



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club

traverse city, mi

July/Aug 2009

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

### August 23<sup>rd</sup> Club Meeting

Sunday! Sunday! Sunday! That's right, this months regular Club meeting will be on Sunday afternoon, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be the annual Fox Hunt and last years winner, Chuck W8SGR will be the wily Fox. Meet at the Governmental Center at 8<sup>th</sup> and Boardman at 3 p.m. Following the hunt there will be a picnic with Hot Dogs, etc provided by the club. All are welcome. If you don't have equipment, don't worry as you can ride along with someone. Picnic site will be announced during or 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:

**Gaylord, MI.** Saturday, September 5, 2009. Top of Michigan ARC. Otsego Public Library, Old 27 south. 9 am. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Chad at (989) 705-9322 or [Chad@nuwaysupply.com](mailto:Chad@nuwaysupply.com)

**Sault Ste Marie, MI.** Saturday, September 26, 2009. Eastern UP ARC. Faith Lutheran Church, 1600 Park St. 11 am. Walk-Ins welcome. Contact: Dave (906) 635-5295 or email: [WA8OLD@sault.com](mailto:WA8OLD@sault.com)

#### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, September 12, 2009.** Lowell, MI. GRAHAmfest 2009. Grand Rapids ARA. 8 am til? Kent County Fairgrounds, 225 S. Hudson St. Lowell, MI. TI: 147.26 (PL 94.8) Info: [grahamfest09@w8dc.org](mailto:grahamfest09@w8dc.org).

**Sunday, September 20, 2009.** Adrian, MI. Adrian Ham Fest. Adrian ARC. 8 am til 1 pm. Lenawee County Fairgrounds, 602 Dean St. Adrian, MI. TI: 147.37 (PL 85.4) Info: Marjie **KB8T MM.**  
[maggie214@frontiernet.net](mailto:maggie214@frontiernet.net)

### Reflected Waves

#### August 1986

The August meeting featured officers from the State Police and County Sheriffs Department discussing theft prevention and security/identification for Amateur equipment. Wells **W8GI** was appointed Grand Marshall of the Kingsley Heritage Parade. Prez Bob **W8NGH** covered the event with his handi-talki. The CARC handled communications for the Elk Rapids Bike-A-THON.

#### August 2001

The August meeting was a 3-part meeting consisting of a report on the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Special Event station, pictures and reports on the U.P. Bicycle Outing and a report by Ward **N8WK** on his choral excursion to Italy, Austria and the Vatican. Public service events for the club included communications for the Run-For-Fun in Northport, the Golden Mile race at the Cherry Festival in TC and the Ride Around Torch in Elk Rapids. Hope **AA8SN** reported there were 8 examinees at the August Test session. Session produced 4 new hams, 2 upgrades to General and 1 new Extra.

## THIS AND THAT.....

Sorry about the interruption and the need for a combined July/August Cherry Juice but time really got away from me this month and the Juice had to drop a notch in priority. First time I've missed an issue since September 1992 so hope it won't become a habit. My radios haven't gotten much use this summer but as you'll find out later in this issue, not everyone has been radio-inactive! I did add some new stuff to the shack this spring and completely reworked the physical layout of the desk and am currently upgrading my lighting protection (that just might be an oxymoron-lightning protection). Also haven't been to any hamfests since Dayton so I'm starting to get the itch again.

Take note that the regular Club meeting will be on Sunday Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> and will feature a Fox Hunt and post-hunt picnic. Hope you can make it as it is sure to be a good time. Meet at the Governmental Center on Boardman at 3 p.m.

I always hate to be the bearer of sad news but in case some of you hadn't heard, we lost a long time CARC member the end of June and two club members lost their spouses, one in June and one in August.

Ike Hagen **W8GVS** became a silent key on June 29, 2009. Ike was 93 and was a member of the ARRL for more than 59 years! Ike was a long time CARC member as well but making the trip from Northport to TC became more difficult in recent years. Ike often would bring his wife Thelma to the club meetings. Ike was a good friend to Roger N8KV and occasionally Roger would bring Ike to the club meetings. Our condolences to all of Ike's family and friends.

