

KB8QOI Repeaters
52.860 MHz
146.74 MHz
443.900 MHz

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

October 2018

PO Box 343, Paris MI 49338

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Hello From Newsletter Editor Bruce, WB8TVD

It's me again. Why does October seem so creepy? Halloween, long shadows, longer nights, cool damp fog. In spite of the blaze of color, October seems to give us a sense of foreboding. Winter's not that far off. Old superstitions and fears come back. Your college team has already gone 0-3. Baseball is over, except for the lucky few whose teams are in the World Series.



Have you tried the 440 net on Thursday evenings? Let me know if you simply can't reach the repeater or if there's some scheduling conflict.

What are your plans for Hamming over the Winter? New antennas going up, or are you escaping to warmer climes?

Several state QSO parties this month, and I ponder what would happen if time travel put you in a very different age, and the consequences.

Renewal time is upon us and the November and December meetings involve food! Can it get any better?

As always, good or bad, here we go:

Announcements:

Club breakfast: 29 September 2018, 9:00am at Sharon's in Roger's Heights

Next meeting: 4 October 2018, 7:00pm at the BR Dept. of Public Safety.

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 4 October

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Minutes From The Meeting – 6 September 2018

Bruce Werner, WB8TVD, Secretary

Here's what you missed if you were not at the meeting on 6 September 2018:

President Dan, WA8AEN, opened the meeting about 7:06pm with 17 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 29 September at 9:00 am at Sharon's in Rogers Heights.

The next meeting will be on 4 October 2018 at 7:00 pm at the BRDPS.

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 2 October at 8:00 pm, prior to the Club net on 2 meters.

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

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. One check had not yet cleared Chemical bank, hence was not figured in the final balance. Since the recipient was listed, but not the reason for the check, Stan, KE8FZB asked the purpose of the check. The check was written for the fee to renew our non-profit status with State Of Michigan. It will be noted on the next Summary. The report was accepted by consensus.

EC Report: Jeff, K8OE: Jeff has loaned a Signal Link USB sound card to ARES to be used at the EOC. It will provide digital modes on HF
13 October will be the 2018 SET. He will send information.
Jeff will hold a work session on 13 September at 7:00 pm at EOC to test HF digital modes to see how they work with Google Maps. He would also like to test the handhelds with APRS. He is considering running an iGate and digipeater from the EOC.
Shila went over some of the damage assessment from the 28 August storms.
Bruce asked Shila if drones could be a tool for damage assessment. She noted that while civilians can operate drones fairly free of regulation, government entities are saddled with many more restrictions in the use of drones, so it may be a long time before they are even considered.

Repeater Report: Mike, KD8DIB: Since he has been in contact with most of the parties involved, Bruce gave a summary of what he understood about the WDEE tower move. More details were filled in by John, KC8BAR, and Mike. Discussion was entered, including the phone line and equipment, the IRA involvement, and who owns WDEE and why he must move his transmitter to a new tower. John will send an e-mail to Bruce with the actual street address of the site, so the phone company will be able to find the line. (TVD: once a new site is selected, the phone company will also need the new street address.)

Motion: Jeff, K8OE, made a motion to create a committee to study and plan for the eventual relocation of the 2-meter repeater to a different tower. Second by Mike, KD8DIB. No discussion. Voice vote was unanimous. Mike will pass around a sheet asking for volunteers to serve on the committee. (TVD: That committee list will be noted separately in the newsletter following these minutes)

Stan asked if the Club had ever considered an ad in the Pioneer, or in the shoppers' guide. Short discussion ensued. Bruce also noted that he has maintained contact with a reporter at the Pioneer and includes her in the newsletter mailing.

Old Business:

Bruce reminded everyone to sign up for CROP Walk 7 October.

Elections:

Dan opened the floor for nominations or volunteers to hold office, noting that he needed to retire from the office of president. After some discussion, a proposed slate of officers was presented:

Mike, KD8DIB, would be willing to run for president.

Shila, KD8IAL, would agree to stay on as vice president

Bruce, WB8TVD, would agree to stay on as secretary.

There being no offers to step up and accept the position of treasurer, Bruce, also will stay on as custodian of the treasury until someone else is willing to step up and be treasurer.

(TVD: If you somehow lose me for whatever reason, you've lost three positions. Think about it.)

Bruce asked what is the minimum attendance for a quorum? Mike noted the bylaws require 10 full members as a quorum. Just for form, as secretary, Bruce asked for a show of hands of all full, voting members. Of the 17 in attendance, 13 were members in good standing. (TVD: We have 25 full members.)

