



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

June 2011

Club Officers
President
Don N8QX

Vice President
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy
Russ K8RUS

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

TBARG EmComm Net
9 pm Monday
146.86



ARRL Affiliated Club
#1082

Coming Club Events

June 28th Club Meeting

This month we have a professional video entitled Digital Voice for Amateur Radio. The VHF/UHF portion runs about a half hour and covers D-Star and P-25. Since the meeting follows Field Day, I am sure we also have an update on the CARC Field Day. As always Don **N8QX** will bring us up to date on club activities. Where: The lower level cafeteria in the Governmental Center on Boardman near the intersection of Boardman and Eighth. 7 p.m. Cookies and coffee available.

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.

Forward Waves

VE EXAMS:

Grand Rapids, MI. Friday, July 8, 2011
Grand Rapids Area ARA. 6:30 pm. Red Cross Building, 1050 Fuller Ave NE.
Contact: Rich (616) 531-6218 or rich@kc8nka.us

Traverse City, MI. Saturday, August 6, 2011. Cherryland ARC. 1 pm. Salvation Army Bldg. 1239 Barlow St (Corner of Boone and Barlow). Walk-ins OK. Contact: Hope AA8SN 231 941-7262 or hopeaa8sn@juno.com.

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, August 6, 2011 UP Hamfest. Escanaba, MI. Delta County ARS. 9 am until ? Bay de Noc College. TI: 147.50 (PL 100) Web site: www.dcars.org. Contact: John WD8RTH (906) 399-4490 or wd8rth@dcars.org.

Saturday, August 27, 2011. SARA SWAP & Trunk Sale. Owosso, MI. Shiawassee ARA. 8 am til noon. Baker College Welcome Center. TI: 147.02 (PL 100). Contact: Don WB8GUS (810) 599-0729 or wb8gus@arrl.net.

Reflected Waves

June 1991

The June meeting featured a discussion of practical ways to keep RF from getting into audio devices such as stereos, TV's, phones, VCR's and computers. June is a busy month with Field Day, Sky Warn training, RACES training, a Leelanau County exercise, CARC meeting and the Great Northwest Bicycle Tour.

June 2001

The June program consisted of a Field Day de-briefing with pictures and Joe Novak's presentation on his planned August Ham Bike Outing-HBO2. This years event will take place in the Manistique area. Ward **N8WK** gave a short presentation on the Lighthouse Special Event station taking place at the Grand Traverse Light.

FIELD DAY 2011

The word for June is Field Day. This year the date is June 25th and 26th 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 begin 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.

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 expected that propagation will be improved compared with last year as the bands are beginning to wake up from a long solar minimum. We may even see some good 10 meter contacts this year. **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!

—if we get all this, we'll have Lots of Fun!!



TBAREG

Thanks to all of you who helped pay for the brake repair on the Barge! We were able to raise enough donations to cover the \$927 repair bill. As you know, the front brakes needed new calipers, rotors and hubs and shoes. Apparently letting the vehicle sit without using it causes a serious condition know as "lot rot"! We learned a lesson there...we need to drive it more. We have been exercising the vehicle more frequently this summer.

The Barge was critical during the District 7 Homeland Security exercise last month. The County EOC has a very limited space for radio communications - not much more than a closet. We took the Barge over to the EOC, parked it outside the entrance and handled all the radio traffic from the Barge. We didn't even need shore power as we were able to use the Barges diesel engine to power all the equipment. Without the Barge we could not have preformed our assigned task!

I was at the LEPC (local emergency planning committee) meeting today and we got very good comments from the participants. The LEPC is made up of local emergency responders such as police, fire, Homeland Security, TCA....and....wait for it.....ham radio! Our activities during the exercise showed them that the equipment they helped us purchase was not sitting on some shelf but was actively being used to support emergency responder agencies.

On an even better note, the last two shipments of radio equipment purchased under the Homeland Security grant has arrived! This is equipment for Munson's radio room (the Penthouse) and for the new EOC. Oh, you haven't heard about that one yet? The Grand Traverse County Board approved over \$6,000,000 for a new EOC and County Health Department building.

Lots more news later.... And THANKS again! Ernie Abel, **K8RCT, GT-EC**

MI QSO PARTY

Looks like we had pretty good participation in the MI QSO party this year. Hope **AA8SN** has compiled the following stats: CARC members submitted 12 logs from 5 different counties for a total of 2,347 QSO's! We won't know for a while how we fared against other clubs but we'll post the results as soon as we hear something. Submitted logs included **K8RCT** GRTR with 100 Q's, **K8SZN** LEEL with 260 Q's, **N8QX** GRTR with 82 Q's, **W8SGR** GRTR with 211 Q's, **N8WK** GRTR with 312 Q's, **W8REJ** BENZ with 308 Q's, **AD8W** LEEL 107 Q's, **N8TC** LEEL with 448 Q's, **KC8LTL** JACK with 156 Q's **W8VPC** ANTR 34 Q's, **N8CN** GRTR with 59 Q's and **AA8SN** GRTR with 270 Q's.



BETTER TIMES

Back in the early 1980s, I worked for a ham radio store called Purchase Radio. While going to college, like most, I needed a job. Sure, I could have loafed around another year or two, without work, and begged my parents more, but I decided that I should probably get a job. Besides, my wonderful fiance told me to get a job and I wanted her companionship. There was some motivation in that, somehow, and more motivating than ham radio, food or money.

