



Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

KC8QOI-146.74MHz

June 2017

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From Tom Behler:

Hello, everyone.

Tom Bosscher (K8TB), and the Independent Repeater Association (IRA) Board Of directors have asked me to initiate a new net on the IRA Link Repeater System.

Here's the official announcement.

Please spread the word, and check in if you can.

The 145.290 Big Rapids link should now be working.

Tom Behler: KB8TYJ, Now In Grandville

ANNOUNCING A NEW NET IN TOWN!

Beginning on Friday: April 14th at 12 noon EDT, or 1600 Z, a new net will be hitting the air waves on the W8IRA Independent Repeater Association Link system. It will be called the IRA Link System Michigan Noon-time Roundup Net. The net will be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week, with the possibility of expanding to a five-day schedule if interest and participation are sufficient. So, find a link near you, and please join us!

The purpose of the net is to promote activity on the IRA Link System, and also to help identify and trouble-shoot any problems that might be occurring with system repeaters. The net also will be a great way for Michigan hams to communicate with each other during the mid-day hours while mobile, or just looking for conversations with fellow hams.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Tom Behler: KB8TYJ, the Net Manager. He can be reached at:

tombehler@gmail.com

If you would like more information on the Independent Repeater Association (IRA) Link System, go to: www.w8ira.org We look forward to your participation.

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Minutes From The Meeting – 4 May 2017
Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 4 May 2017

Subbing for Jon, KD8GGA, Josh, KE8EKC, opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with 13 members and guests in attendance.

Everyone introduced himself or herself as appropriate.

A few reminders:

The next Club Breakfast will be 27 May at 9am at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

The next meeting will be on 1 June at 7pm at the BRDPS.

Our nets are Sunday 7:30pm on the 440 repeater and Tuesday 9pm on 2 meters.

There are no signup sheets available..

Secretary, Bruce, WB8TVD: The minutes for the meeting on 6 April were published in the May newsletter and included the final corrections to the list of call sign administrators. There have been no comments or corrections to those minutes.

The minutes were accepted by consensus.

Treasurer: Josh, KE8EKC, handed out the treasurer's summary and pointed out several items on that summary. A full written summary is available on request, in case you did not receive one at the meeting. Josh notes that he was waylaid by a work situation on the way to the bank, so the deposit was delayed, but eventually made it.

The treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

EC Report: Jeff, K8OE: The work session at Public Safety went well, in spite of the rain, which added a touch of real-world simulation.

The manufactured J-Pole worked well on a 15' mast lashed to the side of the trailer.

Jeff noted some recurring difficulty in programming the Icom radio, but was able to successfully attach and use a headphone/microphone combination on each radio.

At the end of his report, Jeff presented Josh, KE8EKC, with his RACES card.

Repeater: Mike, KD8DIB: The 2 meter repeater has been working well.

The 440 repeater has been experiencing some noise. Echolink has been down and may need to be reset.

The 6 meter repeater is still awaiting installation, but a location is still being determined. Two possibilities are the soon-to-be-erected tower at EOC and an existing tower at the county services building on the south side of town.

It was noted that The Silo location was not getting better. Someone will ask Jeff, WD8DLK, about the status.

Mike, KD8DIB, asked about the post box in Paris: Who has the key and why was Paris chosen? Jon, KD8GGA, has the key. Paris was chosen for cost reasons. (TVD: There may not have been

boxes available at Big Rapids.)

Do we owe any money for box rental? Nobody was certain.

Jeff, K8OE, called the White Pine Trail office in Cadillac. They noted that we could use the trail for Amateur Radio, but if the group is large enough, we may need to obtain a use permit.

In any case, we may not have access to power in the building and using a generator may need some special attention.

Mike, KD8DIB. The Bulldog Bike Tour will be 10 June. Jeff sent around signup sheets for anyone interested in participating. "Sign up, it's fun!"

The event runs from 7:30am to 5:00pm and covers most of Mecosta County. Radio volunteers can operate part or all day. Hams will be posted at SAG locations or at corners. We may even have Hams on bikes.

Field Day (FD) is the weekend of 24-25 June. A location is still in the works.

We have had FD at the school board lot and at Northend Park. It has been at the tractor pull site on M-20 near McKinley and was held at the Herndon's location.

The plus for the train depot is close-in location and a porta-john.

An informal discussion of locations ensued. We may need to set up permissions no matter where we locate, so time will be needed to get that done.

County parks are an attractive alternative, but require a \$10 day-pass for each vehicle. There are cabins available for a fixed fee, but may have a limit on number of "occupants".

Josh asked for a show of hands for who would definitely attend.

Per consensus, it was decided to return to Northend Park, and give the propagation another try.

Dan, WA8AEN, will start paperwork for Northend. (TVD: Keep tabs on updates and location information on the BRA-ARC website.)

Mike, KD8DIB, made a motion to hold the Field Day activity at Northend Park. Shila, KD8IAL, seconded.

The motion passed by majority voice vote.

Josh "confesses" he has no Tech Corner planned.

However: Shila, KD8IAL, passed around her deceased radio battery to show what can happen.

Phil offered to bring refreshments to the next meeting.

The 50/50 drawing was won by someone, but the secretary failed to notice who! (TVD: Senility strikes again.)

John, KC8BAR, notes he has a friend who is selling a Rohn BX type steel tower, asking \$300.

