



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

April 2010

Club Officers  
President  
Don N8QX

Vice President  
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy  
Gloria N8KXJ

Corresponding Secy  
Dave K8WPE

Treasurer  
Ward N8WK

Directors

Ann KA8YJ

Chuck W8SGR

Mike W8VPC

Cherry Juice Editor  
Dave N8CN

CLUB NETS

MESH NET  
8 pm Monday  
146.86 MHZ

SMASH NET  
9 am Sunday  
3.935 MHZ



ARRL Affiliated Club  
#1082

## Coming Club Events

### April 27<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting

This month we are at the Governmental Center at 8<sup>th</sup> and Boardman for our regular club meeting. Jim Weaver **K8JE** the Director of the Great Lakes Division of the ARRL will be presenting the program. Jim will update us on all the ARRL activities and the progress of some of the antenna legislation that will affect our home stations. Let's give Jim a big CARC welcome as we are very fortunate that he is willing to come here from his home in Ohio. As always, cookies and coffee and eyeball QSO's. The general meeting is the best way to keep up with club activities. Hope to see you there!

### Tuesday Project Nights

Where: At the club station in the lower level of the Salvation Army Building located at the NE corner of Barlow and Boone. 7 p.m. Every Tuesday except the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month which is reserved for the regular club meeting.

## Forward Waves

### VE EXAMS:

**Cadillac, MI.** Saturday, May 1, 2010.  
Wexauke/Cadillac ARC. 10:30 am at the Swap. No Walk-ins. Seating is limited. 500 Chestnut Street. Contact: Alan Van Antwerp 231 829-3433.

**Traverse City, MI.** Saturday, May 8, 2010.  
Cherryland ARC. 1 pm. Salvation Army Building at the corner of Barlow and Boone. Walk-ins OK. Contact: Hope AA8SN @ Robert [wb8oqt@arrl.net](mailto:wb8oqt@arrl.net)

### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, May 1, 2010.** Cadillac, MI.  
Wexauke/Cadillac ARC. 8 am til noon.  
Cadillac Jr HS. TI: 146.98 Contact: Alton NU8L 231 876-1485 or [nu8l@yahoo.com](mailto:nu8l@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, June 5, 2010.** Hudsonville, MI.  
Independent Repeater Association.  
Hudsonville Fairgrounds, Hudsonville, MI.  
8 am. TI: 147.16 PL 94.8 Contact: Don K8YES at 616 532-7769 or [IRAHamfest@w8hvg.org](mailto:IRAHamfest@w8hvg.org)

## Reflected Waves

### April 1987

The new repeater controller has been installed and programmed by Tom **NS8K**. The emergency autodialer has been programmed for local 911, the TC Michigan Police Post, the Leelanau Co Sheriff. No access code is needed for the Emergency Autodial. Ed **KA8QVH** has volunteered to chair this years Field Day Activities.

### April 2000

The April meeting consisted of a group discussion of ways to promote Amateur Radio in the community and a paper-work only VE session. Plans were announced to activate the Northport Lighthouse this summer. It is hoped that we can participate in the International Lighthouse weekend. Joe Novak **W8TVT** is once again taking orders for club jackets.

## 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING

The Scenic Trails Boy Scouts Council will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in America by holding a camporee and Scout Show at the Grand Traverse Fair Grounds May 1<sup>st</sup>. Both the Cherryland ARC and TBARG have volunteered to have a HAM radio demonstration at the Scout show.

The TBARG will be showing off their new Communications Van at this event, and this will be the center of most of our activities. We need CW, SSB, Packet, and FM Operators. And yes, I know the Cadillac Swap is that same morning. But I'm sure you all can go next year. 100 years of Scouting only happens once. Hi! Hi!

-73 de Russ **K8RUS**

## THE RCT REPORT

Have you ever heard of a digital emergency net before? Well we do have a occasional packet net going during drill but here's a HF digital net that you might want to try. Information from the Michigan Section of the ARRL.

### MICHIGAN HAS NEW TRAFFIC NET

The Michigan Digital Traffic Net (MIDTN) was called for the first time Feb 9, 2010. Mode: Olivia 500 Hz / 8 tones - Frequency within the Waterfall of 3583 USB. The schedule: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2100 hrs local.

At the present time, the net is operating in a training phase. The mid range goal is to join QMN, MACS, MiTN and GLETN as a Section Level NTS Net. This will complete a threesome of CW, Voice and Digital as means to provide public service communications. It is always nice to have all the tools in one's toolbox.

