



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club      traverse city, mi

August 2011

## Coming Club Events

### August 23rd Club Meeting

If it's August, it must be time for the CARC annual Fox Hunt! Assemble at the Governmental center at 7 pm Tuesday night and we will all start from that location. Scheduled to be the foxes are Hope **AA8SN** and Phil **KD8OAK**. Don't worry if you don't have any DF equipment or have never done a Fox Hunt before—there is usually plenty of room to ride with one of the participating cars. There will plenty of time for socializing after the hunt.

### 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:

**Muskegon**, Saturday, October 1, 2011  
Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council. 9 a.m. Walk-ins OK. American Red Cross Bldg. 313 Webster Ave. Contact: Bob 231 799-3634

**Traverse City, MI**. Saturday, Nov 5th, 2011. Cherryland ARC. 1 pm. Salvation Army Bldg. 1239 Barlow St (Corner of Boone and Barlow). Walk-ins OK. Contact: Hope AA8SN 231 941-7262 or hopeaa8sn@juno.com.

### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, August 27, 2011**. SARA SWAP & Trunk Sale. Owosso, MI. Shiawassee ARA. 8 am til noon. Baker College Welcome Center. TI: 147.02 (PL 100). Contact: Don WB8GUS (810) 599-0729 or [wb8gus@arrl.net](mailto:wb8gus@arrl.net).

**Saturday, September 10, 2011**. Grahamfest. Grand Rapids, MI. 8 am til 1 pm. Indoor and outdoor sales. The Home School Building. 5625 Burlingame SW, Wyoming, MI. TI: 147.26 (PL 94.8) Info: [www.grahamfest.org](http://www.grahamfest.org)

## Reflected Waves

### August 1991

This years ARRL National Convention was hosted by the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Club. The meeting ran both Saturday and Sunday August 25/26 and a huge Swap-n-Shop complimented the numerous forums and specialty club meetings. Many club members attended and all had nothing but praise for the Saginaw club's efforts.

### August 2001

Participating in this month's Ham Bike Outing were Chuck **W8SGR** and Maggie **K8MAG**, Norm **N8STS** and spouse Karen, Frank **W8TVQ** and Pat **KC8NJR**, Bill **W8PIT** and Marilyn **N8UUJ**, Dick **KC4CNU** and Margaret and Joe **W8TVT** and Jan **N8RRR**.

Operating at the Grand Traverse Lighthouse were Chuck **W8SGR**, Joe **W8TVT**, Dale **N8VX**, Hope **AA8SN**, Ed **K8SZN** and Don **WD8NRZ**.

Operating at the Manitou Island lighthouse were Joe **K8DT**, Roger **N8KV** and Gerry **K8GER**.

Club Officers  
President  
Don N8QX

Vice President  
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy  
Russ K8RUS

Corresponding Secy  
Dave K8WPE

Treasurer  
Ward N8WK

Directors

Ann KA8AYJ

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

TBARG EmComm Net  
9 pm Monday  
146.86



ARRL Affiliated Club  
#1082

## MAKE SOME CHANGE

Not sure about your daily routine, but mine is much like this. "As long as habit and routine dictate the pattern of living, new dimensions of the soul will not emerge." -Source unknown.

I get bored with routine. I believe that variety really does spice up life. I hate routine and too much repetitiveness around me. I want things to change in my life, and although I need to be careful with what I wish for at times, I see change usually as a good thing. There are exceptions, like the religious foundations in our life that are needed for stability ( or other important foundational elements), but I believe that we learn from most other changes. We learn from our mistakes when we try to change and we discover new things when we take a chance to improve. Or how about this quote from Machiavelli? "Make mistakes of ambition and not mistakes of sloth." I like that quote. My good friend Jim says, "You're never going to make the shot you don't take!" Man I like that quote, too.

These quotes influence me almost daily. Machiavelli, although someone who is sometimes thought to be controversial at times, has influenced me to the point where I decided to place a couple of his quotes on my wall at work. I want to be inspired to try new things.

