



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

January 2010

Club Officers  
President  
Don N8QX

Vice President  
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy  
Gloria N8KXJ

Corresponding Secy  
Bill W8PIT

Treasurer  
Ward N8WK

Directors

Jon 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

## Coming Club Events

### January 26<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting

This month we are back at the Governmental Center at 8<sup>th</sup> and Boardman for our regular club meeting. Joe **N8OUZ** will give a presentation on packet radio which is enjoying a resurgence in Emergency Communications. This is a continuation of the November meeting. Meet at the Governmental Center lower level cafeteria at 7 p.m. 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:

**Muskegon, MI.** Saturday, February 6, 2010. Muskegon Area AR Council. 9 am. (Walk-ins OK) Red Cross Bldg. 313 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon, MI. Contact: Robert [wb8oqt@arrl.net](mailto:wb8oqt@arrl.net)

**Traverse City, MI.** Saturday, February 13, 2010. Cherryland ARC. 10 am at the Swap-n-Shop. Immaculate Conception Elementary School. Walk-ins OK. Contact: Hope: 231 941-7262 or [aa8sn@arrl.net](mailto:aa8sn@arrl.net)

#### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, February 6, 2010.** HARA Swap-n-Shop. Hiawatha ARA. Negaunee Twp Hall. Directions: [www.qsl.net/k8lod](http://www.qsl.net/k8lod). TI: 147.27 (PL 100) Contact: George KI8AF 906 225-1594 or [ki8af@arrl.net](mailto:ki8af@arrl.net)

**Saturday, February 13, 2010.** Traverse City, MI. Cherryland ARC Annual Swap-n-Shop. Immaculate Conception Elementary School. 8 am til noon. TI: **146.86**. Contact: Joe Novak W8TVT 231 947-8555 or [jjnovak@charter.net](mailto:jjnovak@charter.net)

### Reflected Waves

#### January 1987

According to Treasurer Al **W8IAS** we have 139 members this year. This year will be the 14<sup>th</sup> annual CARC Swap-n-Shop. The first 6 swaps, 1974-1979 were held at the NMC Tech center. The 1980 Swap was held at the Elks Club and the 1981 Swap took place at the Garfield Town Hall. Since 1982, the swap has been at Immaculate Conception Middle School gymnasium. Tom **NS8K** has been conducting both General and Advanced classes.

#### January 2000

The January meeting was highlighted by a video of the **ZL9CI** Cambell Island Dxpedition. In addition, the new officers elected for 2000 were President Tom **AA8YI**, VP Norm **KC8CLM**, Recording Secretary Gloria **N8KXJ**, Corresponding Secretary Hope **AA8SN** and Treasurer Ward **N8WK**. The **Directors** elected were Chuck **W8SGR**, John **KX8LL** and Dale **KC8KVX**. Cherry Juice Editor is Dave **N8CN**.

## HAM OF THE YEAR

Our HOY (Ham of the Year) for 2009 was announced and introduced by Joe **W8TVT** at the annual CARC Christmas Party on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's winner, Jim Palmer **K8OJP** was honored for his work with the clubs RACES/ARES program. Here's a paraphrase of Joe's comments taken from his presentation notes.

Joe began his presentation with a brief discussion of the William F. Martinek **W8JUY** HOY award. This award was instituted in 1993 in memory of "Mr. TC Ham Radio" Bill Martinek. **W8JUY** was a vital cog of the CARC for many years. It was decided to honor his memory and activities with an annual award for a club member who stepped up and provided an exceptional service to the club. In some cases, the award was presented for several years of club service.

Previous winners were: 1993 **W8SGR**, 1994 **N8CN**, 1995 dual winners **W8VWY** and **K8ZJU**, 1996 **W8TVT**, 1997 **N8WK**, 1998 **W8PIT**, 1999 **K8CLM**, 2000 **AA8SN**, 2001 **N8VX**, 2002 **KX8CW**, 2003 **K9JP**, 2004 **KC8JVQ**, 2005 dual winners **K8CLM** and **W8SGR**, 2006 **N8UL**, 2007--no winner, 2008 Don **N8QX** and 2009, **K8OJP**.

A few months ago, Dan Scott, our county emergency services co-ordinator, was looking for someone to be a liaison between his department and the ham community.

The "natural fit" was Jim **K8OJP** as he could talk the "ham radio lingo" as well as law enforcement language. Dan had previously worked with Jim in the county Sheriff's department.

