



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

June 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

### June 23rd Club Meeting

This month we will be preparing for Field Day. Meet at the Club Station at the Salvation Army building at 6 p.m. or come out to the Fort Road Field Day site at 7 p.m. We'll adjourn for coffee when the work is done. Remember: many hands make for light work.

### June 28-29 Field Day

Details Inside

### 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.** 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](mailto:AA8SN@arrl.net) or 231 941-7262.

### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, June 28, 2008.** NMARES Tailgate Swap. Northern Michigan Amateur Radio Emergency Services. Davis Tree Farm. 8378 VanTyle Road, Elmira, MI. Talk-In: 146.520 or 442.400 (PL 103.5). Contact: Jim [KC8NTE@arrl.net](mailto:KC8NTE@arrl.net).

**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](mailto:WD8RTH@DCARS.org).

## Reflected Waves

### June 1985

This years Field Day activities were held on Observatory Hill on Birmley Road. At the June meeting, Ed **KA8QVH** displayed the certificates to be awarded for contacting the special event station during the Cherry Festival. The club trailer will be located at the Open Space at the foot of Union Street. Operators are needed. The club provided communications for the Bay Shore Marathon and 10K runs.

### June 2000

The June meeting was an explanation of the APRS System by Tom **AA8YI** and Norm **KC8CLM**. The CARC received a nice write-up in the South Lyon ARC News. This was the result of club hospitality shown to Tom and Terri Peasley when they were vacationing in the area. Various club members talked with them on the repeater, the MESH net and they were invited to the Tuesday project night. Once again, the Kiessel Farm was the site for club Field Day action.

## JUNE JOTTINGS

The word for June is Field Day. This year the date is June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and once again we will be high atop the hill on Fort Road at the Kiessel Farm. The beauty of this site is incomparable and it is very radio friendly from both a noise and propagation perspective.

If you are a newly licensed ham or unclear about Field Day, here's the scoop. The ARRL Field Day exercise is both a test of emergency communication procedures and a contest. The idea is to get on the air without the aid of commercial electrical power—generators, batteries, solar, wind, etc are OK—and make as many contacts as possible throughout the US and Canada. DX stations are not able to compete but they may be contacted for credit.

Points are awarded for QSO's, modes, solar contacts, digital contacts, copying the ARRL Field Day Bulletin, etc. Clubs compete in classes determined by the number of transmitters on the air at one time. Field Day is a lot of fun, and you really should participate. Here's our schedule.

**SETUP:** begins Friday afternoon. We need helpers to get the steel and aluminum up in the air and organize the trailers, tents, etc. Friday is a work day and the old maxim that "many hands make for light work" sure applies here. The more the merrier.

**SATURDAY:** setup continues in the AM until the contest and operating begins at 2 pm. We will be using the CARC club call, W8TCM. The 12, 17 and 30 meter bands are not used in the Field Day contest. Stations will be using computer logging and if you are unfamiliar with computer logging, there should be several people there to assist you.

This year there is a new wrinkle in that we will have on-site food service provided by the Salvation Army emergency team. This will give them an opportunity to practice their emergency skills.

Hopefully, we will have enough operators to stay on the air all-night. Things are a little quieter during the late night and early morning hours so if you are a little shy or don't feel comfortable at the microphone with a lot of people around, come and work the graveyard shift!! Forty and 80 meters are especially important during these hours. It is not expected that propagation will be impressive as we are right at the bottom and beginning the transition to the new cycle.

**SUNDAY:** operating continues throughout the morning and after the last contact is made, it's time to dismantle the stations for another year. **WE NEED YOUR HELP! DO NOT LEAVE EARLY.** This is often the time when people tend to disappear—Please hang around a bit and help. Demolition of the site goes pretty quick but we always need people to coil ropes and coax and put away equipment. Lots of help makes for a quick clean-up.

We really hope everyone will come out for Field Day this year. If you haven't visited the site, you are in for a real treat. The view of West Bay is stunning and there is plenty of space for camping if you are so inclined.

Every Field Day seems to have its own character, dictated by the site, the weather, the participants and the gods of propagation. What's it take for a successful Field Day?

Lots of help!

Lots of Operators!

Lots of Loggers!