On June 27, Mary Lee Hanchett, wife of Bernie Hanchett **KC8TDG** passed away. I got to know Mary Lee a little over several breakfasts at the J & S with her and Bernie. She always had something interesting to say and a wealth of stories from her multiple trips to Europe and travels throughout America. Mary Lee would always ask about my grandson and his dad. Several club members attended Mary Lee's visitation. Again, our sympathies to her family and friends.

Dorothy Glasser, wife of Mick Glasser W8EYC, passed away on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many of the long-time club members will remember both Dotty and Mick. With Mick, she was a life member of AXPOW (American Ex-Prisoners of War Association). Mick was a former editor of the Cherry Juice and was the first editor to put out 100 issues. After passing the torch to Elbert Ford he was awarded Life Membership in the CARC. Some of you will remember Mick by his previous call, **N8DBK**. Mick and I were neighbors from 1973-1980. Our sympathies to Mick and his family.

## CLUB STATION ACTIVITY

Who says the bands are dead?

I moved into town almost three years ago and for various reasons I never got on the air from my apartment. I kept on hearing that there was very little activity because of low sunspots. However, at Field Day there were certainly stations on the air.

So after this year's Field Day, I put up a hunk of wire out my balcony and listened around. Not the greatest antenna, and not a radio quiet location either, but I made some contacts and noticed that Europe was workable in the late afternoons on 20 Meters.

For various reasons I have not been really that active on 20, especially for DX. It seems that I was always being stomped on by stations that ran more power into better antennas than I use. So, I have DXCC on 10 and 15, but not 20. In fact, there

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are a lot of "easy" countries that I am missing on 20, like Ireland.

And so I asked if I could use the club station for a few contests this summer, and Don, N8QX, said yes. I am not a "serious" competitor, but contests can get lots of people on the air so there are people on the bands.

First off, the Islands on the Air contest. It is a fun little contest, actually. Anyone can work anyone, even if there is a significant bonus for working Ocean Islands. Both CW and Phone are allowed. The contest is only for 24 hours, and there is even a category for 12 hours or less, so it doesn't kill the WHOLE weekend. I figured I would get on the air Saturday afternoon and work various US stations until Europe came in.

How did it go? Well, OK. Got one totally new one (Sardinia) as well as Romania, which I have worked a handful of times but without a QSL card so far, as well as some new band countries on 20 and mode countries on CW.

Two weeks later was Worked All Europe CW. Here Europe has to work non-European stations and non-European stations have to work Europeans. The weird thing about this contest is that there is a bonus for passing traffic to Europe. I didn't really want to get into this and so declined whenever asked.

How did this one go? Better, actually. Over 100 Q's on 20 Meters. Best DX was OJ0B (Market Reef). A Romanian has already QSled via Logbook of the World. In addition there are a handful of other new band or mode countries for me. But I still haven't even HEARD Ireland on 20.

I would like to thank Don N8QX for lending me the key and the Cherryland ARC for letting me use the club station. I would encourage all of you out there to actually get on the air. There is activity out there, even when there haven't been any sunspots for thirty days. Also, as much as I enjoyed doing this, it might be good for other people to use our club station instead of just me.

Ken McGuire, **KC8LTL**

Ed Note: I concur Ken, I hope that more members will use the station. Maybe someone will organize a multi-single for a contest this year. Thanks for the article, Ken. Wish we had more writers out there!!

## MY HOBBY

Rob sends the following article that he wrote for his companies newsletter. Thanks Rob !

*Ham radio is a hobby, but also a means of communication during an emergency when all other means of communicating have been damaged or destroyed as happened during "Katrina". Ham radio will get through when cell phone or telephones will not. There have been times when we rode with the fire and police when their radio service had failed.*

*Every ham is issued a license that allows you the use of certain radio frequencies. Those frequencies depend on the FCC test you have passed and the class of license you have been issued by the FCC. I have a general class license. I was first licensed in 1995. My license call sign is W8REJ.*

*Several times a year we get together to "practice" emergency situations to be prepared for the real thing when it happens. Once a year we have what is called a national*

Field Day where we set up and operate for 24 hours, and try to contact as many radio stations as we can. We set up in parks and remote places and run off generator and battery power. Ham radio is also a LOT of fun!

There are several types of ham operators. Some are into "DX", which is trying to contact hams in other countries. These hams confirm their contact to each other by exchanging a QSL card, which gives the day, date, time, frequency used, as well as the signal strength. Some of the QSL cards are very colorful, some are plain. Some hams have collections of hundreds of QSL cards. Some hams try to work all of the states, and some even try to work every county in the U.S.

I'm what they call a "rag chewer", which means I like to meet a bunch of hams and just talk about any topic that may come up! I also look for a new country that I've never talked to before.

Radio signals depend on many things, such as weather conditions, and the solar sunspot cycle, which is an 11 year cycle. We are at the bottom of a cycle and are starting to move into a new one. When there are a lot of sunspots the radio propagation is great, and you can talk all over the world, and when they are weak, your lucky to get to someone a state or two away. Example, in one night, I contacted other operators in Belgium, Ireland, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Italy, and a couple of guys in the states, and that took less than 2 hours.

OK, so, how about the cost to get into it? Well, like cars, there are Kias and Cadillacs. You could spend thousands and thousands of dollars on radios and equipment, or not. It's up to what you want to do. I'm kind of a "Plymouth" guy, so I spent under a kilobuck for my worldwide "high frequency" radio. Some guys have big antennas and towers, I have a 102 ft. wire antenna hanging about 40 ft. above my house and strung between a tree in the front yard and a pole in the back yard. Total antenna cost, about 50 bucks, and I can talk all over the world on that! I like to practice K.I.S.S., keep it simple stup...well, you get the idea.



I keep saying guys, but, I also talk to a lot of gals out there. I know a ham who is just 14, and I've talked to one 93 years old! The only limit is your ability to study a bit, learn some radio basics, pass the test, and get your license, and you are "on the air"! I have included a picture of my station. If you have any questions, please fell free to contact me.

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### **THE LOCAL CLUB RESOURCE**

This is from the August ARRL Club News. Norm Fusaro **W3IZ**, editor.

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL which allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem regardless of the complexity.

Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching.

The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks who we swore we would never be like. Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family. Think of your last family get-together and then take a look at your radio club. If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club there is the usual cast of characters that add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help. Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs.

How often have you experienced something like this: Two hams will be in QSO, perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair when another radio operator will break-in with a helpful suggestion? This situation may have happened to you or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something the closest resource is your local club. On the surface the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved you will find that it is actually very productive.

The Pareto principle, commonly known as the eighty-twenty rule is a simple expression that 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. As applied in the business world this would be 80% of the sales are driven by 20% of the customers. In a club the percentages may be slightly different but the fact remains that a small percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen.

This is not to suggest that eighty percent of the members do not participate, but without a "sparkplug" some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it would never work?

Of course it would be much more fun without the negative comments but that goes against human nature. Ever since

*man tried to open a coconut with a rock someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work. "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas."*

*The cynics of the world are an essential part of society, and of our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.*

*You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time hams with a "been there, done that" attitude asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club."*

*Of course we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. Based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice has much to offer the old-timer even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery.*

*The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved. Don't know where your local club is? Use the ARRL Affiliated Club search.*

## **RACES/ARES UPDATE**

Munson hospital is holding a drill on August 26<sup>th</sup> and has requested the participation of the areas RACES/ARES hams. The drill will be the simulated evacuation of the Munson because of lack of power that will they require the simulated evacuation of patients to other hospitals. Our job is to establish a ham station and Munson and the County EOC. If possible, we would like to establish a digital link between these two locations to provide more secure communications. It is not likely that persons with scanners could decode a digital signal between Munson and the EOC.

Jim Palmer (K8OJP) and myself (K8RCT) will be staffing the two locations but would like other interested RACES/ARES hams to participate. We especially need hams that can help us set up a digital link between the EOC and Munson.

The drill planning starts at 10:00 AM on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, the drill starts around noon and is planned to be completed by 4 P.M.

Please call me at 231-922-3672 if you can participate.

73, Ernie, **K8RCT**

That's it for this month. Hope you are all enjoying the rather cool summer which is rapidly coming to a close. Can't believe the Lions have already played an exhibition game (which they won?—go figure. But then again I think they won 2 or 3 of last years exhibition games before losing the entire season!!

-73 de **N8CN**

**<SK>**