Student(\$12.50) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth(free if oldest licensed family member<18 yrs)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Patch _____ X \$5 each - The club patch supports the repeater systems operated by the club.	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation – General Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Committee Donation <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Committee Donation	\$
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31 each year. Please submit dues by the regular February club meeting to prevent accidental removal from club roster. Mail to: **BRAARC, PO Box 343, Paris, Mi 49338**

Please note the increase in dues to \$30 per year. Dues are to be remitted to the Club treasurer, Rick Jens, KC8OIV.

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Enjoy the Fall weather and join us for  
Breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

9:00 A. M. Saturday  
October 31



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November 2015