A voice vote was called to accept the slate of officers for 2019: 12 Ayes, 1 Nay.

Dan agreed to conduct the rest of this meeting.

New Business

Jeff would like someone to volunteer to be Skywarn Coordinator. (TVD: I believe the appointment would also be considered Assistant EC.)

Jeriel, KC8MMF, asked when the membership term begins. Mike noted it is 1 January, for a calendar year. \$30 is the current yearly dues. (TVD: A membership renewal form will be published in the November through January newsletters.)

Tech Corner No Tech Corner this meeting.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Shila, KD8IAL.

Stan, KE8FZB, & Liz, KE8ISH, will bring refreshments to the next meeting.

Dan reminded everyone that the November meeting will be held at the Rock on the Ferris Campus at 6:00pm. (TVD: Remember that the December meeting will be our pot luck and white elephant auction.)

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

The members of the Repeater Relocation Committee:

Mike McKay	KD8DIB
Dan Astelford	WA8AEN
John McDowell	KC8BAR
Bill Stankey	N8MZB
Jeff Sell	K8OE
Jeff Hernden	KC8HST

Since there has not been a lot of new information, this is what was printed last month

As I put together the newsletter, there is news that the owner(s) of the property that hosts the WDEE tower (with our repeater and the IRA Link) wants the tower removed. The reason is unclear at the moment, but I assume there is some future plan for the land. The tower and building housing the antennas and equipment, respectively, will eventually be removed.

WDEE will need to relocate to a new antenna tower, and may still be willing to share their new home with us. I hope we will have more information at the [next meeting.]

CROP Walk

The Walk is 7 October and will start and finish at the IRC Connector as in the past. Our organizing time will be 1:00 pm. Registration at 1:30 and step-off at 2:00 pm. It should be through about 4:00 pm.

Sign up at the meetings or send me an e-mail if you would like to participate.

Time To Renew!

I will be including a form to renew your membership in BRA-ARC (or join!) in the November through January newsletters. Membership is \$30.00 per calendar year and includes all licensed family members as full voting members. The usual deadline is 1 February. Please fill in the form or a copy and send it with your dues. That will make sure all your information is correct and up to date. Thank you!

Secretary's Ponderings – October 2018

October. Month of transition, beginnings, endings and harvest. It is also the month with a creepy holiday giving October a different sort of cast. Shadows are longer, nights are cooler, fog happens more often. The kind of month Edgar Allan Poe would have been fond of. "Once upon a Midnight dreary."

My son texted me last week that he and his wife were in Baltimore visiting Poe's home. Since then I've been thinking, "I became insane, with long intervals of horrible sanity."

Okay, I know what you're thinking: He says that, so obviously he's going to talk about H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. Time travel is a favorite Science Fiction theme. I, myself, have learned to time travel, but have yet to conquer the one-second-forward-at-a-time limitation. I'm working on it.

What if time travel was a reality? What if there was a portal back and forward in time? Would you need a DeLorean? What would it be like to go back (on purpose) to, say, 1590 in early America? Perhaps you have your cell phone in your pocket and an HT in tow. You plunk down in a village setting in what is now coastal North Carolina.

It's still young, virgin territory and the residents are painfully trying to eke out a life on this new frontier. Here you come, dressed very differently and speaking some strange dialect of what may or may not be English to these hard-working people. You don't even say thee or thou! Your clothing is immodest, to say the least, and looking very impractical. You have no hat, and you have some strange devices on your belt, in your pocket and on your wrist.

Your first mission is to overcome the colonists' urge to skewer you on a pitchfork! Once you convince them you are not a threat, they will want to know what you are and what strange ox cart you fell from. As you ponder what to tell them, you must remember they are, to say the least, primitive. Reading and writing is foreign to most people you meet. They have no fuel except wood, they do not know what electricity is and may not understand their own recent history, except that they left England, and are here in this harsh wilderness surrounded by strange people in loincloths and feathers.

As you stand there with your 21st century clothing and dialect, you look mightily strange to them. Then there's your technology. What do they make of that? A voice in the back of your head – most likely your comm-link back through the portal – reminds you of the Prime Directive about first contact with less advanced civilizations. Well, here you are, and they are definitely less advanced. Whatever you tell them is not going to mesh with their fears and superstitions. Strange things that happen beyond their understanding may be attributed to witchcraft or perhaps divine intervention. You can see in their eyes which end of that scale you are coming down on.

