

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

Jan-Feb 2017

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Presidents Message

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. The Christmas potluck dinner was

a well turned out event. Thank you to all for bringing the food and drinks and to all who brought the items for the white elephant and the food drive this year.

Jeff Sell sent me an email that mentioned that there will be a Michigan State Parks on the air event going to be happening this year so I further investigated this and I found that this will be a 3 year event starting around field day of 2017. It will run through 2019 which this is the year that marks the 100th anniversary for Michigan State Parks.

Here is an excerpt from the MSPOTA website:

MSPOTA is Michigan's version of the very successful ARRL National Parks on the Air. MSPOTA began with a conversation between myself and another Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) employee. I happened to describe NPOTA to one of our Parks & Recreation Division Chiefs and she

replied "Why aren't we doing that for our centennial?" Several conference calls later and MSPOTA began to take shape. After reaching out to ARRL Michigan Section Manager, Larry Camp and seeking ready and skilled team members from the NPOTA active Michigan Ham community the signal began to propagate.

I think that we should make this happen this year. There are several parks around Big Rapids. The website for more information is mspota.org.

On another note, not sure if this will make it out before the end of January. Winter field day is on January 28-29. If anybody is interested let me know and we can make it happen. Also if anybody has any ideas or things they want to do please get with me at the meetings.

Jon
KD8GG

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Minutes From The Meeting – 1 December 2016

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here’s what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 1 December 2016 (TVD: And you really missed one!):

Jon, KD8GGA, opened the meeting at 6:00pm with 32 members and guests in attendance. He gave a brief introduction to the pot luck food and then explained briefly how the silent auction would work for the white elephant gifts.

Jon gave a blessing for the food.

The assembly then convened as a committee of the whole to attack and devour the food. The food surrendered. While the attendees were deliberating, a sheet was passed around to record attendees’ names and calls as appropriate.

The food was all fabulous from the ham to the cookies and all the main and side dishes, appetizers, snacks and desserts in between. There seemed to be a great deal of fellowship during the enjoyment of the food, as witnessed by the gabbing and joviality.

At 7:25 Jon gave a warning that the bidding would be closing at 7:30 for the silent auction.

Just prior to close of bidding, Jon asked Secretary Bruce, WB8TVD, to run through a list of reminders, since he had a list of those which needed to be emphasized.

Those reminders:

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

The next meeting will be 5 January, 2017, at 7:00 pm at BRDPS.

Please sign up for net control of our two nets: 440, Sunday, 7:30pm; 2m, Tuesday, 9:00pm.

Dan, WA8AEN, has signup sheets.

Phil offered to bring refreshments to the next meeting.

There was no 50/50 drawing because of the silent auction.

Bids were tallied, items were distributed to bid winners and appropriate money was collected from each.

Jon adjourned the meeting about 8:00 pm. No Hams or guests were harmed in the conduct of business or consumption of food. We all waddled home. Well, mostly.

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Minutes From The Meeting – 5 January 2017

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here’s what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 5 January 2017

Jon, KD8GGA, opened the meeting at 7:10pm with 12 members and guests in attendance. (TVD: This was a snowy, cold – and dark – night!!)

A few reminders:

The next Club Breakfast will be 28 January at 9am at Sharon’s in Roger’s Heights.

The next meeting will be on 2 February at 7pm at the BRDPS.
Our nets will be Sunday 7:30pm on the 440 repeater and Tuesday 9pm on 2 meters.
Sheets were passed around to sign up for attendance and net control of the Club nets.
(TVD: The ARES/RACES net will be Tuesday 7 February at 8pm on the 2 meter repeater.)

Secretary, Bruce, WB8TVD: The minutes from the December and January meetings will be published in the combined January/February newsletter to be published the last week of January.

Treasurer: Josh, KE8EKC, handed out the treasurer's summary and noted several items, including receipts from the silent auction at the December potluck and membership dues already received.

Noting the cost of mailing the newsletter, Mike, KD8DIB, led a discussion about how to notify people who do not need a printed copy of the newsletter when it is ready and available on the Web. Mike reported that the Web sign-up for e-mail notice of the new newsletter was not working as well as hoped and he will be looking into that.

The treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

EC Report: Jeff, K8OE, was not in attendance, so there is no formal EC report for January.

Bruce, WB8TVD, offered to be NCS for the next ARES/RACES net on 7 February if Jeff has not returned (TVD: 'TVD had a lapse of good judgement)

(TVD: I later found out that Jeff will not return until after the next meeting and net, so I contacted Jeff to let me know if he has a discussion agenda for the net. He will.)

Repeater: Mike, KD8DIB, discussed a problem of hearing a CW ID on the repeater: The most common cause is when the repeater starts a voice ID, then someone keys up, causing the ID function to immediately switch to CW. This may also happen when someone gets long-winded and times out the repeater, but that's not absolutely certain.

The 6 meter repeater is in Dan's (WA8AEN) basement awaiting much better weather to trek to the repeater site and re-install it. Discussion ensued about retrieving the duplexer and antenna to install the 6 meter setup at a different location. Bruce asked if the EOC auxiliary tower had been erected yet. The question was whether that would be a good location, and if it would be allowed by the hosting EOC.