Lots of Visitors!

Lots of Families!

—if we get all this, we'll have Lots of Fun!! Hope to see you at the Field Day site.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

At every club meeting, club president Don N8QX brings in the coffee maker supplies and brews the coffee. He also brings in a plate (or two) of fresh baked cookies. In talking to Don he readily admits he does not bake the cookies but that his wife Claire is responsible for these treats. A special thanks to both of you for these refreshments. They and you are appreciated. Thanks!!

—de a whole bunch of club members

## LET'S REMINISCE...

(Part 2 of 4)

—by Marion Stoner W8VWY (sk)

There were three classes of amateur radio licenses in those days. The class B license was roughly equal to the present-day General Class except that there were phone privileges only in the 160 meter and on 10 meters. A class C license, or conditional license, was the same as a Class B but was available only to an applicant who lived more than 125 miles from the nearest FCC examining location. The class C examinations were administered by the holder of a class A or a class B amateur license or a volunteer examiner who held or had held within the previous five years a commercial radiotelegraph license. Those words; "Volunteer Examiner" actually appeared in the rules in the 1940s and probably before.

The class A license was pretty much like the present Advanced Class and allowed additional phone privileges on 75 meters and 20 meters. An applicant had to have held a class B or C license for one year before they were eligible to take the class A examination.

You may have noticed that I didn't say anything about phone privileges on 40 meters. 40 was a CW only band. Some of us think those were the good old days.

The nearest FCC examining locations to Frankfort were Detroit and Chicago: each over 200 miles away. Ferris McKesson W8KE, who was the chief operator at WFK, the wireless shore station for the Ann Arbor Railroad car ferries, held both a class A amateur license and a First Class Radiotelegraph license. He administered all of the ham examinations in the area for many years.

It was probably in January of 1941 when I felt that I was ready to try the test. Mac ordered the test material from the FCC and I took the 13 word per minute code test, both receiving and sending, and the written examination while sitting at his dining room table one evening. My license was issued on April 26, 1941.

While waiting for the license to be issued I built my first transmitter. It was a 6C5 Pierce oscillator and a 616 amplifier. It was built on a 1 by 9 by 2 inch black crackle steel chassis. I had never heard of a Greenlee hole punch so the four socket holes, one for the crystal, one for the plug-in tank coil and two more for the tubes, were cut in that steel chassis by drilling many small holes around in a circle, breaking the center out and filing the edges smooth with a half-round file. The drilling was done with a carpenter's brace so the four holes took many hours over several days. I worked with the tools I had. W8UIR loaned me a power transformer and I bread boarded a power supply. I never knew how much power the rig ran because I had no way to measure even the plate voltage on the 616. I didn't own a meter of any kind until several years later. All tuning was done with a neon bulb or a flashlight bulb soldered to a two turn loop, held near the tank coil.

My station was ready early in the spring of 1941 but I had no license. My friend, W8UIR, Paul had a license but no station. I

offered to let him come over and operate my station but he said, "No, you go ahead and use my call". I am quite sure the statute of limitations is something less than 55 years so I will admit now that I did make a few contacts as W8UIR. The last one was when I called a station in Grand Rapids and the operator came back and called me Paul. I turned the rig off and waited for my license. I told Paul about the contact and he said, "Oh, yes", he had met the fellow when he was visiting in Grand Rapids for several weeks the summer before.

In 1941 probably 90% of the hams used crystal controlled transmitters. The fortunate ones owned several crystals for each of the bands they wanted to operate. My one and only crystal was marked 3531.5 kilocycles. Hams who operated on the 20 and 10 meter bands discussed frequencies in megacycles. Most of us had never heard of a gigacycle or any kind of hertz.

If you called CQ on 3531.5 kilocycles you then tuned the whole CW part of the band. If you were answering a CQ you plugged in the closest crystal you had (I didn't have that problem with only one crystal) and you called long enough for the other station to find you. If there was much activity on the band the other station might not find you on the first call or even the second—and very often, never.

You soon developed a group of friends who owned crystals near the frequency of your crystal. I remember one such friend in Menominee, Wisconsin that I used to talk to about noon on many days. I would rush home from school for lunch; grab a sandwich and head for my shack., which was really one corner of my bedroom. I would have time for a short QSO with my friend in Menominee who was doing the same thing as I was.