And how does this influence my ham radio hobby? Well, I experiment with antennas and, in fact, I sometimes change my antennas so often, I even get confused when I'm talking on the radio. I tell the other guy that I'm using a vertical, then I say, "Hold on! It's a random wire, I think." He must think I'm nuts.

What's the benefit from changing and building new antennas every summer? Well, for starters, I've learned a lot about antennas. I've learned that feeding some antennas in a certain way produces more electrical noise. And I've seen my S-meter go up with signal strength.. I've also learned that sometimes I can hear the other guy with a vertical, but his signal drops down into the noise with a horizontal antenna.. Some of these things I've learned from reading books, sure, but when I experiment, firsthand, I can actually see how it impacts my S-meter.

But perhaps one of the greatest benefits of trying out a new antenna, beyond what I'm learning firsthand, is the enjoyment of trying something new and from the variety of the experience itself. The variety and the new experience excites me. I'm always hoping to learn and always hoping to see how the change impacts my hobby. And the hidden benefit is this, as well. I can make something new and change it later. Wire antennas are easy, as long as you can throw the antenna high enough into the tree, that is.

So, I like change, when it's appropriate. I learn from it and it spices up my life a tad. Put up a new antenna this weekend. Make a change in your ham radio setup. Move your desk around. Change the seat you sit in. Change your operating frequency or try calling CQ in the morning, instead of at night. Do something different and spice up your ham radio experience. Enjoy the hobby.

-73 de Sean **W8OKN**

## FIRST CORONAL MASS EJECTION VIDEO

For many years, the idea that coronal mass ejections (CME) launched from the Sun could strike the Earth was inferred from an indirect chain of evidence collected from multiple satellites. Now the Heliospheric Imagers aboard the STEREO-A spacecraft has managed to view a CME propagate from the surface of the Sun to the Earth

Plasma from solar flares or coronal mass ejections travel along solar wind to ultimately produce aurora's in Earth's polar regions, and affect satellites and power grids and other man-made electronics. Of course, a CME affects the propagation of radio waves that we radio communicators transmit and receive.

This visualization shows the position of the STEREO spacecraft during the event, as well as the positions of the inner solar system planets, Venus and Mercury. A faint cone illustrates the field-of-view (FOV) of the HI-2 imager on STEREO-A. The position of the front of the CME is computed from STEREO data.

NASA's STEREO spacecraft and new data processing techniques have succeeded in tracking space weather events from their origin in the Sun's ultra-hot corona to impact with the Earth 96 million miles away, resolving a 40-year mystery about the structure of the structures that cause space weather: how the structures that impact the Earth relate to the corresponding structures in the solar corona.

Despite many instruments that monitor the Sun and a fleet of near-earth probes, the connection between near-Earth disturbances and their counterparts on the Sun has been obscure, because CMEs and the solar wind evolve and change during the 96,000,000 mile journey from the Sun to the Earth.

STEREO includes "heliospheric imager" cameras that monitor the sky at large angles from the Sun, but the starfield and galaxy are 1,000 times brighter than the faint rays of sunlight reflected by free-floating electron clouds inside CMEs and the solar wind; this has made direct imaging of these important structures difficult or impossible, and limited understanding of the connection between space storms and the coronal structures that cause them.

Newly released imagery reveals absolute brightness of detailed features in a large geoeffective CME in late 2008, connecting the original magnetized structure in the Sun's corona to the intricate anatomy of an interplanetary storm as it impacted the Earth three days later. At the time the data were collected, in late 2008, STEREO-A was nearly 45 degrees ahead of the Earth in its orbit, affording a very clear view of the Earth-Sun line. The Video can be found here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVD3OnigFFE>

## THEIR BACK! HEATHKIT RETURNS

A notice on the Heathkit website announces that the venerable kit manufacturer, well-known to all Amateur Radio operators of a certain age, will be reentering the kit business in late August. The notice states, in part: "Heathkit will debut their new line of Do-it-Yourself kits for common around-the-house items. The first kit will be a Garage Parking Assistant (GPA). The Garage Parking Assistant kit lets you build your own system that uses ultrasonic sound waves to locate your car as it enters the garage. The system signals to the driver using LED lights mounted on the wall when the car is detected and in the perfect spot for parking.