Jim was successful in assembling a large group of hams to assist with local emergency exercises this past year with the two most notable being the exercises at Camp Greilick and Munson Hospital. Jim's most notable achievement was recruiting a "co-chair" to assist with planning and organizing RACES/ARES activities and making the "executive" decisions. This ham is none other than Ernie Abel **K8RCT**.

Malcom James Palmer graduated from Traverse City Central in 1957. He attended MSU and graduated "on time" four years later with a degree in law enforcement administration. For a time at MSU he roomed with another TC ham, Frank Shumsky **W8TVQ**. Jim served with the MSU Campus Police, 2 years with the MI Department of Public Safety and 4 years with Law Enforcement in Kalamazoo.

Wanting to return to TC, he eventually got a job with Grand Traverse County under long-time County Sheriff Richard Weiler. In the late 60's and 70's Jim was "undercover" with the Narcotic's Division. This was Jim's "unwashed" period although he maintains it was the clothes that were "unwashed" not himself!! Jim sported a beard and long hair, lived in Jeans and rode a "chopper".

Eventually, he changed his image and became Captain of the Detective Bureau. He retired in 1998.

Jim is an accomplished sailor and owns a 30 ft sail boat, the "KNOT ON CALL". He has single handedly sailed all of the Great Lakes and taken on many Lake Superior storms--all by himself. When he was in the North Channel he developed his method of heavy fog navigation--*the potato technic*--throw a potato as far as you can, if you don't hear a splash, put the engine in reverse ASAP!

Jim has been known to close down his house and spend the entire summer on his boat. In addition to his marine radios, he has his ham gear as well and on occasion would check into various nets to let people know his location.

Jim is known to frequent the J&S where he is known as "cup cake" and his favorite restaurants are Don's Drive-In and the

TC Elks Club. Jim also is very fond of Potter's pecan rolls. He has a daughter Suzanne and grand-daughter Abigail in West Virginia.

Congratulations, Jim. Your contribution of time and talent to the CARC is deeply appreciated!

## SKY WARN RECOGNITION DAY

TBARG and CARC hams, Ernie Abel, **K8RCT**, Jon Schumacker, **N8UL** and Joe Novak, **W8TVT** made the snowy trek over to Gaylord on Dec 5th to operate the National Weather Service Sky Warn event. We headed out about 8 AM and slid our way into the weather station around 9:30. We did a brief antenna installation and we were soon on the air operating packet and VHF.

The hams from NMARES had arrived before we did and had strung both HF and VHF antennas. We had a busy time operating packet and VHF. It got so busy at times that one operator had to operate the station and another had to do the logging.

Thanks to the many hams that made contacts with us while we were on the air. It was wonderful to meet and chat with the NMARES group and to plan for future emergency communications events. Unfortunately, the gang from Cheybogan, Charlevoix and Emmet (the CCE gang) couldn't make it to the weather service. Ironically, they got snowed in!

## COMMUNICATIONS DRILL 12/15/09

On Dec 15 hams from the TBARG group assisted District 7 (Northern Michigan) emergency personnel in a communications drill. In case you're not familiar with TBARG, it is the Traverse Bay Amateur Radio communications Group. This is a group of hams in the Traverse Bay area who are interested in emergency communications and who participate in local and regional emergency communications drills.

During the December 15th exercise, the group set up VHF FM, VHF packet and two HF stations all operating from the Grand Traverse Emergency Operations Center. The exercise lasted from 8:00 AM until noon and involved Grand Traverse County emergency personnel as well as the TBARG group.

The purpose of the exercise was to test the communications interoperability. The task of the TBARG group was to establish direct contact with the national weather service, other county EOC's and the State EOC. All assigned tasks were accomplished except for contact with the State EOC in Lansing. During the critique following the exercise we were told that the State EOC had equipment problems and was not able to participate. All the communication tasks within District 7 were accomplished. In fact, Grand Traverse County was the first county in District 7 to complete the tasks in the exercise.

TBARG hams participating from the EOC were Russ Riker, **K8RUS**, Jim Palmer, **K8OJP**, Joe Novak, **W8TVT**, Richard Jean, **WX8R**, and Ernie Abel, **K8RCT**. Thanks guys, you really showed the emergency organizations what amateur radio can do....When All Else Fails....

-73, Ernie **K8RCT**, Gt. Co EC

**TBARG DECEMBER 15 ACTIVITY**

After-action report on the Dec 15, 2009 District 7 Communications Exercise

Submitted by Ernest Abel, **K8RCT**

Grand Traverse Emergency Coordinator

Activities started on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> when **N8UL**, **K8OJP** and **K8RCT** installed two additional temporary VHF antennas on the roof of the Grand Traverse EOC.

On Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, the exercise started at about 8:00 Am with **K8RUS**, **K8OJP**, **NK8R**, **W8TVT** and **K8RCT** at the county EOC. We operated HF with two mobile stations (**NK8R** and **K8OJP**), packet (**K8RCT**) and VHF-FM (**K8RUS**, **W8TVT**). The HF operators reported contacting other county EOC's but were not able to contact the State EOC. Reports after the event were that the SEOC was having equipment problems and was not on the air.

The packet station was able to contact other area EOC's on packet but was not able to contact the SEOC. There was no area packet link to that part of the state. Other packet stations experience the same problem.

VHF-FM was completely successful in contacting other EOC's in the exercise and was able to make direct contact with the National Weather Service, which was one of its assigned tasks.

Operations at the Grand Traverse County EOC were concluded at about 1:00 following a lunch provided by the Salvation Army. Following the exercise, the hams met for a post-operations debriefing. Listed below are the comments from the debriefing:

**Things that worked well**

1. VHF-FM was very successful in making contacts. A second scanning VHF transceiver installed at the EOC would be a benefit.
2. HF worked well in contacting other District 7 EOC's. However, there was a high noise level on both 80 meters and 40 meters. Both stations used mobile antennas and an additional long-wire antenna was also used.
3. Packet was able to contact Antrim Co. EOC but could not contact other EOC's. It appears that only Antrim Co was operating packet.
4. Interaction with the Grand Traverse emergency personnel staffing the EOC was excellent.

**Things we need to fix**

1. Need a white board and clock in the EOC radio room.
2. Need a better HF set-up with perhaps a crank-up tower and antennas.
3. Need to run more feed lines to the roof of the EOC.
4. Need to permanently install VHF antennas.
5. Need to have up-to-date map/list of repeaters and packet nodes and bulletin boards.
6. Need to have a list of all the TBARG members and contact info in the EOC.
7. Need to keep a better log of events.
8. Need to install the D-star radio and train operators in its use.

**NEW LICENSEES ON THE INCREASE**

This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, **AB1FM**, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years."

A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks; just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 -- a whopping 84 percent! The ARRL VEC is one of 14 VECs who administer Amateur Radio license exams.

"When looking at the statistics over the last 10 years, these are some the highest numbers we've seen," Somma explained. "Additionally, our total number of licensees across all three classes has grown each year." Currently there are 682,500 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 3 percent rise over 2008. In 2008, there were 663,500 licensed amateurs; there were 655,800 in 2007. Broken down by license class, at the end of 2009 there were 17,084 Novices, 334,245 Technicians, 150,970 Generals, 60,795 Advanced and 119,403 Amateur Extra licensees.

"The ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community by helping people to become radio amateurs or upgrade their existing licenses," Somma said. "In 2009, ARRL VEs administered 44,595 exam elements at 6369 ARRL VEC-sponsored exam sessions. The number of amateurs who want to be Volunteer Examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up -- we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as ARRL examiners and instructors."

Somma applauded all the volunteers whose "hard work and contribution of countless hours of time helps to ensure the future of Amateur Radio. The ARRL VEC thanks our 32,411 VEs from around the world whose dedication and service helped to contribute to the success of Amateur Radio. I am delighted by these important achievements. 2009 was a very good year for Amateur Radio and I am excited by the promise of 2010."

-tnx to *The ARRL Letter*

NEW FCC LICENSES ISSUED 2005 THROUGH 2009					
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jan	876	1,274	1,647	1,755	1,960
Feb	1,357	1,605	2,435	2,998	2,263
Mar	1,705	2,531	3,478	2,816	3,463
Apr	1,486	1,728	2,673	3,090	3,430
May	1,651	2,283	2,607	2,562	2,717
Jun	1,493	1,967	2,281	2,402	3,011
Jul	906	1,401	1,786	2,077	2,220
Aug	1,500	1,623	2,183	2,084	2,102
Sep	1,139	1,357	1,462	1,763	2,116
Oct	1,385	1,781	2,109	2,303	2,404
Nov	1,540	1,993	2,132	2,197	2,344
Dec	1,330	1,569	1,935	2,019	2,114
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16,368</b>	<b>21,112</b>	<b>26,728</b>	<b>28,066</b>	<b>30,144</b>