I was perfectly happy operating my modest station and was looking forward to becoming eligible to upgrade to class A in a year.

### SPOTTED ANY SUN SPOTS?

The sun has been lying low for the past couple of years, producing no sunspots and giving a break to satellites. That's good news for people who scramble when space weather interferes with their technology, but it became a point of discussion for the scientists who attended an international solar conference at Montana State University.

Approximately 100 scientists from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and North America gathered June 1-6 to talk about "Solar Variability, Earth's Climate and the Space Environment." The scientists said periods of inactivity are normal for the sun, but this period has gone on longer than usual. "It continues to be dead," said Saku Tsuneta with the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, program manager for the Hinode solar mission. "That's a small concern, a very small concern."

The Hinode satellite is a Japanese mission with the United States and United Kingdom as partners. The satellite carries three telescopes that together show how changes on the sun's surface spread through the solar atmosphere. MSU researchers are among those operating the X-ray telescope. The satellite orbits 431 miles above ground, crossing both poles and making one lap every 95 minutes, giving Hinode an uninterrupted view of the sun for several months out of the year.

Dana Longcope, a solar physicist at MSU, said the sun usually operates on an 11-year cycle with maximum activity occurring in the middle of the cycle. Minimum activity generally occurs as the cycles change. Solar activity refers to phenomena like sunspots, solar flares and solar eruptions. Together, they create the weather than can disrupt satellites in space and technology on earth.

The last cycle reached its peak in 2001 and is believed to be just ending now, Longcope said. The next cycle is just beginning and is expected to reach its peak sometime around 2012. Today's sun, however, is as inactive as it was two years ago, and scientists aren't sure why.

"It's a dead face," Tsuneta said of the sun's appearance. Tsuneta said solar physicists aren't like weather forecasters; They can't predict the future. They do have the ability to observe, however, and they have observed a longer-than-normal period of solar inactivity. In the past, they observed that the sun once went 50 years without producing sunspots. That period, from about 1650 to 1700, occurred during the middle of a little ice age on Earth that lasted from as early as the mid-15th century to as late as the mid-19th century.

Tsuneta said he doesn't know how long the sun will continue to be inactive, but scientists associated with the Hinode mission are ready for it to resume maximum activity. They have added extra ground stations to pick up signals from Hinode in case solar activity interferes with instruments at other stations around the world. The new stations, ready to start operating this summer, are located in India, Norway, Alaska and the South Pole. Establishing those stations, as well as the Hinode mission, required international cooperation, Tsuneta said. No one country had the resources to carry out those projects by itself. Four countries, three space agencies and 11 organizations worked together on Hinode which was launched in September 2006, Tsuneta said. Among the collaborators was Loren Acton, a research professor of physics at MSU. Tsuneta and Acton worked together closely from 1986-2002 and were reunited at the MSU conference.

"His leadership was immense, superb," Tsuneta said about Acton. Acton, 72, said he is still enthused by solar physics and the new questions being raised. In fact, he wished he could knock 22 years off his age and extend his career even longer. "It's too much fun," he said. "'There's so much exciting stuff come up, I would like to be part of it."

### MICHIGAN OO COORDINATOR TO RETIRE

With one change comes another, it seems. After 10 years as our Official Observer Coordinator and 15 as an OO, Don **N8NJE** is preparing to step down. "It's time," Don said. His retirement date is August first and over the next few weeks, Don and I will be working on the list of candidates under consideration for his replacement. Our cadre of OOs has accomplished much under Don's capable leadership. Our relationship between the Amateur Auxiliary and the FCC continues to be very high and **N8NJE** deserves much of the credit for that excellent association.

Did you know that the OO position is the only ARRL Field appointment that requires applicants to pass a test before they are appointed? Keeping these high standards is paramount for members of the OO/AA program and this is not taken lightly. Don always interviews each applicant for the program and is very diligent to insure that the applicant follows ARRL and FCC guidelines. My sincere thanks as well as the combined thanks of the members of the ARRL Michigan Section go to Don for his many years of service.

Dale **WD8FEK** on the MI Section Web Page

*A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort*