

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

March 2016

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



Presidents Message

Hello,
At the last meeting our Treasurer, Jens (KC8OIV), requested that a new treasurer be

found. He has a problem with Internet service and the easiest solution is to find a new treasurer. If any one is interested in this position please respond to me and we will consider all interested.

Our Ham-in-a-Day class is tentatively scheduled for April 16 at the normal location. Phil (KC8QOV) has agreed to teach the class, Delcy is getting the VEs organized and the tests ordered. I will update the flyer and get a pile of them printed. Mike (KD8DIB) has reserved rooms 109 and 110 at Ferris West Commons for that date.

Tom (KB8TYJ) has been organizing the Mecosta County National Weather Service Skywarn training. That meeting will be held on February 27th from 10:00 am until noon at the West Campus Community Center, 1414 Family Dr. Call (231) 591-2147 for questions. Pre-registration is not required and all interested may attend.

The CD that the club has maintained for many years has been rolled over into the

general fund. The interest was very low and the money was needed elsewhere. We are in the process of renewing our liability insurance. A certificate of liability insurance is needed for us to reserve the Ham-in-a-Day facilities at Ferris.

With the sudden warming and snow melting we are looking forward to the installation of the new two-meter repeater. When we get reasonably exposed dry ground I'm sure I can convince Mike (KD8DIB) to travel up the hill to the site and install the repeater. The 440-repeater has been bumped up in power to 20 watts. So far the comments are mainly positive. I have been trying to take net control on the available Sunday nights but have to learn to slow down and let echolink have time to connect.

We can use more "Tech Corner" presentations. Everyone has some experience or expertise in some corner of ham radio and can help us all learn and become more proficient.

Dan (WA8AEN)

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Minutes From The Meeting – 4 February 2016

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 4 February 2016:

Dan, WA8AEN, opened the meeting at 7:00pm with 17 members and guests in attendance

Dan introduced the evening's speaker: Jennifer Heinzman, Executive Director of the Mecosta County Chamber Of Commerce.

Jennifer described the Chamber and passed out a packet of information about the Chamber and membership for organizations. Included in the packet and on the Chamber's website are links to websites of member organizations and businesses. The Chamber also has an e-mail newsletter available.

Chamber members are entitled to use the services of the Chamber and participate in its activities, such as Lunch And Learn; Leadership Mecosta; and availability of a notary public any time the office is open.

The Chamber Of Commerce website has a blog and lots of general information, with a schedule of available conferences. The Small Business Association is available to all members as well as networking and advocacy. Any member may sponsor an "After Hours" activity, which may be a get-together related to the business or some event in the community.

The Chamber can help any member organization or business locate a grant, then help prepare a grant proposal for the grant from a corporation or foundation.

Jennifer also discussed the Match Day event, noting that only 501(c)(3) classed non-profits may participate. BRA-ARC is a 501(c)(7) organization – "Social and Recreational Clubs". In order for BRA-ARC to qualify as 501(c)(3), the Club must be considered "Educational" or one of several other classifications.

Jennifer offered to answer other questions during regular Chamber Of Commerce hours at the office or via e-mail.

Sheets for attendance and net control were passed around during the presentation.

In case anyone had not heard, Dan noted that Gordon Trute, W8AKJ, longtime member, had recently passed away.

A few reminders:

Please sign up for net control of our two nets.

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

The next BRAARC meeting will be 3 March, 7:00 pm at BRDPS. (Dan noted that the Agenda had a wrong meeting date.)

Delcy printed samples of the Club information brochure and passed one around.

Tom reminded the assembly that the next Skywarn training is set for 27 February. A brochure has been e-mailed, and can be forwarded again on request.

George expressed his thanks for the donation from the club in his wife's, Helen, memory and for all the expressions of sorrow and solidarity he has received.

Secretary report: The minutes from the meetings in December and January were published in the February newsletter and were approved by consensus.

Treasurer report: Jens notes that all figures on the report he published balanced and are correct.

The treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

Jens notes that because of a dispute with his landline phone carrier – which is also his Internet service provider – he is unable to access the Internet from home. Therefore, he feels he will be unable to carry out his treasurer duties and has asked that someone volunteer to step in to take over.

He described the duties of the treasurer and explained that the new treasurer would have a learning curve, unless the person had done some similar work with another organization or as a

job. (TVD: Jens' new phone number is available on request)

Jens noted as an aside that his phone bill with AT&T had reached \$40, but he now has a cell number that costs him approximately \$16 per month.

Jens told us that our Club membership had fallen from a peak of 89 in 2003 to just 38 today.