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

Secretary's Ponderings – June 2017

How did you get into Ham Radio? It's not a common question, but we sometimes even ask ourselves. There are a variety of paths and answers. Right now, I can't put my finger on one particular event, but a series of little things here and there over time led me to studying for and taking the exam.

There were several Elmers along the way, intentional and unwitting. Circumstances – specifically the draft – put me in the Army as a radio operator (and eventually repairman) in the company of some outstanding Ham radio gear, notably several complete sets of Collins KWM-2 transceivers which were easily tuned to the Ham bands, piquing my interest further. Those radios also set the bar pretty high for all other radios I ever looked at or used.

I was licensed in 1974, but for many years before that I was a committed SWL. I just can't remember how that interest developed. Living in Florida in the 50s and 60s we had lots of AM radio (yes, there was worthwhile AM radio at one time!) stations of all varieties. Plus, in the evening, we could hear good Cuban music from actual Cuban stations – at least until 1959. I just wasn't terribly concerned about collecting information about where the stations were located. And I had never heard of shortwave.

In 1963, for reasons I still don't recall, after moving to Michigan, I wanted a shortwave radio and the easiest (read: cheapest) was to convince my Mom and step-dad to stake me the \$35 it would take to order the necessary gear from the Knight Kit catalog. That's right. Out of the blue, after perusing the Knight Kit catalog, I ordered a Knight Ocean Hopper kit, all the band coils, headphones and a set of tools including soldering iron – none of which I had. I also wisely ordered a spool of copper wire (more about my "antenna" in a minute) and a "World Radio TV Handbook – 1963". Again, all for \$35, a princely sum for a high schooler.

Yes, cold turkey, with little idea of what to expect on shortwave and no electronic background, I dove in! The Knight Kit manual was an easy to follow guide, including a crash course on how to prep the chassis and parts and how to solder! I stepped my way through construction and when I was finished, hooked up the "antenna" (wait for it) to the Fahnestock clip, plugged in and clamped on my headphones (hard Bakelite muffs, no speaker here!). I plugged in a coil, plugged it in to AC and flipped it on.



It didn't blow up! It actually worked! I tuned a few stations and logged them on some SWL log sheets I found somewhere.

I didn't use that little radio very long before my step-dad's corporate world encroached on my new hobby, moving us to Massachusetts during my freshman year at college. The little Ocean Hopper went into storage with

a lot of our stuff as we moved to an apartment. I managed to scrape some coin together to buy a Radio Shack portable shortwave radio, which was with me in that freshman year and through the Army, then ended up in storage itself. After returning to school I managed a Hallicrafters receiver that lasted well into my Novice license several years later.

Things settled down after a while and my Mom got our stuff out of storage. Time and storage were not kind to either the Knight or the Radio Shack radios. Both went to other homes at one Cadillac Hamfest or another, but I'll always remember that little Knight Ocean Hopper and the way it propelled me into a wonderful world of communication.

Antenna you ask? Not having any experience with antennas and with no guidance in the radio manual, I neatly wound that 50' of wire around a 4" cardboard tube and connected it to the radio. It worked in a fashion, but in educated hindsight, I might have gone to the library (the Google of its day) for some reference.

Those were fun days, learning the hobby and enjoying the accomplishment of building something worthwhile and hearing the world in my headphones all leading to a fun and wonderful hobby.

73

– Bruce, WB8TVD

Dear fellow amateur radio operator and Midwest ham club contact:

It's our hope that you might help us spread the word about the 65th annual W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet on Sept. 15-16, 2017, in Schaumburg, Illinois. Please consider sharing the following information with your members via e-mail, website or word of mouth: (May 21, 2017) – Online registration is now available and much of the program is in place for the 2017 W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet in suburban Chicago. This year's keynote speaker will be ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. The ARRL has approved the gathering as an Operating Specialty Convention. Discounted hotel rooms can also be booked now.

Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, W9DXCC will also offer Contest University and DX University programs on Friday, with presentations for new and veteran DXers and contest operators. The daylong session on Saturday will feature speakers, exhibits, QSL card checking, a CW pileup contest and many valuable prizes. The evening banquet is a time to relax and enjoy our keynote speaker. For non-ham family members, Woodfield Mall, which offers a wide array of shopping, is one traffic light south of the convention site at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 East Golf Road.

Updates and Registration: <http://w9dxcc.com/>

For more information: John McCormick, K9KE@arrl.net

Last Month's Technical Question:

The RMS (Root-mean-square) value of a sinusoidal wave form is:

- a. Peak value divided by the square root of 2
- b. Average value divided by the square root of 2
- c. Average value
- d. Peak value
- e. None of the above

Ans: a

This Month's Technical Question:

In radio circuits, the component most apt to break down is the:

- a. Resistor
- b. Crystal
- c. Transformer
- d. Wiring
- e. Capacitor

FIELD DAY June 24-25

I have arranged for us to use the Band Shell area for June 24 and 25. The toilets at Hemlock park will be unlocked for the night of June 24.

This is still a low elevation location but it has more room than North End Park. If a better location is found then we can abandon this site.

Dan WA8AEN

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

Solution to last month's puzzle



June 10-11 is free fishing week-end.

Get out and enjoy the water and fishing.

Take a young person fishing!

June 2017
PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338

