



KB8QOI Repeaters  
52.860 MHz  
146.74 MHz  
443.900 MHz

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

November 2018

PO Box 343, Paris MI 49338

Editor: Bruce, WB8TVD – wb8tvd@gmail.com

Web Page: www.braarc.net

President: Mike McKay, KD8DIB – president@braarc.net

Editor Emeritus: Phil, KC8QOV

## Hello From Newsletter Editor Bruce, WB8TVD

It's me again. Fall – with its annual color show – is in full tilt, including the occasional Arctic Blast, courtesy of our friends in Canada. College football rivalries are heating up the landscape, and the World Series will be over. The Series is in progress as I pen this, so may you be happy about the result.



Thanksgiving is also in November, as well as the Macy's Parade. Are you prepared for the bigger events? Black Friday and Cyber Monday! I plan to stay home, lock my doors and close my curtains!

Other dreaded events occur in November. College mid-terms and Christmas Holiday Preparations! Gird yourself.

I didn't see any state QSO parties this month, but the November Sweepstakes is looming large. It runs separate weekends for CW and SSB. Join in and participate as much or as little as you want. If you do, let us know!

Renewal time is upon us and the November and December meetings involve food! Can it get any better? (There's more information about both on pg. 7)

As always, good or bad, here we go:

### Announcements:

Club breakfast: 27 October 2018, 9:00am at Sharon's in Roger's Heights.

Next meeting: 1 November 2018, 6:00pm at the Ferris Rock Café.

Club nets: Sunday AND Thursday, 7:30pm, 440 repeater (except meeting night)

Tuesday, 9:00pm, 146 repeater.

ARES net: First Tuesday, 8:00pm, 146 repeater, next is 6 November.

### In This Issue:

Pg 1 – Msg from TVD

Pg 1 – Announcements

Pg 2 – Meeting Minutes

Pg 4 – Moving The Repeater

Pg 4 – ISS Station NA1SS

Pg 5 – Secretary Ponders

Pg 7 – Foodie Meetings!

Pg 7 – Join/Renewal Form

Pg 8 – The Rest of The Story

## Minutes From The Meeting – 4 October 2018

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 4 October 2018:

President Mike, KD8DIB, opened the meeting about 7:08pm with 11 members and guests in attendance. Mike introduced himself as new president and described a recent trip he had to Salt Lake City.

Secretary Bruce passed around an attendance sheet while everyone introduced himself or herself as appropriate.

Mike had no prepared agenda, but would run through a brief version of our usual business meeting leaving time for a Tech session near the end of the meeting.

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

He noted that since the meetings for November and December would be informal "meal meetings", the minutes would also be brief, depending on the nature of business conducted. Bruce reminded everyone that the CROP Walk would be the Saturday following the meeting and we still needed a couple more people. He passed around a signup sheet and asked that it be given to Jeff, K8OE, when completed.

He also has a few member renewal forms available and would also be publishing them in the newsletter. He gave a brief rundown of mail received.

Treasury Report: Bruce, WB8TVD, as temporary custodian, gave a summary of activity in the account at Chemical Bank, passing out a sheet listing those items mentioned in his report.

There was a \$2.46 charge on the statement. He gave a call to Chemical Bank and found that it was a charge for paper statements. The bank had recently switched computer program vendors and everyone was defaulted back to paper statements. The person he talked with at the bank said he would remove the charge and described how to switch to electronic statements in Online Banking. Bruce took care of that.

The check that was written for the fee to renew our non-profit status with State Of Michigan has cleared Chemical bank and is noted in the summary.

Bruce payed for the last three months of newsletter printing at the Ferris Copy Center.

The report was accepted by consensus.

EC Report: Jeff, K8OE: Jeff hoped that more people would sign up for CROP Walk as the sheet goes around. (TVD: Jeff will be net control at the event.)

Jeff notes that Dom Theodore, K8HHL, needs some help mounting antennas. There is no tower work. Let Jeff know if you can lend a hand.

The Big Rapids Fire Department is planning a class in bleeding control. If interested, Jeff has more details.

The city of Big Rapids Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Skeleton Scurry 5K run on 27 October. Jeff will have more details.

Repeater Report: Mike, KD8DIB: John, KC8BAR, gave a rundown on the upcoming repeater move:

The road (TVD: Or "road"?) has been planned and is scheduled for construction. The planners are studying electrical needs. They have also changed their tower design, which should not significantly affect our (TVD: And IRA) plans. We also may not have a phone available, which means using a 220 MHz link.

Mike reports that the IRA main hub in Grand Rapids has taken a lightning hit and is down until they are able to get everything fixed and up again.

Stan had brought a roll of tickets for Shila, KD8IAL, to use for 50/50 drawings. Since Shila was not at the meeting, Stan offered to run a draw.

The secretary failed to remember who won, but there was a prize of \$18, which was returned to the club as a donation.

Mike, KD8DIB, noted that our Internet domain was up for renewal. The domain costs \$29 per year.

Hosting through GoDaddy is \$252 per year.

