



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club      traverse city, mi

January 2011

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

### January 25<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting

If you show up for this months meeting, you will be in for a real treat! Ernie **K8RCT** has arranged for a tour of the 911 operation with emphasis on the radio aspects. Depending on the number of people attending, we may have to split into two groups for the tour. In addition, it is election month so Joe **W8TVT** will present the proposed slate of new officers and accept nominations from the floor. Also, a brown bag nite—nope, not your supper! Check inside the Juice for details.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Muskegon Area AR Council. American Red Cross Bldg. 313 Webster Ave. Muskegon. 9 am. Walk-ins OK. Contact: Robert\_231 799-3634 or [res00lwt1@frontier.net](mailto:res00lwt1@frontier.net)

**Traverse City, MI.** Saturday, February 12, 2011. Cherryland ARC. At the Swap-N-Shop. 10 am. Walk-ins OK. Immaculate Conception School. Contact: Hope AA8SN at 231 941-7262 or [aa8sn@arrrl.net](mailto:aa8sn@arrrl.net)

### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, February 12, 2011.** Traverse City, MI. Cherryland ARC 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap. Immaculate Conception Elementary School. 8 a.m. til noon. Exams: 10 a.m. TI: 146.86. Contact: Joe W8TVT at 231 947-8555.

**Sunday, February 20, 2011.** Livonia, MI. Livonia ARC Swap-n-Shop. 8 a.m. til noon. Civic Park Senior Center. 15218 Farmington Road. Web page: [www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm](http://www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm)

## Reflected Waves

### January 2001

Hope Francisco **AA8SN** was awarded the Ham of the Year for 2000 at the December Christmas party. The award was presented by Norm **KC8CLM**. Officers elected for this year include President Tom **AA8YI**, VP Norm **KC8CLM**, Recording Secretary Gloria **N8KXJ**, Corresponding Secretary Hope **AA8SN**, and Treasurer Ward **N8WK**. The new Directors are Jon **KG8AO**, John **KX8CW** and Dale **N8VX**. The Cherry Juice editor is Dave **N8CN**.

### January 1991

The new officers for 1991 are President Dave **N8KWT**, Vice President John **KF8KK**, Recording Secretary Art **N8HKQ**, Corresponding Secretary Holly **KB8ALS** and Treasurer George **NZ8H**. The Directors are Rob **N8LDQ**, Joe **W8TVT** and Phil **KD8UX**. Cherry Juice editor is Elbert **W8SY**.

## BROWN BAG NIGHT

This month's meeting is a brown bag night. What's a brown bag night? We haven't had one for quite some time so a few words of explanation are in order. Number one is that you don't need to bring a lunch. That's not the kind of brown bag we mean and I guarantee you the meeting won't last so long that you will need a lunch.

The rules for a CARC brown bag night are as follows:

1. If you wish to participate, you must bring a sealed brown bag with some inexpensive item that would be of use in a ham shack. No junk parts or non-functioning items please. Could be as simple as some electrical tape, PL259's, a book, etc. Key words here are inexpensive and useful.
2. Do not put your name or any identifying marks on the bag. Just place it on the table when you arrive at the meeting.
3. At the appropriate time, all attendees who brought a bag will have the opportunity to take a bag from the table and whatever it contains is yours to keep or trade with someone else.

That's it. Occasionally, some one will want to target a specific individual. You can do so by putting THEIR call sign on the bag. If you choose to do this, however, and want to take a bag for yourself; then, you need to bring a second but unmarked bag.

## THE NEW CLUB YEAR

Well, 2011 has begun and our CARC Board has held its first meeting. It looks like the coming year will pose some challenges as well as new activities and the usual events such as the Swap, Field Day, July Picnic and the August Lighthouse SE. Our popular Tuesday Project Nights will continue at the club station and we are scheduled to increase our computer access at the station.

Ernie **K8RCT** and Jim **K8OJP** have really stepped up the activities of the affiliated RACES/ARES group, **TBAREG**, along with lots of help from Russ **K8RUS**, Mike **W8VPC**, Jon **N8UL** and several others.

Have you made any amateur radio New Year's resolutions? How about spending more time on the air? Upgrading the shack? Learning some new modes? Trying some new bands: 160 meters? 60 meters? 6 meters? 30 meters? New wallpaper: 5 band DXCC? WAZ? Worked all Counties? How about going with HF mobile? Join TBAREG? Improve your CW skills? Learn to use a new logging program? Put your log on Logbook of the World? How about contesting? Two radio contesting? Organize a multi-single or multi-multi? Set up a personal contest with a buddy? Build a kit or two? Evaluate lightning protection for your home, shack and radios? How about writing an article for the Cherry Juice? Writing something for QST or one of the other magazines such as CQ or NCJ? How about becoming a rover in the Michigan QSO party? Stuck on 100 watts—how about adding an amplifier? How about putting up one or more yagi or quads for 2 meter SSB? Point of all this is that this is a huge hobby with all sorts of fun techy stuff to get involved with—this is the perfect time to think about how you are using your hobby and how you can increase your FQ—fun quotient!!

