



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

February 2008

Coming Club Events

February 26th Cub Meeting

The meeting program has not been announced as I write this issue. Listen to the MESH NET, go to project night, or just show up for a surprise. Where: The Governmental Center at 8th and Boardman. Lower level cafeteria. 7 p.m.

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 4th Tuesday of the month which is reserved for the regular club meeting.

CLUB OFFICERS

President
Don N8QZ

Vice President
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy
Gloria N8KXJ

Corresponding Secy
Bill W8PIT

Treasurer
Ward N8WK

Directors

John N8UL

Chuck W8SGR

Dave K8WPE

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

Forward Waves

VE EXAMS:

Traverse City, MI. February 9, 2008.
Cherryland Amateur Radio Club. Immaculate
Conception School. 10 am Walk-ins OK.
Contact: Hope AA8SN at 231 941-7262.

Gaylord, MI. April 5, 2008. Top of MI ARC.
9 a.m. 700 Otsego Ave. Walk-ins OK. Contact:
Chad 989 705-9612

HAM FESTS:

Saturday, February 9, 2008. Traverse City,
MI. Cherryland ARC. ImmaculateConception
Elementary School. 8 a.m. until Noon. VE
Exams Talk In: 146.86 Contact: Joe W8TVT
231 947-8555.

Sunday, February 17, 2008. Livonia, MI,
Livonia ARC. 37th Annual Swap-N-Shop, TI:
145.35. Contact Sharon KA8SRC 734 427-
3943

Reflected Waves

February 1985

The Annual Swap-N-Shop was well attended despite lots of snow. The meeting program was presented by VP Dave KA8UCQ. Dave's other hobby is RC controlled aircraft and he showed equipment and a video on the hobby. Secretary Ed gave a report on the proposed special event station for the Cherry Festival.

February 2000

The annual Swap-N-Shop was attended by 322 brave people who put up with below zero temperatures to get to this years event. Coffee was the big seller and the cafeteria was crowded all morning. At the VE exams, 46 candidates attempted a total of 61 elements resulting in 34 passed elements. The February general meeting was a brown bag auction which included two 2 meter mobile radios.

END OF AN ERA

The January issue of the Cherry Juice was the last issue of the Juice to be distributed by the US Postal Service. This issue will be the first issue of the “web site era”. From now on, look for the CJ at this site somewhere around the 15th of the month..

While there will be many benefits to making this change, there is also some sadness in that another “tradition” has fallen by the wayside. Back before I became editor of the Juice, I always looked forward to receiving the newsletter and the humorous salutations that Elbert Ford **WS8Y** would put on the address label. Some of you may remember salutations such as: “To the Next Field Day Chairman” and “To the Next Cherry Juice Editor” or the famous “To the Neighborhoods Biggest Source of TVI”. Another highlight for me were the hilarious monologues of Evert **WB8FUV**. He should have been a writer for Jay Leno or some other comedian. Before I joined the CARC, Mick Glasser **N8DBK** wrote over a hundred issues of the Cherry Juice and they were the “newsy-est” newsletters I have archived.

The oldest issue of the Cherry Juice that I have is dated February 1974 and it is edited by Wells Chapin **W8GI**. The mast head says it is Volume I, Number 1 and the Club President was Terry Wolfey **WB8PLQ**, who by the way, is still a club member and just sent a us a contribution. Terry’s current call is **WA4OEA** which he has held since 1976. The other officers at this time were Vice President Bill Martinek **W8JUY**, Corresponding Secretary John Binsfeld **K8DVV**, Recording Secretary Edna Widman **WB8EYL**, Treasurer Joe Novak **W8TVT**, Activities Manager Jack Leishman **K8YZW** (now **K8XX**), and Directors Frank Shumsky **W8TVQ**, Ken Musson **W8QKP** and David Warner **WB8EYB**. Joe, Frank, Ken and Jack are still members and Joe can be found at every Board meeting and club function. I don’t think any club member has served in as many capacities for as many years as Joe **W8TVT**.

The history of the CARC goes back farther than 1974 and Pat Musson **N8HLK** has written a short history of the club which I intend to put on the Cherry Juice Web site later this year.

Well, that’s enough dwelling on the past as we are not really “burying” the Cherry Juice. To paraphrase the Brits, “The Cherry Juice is dead, Long live the Cherry Juice”.

Last month I sent out 104 e-mails to club members who had given us an e-mail address when they joined the club. Of the 104, there were 34 addresses that were invalid (a variety of reasons) and of the remaining 70, 52 responded to my query. Of the 52, only 1 person felt the printed Juice was necessary, 4 preferred a printed version but could live with an e-mail version and the rest said they would be happy with an e-mail version.

The savings to the club will be considerable. Last month the newsletter cost us \$111.00. The web site will be less than \$10.00/month depending on the final structure.