Some light discussion ensued to determine if there was a cheaper way to host our website.

Nothing was determined.

Dan, WA8AEN, had researched the dates for the Club breakfasts in 2019. The dates were all agreeable and he will present them to Sharon at Sharon's restaurant to reserve the back-room meeting space.

Stan asked if the Club had ever considered an ad in the Pioneer, or in the shoppers' guide.

Bruce noted that he has maintained contact with a reporter at the Pioneer.

Stan also asked if there was a listing for community organizations in either of the publications listing meeting or activities times.

Is there, or has there been, a college club station? (TVD: Short answer, no.)

Tech Corner: Jeff, K8OE, introduced WSPR, Weak Signal Propagation Reporter.

Stan, KE8FZB, showed a 2-meter tape measure beam he had built, plus a wire J-Pole and additional power for battery-operated tools.

General informal discussion about Ham topics.

Mike asked if everyone had received the FEMA phone alert that afternoon. Most had. Some did not receive it.

Mike reminded everyone that the November meeting will be at 6:00 pm at the Ferris Rock Café. The cost will be \$10.60 per person. They accept cash and credit card.

(TVD: To get a preview what's for dinner, go to <https://ferris.edu/> In the upper right search box, enter "Rock Café" and press enter. The first result should take you directly to the Rock opening page. Click "Our Menu" below the picture. Pick "Dinner" and the day of the week.

By the way, it's food-court/buffet style. All you can eat.

For directions, e-mail me at [wb8tvd@gmail.com](mailto:wb8tvd@gmail.com).)

Other reminders:

The next Club Breakfast will be 27 October at 9:00 am at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

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

The next ARES net will be 6 November at 8:00 pm, prior to the Club net on 2 meters (First Tuesday).

Someone asked about the BRA-ARC Facebook link. It was given. (TVD: It involves a lot of numbers. Best to go to Facebook and search.)

The assembly was reminded about the December pot-luck meeting.  
Stan asked how the white elephant silent auction worked.  
Stan and Liz, KE8ISH, will organize the silent auction.

President Mike adjourned the meeting about 8:35 pm. No Hams or guests were harmed in the conduct of business. We all went home. Well, mostly.

\*\*\*\*\*

Here is a repeat of the information in the minutes for October (above) about the pending repeater move:

John, KC8BAR, gave a rundown on the upcoming repeater move:  
The road (TVD: Or "road"?) has been planned and is scheduled for construction. The planners are studying electrical needs. They have also changed their tower design, which should not significantly affect our (TVD: And IRA) plans. We also may not have a phone available, which means using a 220 MHz link.

\*\*\*\*\*

### International Space Station Crew Member Fires Up NA1SS to Seek Random Contacts

"Hello, America. This is the International Space Station. Who's out there?"

And with that "CQ" of sorts on 145.800 MHz, NASA astronaut Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, M.D., spent some time at the helm of NA1SS on October 6 making casual, random contacts -- something that's fairly rare these days. The ISS was on a pass that took the spacecraft up along the east coast of the US at the time. In response to a question, Auñón-Chancellor, who has been on station since June, told one caller that she's been floating the entire time she's been in space.

"We float every day. Float to work, float back to sleep. It is awesome," she said.

Scott Chapman, K4KDR, of Montpelier, Virginia, edited a clip of downlink chatter by the 42-year-old flight surgeon and flight engineer.

"During most passes of the ISS where I'm working with the packet digipeater on 145.825, I also monitor 145.800 just in case there is any activity on that frequency," Chapman said in a post to AMSAT-BB. "For the first time in my personal experience, today one of the astronauts was randomly calling to see if anybody was listening. Of course I tried to reply on 145.800 simplex, but there are a number of possible uplinks, and none of them were programmed into my radio. They are now! It was a real thrill and, like so much of this hobby, a learning opportunity."

Auñón-Chancellor is aboard the ISS as part of the Expedition 56/57 crew and is scheduled to return to Earth in December.

The Amateur Radio FM voice frequencies for stations in ITU Regions 2 and 3 are 145.800 MHz down and 144.490 MHz up. For stations in Region 1, the uplink frequency is 145.200 MHz.

## Secretary's Ponderings – November 2018

In October, I pondered time-traveling to 1590 and confronting those people with 2018 technology and styles. From their point of view, the time traveler might just as well have been from some distant galaxy, if they knew what that was. What would it have been like to encounter unbelievable technology face-to-face? Didn't the same thing happen in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?

Think about the people born in the 1910s and 20s who were thrust into a great age of invention. There was a fervor and excitement to daily life as they awaited yet another new invention or some leap forward of an existing technology. Everyone was caught up in it, either as a keen observer or a tinkerer who was hoping for the next great breakthrough. They would read the newspapers daily, scouring for the Next Big Thing. It was the age that already saw automobiles, airplanes and rudimentary radio. Steamships were plying the oceans, electricity was coming of age, and the telephone was spreading everywhere.

Between the World Wars, voice came to radio and in some back rooms there were people dreaming of FM and TV. Goddard was trying to perfect his ideas of rockets and someone was taking one of the wings off biplanes and thinking bigger and faster.

