



KB8QOI Repeaters
52.860 MHz
146.74 MHz
443.900 MHz

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

July 2018

PO Box 343, Paris MI 49338

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Hello From Newsletter Editor Bruce, WB8TVD

It's me again. July is promising to be hotter than June. July 4th is on a Wednesday and our meeting follows the next day. I hope the holiday doesn't shrink attendance.

June has been a busy month for the Club. The middle of the month saw the antennas finally raised at the EOC in Paris and they were put to the test at a mini Field Day on the 23rd. Jeff describes the event, held both inside and outside. There are no photos of the Girls On The Run event, but we had quite a radio presence



There are a few Hamfests coming up, but no state QSO parties. It may be a good time to start working on your Christmas wish list, like the guy on the left is doing.

Do you have any plans for Summer? Do they include travel and perhaps packing a Ham rig and antennas? Think about taking lots of pictures and you might just

show us "what you did last Summer" at an upcoming meeting.

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Check the information about an upcoming commemorative event in Saulte Sainte Marie. I pondered, but there were so many things going on that I'll save it for August.

As always, good or bad, here we go:

Announcements:

Club breakfast: 30 June 2018, 9:00am at Sharon's in Roger's Heights

Next meeting: 5 July 2018, 7:00pm at the BR Dept. of Public Safety.

Club nets: Sunday, 7:30pm, 440 repeater

Tuesday, 9:00pm, 146 repeater

ARES net: First Tuesday, 8:00pm, 146 repeater

Minutes From The Meeting – 7 June 2018

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 7 June 2018:

President Dan, WA8AEN, opened the meeting about 7:05pm with 11 members and guests in attendance. Everyone introduced himself or herself as appropriate.

Dan passed out an attendance sheet then ran down a list of reminders:

The next Club Breakfast will be 30 June at 9:00 am at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

The next meeting will be on 5 July 2018 at 7:00 pm at the BRDPS.

Our nets are Sunday 7:30 pm on the 440 repeater and Tuesday 9:00 pm on 2 meters.

The next ARES net will be 3 July at 8:00 pm, prior to the Club net on 2 meters.

Secretary Report: Bruce, WB8TVD, noted that the minutes for the May meeting were published in the June Newsletter. He had received no corrections or comments. The minutes for April were accepted by consensus.

Treasury Report: Bruce, WB8TVD, as temporary custodian, noted that the Club still does not have an elected treasurer.

Bruce gave a summary of activity in the account at Chemical Bank, passing out a sheet listing those items mentioned in his report. He noted that the last month's report had an approximated phone charge, as he had misplaced the login information for the online account. The online account information has been restored and Bruce was able to get the information and correct the report. The current report includes information for two periods including corrected information.

Deposits in May consisted of two dues and the May 50/50 draw.

Bruce paid out \$38 to the USPS in Paris for box rental for the year through 2019, plus a payment to the Copy Center for \$89.76 for 6 months of newsletters, not counting the June newsletter.

There were no comments or corrections to the report. The report was accepted by consensus.

EC Report: Jeff, K8OE: Jeff described the antennas to be installed at the EOC in Paris. The new antennas, cabling and a rope and pulley for raising temporary antenna will be installed soon on the shorter tower. All are invited to watch. Jeff will notify when the antennas area about to go up.

Jeff introduced Dave Robertson, N8UKH, District 6 Amateur Radio EC.

Dave will help the ARES organization any way he can. He offered some suggestions to make life easier for ARES members and discussed ways to make sure all members were able to access needed locations, including EOC. He also discussed training possibilities.

Repeater Report: Mike, KD8DIB: Mike notes that both repeaters seem to be doing fine at the moment. He also noted for Dave's, N8UKH, benefit that both our repeaters are Yaesu System Fusion, but are running purely analog.

Dave had an informal discussion with the group about repeater topics.

Old Business:

Dan notes that the fire department still needs help with the apparent interference to their primary frequency. It is intermittent, so harder to pin down.

Jeff notes 8 radio operators participated in Girls On The Run communications. It was a good turnout.

Election of a treasurer and board member will be tabled again.

New Business

Field Day: Jeff suggested that a brief Field Day effort may be possible using the EOC. This would provide a training exercise and test the new antennas. He will work with the director to make sure it is okay with her.

There is a conflict for our meeting room in November. A week-long training session will be occupying the room. Suggestions were made to seek a meeting space for that night only at the BR Public Library, the county services building or perhaps a dinner meeting at The Rock or Sharon's.

Dan will look into the possibilities.

Dan noted that he had been contacted about doors being ajar during meetings, and once left open after. An alternate method of entry will be considered.

Tech Corner

Stan, KE8FZB, and Liz, KE8ISH, gave a demonstration of FLDigi, using a handheld and inexpensive Android tablet. They were able to use FT8 and PSK31 for the demonstration.

There was 50/50 drawing, but the secretary does not recall who won. The proceeds were donated back to the Club general fund.

Bill, N8MZB, offered to bring refreshments to the next meeting.

President Dan adjourned the meeting about 8:50 pm. No Hams or guests were harmed in the conduct of business. We all went home. Well, mostly.

DX From the ARRL DX News

BAKER AND HOWLAND ISLANDS, KH1. A large group of operators are QRV as KH1/KH7Z from Baker Island, IOTA OC-089, until July 7. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL direct to K4TSJ.

