



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

July 2008

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

Coming Club Events

July 22nd Club Picnic

Our annual picnic is Tuesday July 22nd at Yuba Park on US 31 just north of Acme. Members will start arriving around 5 pm and we try to eat around 6-6:30 pm. The club will be providing hot dogs, brats, buns, condiments and soft drinks. Please bring your own utensils and a dish to pass.

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.

August 26th Fox Hunt

Forward Waves

VE EXAMS:

Gaylord, MI. August 2, 2008. Top of Michigan ARC. 9 a.m. Otsego County Public Library. 700 Otsego Ave. Contact: Chad 989 705-9322. Walk-ins OK.

Traverse City, MI. August 9, 2008. Cherryland ARC. 1 p.m. Walk-ins OK. Salvation Army Building at the corner of Barlow and Boone. Contact: Hope AA8SN@arrl.net or 231 941-7262.

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, August 2, 2008. Escanaba, MI. Delta County Amateur Radio Society. Bay de Noc Community College. 2001 N. Lincoln Road, Escanaba, MI. TI: 145.150 (PL 107.2) Contact: John WD8RTH@DCARS.org.

Saturday, August 9, 2008. ICARE SWAP Iosco County Amateur Radio Enthusiasts. TI: 146.640. Contact: Cliff Dolliver N8HA 989 735-3186 or N8HA@centurytel.net

Reflected Waves

July 1985

The special event station **KA8QVH** was on the air throughout the Cherry Festival and made a total of 451 QSO's. Seventeen hams stopped by the trailer for an eyeball QSO. Of the 451 contacts, 82 were CW and 20 were RTTY. They worked 46 states, 5 VE provinces and Barbados, Panama and Italy for DX. Ed **KA8QVH** sent out 144 certificates and so far has received 121 QSL cards. Many non-ham festival-goers stopped in to see amateur radio in action.

July 2000

Once again the July picnic at Saylor Park was a resounding success. Nearly 60 members and family were present and the food was fantastic. Last months Field Day was one of the most successful ever and we should be near the top when the results are published in QST. Once again the CARC provided communications for the Golden Mile. Members stepping up to the plate (mike?) were Hope **AA8SN**, Ward **W8N8WK**, Dave **W8TVC**, Bill **W8PIT**, Frank **W8TVQ** and Joe **W8TVT**.

FIELD DAY 2008

Greetings everyone. Like many of you, I was not able to participate in all the activities of Field Day. However I was there for some of the events on Saturday and after talking with others who were more involved, I have compiled this report.

Things got off to a very slow start on Tuesday evening when instead of the regular club meeting, people were asked to help with the transporting of equipment from Don Parkers farm to the Field Day site. All of a sudden hardly anyone was available to help. A senior citizen and a couple of "walking wounded" were there to help load the towers, antenna's and band boxes on to the trailer that was provided by Jon, **N8UL**. In fact, if it wasn't for Jon and his strong back, the equipment would not have been moved that night! He did most of the work but credit should also be given to Aubrey **K8AGE**, Chuck **W8SGR**, and Bill **W8PIT** for their assistance.

Jon pulled the loaded trailer to the field day site and there it sat until Friday when there would be more workers to help unload. Ward **N8WK** was also involved as he brought out the club trailer for the Salvation Army building directly to the Field Day Site. Don **WD8NRZ** changed the oil in the generators and made sure they would start. Later he transported them to the field day site.

However, all was not "doom and gloom". Friday a few other individuals were involved. Ken **W8QKP**, Joe **KB8WZK**, Ward **N8WK**, Chuck **W8SGR** and Joe **K8DT** were there to assemble the towers and beams. Even **W8TVT** showed up, as well as Dave **K8WPE** and Ann **KA6AYJ**.

Later Dave Darga and his boom truck arrived. He and his lift apparatus have been very helpful in putting up the assembled towers, rotors and beams. Everyone assisted by securing the tower support lines while Dave manipulated the towers in place. Support lines were then secured. Dave is quite adept with this type of work as he and his machinery set most of the sailboat masts at the Harbor West Marina. Ward put up his tower and vertical pole for his four sloper antennas for 40 meters. Everything was put in place and set to go!

Saturday even more people showed up. Brian **N8TC** was there to lend a hand. Warren **W8KAN** was there to help Ken **W8QKP**, Joe **KB8WZK** and Joe **K8DT** with the 20 meter station. Chuck **W8SGR**, received assistance from Mike **KD8DWI** and Bob **WA8ABL** as they were active at the 15/80 meter station. Ward **N8WK** was the band captain for 40 meters. The "different language" station, i.e. **CW** station was run by Hope **AA8SN** and Ed **K8SZN**. Technical advice was given by **ED K8ZZ**. Other visitors to the field day site were Frank **W8TVQ**, Pat **N8HKQ** and Norm **N8STS**. Late night operators included Joe **KC8RLU**, Ken **KC8LTL**, John **AB8RV**, Ann **KA6AYJ**, Don **WD8NRZ** and Roger **N8KV**.