In mulling this all over, I decided it would be easier for me to post the Juice to a web site rather than try and maintain an active and accurate e-mail list and send the Juice as an e-mail attachment. Many other clubs have chosen this route and it seems to work well. The main reason I chose to create a new web site separate from the club we site is that this way I can work on the Cherry Juice on my own computer and post it at a time that is convenient for me and not have to worry whether some one else is on vacation or otherwise unavailable to put it on the website.

I plan to post the Board meeting minutes on a separate page and keep them out of the body of the Juice and will be adding the club directory and an on-line registration form that will send the data directly to our treasurer Ward **N8WK**. I’ll let him worry about collecting the dough.

As I mentioned, I plan to post a little history of the CARC and I will archive the Cherry Juices as we progress through the year. As the site develops, I hope to link to some other club newsletters that I have found interesting and hopefully will be adding some other interesting stuff as time allows. Please be patient as I do have a life outside the CARC.

If you log on this month, you will find a page called “Elmer Alley”. It is my hope that some of you (all?) will register to provide help or information to either new hams or other club members who need some assistance with a ham radio project or activity. There is a wealth of knowledge in this club and it would be nice to tap in to some of it. As my mother used to say, “Don’t hide your light under a bushel basket”.

So, onward and upward and I hope you will enjoy the new Web Juice!! If you do not have any access to the web, I am sure that some club members would be happy to print out the current pages and send them to you.

-73 de **N8CN**

Benzie Amateur Radio Friends



AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE - Benzie County Emergency manager Bill Sholten, left, presents Tom Schoonover of the Benzie County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps the Award for Volunteer Excellence by the Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board. Undersheriff Rory Heckman, right, was the emergency manager prior to his appointment as undersheriff in March.

At a recent Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board an Award for Volunteer Excellence was presented to Tom Schoonover of the Benzie County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. The award was given to Schoonover on behalf of the entire club for their continued excellence and participation in the local emergency management activities. Schoonover was not at the meeting and was presented with the certificate at the Benzie County Sheriff’s office by undersheriff Rory Heckman and Benzie County Emergency manager Bill Sholten. Undersheriff Heckman was the emergency manager prior to his appointment as undersheriff in March.

Schoonover, **K8BTE** (his amateur call sign) and the Benzie Amateur Radio Friends participate in the local emergency preparedness activities through the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services/ Amateur Radio Emergency Services (RACES/ARES) organization.

RACES /ARES are nation-wide associations of amateur radio operators who have volunteered to become trained in emergency operations. In times of emergency, their service and abilities become essential to help a community to respond and recover from disasters. In recent events around the nation such as Hurricane Katrina and winter storms in Oregon this December,

ham radio operators provided vital links in communication when traditional systems became overloaded or failed.

Ham radio is more than just a hobby to some. It can set up networks for government and emergency officials to communicate when other communication services fail. Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board is an organization of professional emergency managers and first responders from a 17 county region in northern lower Michigan. Each county has a representative on the planning board. The board is responsible for planning and coordinating resources to prepare, respond and recover from emergencies in the region. "When the board requested applications to recognize some of our valuable volunteers from around the region, I immediately thought of Schoonover and his group," said Sholten. "They are an active and organized group of people willing to jump in and help out. The group has participated with the county when we exercise the activation of our Emergency Operations Center." Sholten cited the professionalism, organization and efficiency of the group in his application for the award.

The group is also active in State Emergency Test (SET), a statewide test of the ham radio operations and annually hold a field day where they practice setting up remote radio operations and try to make contact with other ham radio operators around the country. Sholten said, "They are a valuable resource to the community and we are very fortunate to have Schoonover and the rest of the RACES /ARES group as active participants in preparedness for Benzie County."

SWAP REPORT 2008

The CARC put on another great swap. For those of you who were not able to attend this years swap, you really missed something. But, there will always be next year for you to attend.

We put out 50 tables in the gym on Friday and the next day all but three of them were in use. With the vendors and the club tables plus those who asked for tables in advance we had 46 tables spoken for before the swap even started. As always there were a few "no shows" but some of their tables were taken by those who showed up wanting a table on Saturday morning. About 9 AM the aisles were filled with people. What a great turn out!

Activities got started with our pre-set up dinner at the Elk 's Club on Friday night. Those who were able to participate were Steve **KB8RDI**, Lisa **KC8EXD** and their harmonics Autumn and Alyssa, Jon **N8UL**, Diana **WD8DKL**, Dave **N8CN**, Hope **AA8SN**, Ward **N8WK**, Carol **K8CAK**, Roger **K8KV**, Chuck **W8SGR**, Marilyn **N8UUJ**, Bill **W8PIT**, Harry **KB8RIV**, Dave **K8WPE**, Don **N8QX**, Janet **N8RRR**, Joe **W8TVT**, and Chuck **W8GCW**.