And now for my favorite: How about putting on a club program? I know that right now you are thinking that you have nothing to present that would interest other club members. You are dead wrong!! The most popular, fun and well-attended CARC meetings have been those presented by members. You don't need to have a fancy presentation just show some passion for your topic! Last year Ed **K8ZZ** presented a program on county hunting "his way" and he was surprised by the appreciation and interest shown by those in attendance. I, however, was not surprised because within minutes I was able to "feel" Ed's passion for his topic and that was the deal maker—his visual aids were nothing fancy but his obvious love of county hunting was what made the program memorable. So, my challenge to all of you is to think through your "passions" and consider sharing them with us at one of our meetings. It doesn't have to be entirely about ham radio as we have featured vacations, community projects such as the civil air patrol and airport communications, tour of a local FM radio station and how to assemble a PC. You can present your idea to any of the club officers or better yet, come to one of the monthly Board meetings and let us know what you would like to do. The club has a DLP projector that will project a computer image from any laptop with a VGA port if your presentation involves computer use.

Our hobby is enjoyed by people from varied backgrounds running the gamut from politicians to retail sales to medical professionals and young people who have yet to join the workforce. We are not all electrical engineers and communications or computer specialists. I honestly cannot think of a single hobby with a such a broad range of activities that is enjoyed by individuals of such varying age and background. When I first became involved with amateur radio I was surprised at the number of hams I met that were musicians either amateur or professional. If one considers that one of the common threads of hams is a desire to communicate and interact with others, and that music is the universal language, it is really not surprising.

So, my hope for all of you is continued happiness with your chosen hobby in the coming year and a request that you examine both your radio and non-radio talents and activities through the prism of "can I share them with the members of the CARC" either through participation in club activities or presentation at a club meeting.

-Happy New Year and 73 from the editorial staff of *The Cherry Juice*

## SWAP-N-SHOP

It's mid-January and our annual Swap-n-Shop is only 4 weeks away!! The date is Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and this year is our 37<sup>th</sup> annual Swap. Joe **W8TVT** is once again the ombudsman for the February Swap and thanks to Gerry **N8RST** we will again have an efficient highly organized kitchen. The club table, raffle, door prizes, etc will be run by the usual suspects. As has become tradition, there will be a pre-swap dinner at the Elks club from 5-7pm. Cash payment for food and bar and around 7 pm we will head for the IC gym for set-up. All are welcome and many hands make for light work!

Since the swap is our main and in fact, only, fund raising activity, all of us on the Board are guardedly optimistic on the odds of a successful event. Club dues and donations do not fully fund our activities and without the swap income we cannot maintain our equipment and events at the current level. We find ourselves absolutely dependent on good swap attendance at a time when the popularity of swaps seems to be on the wane. With the popularity of on-line sales, many people no longer hold onto their gear to sell at swaps and others no longer wait for a local swap to purchase needed shack goodies. Since Com-Dac went out of business, it has proven extremely difficult to find a vendor willing to travel north.

Last year, the swap was well attended and financially successful for the club! Our fears were not realized and we have hopes that this year will be equally strong. So please, **TALK UP** our swap with your amateur radio friends and/or anyone you know that might be interested in ham gear, computers or just meeting some active hams and viewing one small slice of the amateur radio pie. How about trying to talk one person you know who has never been to our swap to show up? Invite a friend! If you can't make it yourself, send a \$5.00 contribution to Ward **N8WK** and he will purchase a door prize ticket for you and you will be eligible to win one of the 3 major prizes. Even if you don't win, the club will !!

If you have stuff you want to sell, please consider purchasing a table. The fee is only \$8.00 and if your stuff sells, you'll be far ahead as you won't have to pay the shipping costs associated with on-line sales. Low overhead equals higher profits!! While sharing tables is not a sin, the more tables on the floor, the more attractive the swap appears to buyers—nothing is more deflating than a half-empty gym. So please, consider your own table rather than sharing. On the other hand, if sharing is an economic necessity, feel free to do so as “stuff to sell” trumps everything!!