Olivia is a robust mode that is able to survive in conditions when voice traffic is at times a "no go". During the training phase other modes may be explored such as MT63. Larry KB8GT is acting as the initial Net Control. He also has an e-mail list of stations active or interested in the Net. If you would like to be added to that list, send an e-mail to

[larry@kb8gt.com](mailto:larry@kb8gt.com)

If you have ever operated PSK31, you will find that Olivia is quite similar. It is a tad wider and of course sounds different. There are no changes in the keyboard. Thus, dust off your "interface", configure for Olivia at 500/8 and come to 3583 USB at 2100 hrs Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday evening. Oh by the way, dust off your "copy/paste" as well and move to a file or transmit buffer techniques. The net is started by an "idle" (in an open space of the Waterfall) - the Net call-up provides the check in procedure. Upon request, Larry can also provide a current procedure to handle the traffic. Most importantly - the net is training to handle traffic. So bring a piece of traffic and join the fun.

-73, **K8RCT**

## DO YOU ROKU?

The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast has become the first amateur radio focused podcast to be added to the available content list on the popular Roku set top box and soon to be launched Boxee device. This will allow over 1 million subscribers gain exposure to our wonderful hobby and service.

The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast has partnered with RawVoice to make all this happen. RawVoice currently

supports more than 5,000 content creators on its family of sites powered by its RawVoice Generator media network platform – TechPodcasts.com, Blubrry.com, TravelCastNetwork.com and ProMedNetwork.com.

"We're offering 'branded distribution' for content creators on these two devices and more to come this year, providing an all-inclusive pipeline to their content that was not possible before," said Todd Cochran, CEO of RawVoice. The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast, a proud member of the Tech Podcast Network, has an extraordinary opportunity to introduce our hobby to this large audience.

The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (PARP) was created by Jerry Taylor, **KD0BIK** in May 2008 as a way to give back to the hobby he loves so much. Produced in Jerry's basement ham shack, this podcast will introduce amateur radio to those interested in the hobby and helps encourage all to share their knowledge with others.

During each episode Jerry picks a topic and breaks it down in "practical" fashion to make it easy for all to understand. Jerry also showcases the extremely hard work other amateurs are doing to make our hobby better in the featured amateur's segment. In addition to having a large US audience, listeners from all over the world download or stream PARP on a regular basis. Hams in Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Germany and Switzerland make up the top 5 outside of US downloads currently.

Please visit <http://www.myamateurradio.com/> to learn more about The Practical Amateur Radio Podcast.

## ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST!

Once touted as "the most successful BPL deployment in the nation," the City of Manassas has decided to get out of the BPL business, once and for all. At a Special Meeting on Monday, April 5, the Manassas City Council -- acting on a recommendation from the Manassas Utilities Commission -- unanimously voted to discontinue Broadband over Powerline (BPL) Internet service as of July 1, 2010 to the approximately 520 residents and businesses who currently subscribe to the service; these customers were told that they have three months to find a new Internet service provider. According to Manassas City Clerk Andrea Madden, there was no discussion on the resolution to discontinue service and the motion was passed "without incident."

The City Council cited three reasons for discontinuing BPL service: a declining customer base, an annual income deficit of almost \$166,000 from providing Internet service, and a determination that AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) platforms don't require BPL.

Manassas residents pay \$24.95 each month to receive Internet service via BPL. In November 2009, the Utility Commission showed the Council that little more than 500 residents and 46 businesses currently subscribed to the service, which since 2008, has been run by the City. "It's costing a little more to maintain the system than we projected in the budget," Manassas Director of Utilities Michael Moon told the Council. "The original projections were that the customer base would be double this." In September 2008, the Manassas City Council voted to assume control of the BPL service from COMTek, the private company that served (back then) approximately 675 residents.

In January 2009, there were 637 residential and 51 commercial BPL subscribers in Manassas. In February 2010, those numbers had shrunk to 457 residential and 50 commercial subscribers.

The Utilities Commission said that the total revenue brought in by BPL for FY2010 was almost \$186,000, but the expense of keeping up the City-owned system was costing the ratepayers a little more than \$351,000, resulting in a net loss of almost \$166,000.

"In October 2003, the Manassas City Council was told that it could expect as much as \$4.5 million in revenue from awarding a 10 year BPL franchise," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, **K1ZZ**. "Instead, six months later, BPL had turned into a money pit for the City of Manassas. Anyone thinking of investing in BPL would do well to learn from the Manassas experience."

In November 2009, Manassas' Assistant Utilities Director (Electric) Gregg Paulson told the ARRL that they had "every intention of putting BPL Internet service in the budget and the Council can decide its fate as they work through the budget process." Paulson also said that while Internet service to consumers would "probably" be the only thing that would be cut if the Council decided to forego BPL, he left the door open as to using the BPL infrastructure for other purposes: "We still own the BPL network, but we may or may not use this network for utility monitoring or other AMI purposes."