Jeff, Mecosta County EC: He will try to have a quarterly ARES/RACES meeting soon. Stay tuned for details.

Mecosta County Emergency Services is converting an old HAZMAT trailer for use as an EMCOMM (Emergency Communications) command unit.

The current Emergency Services grant may permit ARES/RACES to purchase equipment to enable full digital access to our repeaters.

Repeaters: Mike notes that "the repeaters are repeating away."

The 440 repeater has been running at 20 watts and Echolink has been restarted. The repeater IDs K8FSU every 10 minutes when Echolink is active. He also notes that the battery backup has some problems.

The new 2 meter repeater still needs a few adjustments before installation. Should we wait until Spring, or give it a try while the ground is still hard?

A question was raised whether it would be a problem swapping out the cabinet. Mike replied that there should not be.

6 Meters: Dan found an intermittent power connector and fixed it. Otherwise it seems okay. It may soon be ready to return to its original silo installation. A question was raised about moving it to the EOC at Central Dispatch. A short discussion, including antenna location, followed. The suggestion will be open and considered later.

Old Business:

Jens notes that the Club has earned 0.4% on the CD and wondered if we should renew it.

Consensus was to let the CD lapse and add that money to the General Fund. The Board will consider the move and likely approve.

New Business:

Should we continue with our planned Ham-In-A-Day? The response from the assembly was inconclusive.

Jeff notes that he is no longer a VEC.

Delcy is willing to organize a Ham-In-A-Day session. Is it possible that the session be a test-only session?

Ham-In-A-Day will be considered again at the next meeting.

Jeff expressed thanks to the Behlers for the excellent refreshments. (TVD: Yum!)

Tech Corner:

Mike offered some ideas for an alternative to our 2 meter telephone line (TVD: Necessary for repeater control) using some repurposed Verizon peripherals.

Jeff showed YouTube video "K8ZRH on the North Country Scenic Trail." (TVD: In YouTube, search on "K8ZRH". The video should be the first result.) The Trail is part of the National Park Service (NPS) and runs from North Dakota, through the UP and LP of Michigan, through Ohio to New York. The video describes K8ZRH's (with KE7ES) setup to activate the Trail near Tahquamenon Falls as part of 2016's National Parks On The Air (NPOA). (TVD: While the Trail runs through the Manistee National Forest, the Forest is not a National Park, but administered by Department of Agriculture.)

Jeff talked about getting a group together to create a similar event (TVD: I hope it's a Summer event!) on the Trail near White Cloud. He will gather more information.

Delcy offered to bring refreshments to the next meeting.

Jeff won the 50/50 drawing.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:30 pm. No Hams or visitors were harmed in the conduct of the meeting. We all went home. Well, mostly.

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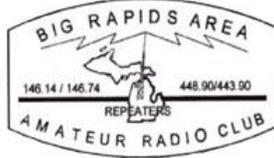
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This is for all of you who remember going to the Muskegon Hamfests – when such a thing existed!! When the 'fest was held at Muskegon CC, HR would run a shuttle bus from the college to their store periodically and we would all go and gape at the new and exciting equipment and accessories. By the time the hamfest was moved to the arena downtown, the stores were winding down and the shuttles were a thing of the past.

--Bruce, WB8TVD



Ham In A Day

The Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a **HAM IN A DAY STUDY SESSION** for individuals interested in earning a Technician Class Amateur Radio License.

VE testing* will be available for license upgrades as well.

This class is an intense 6-hour structured self-study session of the test material. No guarantee is made by BRAARC as to your testing success. * VE Test Fee \$15

**2016 Club membership awarded to successful “hams in a day”.

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016
Cost: \$30.00 includes license exam fee**
Location: Ferris State University
Room 109: West Commons Building
1319 Cramer Circle
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307
(see map on reverse side)
Time: Registration: 8:30 am
Class: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Lunch: 12:00—12:45 pm on your own
VE Testing registration: 4:00 pm
Testing begins: 4:30 pm

Questions or Registration:

Please call Dan at 796-2784

Preregistration for class required by Sunday, April 3rd.

Bring to the exam: photo ID (or two other forms of ID) and #2 pencil.

For license upgrades: bring any completed CSCEs, and a photocopy of your

existing license. Coffee and treats provided. 30 days advance notice required for special testing.

Parking is available in Lot # 45 off of Cramer Circle.