Those folks born in the teens and twenties were imbued with a drive and fervor to invent and improve. When World War II came about, that drive went into new vehicles, planes, communications and medicine. The inventors that perfected tools and implements of war, came out of the service with the same zeal they went in with. At the end of World War II, we had amazing aircraft, ships and ground vehicles, medicine had made giant leaps and communications were beyond what had been available just 20 years earlier. Someone from 1920 time warped to 1945 would have been as astounded by what they saw as those early 1590s colonists would have been by a cell phone.



Yet it was those born in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century who were leading the charge into the 1950s with bigger, better, faster – and in some cases, just plain new – creations. The computer was in its infancy, as was television. Jet aviation was just developing; and medical discoveries were just around the corner.

There was a joke (which I don't fully remember, unfortunately) where a kid, holding his iPhone, chides an old man about not growing up with technology like he has available. The old man retorts that before the kid's parents were born, he and his compatriots were inventing it.

The old man is right. Through the 1940s and 1950s many new and awesome things were invented and improved. Television came into its own and color TV came on the scene in the mid-50s. The 4-engine Super Constellation (affectionately called The Connie) was supplanted by the 707 and

other jets. FM radio was perfected and VHF radio in aircraft took complete hold. On the Ham radio front, AM was also in the process of being replaced by single sideband and digital meant teletype.

Medicine had its own breakthroughs. Polio was conquered by Jonas Salk with his 1953 vaccine. Organ transplants were being perfected. Hard hats and climbing belts were more common!

In the 60 plus years since the 1950s, most of the inventions were improved on and augmented, including miniaturization enabled by solid-state devices called transistors and integrated circuits. Even these have been improved over the decades, so that one IC can perform a myriad of functions in a single miniature package.

Would the folks from 1930 be amazed by today's technology?

Take a look at the vision of the future held by the 1930s era heroes Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers (not the Gil Gerard Buck Rogers!). Their future included giant CRT screens (although they probably had no idea they were CRTs), tall, skinny buildings and some devices with sparks and electron haloes around them. The folks on the cusp in the 1950s would be amazed we launched satellites, landed on the moon and sent probes to Mars and beyond. But they would not have been quite as surprised as one of our 1590 colonists seeing The Addams Family in color for the first time!



Perhaps we've become jaded. We don't expect any big inventions any more, and we are all rather ho-hum about the next release of an iPhone or Samsung Galaxy. Where are the big inventions? What's out there to invent? Artificial gravity? Breaking the speed of light and living up to the Star Wars model? In 100 years, will our view of Star Wars be as quaint to the people in 2118 as the view of the future held by Flash and Buck in the 1930s is to us?

Do we have the same passion, drive and zeal to invent and improve as those makers and innovators in the 1920s and 1930s? As some Hams (me included) are described, we have become a generation of appliance operators. Maybe we've lost interest in inventing because things are coming so fast that just as we are getting settled into one thing, here comes another. Or two.

Think I'll go find a tall, cold one and enjoy a Flash Gordon movie on my 65" 4K UHD TV before it's outdated.

See you at the next meeting.

73

Bruce, WB8TVD

## ATTENTION!!

The November and December meetings will involve <drum roll> FOOD!!

Our 1 November meeting will be held at 6:00pm at the Rock Café on the Ferris Campus. It will probably be an abbreviated meeting, bringing attendees up to date. The cost is \$10.60 per person. It is open to spouses and guests and anyone interested in BRA-ARC.

The 6 December meeting (also at 6:00 pm) is our annual pot luck and white elephant auction get-together. The “cost” is a dish to pass and a canned or boxed food item to be donated to a local food pantry. You may also donate an item (or more!) for the white elephant silent auction. Bidding will go on during the meal and a little beyond. The winner of each item will be announced, and you may go home with a new Ham radio toy or some other item that may fit into your life that you had no idea you needed so badly! This particular “meeting” is open to spouses, friends, relatives or anyone else interested in BRA-ARC! More details as we get closer to December.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TIME TO RENEW!

BRAARC Membership			
<b>Applicant Information</b>			
Name:			
Call:	Class:	Email:	
Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	Email:
ARRL Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Newsletter: <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail / Web		
<b>Spouse Information if joint membership</b>			
Name:			
Call:	Class:	Email:	
<b>Licensed Children</b>			
Name:	Call:	Class:	
<b>Dues / Donation</b>			
<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.			\$
Donation: <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Repeaters <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Services (ARES/RACES)			\$
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$</b>

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**

**Club Membership Renewal form should be filled out and submitted with payment, so we can keep your information up-to-date.**

## Bits & Pieces Of This & That

\*\*\*\*\*

November in Michigan (source ARRL):

No November Hamfests in Michigan, but this one is so early in December, it rates a mention:

2 December 2018      L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club                      Madison Heights, MI

Look for the November Sweepstakes – separate weekends for CW & SSB -- and get contesting!  
Good hunting!!

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**November 2018**

**49338**

**PO Box 343 Parts MI**