Phil, KC8QOV, motioned to retrieve the duplexer from the current site in the Spring (TVD: Perhaps the antenna, too?). Second by Jon. KD8GGA. Motion approved by voice vote.

Jon, KD8GGA, noted that the repeater call, KB8QOI, was due for renewal and made a motion to renew the repeater license under that call. Phil, KC8QOV, seconded. Motion approved by voice vote.

It was also noted that since Tom, KB8TYJ, had moved away, the club would need a new trustee for the N8OE callsign. Jeff, KC8HJT, volunteered and Mike, KD8DIB, made a motion that Jeff be appointed trustee. Jon, KD8GGA, seconded. Motion approved by voice vote.

(TVD: Later I found two other calls, K8MEC and K8OSE, via a QRZ.COM search. Those will be considered at the next business meeting.)

Jon entertained suggestions for a new location for Field Day in June. The site at North End Park was too low for effective communication. Most other locations would necessitate the rental of a porta-john. Discussion ensued, offering: A return to North End Park; return to the land adjacent to the BR Public Schools office near 215th and 15 Mile; the Ferris IM fields on 15 Mile, near



Noise floor report does not inspire confidence

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last June, the FCC's Technical Advisory Committee asked licensed and unlicensed users of the electromagnetic spectrum to answer some questions about the noise they were experiencing and whether or not it was affecting their services. Specifically, they asked:

- * Is there a noise floor problem?
- * Where does the problem exist? Spectrally? Spatially? Temporally?
- * Is there quantitative evidence of the overall increase in the total integrated noise floor across various segments of the radio frequency

spectrum?

- * How should a noise study be performed?

Well, the results are in, and Radio World recently published a summary of the responses that the FCC received (<http://www.radioworld.com/business-and-law/0009/noise-floor-where-do-we-go-from-here/338242>). The FCC received 93 replies from 73 (great number, eh?) different people or organizations, including:

- * 23 companies/industry organizations
- * 39 RF professionals (broadcast and wireless)
- * 31 licensed radio amateurs
- * 9 responders did not reply to the questions asked

Respondents included the ARRL, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, ATT, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. I found especially interesting comments from the Society of Broadcast Engineers. They include:

- * Increased cooperation is needed between manufacturers of Part 15 devices and users of radio spectrum to identify noise sources and take appropriate remedial action.
- * Radiated emission limits below 30 MHz in the FCC Part 15 rules for unintentional emitters should be enacted. There are presently no radiated emission limits below 30 MHz for most unintentional emitters.
- * Reduced Part 15 limits for LED lights should be enacted to be harmonized with the Part 18 lower limits for fluorescent bulbs.
- * Better labeling on packaging for Part 18 fluorescent bulbs and ballasts to better inform consumers of potential interference to radio, TV and cellphone reception in the residential environment.
- * Specific radiated and/or conducted emission limits for incidental emitters, such as motors or power lines, should be enacted.
- * Conducted emission limits on pulse-width motor controllers used in appliances should be enacted.
- * Substantially increase the visibility of enforcement in power line interference cases.

Other organizations made similar comments.

While the report is encouraging, it won't mean a thing if no action is taken on these issues. Given that

the FCC is cutting back on its field offices, and our president-elect has said that he plans to reduce the number of governmental regulations, I'm not optimistic that we'll see the noise situation get better before it gets worse. What do you all think?

When he's not battling the noise floor at his QTH, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT PAY YOUR DUES YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE ROSTER AND WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER.

WHEN YOU DO RENEW PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO UPDATE YOUR DATA, THANKS.

BRAARC Membership			
Applicant Information			
Name:			
Call:	Class:	Phone:	
address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	Email:
ARRL Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Newsletter: <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Website – minimizes postage and printing costs	
Spouse Information if joint membership			
Name:			
Call:	Class:	Email:	
Licensed ChildreN			
Name:	Call:	Class:	
DUES / Donation			
<input type="checkbox"/> Member (\$30) <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			\$
Total:			\$

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**

A GOOD CROWD AND A GREAT MEAL FOR OUR CHRISTMAS BANQUET. THE SILENT AUCTION/WHITE ELEPHANT SALE REAPED \$210 FOR THE CLUB.



HUNGRY



NOT SO HUNGRY



Last Month's Technical Question:

The best insulation at UHF is:

- a. Black rubber
- b. Bakelite
- c. Paper
- d. Cotton
- e. Mica

Ans: e

This month's technical question:

What is the duty cycle of a 1.0 microsecond radar pulse if the repetition rate is 1000 and the average power is 20 watts?

- a. 1,000,000
- b. 20,000
- c. 30
- d. 0.09
- e. 0.001

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

Solution to last month's puzzle

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

Come Join Us!!!

BREAKFAST

Sharon's Restaurant

9:00AM

Saturday, January 28

Come order from the menu or
enjoy the breakfast buffet!!!

Great Food and Drink!

February 2017

PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338