## 2010 HOY

The CARC Ham of the Year for 2010 is Ernie **K8RCT** and he was presented the award at the annual Christmas Party by last years recipient, Jim **K8OJP**. Prior to the presentation, Joe **W8TVT** announced Ernie as the new HOY and gave a brief description of Ernie's ham radio career and his many contributions to the CARC. Here's some excerpts and paraphrasing from Joe's presentation notes.

Ernie's life-long interest in ham radio began in his scouting years at the age of 14. At that time he was living in Marquette, MI and was known as KN8RCT. He left Marquette on graduation from high school and continued his education at MSU. He was active there in ham activities and on graduation joined the MI Dept of Agriculture.

After some employment and marriage re-assignments, Ernie landed in Escanaba and was active in emergency communications, radio club meetings and teaching morse code. He re-married in 1981 and was transferred to Grand Rapids in 1989. Faced with antenna restrictions in Grand Rapids, his radio activity declined until moving to Traverse City in 1997.

He has since retired from the State but continues to work at the Interlochen Arts Academy. He resumed his radio activities in recent years and with the help of several CARC members, his antenna farm continues to grow.

Ernie has been working closely with Jim **K8OJP** to improve emergency communications in the area and they have formed the Traverse Bay Amateur Radio Emergency Group-TBAREG-as a separate group but affiliated with the CARC. TBAREG is a 501-C organization making contributions tax-deductible.

Working with Dan Scott, Ernie was able to get a used North Flight Ambulance to TBAREG and this vehicle is now affectionately referred to as “The Barge”. Working with county officials, Ernie was able to develop a radio room at the County Government building on Garfield Ave and similar co-operation with Munson officials led to a radio room for amateur radio services at the hospital. Working with Dan, Ernie has been able to apply for Federal funding to equip “The Barge” and both radio rooms. Ernie has set up monthly meetings to plan and co-ordinate emergency activities for the area. In 2010, Ernie and the TBAREG group participated in Simulated Emergency Drills in Jan, April and September and provided radio support for the White Pine Stampede in February and the Ride Around Torch in July. In May they demonstrated Amateur Radio with “The Barge” at the Boy Scouts 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities at the Fair Grounds and in June he worked at Field Day. In August Ernie was at the Lighthouse SE station and he has willingly contributed to the programs at the monthly CARC meetings. For his activities in both the CARC and TBAREG, Ernie Abel K8RCT is the 2010 Ham of the Year.

For newer club members unfamiliar with the HOY award, the official name is the William Martinek **W8JUY** Memorial Ham of the Year Award. Bill passed away in 1993 and from the 50's to the 80's, he was Mr. Ham Radio for the CARC. Serving in nearly every office from President to Cherry Juice editor (one year he did both!), running nets, teaching licensing classes and participating at the

Swap, **W8JUY** did it all. He was the owner of Martinek jewelers in the 200 block of Front Street and often provided the main door prize for the swap. The award was established in 1993 and the first recipient was Chuck **W8SGR**. Subsequent winners were Dave **N8CN** in 1994, Marion **W8VWY** and Bev Stoner **K8ZJU** in 1995, Joe **W8TVT** in 1996, Ward **N8WK** in 1997, Bill **W8PIT** in 1998, Norm **K8CLM** in 1999, Hope **AA8SN** in 2000, Dale **N8VX** in 2001, John **KX8CW** in 2002, Jeff **K9JP** in 2003, Jill **KC8JVQ** in 2004, Norm **K8CLM** and Chuck **W8SGR** in 2005, Jon **N8UL** in 2006, no award in 2007, Don **N8QX** in 2008 and Jim **K8OJP** in 2009. Originally, the award was a plaque but Joe **W8TVT** has ramped up the award with his hand-crafted beautiful lamps using vacuum tubes.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

We had a nice group for the Christmas party this year and fortunately the weather was co-operative. Once again, the CARC revelers were treated to "A Christmas Medley for Bags and Pipes" by non-other than Ernie **K8RCT**. That's right, the same Ernie who later was annointed HOY!. No end to this man's talent! An encore performance was requested by another group holding their Christmas gathering in an adjacent room.

A second, surprise award was also given out after the dinner. Joe **N8OUZ** was awarded the "Purple Crystal" award for timing out the 86 repeater this past November. This award is also a creation of Joe **W8TVT** and is designed to be a "traveling award" to be passed on to the next person who "times out" a local repeater.

Here's the Purple Crystal Award crafted by **W8TVT**. While it is hard to discern from this photograph, the crystal really is a nice purple!

## SHOW ME THE MONEY!

That's what Ward **N8WK** is saying this month. Membership dues need to be paid before January 31, 2011 to avoid being considered delinquent. Our dues are still only \$1.00 per month (they have been at that level since 1990!) and one heckuva bargain! We have been able to keep dues this low as every year our February swap has been sufficiently profitable to keep the club solvent.