"The GPA-100 kit consists of two primary assemblies -- the LED Display in kit form and the pre-assembled ultrasonic range module. The kit will include everything you need to complete the project except a soldering iron and hand tools.

"Next on the market will be a Wireless Swimming Pool Monitor kit followed by many more. Heathkit wants to continue to bring to its customers interesting, unique Heathkit products. Heathkit is interested in learning what types of products kit builders would like to build. Kit builders can submit their suggestions through this website using the Contact Us email."

Although there's no indication that Heathkit Educational Systems is planning to reenter the Amateur Radio market, the St Joseph, Michigan-based company is actively looking for kit suggestions.

After several decades of successful kit manufacturing, Heathkit left the kit business in 1992. Heath sold Amateur Radio equipment, at first only kits and later its own line of non-kit products, from 1954 to 1992. The company has been sold a number of times since its founding back in 1912 as an aircraft company. Tnx to QRZ.com

## CANADIAN HAMS MAY GET PERMANENT 60 M ALLOCATION THIS FALL

Canadian hams could have a permanent 60 meter allocation in the not to distant future. According to a news release by the Canadian national amateur radio society Radio Amateurs of Canada, telecommunications regulator Industry Canada has now informed the society that it responds favorably to its request for frequencies at 5 MHZ on a no protection, non-interference basis.

The new spectrum would be included in the schedule of amateur frequencies update to be released for public consideration in the future. Comments will be considered by Industry Canada in preparation for the final version of the new frequency plan. Any new frequencies it contains would become available to Canadian amateurs at the time of its release. Thus, if all goes as expected, Canadian amateurs may expect to gain access to frequencies at 5 MHZ that are basically the same as those in the United States, some time this fall. (RAC)

## GOOD-BYE TO CD'S

Call this a sign of the times. According to news reports, the Ford Motor Company is eliminating CD players in its new United States vehicle models and opting to instead install USB sockets for iPods and other digital music players. Ford notes that all of its new cars will have a computer hub, which will allow drivers to access their music libraries from the Internet.

## NEW ARRL ON-LINE FORUMS

To assist League members in communicating with one another and with ARRL staff on topics of common interest, the ARRL has established three forums -- **Contesting**, **Awards** and **Technology** -- on the ARRL website. Visit [www.arrl.org/forums](http://www.arrl.org/forums) to chat with fellow hams about these topics. Additional forums are planned once we have gained some experience with these three. ARRL members, guest users and others can view the threads, but in order to participate in the conversations or ask questions, you must be logged in as an ARRL member. All users should read the forum rules before participating.

## SURVEY SAYS.....!

A few months ago, Radio Shack opened their ears to the "DIY crowd" to find out what this key demographic wanted from the electronics outlet. Surprisingly (or not, depending on your outlook) ham radio made it to the list (even if it is written as an acronym!). The list, taken from their blog post: 1) Arduino 2) More kits and project suggestions 3) More introduction/instructional books 4) larger LED selection 5) larger resistor selection 6) tons more capacitors 7) DIY audio and speaker equipment 8) HAM radio gear 9) More competitive pricing and 10) Stronger sales force.

So there you have it, the masses have spoken and we want the parts selection to return to its former glory and we want ham gear. With hams constituting only ~1% of the US population (source) it may be tough for Radio Shack to cater to it's historical base in every store, but at least they've heard from us. Our numbers may be down from prior decades, but we're still a vocal minority! The real question will be what sort of quality can we expect Radio Shack to put forth for their new ham offerings? Perhaps they should revive the Realistic line?

Hope your summer is going well! -73 de **N8CN**

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