CUBA, CO. Special event station CO0SCU will be QRV from July 2 to 4 to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Naval Battle during the Spanish, Cuban, American War. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via bureau.

Girls On The Run

Girls On The Run was Saturday, 2 June. BRA-ARC/ARES was there in force. Our numbers were only exceeded by the fabulous turnout of runners. Jeff, K8OE acted as net control from the start/finish line near the Hemlock Park bandstand.



No photos were taken this year, so these two young ladies represent all the runners.

We were all on station well before the runners took off, and we were positioned such that we could not see each other!

The course was mostly on the Big Rapids Riverwalk, from the Bandstand, through Hemlock Park, under Maple Street bridge, around River Street Park, nearly to the baseball field, and back.

But there was a tricky bit, since the runners had to make a second loop from near the bridge around River Street Park.

Many of the runners were a bit muddled about where to turn, but everyone made it okay and we didn't lose a single runner. In

spite of the name, there were more than Girls running. Grown-up ladies were among the participants, and there were a few toddler coaches. A couple dogs and many men and boys were among the athletes.

Besides Hams stationed at the various checkpoints, Lynne, KE8HRN, was with the sweep runners. In fact, it was hard to know who the sweepers were, except that Lynne had one of our orange vests! The rest of the team was made up of Jeff, K8OE, as NCS, Dan, WA8AEN, Mike, KD8DIB, Jeriel, KC8MMF, Bruce, WB8TVD, Stan, KE8FZB, and David, K8WGA.

There were no losers. We all won, runners, support personnel and Ham communicators.

--Bruce, WB8TVD

From David, WA8OLD via Jim, K8JK, Michigan Section Manager:

We will hold a special events station to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of Sault Ste Marie and the annual Engineers day on Friday June 29. Using call W8S, we will be QRV on Friday June 29. Information is available on our QRZ page is up under W8S.

The Army Corps of Engineers is giving us access to the property, and we have the full support, of all the local government agencies involved.

Field Day, 2018 at EOC, from Jeff, K8OE

Field Day this year was a little different. We called it Mini-Field Day since we operated for only 3 hours from the Meceola 911 Dispatch Center in Paris (where the Emergency Operation Center and our permanent station is located). There were seven of us that participated, and it was judged a success even though we only made 20 contacts. The bands were not very good that afternoon. Stan, KE8FZB, made the most contacts and the rest of us



made some too. We operated on 40, 20, and 10m bands. The equipment and our antennas worked fine although we did not try 80m. We operated two transmitters, one in the basement and one outside. The weather cooperated, with overcast skies and little wind. A few lessons were learned but most importantly it was all good practice. Afterwards we went to dinner at the Rock and no one went away hungry.

Jeff

K8OE

Field Day, 2018 Crew.

Seated: Jeremy, N8TWJ; Leon, KC8ACO.

Standing: Lynne, KE8HRN; Dan, WA8AEN; Bruce, WB8TVD; Stan, KE8FZB. (Guess who the safety director is.) K8OE photo.

TVD: Many thanks to Laurie Smalla, 911

Director, and her staff for allowing us to set up and

use the facility on a Saturday to participate in Field Day.

Here are a few more photos from the day:



Lynne double-checking Jeff's work setting up the outdoor HF rig from the Go-Kit. WB8TVD Photo.



Lynne Logging, while Jeff is searching for a new contact. Main operating position at the EOC. WB8TVD Photo.



*Dan giving encouragement to Leon and Stan at the start of the event.
WB8TVD Photo.*



*Stan at the mic, Leon logging and Jeremy observing.
WB8TVD Photo.*

ARRL Notes, From various ARRL newsletters

Birdies

Birdies are unwanted RF or AF signals generated by or within equipment or receiving systems. Switching power supplies, computer CPU clocks, Ethernet cables, and poorly shielded internal oscillators are among the common birdy generators.

Operating Tip: Operate in the Days Before the Contest

Try to be active on the bands in the days before a contest to better understand band conditions, noise and signal levels, and equipment operation. Remember that you can utilize resources like the Reverse Beacon Network to verify band status if you don't hear any signals.

Conversation: QSB

We're reminded ever more frequently of our own mortality with the absence of familiar calls on the bands or faces present at our meetings. The sudden loss of a person recently encountered shows that fate is fickle. But let's not forget that some fade more gradually, and while they may not be attending the club meetings, or are not on the air, effective communication may still be possible with a phone call or personal visit. Say hello before you end up saying goodbye.

Antenna Raising

On 13 June 2018, Crouch Communication mounted two antennas and a pulley system for a third on the south tower of the Meceola 911 EOC. Here are some photos. I hope you don't have vertigo. The HF antenna went up about the 35' level with the VHF/UHF J-pole below. (All photos WB8TVD)



*Towers at EOC.
ARES antennas are mounted
on the left tower.*



Mounting the V/U J-pole.



*Securing the mount for
the Comet HF antenna.*



Mounting the Comet HF antenna.



Freeing the hoisting rope.

Bits & Pieces Of This & That

July in Michigan (source ARRL):

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 21 July 2018 | Gladwin Area ARC Hamfest | Gladwin, MI |
| 21 July 2018 | GMARC Trunk Swap | Shelby Township, MI |
| 28 July 2018 | Central Michigan ARC Hamfest | Lansing, MI |

Hamfest Season is just beginning!

If you would rather receive an e-mail version of the newsletter, let the secretary know!

July 2018

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