Our current dues structure is as follows: Dues for 1<sup>st</sup> family member are \$12.00 per year, additional family members are \$2.00 per year. Student memberships (elementary, middle or high school students) are \$5.00 per year.

As we are closing down the autopatch, there is no longer an autopatch fee. A voluntary repeater donation of \$5.00-10.00 per year is suggested and appreciated. Luckily we have not had to fund any tower climbs recently but the repeater system is aging and the 86 machine is over 25 yrs old. If you read the Board minutes you will see that we are considering applying for some grant money to upgrade this repeater and we are replacing the 442.500 machine.

You can pay your dues at the club meeting or send your dues to:

Ward Kuhn **N8WK**  
PO Box 987  
Traverse City, MI 49685

Note: if you wait to pay your dues until the February Swap-n-Shop, you will likely not appear in the club directory as Ward usually has the directory printed and ready for delivery at the swap.



## TBARG REPORT

As you know, the emergency communications efforts in the Traverse Bay area is coordinated through the Traverse Bay Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Group (TBARG for short) – a group of local hams that have a keen interest in ham radio emergency communications. One of our main functions is to train ourselves in Emcomm procedures to participate in local and regional exercises. Listed below is the outline of an extensive drill that will be taking place this spring. This exercise will impact most of the Eastern US and TBARG will be involved. If you are interested in participating in this exercise and would like to join us in TBARG, please contact me. The more trained operators we have, the better we can serve our community.

-73, Ernie Abel **K8RCT**

## Grand Traverse County EC

Here's the information on the upcoming exercise:

There will be a National Level Exercise (NLE) the week of May 16. The scenario will be a magnitude 7 quake on the New Madrid fault near Memphis, TN. This exercise is often referred to as NM11.

Michigan will not be directly participating in the NLE, although the SEOC will be manned that week to take calls from the states in the area. However, we will have an exercise coordinated with that exercise on the Wednesday of that week.

The potential on this fault is interesting. The geography in the Midwest is quite different than California, so the expected earthquake effects are quite different. The relative lack of faults means that earthquakes may be felt much farther from the epicenter than on the west coast. In addition, because the ground is mostly clay and sand, the ground is expected to fluidize more than shake. Still, we don't expect a lot of direct damage in Michigan. There is some potential for bridge damage in the southern tier of counties, and DLEG is concerned about the effect on windmills, of which we have many. As most of our utilities run through that fault, so we should expect a loss of natural gas, electricity, and significant communications disruption.

In addition, we anticipate evacuees from the area to be a major problem. Katrina brought fewer than 100 evacuees to Michigan, and we had a difficult time handling them. An incident of this magnitude this close would be expected to bring many thousands of evacuees to the state.

How many of these effects we will simulate during the exercise remains to be determined. One of the things we plan to exercise from an amateur radio perspective is connecting to other states' EOCs via digital modes. We will run tests using both NTSD and MARS digital circuits, and planning for this is underway. Obviously, the digital tests involve very few players.

Since we are involved in developing the scenario, there is an opportunity to write into the exercise some specific activities we would like to exercise. I encourage all the ECs to consider where you need work and share your thoughts with me. We won't be able to get in everything we want, but we have a better opportunity here than we have had in some time.

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

(Which is here already!)

Not only is it January, but it's 2011 to boot! I always look forward to Christmas and then seem to get a little down in January. Christmas and the New Year are exciting and it's also my favorite time because the sun is down and there's more opportunity for DX. But each time that I face December and January, I seem to be disappointed that I didn't plan better during the previous year. I don't take the time to set good goals, like I should.

It's also the time of year when I seem to work 3B8CF in Mauritius. He's an avid CW operator and found on the lower end of 30m and 40m, quite often. No, I can't pronounce his name (Seewoosankar) but I've worked him so many times, he now says, "Hi Sean!" when we each give our quick RST reports. It makes me wonder how he pronounces "Sean", when he sees my name. Even my 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Mayhew, couldn't pronounce my name. She called me See-on for the first three months that year. But you have to admit. Seewoosankar is a little trickier than Sean. Try it.

The months of December and January also seem like a time for reflection. Being the end of the year, and that time of year where we make so many memories, I can better relate now to being a little reflective. Not only are the kids growing up in my family, but we recently lost a close relative on Thanksgiving Day, this year, so it's easier for me to understand how important this time of year is for people.