After dinner we gathered at the IC Gym to set up the tables and chairs for the swap. Set up went real fast as everyone is experienced with this activity. We were finished in about 30 minutes. Gerry **N8RST** brought in some of the food supplies. She was assisted by Nancy **KB8VEH** and Paul **KB8UYM** and Lisa **KC8EXD**. They also prepared the coffee pots for brewing the next day. All that was needed was for them to be plugged in the next morning. Paul, Lisa and Nancy served double duty as they were also involved with the activities in the gym.

Supervising the gym set up was Chuck **W8SGR**. He was able to read the floor plan provided and made sure every table and chair was in their proper places. His workers included **Ward N8WK**, **John AB8RV**, Roger **N8KV**, Steve **KB8RDI**, Autumn and Alyssa Weaver, Dave **K8WPE**, Diana **WD8DKL**, Jon **N8UL**, Harry **KB8RIV**, Don **N8QX**, Tom **W8FIK**, Dave **N8CN** and Joe **W8TVT**.

The next morning I arrived at 5:30 AM to unlock all the doors,

plug the coffee pots in and turn on the lights. John **AB8RV** was the first one to arrive. After adding items to his table he helped Elmer's Ham Shack unload some of their merchandise. You may remember that Com-Dac sold their business to Elmer's Ham Shack of Gaylord, MI. Elmer's was willing to be a vendor at our swap. They provided us with an excellent array of ham radio items. Soon other sellers arrived to set up the tables.

Ward **N8WK** arrived to set up his admission table. During the morning he was able to collect club dues and pass out club directories. He was assisted through out the morning by Gloria **N8KXJ**, Steve **KB8RDI**, Hope **AA8SN**, and Bill **W8PIT**. Toby **KC8VSU** again served as our Sargeant at Arms. He was at the gym door making sure that only vendors got into the gym area before the official opening time of 8 AM. However it was noted that without consulting anyone he made an executive decision and allowed the general public into the gym at 7:55 AM! His announcement was heard loud and clear to those waiting in the cafeteria area.

Elgen **W8RNQ** monitored the 86 repeater to give assistance to those who needed directions to the swap. In years past he didn't have very many calls but this year he assisted quite a few newcomers. Don **N8QX** again brought over his portable PA system and made announcements and ran the drawing of door prizes throughout the morning. Interestingly he was able to announce his own call as the winner of the 50/50 drawing! Jean Bringman **KA8OGC**, (wife of Edgar **KA8HYE**) was the grand door prize winner. She took home a Kenwood TM 271 2 Meter Transceiver.

The club table and the 50/50 raffle was run by **Jon N8UL** and **Dave N8CN**. They were supervised by **Chuck W8SGR**. Those who really helped were Harry **KB8RIV** and Joe **N8OUZ**. Items on the table were donated by friends and members of the CARC. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the club table amounted to \$385.

Gerry **N8RST** did her usual super job purchasing the food items. Her selection of breakfast rolls was great. Special thanks to John **KB8GGK** for making up the mix of sloppyJoe's. (I prefer to call them Sloppy Johns!) Assisting Gerry to make things go so smoothly were Paul **KB8UYM** and Nancy **KB8VEH** (who came up from Grand Rapids to help with our event), Lisa **KC8EXD**, Steve **KB8RDI**, and their daughters Autumn & Alyssa, and of course Marilyn **N8UUJ** and Janet **N8RRR**.

Hope **AA8SN** supervised the VE Test Session and as usual did a fine job. Hope was assisted by Art **N8KHQ**, Tom **KE8KX** and Ralph **AB8BN**. Eight people took 1 or more exams and there were 7 upgrades. An 11-yr-old boy became a new Technician. Congratulations, we certainly need more youth in the hobby.

And last but not least the clean up crew! You people are super. You know what to do and how to do it. I mean, no one has to talk to you, you just go out and do it. I appreciate the fact that you would "stay after school" so to speak and clean up and put things away after everyone else has gone. The kitchen crew mentioned above clean up the kitchen and clean off the tables in the cafeteria area. This includes putting the tables back in order and placing the chairs on the tables. Those cleaning up the gym included Dave **K8WPE**, Steve **KB8RDI**, Pat **KB8PGD**, Ralph **AA8BN**, Joe **N8OUZ**, Eric **KC8CLP**, Don **N8QX**, Dave **N8CN**, Jon **N8UL** and Roger **N8KV**. They fold down the tables and put them on a movable rack. Then they fold all the chairs and put them on a special rack. These racks, which are now quite heavy, are pushed into a "closet" underneath the stage. During this time they are picking up items left behind and putting them in the trash.