When they finally grasp that you really did come from the future, do you spill the beans about what will happen in the next 428 years? How will they take the news about the Revolution, 13 colonies, then the birth of the US in 200 years? What effect will the news about 50 states from sea to shining sea have? How do you tell them about space travel, medical advances beyond bloodletting, and indoor plumbing? Some may still think Earth is the center of the universe with the sun and stars spinning around it. They are still getting over the shock of a spherical Earth. The

more you tell them, the more they are confused, boggled, dazed, perplexed and overwhelmed. Taking their pictures with your phone and showing them will prompt cries of anguish and fear.

As you go on about technology, the more their eyes glaze over (a common malady even today). As your watch tells you it's time to go back, someone in the future reminds you of the Prime Directive. What do you do? They can't be left there with all that future shock, and the ability to alter the future you came from. You don't have a *Men In Black* Neuralyzer to erase their memories.

There's only one thing you can do, and you have an obligation to do it – summarily. They all must come back with you, now. You tell your portal operator and she sends a detachment to round up everyone and bring them to 2018. Once everyone is gone, you make sure everything is tidied up, leaving no 21st century traces. Then you enter your portal and return to today.

The group you brought back will be trained and assimilated. They will be given appropriate work in our time. They will be most excellent and authentic reenactors of early American life at historical locations around the country they helped to build.

What about their old home? Some documents lead us to believe those people you brought back may have been led by their Governor John White, who had gone back to England in 1587 for supplies and returned to discover his colony of Roanoke completely abandoned, with no trace of any trouble. It remains a mystery to this day.

Was H. G. Wells ahead of his time? Think about it. Perhaps it would be a good time for you and me to sit and savor a few quaffs of my new cask of Amontillado. Please, wait here and enjoy. I'll be back. Soon enough.

Quoth the raven, "Nevermore,"

See you at the next meeting.

73

Bruce, WB8TVD

October State QSO Parties (Check the QST Contest Corral for details)

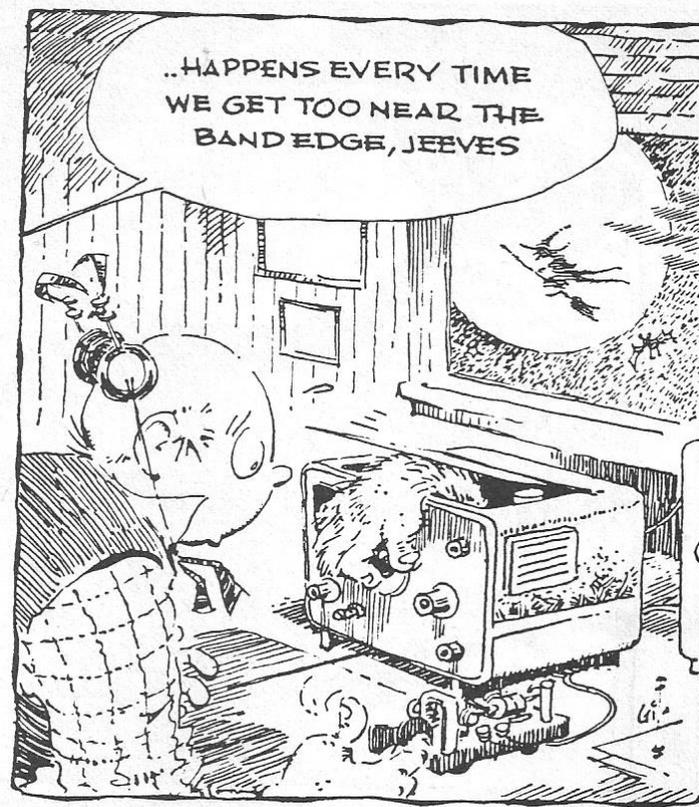
- California
- Nevada
- Pennsylvania
- Arizona
- South Dakota
- New York
- Illinois

ATTENTION!!

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

Our 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 in the range of \$10.00 per person. We will have an exact cost at the October meeting.

The December meeting 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.



Happy Halloween!

Bits & Pieces Of This & That

October in Michigan (source ARRL):

6 October 2018	Alpena Swap	Alpena, MI
6 October 2018	Michigan State Convention (Great Lakes HamCon) – CANCELLED	
20 October 2018	Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest	Muskegon, MI
21 October 2018	Kalamazoo Hamfest & Amateur Radio Show	Kalamazoo, MI
28 October 2018	USECA Hamfest & Swap	Madison Heights, MI

Several 'fests within the state, Muskegon being the closest. It may be a good time to get on VHF/UHF and see what's brewing. Good hunting!! At the Hamfest and on the air!

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

October 2018

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