

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

October 2015

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



Presidents Message

Greetings,
Since the last meeting we have a new vice president. He is Mike Matthews

KCOLNK. I am hoping that Mike will give an update on what he has been doing for the last 40 years at the October meeting. Also at the September meeting the membership approved the purchase of two Yaesu DR-1XE repeaters. Our purchase request to Yaesu was accepted and we should receive these repeaters in a month or two. These are exciting times!!

On 13, Mike KD8DIB, Jeff K8OE, and myself took a trip to the two-meter repeater site. I found it very interesting. I'm not sure how the system works with the IRA repeater. I am trying to get a block diagram from them to help understand the system. It is interesting that their repeater and ours share the same antennas, coax, duplexer, and receiver preamp.

On a totally different note, I received an email from a gal in White Cloud. She said that her grandson had found a USB drive at North End Park. She sent a screen shot of the files listed on that drive. Sure enough it included a couple that I had written and at least one that I had sent to Phil KC8QOV. One of the interesting things was the last entry was June 18, 2015 and we had spent Field Day weekend out there on June 27-28. Phil didn't think it was his and I could not remember which drive I had taken with me. She agreed to meet with me and bring the drive. It was mine and had lots of files on it. There are good people in the world and she is a gem.

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Happy Hamming,
Dan (WA8AEN)

In a future issue we will have pictures of all the new, and the 'old', officers of the club.

Minutes From The Meeting – 3 September 2015

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Newly-Elected Secretary

I want to assure everyone that I really did break my arm. (Brief story that can be made much longer as needed.) My absence was not a ploy to have you forget to vote for me as secretary. (My arm is getting better with Dr. Rao and my own PCP looking after me.)

On behalf of all club officers (re-)elected at the September meeting, thank you for your support and confidence.

Since I was not at the meeting on 3 September, Jeff, K8OE, was kind enough to take notes, and I present them below, taking full responsibility (but not credit). One change: Added call signs to election results:

BRAARC CLUB MEETING 9-3-15 MINUTES

taken by Jeff Sell K8OE

- Next club meeting will be Oct 1.
- Elections were held with the following result:
 - President Dan Astleford, WA8AEN
 - Vice President Mike Matthews, KC0LNK
 - Secretary Bruce Werner, WB8TVD
 - Treasurer Jens Rick, KC8OIV
 - Thanks to all the officers that served in the last year.
- Jeff Sell asked about reassigning the VM71A radio at Red Cross from packet use to APRS digipeater use but it was stated that Red Cross owns that radio.
- Problems with current 440 MHz repeater include low output power and an intermittent cooling fan.
- The 2m repeater has low receive sensitivity, especially lately.
- For these reasons the BRAARC Board has recommended that the general membership approve the purchase of two Yaesu DR-1X Fusion repeaters, one to replace the 2m and the other the 440 MHz one. The motion was made and passed. A group including Dan, Jeff, Mike McKay and Jens will get together as soon as possible to order them and well as the MH-42C6J Microphone and FVS-2 Voice Guide Unit for each. It is expected that the price for each will be about \$574 on the Yaesu special offer for clubs. It is hoped that we can install them before the snow flies.
- It was noted that the repeater fund has just over \$1993 in it, sufficient to easily cover these two new repeater RF units. However, the general fund is very low. Various options were discussed including moving the CD fund to the general fund, fundraisers, grants, donations, raising dues etc. It was decided that the Board should meet on this issue and the current expenses and come up with a strategy for approval by the general membership. Dues were last raised in 2001.
- The 6 m repeater was left on for one week but people could not trip it so something is still wrong. It will continue to be an experimental unit.

The number of volunteers is probably sufficient for the event, but if you are not on the list, and would like to participate, I'm sure we can accommodate you. So let me know if you are interested.

Crop Walk Headquarters will be at the IRC Connector on the Ferris State University campus, as it has been for the past few years. I'm attaching a set of directions to the Connector, for those who are unfamiliar with that location.

Even though the event begins at 2 p.m., I would like for us all to meet at the IRC Connector between 12:45 and 1 p.m., so that we can coordinate our communications and assign station locations.

We will use the 440 repeater for the event, so please plan accordingly.

I understand that the walk route will be somewhat different this year, due to the current closing of the Baldwin Street bridge, and the event organizers have promised me an updated map prior to the event. If I get the new map, I'll have copies available when we meet early Sunday afternoon.

I believe that's it for now, but if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Thanks, all, for volunteering, and I look forward to another fun event this year!

Tom Behler: KB8TYJ

How to get there.

At the main intersection at Perry Road and State Street, proceed East onto the Ferris State Univ campus.

At the first intersection in front of the Flite Library, turn to the right and follow the road past the dormitories on the left.

The road will loop East and at the next intersection you will see the dormitories on the left, the football field in front of you and a large parking lot on the right.

Turn right and proceed to the farthest (South) end of the parking lot.

You will see 3 buildings on the western edge of the parking lot. The middle building is the IRC building (Instructional Resource Center) and is connected to the building on its left (Business Bldg) by a "connector" or long enclosed breezeway. This is the IRC connector where the CROP walk will be organized and we will meet before the event.

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Think Fall and of all the good things we can be thankful for.



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