But according to the resolution passed by the Council, the Manassas Utilities Department will not be using BPL for AMI, but instead will use "a combination of fiber and wireless technology exclusive of the BPL." According to the Agenda Statement for the Special Meeting, the BPL equipment will be removed from the system and "inquiries will be made regarding the salvage value."

Sumner said that the ARRL's concern was not with the business plan -- that he termed "obviously flawed" -- but with "the interference to licensed radio services -- and in particular the Amateur Radio Service -- inevitably caused by putting radio frequency energy on unshielded, unbalanced conductors. Manassas was touted as 'the most successful BPL deployment in the nation' when FCC Chairman Michael Powell visited the site with much fanfare -- and, the ARRL maintains, in violation of the FCC's own rules -- on the eve of the FCC's vote to adopt inadequate protection for licensed radio services against interference from BPL systems. The taxpayers and ratepayers of Manassas are not the only ones who benefit from the end of this ill-considered foray into BPL. Radio amateurs in the Manassas area have good reason to celebrate, for they have spent countless hours documenting the widespread interference caused by the system."

BPL technology uses the electricity grid in a city and the wiring in individual homes to provide direct "plug in" broadband access through electricity sockets, rather than over phone or cable TV lines. Because BPL wiring is physically large, is often overhead and extends across entire communities, these systems pose a significant interference potential to over-the-air radio services, including Amateur Radio.

## FREE ELECTRONICS COURSES

Tyco Electronics has launched a free web-based training program aimed at designers of electronic and electrical equipment. From electrical basics to detailed descriptions of

circuit protection strategies, Circuit Protection University provides a suite of practical, self-paced tutorials.

The site launch has been nick-named CPU and includes an overview of circuit protection devices and tutorials on overcurrent and overvoltage protection techniques.

Additional courses in coordinated circuit protection and I/O port protection are now also available. Most important the training program also includes real world examples of circuit protection solutions for consumer electronic devices.

More can be found at:

[http://go.bluevolt.com/CoBrandTempla...spx?brand=tyco\(PSD\)](http://go.bluevolt.com/CoBrandTempla...spx?brand=tyco(PSD))

## FCC IS LOOKING OUR FOR YOUR WALLET!

Always looking out for your wallet, the FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order seeking to **lower** the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs by **10 cents!** Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$13.40 and is good for 10 years. If the FCC's new fee structure is approved the new fee will go down to \$13.30 for 10 years.

According to the ARRL, over the 13 years of the current program, the vanity call sign fee has fluctuated from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70. The latter as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order. In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70 but its slowly been creeping upward ever since.

The vanity call sign fee is payable both when applying for a new vanity call and also when renewing it for a new term. The FCC said it expects to receive some 14,800 amateur radio vanity call sign applications during the next fiscal year and collecting \$196,840 in fees under the program.

MD Docket 10 dash 87 carries a commentary cutoff date of May 4th. Reply comments are due no later than May 11th. Instructions on how to comment on this or any other FCC action is available on the FCC Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html> (FCC, ARRL).

(Ed note: I absolutely can't keep my mouth shut here. Ten cents! Is it really worth the labor of these public employees to effect a hearing on a price reduction of 10 cents! And is there a ham alive that will get a vanity call because now it will be ten cents less? A penny a year! I will be filing my comment, "Keep the change".

## NPR DOES HAM RADIO

On April 5, 2010, NPR did a story on Ham Radio called "Ham Radio growing in the age of Twitter. Below is the text of the broadcast. If you would rather hear the broadcast, go to:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125586086&ft=1&f=1001>

*Only a few years ago, blogs listed ham radio alongside 35 mm film and VHS tape as technologies slated to disappear. They were wrong. Nearly 700,000 Americans have ham radio licenses — up 60 percent from 1981, a generation ago. And the number is growing.*

*Ham radio will never have the sex appeal of the iPhone, but it does have a certain nerd appeal, says Allen Weiner, an analyst at the technology research firm Gartner. "If it creates its own experience, that's really what's key here," he says. "If it just emulates an experience that you can get online, it's not going to grow."*

*Newcomers to ham radio include Helen Schlarman, 89, who has a compact, two-way radio in her home in suburban St. Louis. She looks up a friend across town by pushing the talk button, announcing the letters and numbers of his call sign (W-0-S-J-S), and then announcing her own (W-0-A-K-I). Steve Schmitz's voice crackles through Schlarman's radio. "Hi Helen, how you doing, W-0-S-J-S?" he says, ending his response with his own call letters.*