Thanks everyone. Your assistance, involvement, & participation is just great. I think that everyone that attended had a good time. Seeing you with your "eye ball qso" with others is what it is all about. You know, for some of you, this is the only time I get to see you all year! We should do this more often. How about at a club meeting? We still meet at the Governmental Center on the fourth Tuesday of the month. No admission charge.....and we do have coffee and cookies for a small donation charge. I won't be at the February meeting but I will look for you on Tuesday March 25. 50/50 tickets will be available.

de Joe **W8TVT**

IT WAS ALWAYS THERE

At a recent Arctic Amateur Radio Club board meeting, during a rare lull in the oft-heated discussions about how best to increase our membership, I threw out a simple question. "How did you get into ham radio?"

The responses were revealing, to say the least. One by one, our board members, some young, some old, told the story of how they got into this hobby of all hobbies. One gentleman had a father who was a ham, and more or less forced him into the hobby, for which he was unspeakably grateful...years later, of course. One XYL saw a shortwave radio at a friend's house, started twiddling knobs, and got frustrated that she could only listen. For her, the rest was history. A couple of others were exposed to amateur radio in high school, one in Boy Scouts. Another credited me with getting him into ham radio, much to my gratification. One other confessed that he didn't really know; it just seemed to him that ham radio was "always around."

Interestingly enough, not one of the hams entered the hobby because of a concentrated recruitment program. Although occasional public relations "Blitzkriegs" have their place in Amateur Radio, I'm not sure they produce lasting hams. Like many other clubs, we manage to get a lot of hams licensed, but the dropout rate is appalling. The vast majority of our newly licensed hams never get on the air. I don't think our message is flawed; I think it's our delivery.

Of all the board members I mentioned above, I believe the last fellow, the one who said ham radio was "always around" had the key. We need to get back to the place where amateur radio is a continual, if quiet, presence. People who get lured into the hobby, stick with the hobby. People who get coerced and cajoled into the hobby leave as soon as we aren't looking.

The fact is, most new hams never see a working ham shack, about all they see is a handheld, which isn't all that fascinating. When a young person sees a ham shack equipped to cover everything from DC to daylight, they take notice...it doesn't matter whether they're a geek or not. I've never seen anyone who wasn't impressed by a Moon bounce (Earth-Moon-Earth contact) array swinging around on its rotators...whether they had a clue what it was or not! People don't know about ham radio because they don't see ham radio...except, perhaps at Field Day.

The best place to cultivate that "always around" feeling is in the schools. We need to infiltrate the middle and high schools again. Notice, I said, again. There was a time, not too long ago, when it was difficult to find a high school without a club station. Field Day should be a three hundred and sixty five day a year event, and that is easier to achieve in the schools than anywhere else.

There is no better way to teach science than with ham radio. We need to remind our public (and private) school teachers and administrators of that. We need to let our students get their hands grubby making things happen, rather than merely watching things

happen. We need to get some real hardware into the schools. We have wonderful new allocations now, and the technology to use them is cheaper and easier than ever.

When I was in high school in the late 60s, it was everything one could do, and then some, to do Moon bounce. It was only because we had a lunatic (no pun intended) electronics teacher, that we were able to pull off such a stunt. Now, Moon bounce is practically within reach of any determined high school club station. Wouldn't it be great if Moon bounce stations proliferated at our high schools the way HF stations once did?

Of course, I only use Moon bounce as one radical example. We have exciting things happening down at 500 kHz, as well. What better way to learn weak signal, digital signal processing techniques than with our newly allocated MF experimental spectrum? This all may be rocket science, but it doesn't take rocket science to get it into the schools! Our teachers want to see us excel in the sciences. Let's give them the tools to do so. Fifty years from now, someone may be asked how they got into ham radio. It would be nice if they could answer, "I don't know...I guess it was always there."

By Eric P. Nichols, **KL7AJ**
President, Arctic ARC

Editors note: The above article appeared in the *ARRL Club News*, January 2008.

WANTED

ARRL - Lightning Calculator Type "A"

This calculator has scales for determining inductance from wire size, length, diameter, and number of turns. There was a Type "B" lightning calculator. That calculator only has Ohm's law scales and solutions. Should you have one of the Type "A", please contact me: Jeff Peters **K9JP**

ANY DAY CAN BE FIELD DAY

Paul Milward, **AB4PM** tells us that the Daytona Beach ARA uses a mini-field day type operation to attract people to Amateur Radio. Paul says that the club visits various parks on alternating weekends and sets up a HF station and starts calling CQ. Curious parkgoers are treated to an informative demonstration on ham radio and receive some club information and how to get their own Amateur Radio license.

NEW HF OPERATORS

The School Club Roundup is coming up - why not tune around the bands and let these up and coming operators see how much you're enjoying HF operating? Look for these young hams from February 11th to the 15th.

Then jump into the ARRL DX Contests, CW on February 16-17 and the Phone DX on March 1st and 2nd. Fill up that logbook!!

That's all folks, 73 de **N8CN**

