

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

August 2016

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



Presidents Message

Greetings,
Field day
was well
attended. During
the course of the
event we had at
least 10 club

members participate. The weather was good and the site was well maintained. Our contact ability was not up to par but I think a good time was had by all. There is concern that being at the river level may be hurting our ability to make the long distance contacts. A site comparison list needs to be made.

Jon (KD8GGA) and I spent a fair amount of time on Sunday exploring the capabilities of an Icom 706 MKII. It was interesting and I learned a lot. My 706 was having problems generating power on SSB and deviation on FM. Seven watts was about the most I was able to obtain on SSB. Further checking revealed that the audio level is low and the Automatic Level Control was seldom being activated. I have purchased a new microphone and that has had little effect.

I have been learning more about the

repeater controller and what it is capable of. One of the neat features is the ability to record a 7 second message and have it play it back. We were plagued with noise issues on the 440

repeater on the July 17 net. While trying to record a message it was noticed that the repeater was too noisy to hear the first two DTMF tones but would catch the second two. That did not allow us to record a message but it provides further clues. It would also cycle on and off at a 1 second on 1 second off rate. That seemed to go on until another strong signal was heard and then it would typically stop.

The end of our election year is coming to a close in September. If you have any interest in being one of the club officers or have ideas on how the club should proceed in the coming year, now is the time to make your feelings known and make a commitment. Ham it up.

Dan (WA8AEN)

In This Issue:

Pg 1 – President's Message

Pg 2 – July Mtg Minutes

Pg 3 – AES article

Pg 5 – MCER trailer

Pg 6- Tech Question

Saturday, July 30, BRAARC breakfast at Sharon's in Rogers Heights, 9a.m.

Thursday, August 4, regular BRAARC meeting at Big Rapids Public Safety Bldg, 7p.m.

Minutes From The Meeting – 7 July 2016

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 7 July 2016:

Dan, WA8AEN, opened the meeting at 7:04pm with 17 members and guests in attendance. (TVD: There was quite a rain squall, so all were happy to be inside and mostly dry.)

Jeff, K8OE, Mecosta County Amateur Radio EC gave a short talk about the communications trailer and introduced Scott Schroeder, Mecosta County Emergency Coordinator. We each introduced ourselves for Scott's benefit.

Jeff showed a brief video about the D-Star function as implemented by a group in the United Kingdom.

The assembly adjourned to the Public Safety garage to visit the trailer and get an introduction to its layout and function. The communication station is located at the front of the trailer and is comprised of a Kenwood TM-D710 and an Icom IC-5100.

The trailer is set up for multiple functions, not primarily as a communications trailer. So the radios occupy a front corner of the trailer, but are not configured as an operating position, but rather as ancillary Amateur Radio devices.

(TVD: Considering the rain, it was good there was also a Zodiac handy!!)

On return to the meeting hall, Scott updated the history of the trailer and the group discussed the future of the trailer and training yet to be done. He also noted that each Ham needs to build a personal skill set in order to operate as efficiently as possible.

Following the presentation, sign-up sheets for attendance, net control and NPOTA participation were passed around.

A few reminders:

Please sign up for net control of our two nets.

The next club breakfast will be 31 July, 9:00 am at Sharon's.

The next BRAARC meeting will be 4 August, 7:00 pm at BRDPS.

Secretary report: Bruce, WB8TVD: The minutes from the meeting in June were published in the July newsletter. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Treasurer report: Josh, KE8EKC distributed a summary sheet of the club finances and gave a brief rundown. His report was accepted by consensus.

EC Report: Jeff, K8OE: Jeff thought it would be beneficial to have some Simulated Emergency Test style practice sessions during the Summer. Bruce, WB8TVD, offered that the current (July) issue of "QST" has a rundown of the SET from October 2015 and describes several scenarios. Jeff will look those over; with perhaps a goal of participating in this October's SET after some Summer practice runs.

Repeaters: Dan, WA8AEN, filling in for Mike, KD8DIB: The 440 machine seems to be working okay.

The 2 meter repeater has been occasionally cycling on and off recently, but other than a possible relation to the IRA link repeater or an antenna situation, the cause is still a mystery. It is not occurring at the moment.

The 6 meter repeater is still in Dan's basement awaiting a team to trek out to return it to The Silo.

Dan also reported the result of Field Day: The club station was category 3A and all who participated had a good time. Next year we might consider a different location.

Tom, KB8TYJ, reports he was unable to join the club's effort but set up and ran as 1A, making 340 CW contacts.

Jeff discussed our upcoming NPOTA activity scheduled for 6 August. We would be setting up a station at the "Schoolhouse", which is near the mid-point of the North Country Scenic Trail. The Schoolhouse is not physically on the Trail, but will be acceptable for Trail activation. The one proviso, however, is that since the trail is "rustic", we must hike in from some specified point, not more than a mile away. It was suggested that we might be able to drop off the equipment and hike in with some much lighter gear. This date will not be the activation of the entire trail. That was in June. This will be an effort by the club alone.

Tech Corner (Part 2): Dan showed the website heywhatsthat.com and how one can look at an elevation chart between any two points. Dan used the 2 meter repeater site for his demonstration.

Jeff offered to bring refreshments to the August meeting.

Jim, K4UIH, won the 50/50 drawing and donated the net portion of the "take" to the club treasury.

Dan reminded everyone that at the August meeting we will be nominating candidates for election of a new slate of officers in September. Consider stepping up and offering your services to your club. (TVD: I think the alternative is "railroading", no?)

The meeting was adjourned about 8:20 pm. No Hams or guests were harmed in the conduct of business. We all went home. Well, mostly.

Hello, everyone.

Recently, we all were saddened by the news of the closing of Amateur Radio Supplies (AES). It's amazing how such depressing news can turn very exciting within the span of a week. Read below about HRO acquiring AES, with possibly the biggest and best HROstore to come to Milwaukee, WI soon!

Tom Behler: KB8TY

Ham Radio Outlet - Press Release for Immediate Release

July 12, 2016

RE: HRO-Milwaukee, Amateur Electronic Supply's closing on 7/28/2016

On July 1, 2016 Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) made the decision to close down their entire organization and terminate all retail operations at their Las Vegas, Cleveland, Orlando and Milwaukee locations.

Upon hearing the news, and with the concurrence of AES senior management, Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) sent senior management to each location to interview the staff with hopes of acquiring some of the Amateur Radio retail employee talent in each of the current AES locations.

Together with this interview process, HRO examined what it would take to perhaps acquire one or more of the AES store locations. At the time of these interviews, many opportunities were explored with current AES senior management.

We are very excited to announce that HRO was successful in providing offers of employment to a number of soon to be former AES employees and that to some, we have offered positions that involve HRO sponsored and funded relocation.

We are also extremely pleased to announce that, after the closing of the Milwaukee AES location on July 28, 2016, Ham Radio Outlet will begin an extensive remodeling project to create the largest Amateur Radio retail showroom in North America. We will open our newest and largest Ham Radio Outlet in Milwaukee at the end of August 2016.

Effective at the closing of AES on July 28, 2016, all former AES locations' direct telephone numbers and toll free telephone numbers will be redirected to the closest HRO location so as to not disrupt providing service to the AES customer base. Additionally effective on July 28, 2016, the www.aesham.com <<http://www.aesham.com>> website will be directed to www.hamradio.com <<http://www.hamradio.com>> also so as not to disrupt service for the AES online customer base.

Steve Gilmore, National Sales Manager for HRO states, "We are extremely excited to have a store in the Central Northern part of the United States. It will minimize shipping times for our products to be able to be delivered in 2 days or less in most of the lower 48 United States. We are building a showplace that all must come see! It will be expansive with massive inventory levels and a large all encompassing demonstration area featuring nearly all of the Amateur Radio transceivers on the market today."

Robert Ferrero, President of HRO tells us, "It is with great pleasure that we are able to continue Terry Serman and Phil Majerus' legacy of providing a fantastic Amateur Radio store in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is our immediate goal to have the largest, most well stocked Amateur Radio retail store in North America and perhaps even the world."

HRO is a family owned business with 14 sales locations throughout the United States which includes a formidable presence on the Internet, making it the largest Ham Radio dealership in the world.

HRO has been continually expanding with our most recent location in Plano, Texas which opened on February 2, 2015. HRO is also continuing to evolve with the relocation and expansion of our Portland store which will open on July 25, 2016 at 14405 SW Pacific Highway, Portland, Oregon 97224.

Ham Radio Outlet - Milwaukee is located at 5710 W Good Hope Rd, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It will be open for business at the end of August 2016.

<http://www.hamradio.com/press-release.cfm>
<<http://www.hamradio.com/press-release.cfm>>



Jeff Sell, K8OE, demonstrates one of two Amateur Radios installed in the Mecosta County Emergency Response Trailer. The radios are the Kenwood Jeff is demonstrating and an Icom, behind him next to the Kenwood. Since the trailer is multi-use, the radios are not a primary operating function, but needed for auxiliary communication during some public safety event. (WB8TVD photo)

#####

Come Join Us!!!

BREAKFAST
Sharon's Restaurant
9:00AM
Saturday, July 30
Come order from the menu or
enjoy the breakfast buffet!!!

Great Food and Drink!

Last Month's Technical Question

- A balanced push-pull amplifier will:
- a. suppress the fundamental frequency
 - b. suppress the fundamental and all odd harmonics
 - c. suppress all even harmonics
 - d. generate sub-harmonic frequency
 - e. have the same output as a single-ended amplifier

Ans: c

This Months' Technical Question

- As compared to a full-wave rectifier, a bridge rectifier:
- a. will provide better regulation
 - b. will not require a power transformer with a center tap on its secondary winding
 - c. will provide twice the voltage
 - d. will provide 1.414 times the voltage
 - e. will provide .707 times the voltage

Ω Ω

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

Solution to last month's puzzle



Enjoy all that summer has to offer!!!!



PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338
August 2016