But as I told my close friend recently, "We move forward!", since I can't imagine the alternative. And, since I'm "still kicking", as **W8RP** told me back in the 80s, I'm going to dream about 2011 and start setting my goals for personal improvement. January will soon be gone and part of history. The New Year seems to come faster with each year and I'm still around creating interference. Now is the time to look forward and start thinking about how awesome 2011 is going to be. Time flies, as they say, and it's a waste to sit around and complain about the could haves, should haves. 2011 is upon us and there's no time for moping!

Maybe I'll save up for a new computer. Maybe I'll read a new book (on 160 meter antenna designs!). Or maybe, as my mother-in-law taught me so well when she was here, I'll set a goal to just be a nicer guy, less critical of people who disagree with me. I think my mother-in-law would approve of more kindness on this planet.

It's January and it's a great time to not only reflect about this past year, but, more importantly, it's a great time to set some meaningful goals and make some lasting plans. Maybe try working 3B8CF! Set a goal of \$10 a month towards a new CW paddle. Write down your thoughts for posterity. But whatever you do, don't stare at your HF rig for 12 months and then complain about how quickly January 2012 came this time around. There's no gain in doing that again. Trust me, it's never worked for me. There's no time to waste. Not only is it January, but it's 2011 to boot!

## HAM HEADS UP HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

When US Representative Greg Walden, **W7EQI** (R-OR), learned December 16 that he would be chairing the House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet when the 112th Congress convened in January, he let the world know about it by tweeting the news in Morse code. "Just the ham radio operator in me having fun," he posted to his official Web page. The subcommittee has jurisdiction over "interstate and foreign telecommunications including, but not limited to all telecommunication and information transmission by broadcast, radio, wire, microwave, satellite or other mode."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, **K1ZZ**, was pleased to hear the news: "We're delighted that the subcommittee is in the hands of such a well-qualified chairman. Greg was an early cosponsor of HR2160, and while he may not always be able to agree with every ARRL position, we know his door will always be open to us."

-TNX to *The ARRL Letter*

## W7EQI VOWS TO OVERTURN NET NEUTRALITY ACTION

Representative Greg Walden, **W7EQI**, the incoming chair of the House Communications Subcommittee, says that the FCC has overstepped its bounds in regard to Net Neutrality. His opinion came in a Tuesday, December 28th in a conference call with reporters about the FCC's 3-2 party line vote to expand and codify network neutrality guidelines.

According to news reports, Walden was joined by Energy & Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton, Communications Subcommittee Vice Chairman Lee Terry and committee/subcommittee member Marsha Blackburn in pledging to get all the commissioners to Capitol Hill to explain the move. At the same time it was revealed that the legislators would work to overturn the controversial FCC decision by any legislative means necessary.

Confirming Upton's promise in an interview with Multichannel News, the three legislators vowed a series of hearings on the process, the legal underpinnings and the policy, the last which they characterized as a job-killing, investment killing, congress-bypassing, regulatory overreach. They also said they would look into at least three ways to block implementation of the order, which would be legislation, defunding the FCC appropriation, or a special congressional resolution that would nullify the rules.

-tnx to *Amateur Radio Newslines* Report 1744

## COMMUNICATIONS POLITICS: HR 81 INTRODUCED

New life for a ham radio emergency communications measure. The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, was reintroduced in the 112th Congress as HR 81 on January 5th. According to an ARRL credited posting on Facebook, the sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D) of Texas.

The objective of the bill which is supported by the ARRL is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. Also it would identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to amateur radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

Representative Jackson Lee first introduced the bill as HR 2160 in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate as S 1755 had made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House. Now, in 2011, a lot of hams are hoping that this latest version will make it through both houses of Congress and become the law of the land.

-tnx to *Amateur Radio Newslines* report #1744

## NEW RATES FOR OUTGOING QSL SERVICE

Effective January 17, 2011, a new pricing structure will go into effect for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. With the new rate structure, amateurs will no longer need to count outgoing cards and then guess as to what to pay based upon a half-pound rate; a simple weighing of the cards is all that is necessary to determine what amount to send to the Bureau. This new structure also accommodates a small rate increase in response to recent postage, shipping and handling costs.

The last rate revision for the Outgoing QSL Service was in January 2007. Even though international shipping costs have remained flat over the last 4 years, domestic shipping costs have risen more than 16 percent since 2007, while material and handling costs continue to climb 1 to 2 percent each year.

The new rate will be:

\$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope.

\$3 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or 75 cents per ounce, for packages with 21 or more cards. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds -- 24 ounces, or about 225 cards -- of cards will cost \$18.

If you have any questions concerning the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service or the rates to use the service, please send them via e-mail to [buro@arrl.org](mailto:buro@arrl.org).