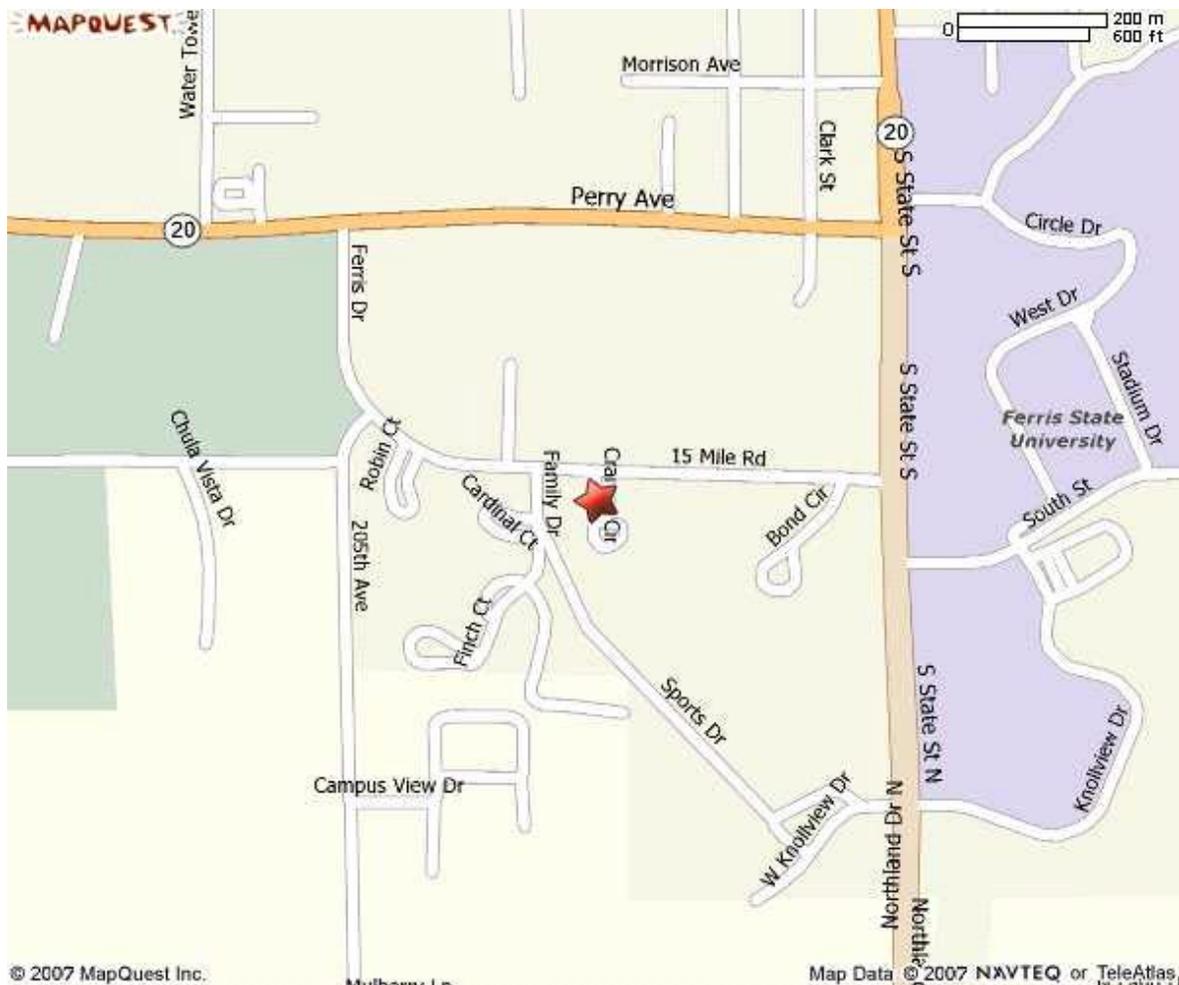
The entrance to the West Commons / Department of Public Safety building is located on the south side of the building. (across from Cramer Hall)

Study Materials

A free printed copy of The No-Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide will be provided to those who preregister for the class. You can download a PDF version of the study guide free of charge by going to: www.braarc.net and following the link to <http://kb6nu.com/tech-manual/>

Kindle and Nook versions are available for purchase from amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, respectively.

We strongly encourage you to study the material and take some online practice tests (<http://www.grz.com> or <http://www.hamexam.org>) before coming to class. There is a lot of material to cover, and studying this material will increase your ability to pass the exam.





Think Spring
Be Thankful
Easter is March 27

Club Breakfast Saturday, Feb 27, 9A.M. Sharon's Restaurant
Rogers Heights.

March 2016
PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338