The portable kitchen of the Salvation Army was out to feed the troops! Army volunteers, Randy and Maria served up sandwiches, lasagna, strawberry shortcake, sausage and eggs and other snacks. Their efforts were appreciated. They were under the direct supervision of none other than Harry **KB8RIV**.

The CARC Field Day activity received some publicity from radio station **WTCM**. Imagine that, **W8TCM** being promoted by **WTCM** Radio!

For the most part the weather cooperated. There were some dark, threatening looking clouds that passed to the South of us. We did receive about a 20 minute rain shower and some strong winds. However all the equipment stayed up and in place and all stations continued to operate.

The Solar Powered station on 145.52/52 had 22 contacts. This wasn't too bad as it was only operational for five hours. The cw

station had 221 contacts. On 20 meters there were 754 contacts. The 40 meter station reported 750 contacts and the 15/80 meter station had 646 contacts.

As always the heroes are those who are able to schedule their time to help with the clean up and tear down activities. Dave Darga brought his boom truck back out and the towers and antennas were lowered to the ground. Those able to help our included Ken **W8QKP**, Joe **WB8WZK**, Joe **K8DT**, Roger **N8KV**, Ken **KC8LTL**, Chuck **W8SGR**, Hope **AA8SN** and Ward **N8WK**.

The Kiessel family came out on Sunday to view the proceedings. They graciously allow the CARC to use their land for our field day activities. You probably don't notice, but every year they mow the field so it is easier for us to get around and set up our equipment. They again pointed out how well we "clean up after ourselves" as after we leave the only thing remaining is our tire tracks. They also remarked that they are proud to be indirectly involved with this emergency preparedness type of activity and that we would be welcome back again next year. Nice people.

I think I have included everyone who was at Field Day. If I omitted anyone, my apologies. Until next year?!

de Joe **W8TVT**

LET'S REMINISCE...

(Part 3 of 4)

-by Marion Stoner **W8VWY** (sk)

During the summer of 1941, my earnings were used to buy a rebuilt typewriter. I wanted to learn to copy code on a mill because I thought I would get a commercial radiotelegraph license and work as an operator on the car ferries or some other ship.

My friend Paul **W8UIR** who had graduated from high school that June, had gone to Detroit and passed the tests for the radiotelephone First Class, radiotelegraph Second Class and amateur Class A, all in one day!

In September of that year, soon after the beginning of my senior year of high school, I took a couple of days off from school and went with **W8UIR** to Detroit and the FCC office. I knew I wasn't prepared but I made the trip to keep my friend company. I failed the 16 word per minute code test. I did get a Third Class radiotelephone license. I was not yet eligible to try the Class A ham test and, as it turned out, I didn't need to until 1946.

At the time my ham license was issued they were good for only three years but the FCC waived the renewal requirement during the war.

On December 7, 1941 all ham activity was shut down. My two local ham friends were scattered. **W8UIR** had gotten a high paying job as a radio operator on an oil tanker sailing the Atlantic. **W8ULT** was working as a radio operator for American Airlines in Tucson. I was just three weeks over 17 years old and had six months of high school to finish.

In April of 1942, **W8UIR** was back for a visit following the sinking of his ship. He lost a little interest in sailing.

Soon after graduating from high school, I made another trip to the Detroit FCC office and earned a Second Class radiotelephone license. In February of 1943, selective service decided they wanted me and then threw me back. By then **W8UIR**'s second ship had been sunk and he did not survive. Since I had now lost all interest in sailing, I got busy and studied for the First Class radiotelephone license. I passed that in April of 1943 and in May I went to work at **WKZO** in Kalamazoo: starting 28 and a half years of work in radio and television broadcasting.

On April 1, 1946 the military relinquished most of the 80 and 40 meter bands. I think the magic hour may have been 3:00 A.M. because my old log book indicates that my first call on 80 meters was at 3:04 a.m.

I went back on the air using pretty much the same equipment I had turned off in December of 1941. All during the war years I had dreamed of owning a Hallicrafter SX-25 receiver. In April of 1946 I ordered one from Allied Radio in Chicago and went on a waiting list. In a couple of months, Allied notified me that Hallicrafter would not resume production of the SX-25 but they would honor my position on the waiting list for one of several new models that would be available soon. I had a trip to Chicago planned so I waited until I could go into the Allied store and check out the new models.