*Many "hams," as they're known, hang postcards from global contacts on their walls, the way hunters show off deer antlers, but Schlarman's chats are mostly local. She says this hobby is perfect for an outgoing person who spends a lot of time inside.*

*"It's a different community," she says. "There [are] no stereotypes of age; it's just talking and sharing and enjoying."*

*Until recently, ham radio was declining as older operators died. Then the Federal Communications Commission phased out the Morse code test that many saw as a stumbling block to getting a license. Last year more than 30,000 new applicants signed up to become ham radio operators, according to Maria Somma, an official with the American Radio Relay League.*

*At a ham radio convention near St. Louis, the crowd swapping antenna parts and other equipment is mostly male, and over 50. But 15-year-old Jonathan Dunn is attending along with his father. He says Facebook and texting are fun, but making friends using a \$200 radio that doesn't come with monthly fees is more rewarding.*

*"With ham radio you can talk to new people, all kinds of ages, races, and it's just amazing what a little radio can do. Because no matter where you're at, if you have the right stuff and the right power you can talk to anyone," he says.*

*Jonathan's dad, Steve Dunn, says the polite chitchat between ham radio operators is good for teenagers. "If young people have the opportunity to communicate with a wide range of people, that instills a certain amount of confidence in their ability to carry on the lost art of small talk," he says.*

*Even the most die-hard hams concede that amateur radio will never be a mainstream hobby. With smart phones and other devices, people are more plugged in to the Internet than before. But people are still discovering the joy of communicating with a technology that's existed for nearly a century.*

## FREE TOWER

You can't beat the price on this one. Homer Gifford **W8FGA** has 60 foot guyed aluminum tower he wishes to give away! Contact Giff at 231 947-4573

## NEW ARRL WEB SITE ON-LINE

If you haven't checked into the ARRL web site recently, you should! There's a brand new look and some things are moved around. Here's the help article from the ARRL:

When the new ARRL Web site launched on April 13, we received an overwhelming, enthusiastic response to it. But along with that, we have also received a few questions on how to find certain features on the new site. Here is a quick guide to find some of the more popular features on the new ARRL Web site.

• **ARRL Periodical and Archive Search:** This can be found in the "Technology" section of the Web site. Once you are in the "Technology" section, look on the left-hand side of the

screen for "ARRL Lab" in a grey-blue box; click it. On the left-hand side of the screen, you'll see another grey-blue box listing eight items, beginning with "The Lab Staff." On that list you will see "ARRL Periodicals Archive Search." When you click it, you will be taken directly to the QST, QEX and NCJ electronic archives (see photo). You can also click here to go there now.

• **Logbook of The World:** LoTW is located in the "On the Air" section. Once in that section, look on the left-hand side of the screen for the grey-blue box, listing 10 items, one of which is "Logbook of The World." When you click on it, you will be taken to the LoTW page. You will see the LoTW logo on your screen; next to the logo, it says "Log in to your Logbook Account," accompanied with a hyperlink that says "Go Now." When you click on "Go Now," you will be taken to LoTW's log-in page. Underneath the logo, you will see "Want to log into your LoTW Account? Log in here" (see photo). By either clicking on "Go Now" or "Log in here," you will be directed to the LoTW log-in page. You can also click here to go there now.

Have you forgotten your password? You can easily retrieve your password by clicking on the "Forgot Password?" link, located directly under the log-in box at the top of the page (see photo). You can either request a temporary password via e-mail (you must use the e-mail you originally used to register for the previous ARRL Web site), or you may retrieve a temporary password immediately by providing your user name (your call sign) and your ARRL member ID number (found on your QST mailing label). You must also provide either your call sign or your last name. Click here to receive a temporary password.

We have also received inquiries regarding the "Favorites" function on the new Web site. Once you successfully log in to the Web site, you will see a drop-down box that says "Your Favorites" right underneath your name (see photo). Go to any page on the new ARRL Web site. Would you like to find it in just one step? The "Your Favorites" feature will do just that! When you are on the desired page, just click on the "Your Favorites" drop-down menu, click "Add to Favorites" then click the "Go" button. Now you have stored that Web page as one of your favorites; each time you wish to go to that page, you can just access it through the "Your Favorites" drop-down menu (see photo).

Of course, with a project as large as the new ARRL Web site, there are still some bugs to be worked out. Our IT Department is busy fixing them, so please know that we are trying to solve these problems as quickly as possible. One such bug concerns ARRL Amateur Radio license exam sessions. Unfortunately, all future exam listings will read "no walk ins" and some contact information may be missing or be incorrect until our programmers find a solution to the problem. In the meantime, we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you, your VE team or your examinees.