In those days, the testing at the FCC offices went like this. You filled out the application and they gave you a receiving code test at 13 wpm. There might be a dozen people taking the test and you listened to a speaker up on the wall in the front of the room. When the test concluded I understand that some particularly gracious examiner, of whom there were few, might let you dot some I's and cross some T's. Generally you were told to put your pencil down and the examiner gathered up the copy and left the room. In ten or fifteen minutes he came back and announced the names of those who had passed by copying at least one solid minute of code without error. Everyone else got up and left and would not be eligible to try again for 60 days.

I will always remember one phrase in the code test I took on May 3rd, 1946. I was "DON'T GIVE UP THE SLIP". I still think that was probably kind of unfair to some people.

The successful applicants from the receiving test were called up to the front of the room, one at a time, and allowed to make any adjustments to the straight key before sending a printed message. Again, if a person failed they were on their way and would not be allowed to start over for 60 days.

The written test was much like the present day. The ARRL published a license manual which included sample questions and answers somewhat like the questions encountered on the exam—but not exactly the same—they were representative. You were not told if you passed or failed but they did tell us that if you failed you would receive notification in a week or two. Those who failed could start all over, with the receiving code test, after 60 days.

My class A license was received August 17, 1946. It took three and a half months to receive that license which is a far cry from the week or ten days it takes now.

REMOTE ANTENNA SWITCH PROJECT

Chuck W8SGR reports that he has some assembled remote antenna switch's left over from the last club project. These are 4 position switch's and are available for the small sum of \$45.00. You can contact Chuck on the 86 or 442.5 repeaters or see him at the Picnic or Tuesday projects nights.

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!!

Seems like this sort of thing happens way too often. Be aware and be careful!!

Two men putting up a radio antenna were electrocuted in Kansas City, Kansas on Sunday afternoon. Police said a Edward C. Thomas, 66, and his 27-year-old son, Jacob A. Thomas, were installing an antenna for a ham radio around 12:30 p.m. when it came into contact with a power line. Neighbors called emergency crews for help, but the father was dead when they arrived. The

younger man died after arriving at a hospital. The two men were found by the younger mans 8 year old daughter.

-de KMBC-TV, Kansas City

AND MORE TOWER DANGER.....

Next time you can't get a cell phone signal in the middle of town, put your problem in perspective: New figures show that the deadliest job in America now goes to the men and women who construct, upgrade, and repair cell phone towers.

According to a story in this week's RCR Wireless News, building and climbing towers (which can be hundreds of feet tall) is more dangerous than ranching, fishing, logging, and even iron-working. The fatality rate is currently 183.6 deaths per 100,000 workers: Five tower workers died during one 12-day span earlier this year alone. 18 tower workers died on the job in 2006. The cause for the runup in tower worker deaths isn't completely clear, but it's likely a combination of careless working practices (workers not using safety gear 100 percent of the time, or not using it correctly) and network operators pushing to build out and upgrade their networks too quickly.

Hard to blame carriers for wanting to get faster networks up and running, but not at the cost of human life. (RCR is careful to note that the investigation into the rise in fatalities is too early to attribute to any specific source.)

Oddly, a loophole in OSHA rules may make it difficult for changes to happen quickly: Towers are often constructed by small contractors instead of the carriers or the owners of the towers. Since the carrier isn't on site during the construction of the tower, the contractor receives the fine and the carrier and owner face no sanctions. (That hasn't stopped the families of some of the deceased workers from suing carriers, though.) Workers and their unions are hoping to push through federal legislation which could lead to more thorough regulations covering safety in this largely ignored industry.

NUMBERS IMPROVING

According to George Mc Couch, K3UD, it looks like the overall number of licensed radio amateurs numbers have increased by 873 from April through June 2008. George says that the Technician and Technician Plus category had large increases while General had a smaller increase. The Technician license is still the most popular license for newcomers. It also seems that the large movement from hams upgrading to General has slowed to trickle over the last 9 months.

On the other hand K3UD says that we are seeing very good movement in upgrading to the highest class with increases of 1,447 hams earning the Extra Class. He says that this increase about matched the last quarter in terms of growth.

K3UD unofficially took over reporting ham radio license statistics at about the same time that Fred Maia stopped publishing his W5YI Report newsletter. George provides a truly valuable service to the nations ham radio community. You can see his actual figures on the news pages at www.qrz.com

Frisbeetarianism is the belief that when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck.

George Carlin 1937-2008