We sold transistors, resistors, 6146s, 6EA8s and a ton of other components which new hams may not recognize. We sold it all. And to this day, it's amazing to me that with thousands and thousands of parts to find, everyone at Purchase Radio knew right where to go on the shelf to find them. Walk in the door, ask for a 1/4" grommet, and we knew right where to go. Wow! The human mind is more powerful than we can imagine. The place had normal, average people, just like any parts store, and we memorized all those locations.

Roy **W8RP**, was the owner. He not only knew the cost and price, but he knew how much those parts sold for back in the 1950s, and how much they sold for in the 1980s. The history with that guy was simply cool. He once took me upstairs, above the store, to show me the cylindrical records. I'm not talking about flat, round, black, 33 1/3 RPM vinyl records, but tubes that dated back to the 1890s. They were about eight inches long and looked more like large black tubes or cans, made out of plastic, or wax, with grooves on the outside for the needles. What I would do to see those again!

But those days are gone. The electronic parts from the 70s and 80s are tough to find and the ham radio community that walked in the door back then is for the most part, gone. A few hams still remember Purchase Radio. But as with all things, time passed and we now have a new world around us. No one would have imagined PSK, let alone being dependent on your computer AND radio to communicate. Times have changed. Back then, the Space Shuttle was brand spanking new. Back then, we had typewriters, too. Word processing was being developed, but typewriters were still used, for the most part, to write my college essays. I remember when my fiance bought a NEW \$400 typewriter from Sears and it was the envy of her dorm sweet mates. VHS was new technology and cable TV was exciting, if only it would come to my city soon! And it eventually did, and it costs only \$16 per month.

Al Gore may have created the Internet by then, but I only knew about my \$100 IBM dumb terminal, which allowed me access to the DEC 10 and DEC 20 at the university through my phone line (at 300 baud). Each line of text walked across the screen, with the next line seemingly slower, about 3 seconds before it appeared. But how cool was it that I didn't have to wait in line for the next available terminal at the college computer lab. I only needed to wait until about 11pm at night to get access, since the phone lines were usually busy during the day. Boy, that was a real blessing, to be able to get access to the DEC 10 and 20 from my apartment!

I was one of the first to own a VIC 20 and I remember using a cassette tape machine to save my programs. My brother Dave wrote a short program that actually worked on my VIC 20, and it was one of the first graphic games I saw, where Martians came down from the sky and attacked the poor people of Earth. He is incredibly brilliant.

DSP? Never heard of it. CW filters? Maybe a home brew audio filter! Antenna tuner? How about a Murch tuner, all manual, about the size of 4 lunch boxes. I loved that thing.

Am I complaining about the past or am I worshiping it? I don't worship it and I don't long for it. I often tell my family stories like this and I present the facts, only, to educate. They laugh.

Not wanting to embellish the story, as if I had to walk up hill to and from school, instead I tell the story the way I remember it. In truth, there were things about the past for me that were better. But I speak the truth. And it was those very things that made today what it is.

That said. Life is good.

I now have DSP, automatic antenna tuners, receivers that rock and I have a family that appreciates my hobby and understands my passion for it. Defending my hobby against those who think it's CB seems to be diminishing. It's rare to hear someone say, "Breaker, breaker, 19!", when I tell them I'm a ham. I hated that! And I happen to still be married to that fiance from way back when. We've been married for nearly 30 years. In fact, she's the best woman on the planet. No one compares. I have three wonderful boys, all in college, with my last one starting this Fall. My church family is tops and my career is back on track, now that the economy has turned around. Looking back over all those years, it was all of that which made my life what it is today. So, when I say "Better Times"...

Today we have access to good information, quickly. We have so many more options for this hobby of ours, as well. We also get to choose from more than 3 TV stations. Staying in touch with my old and new friends is easier than ever before.. 2 meter rigs were \$300 in the 1980s and they're \$300 today, or less. A 2 meter rig from back then, at \$300, should be more like \$620 today, with inflation. The manufacturing of 2 meter rigs can then be said to be twice as efficient to make and purchase. And we complain?

No. There are too many good things happening today, which we should not be complaining about. Life is good. No! Life is awesome and should be cherished, everyday. To those who say otherwise perhaps should reconsider the gift received. And as my father-in-law once said, "It's a good idea give back, and to help justify the space we use."

The past was good, no doubt. And the proof is seen in the way life is today. Challenges? Sure. Things need to change? Sure. But life is good. These are all good times.

And, I believe today is "Better Times".

MI SECTION SUMMER FAMILY OUTING

Greetings fellow Amateurs,

The Michigan Section would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the 13th annual "ARRL Michigan Section Summer Family Outing" is just a short 3 weeks away and the schedule of events, activities, and forums are coming together nicely. This year's event looks like it will top the fun and entertainment of past events.

NOW is the time to begin planning your family Summer vacation, and what better place to go than camping amongst your fellow Hams in a beautiful private park all to ourselves, enjoying nature, the out of doors, with group activities, campfires, and contests. There is something for everybody, Hams and non-Hams alike! Activities and forums are spread over TWO days to make your weekend that much more fun-filled and enjoyable. Pick and choose to attend whatever is to your liking!

To find more information about this fun event, go to the URL listed below. We recommend it become a permanent link on your clubs website for easy reference by your members.

ARRL Michigan Section Summer Family Outing

WEBSITE: <http://www.sectionouting.info>

WHEN: Thursday July 7th thru Sunday July 10th, 2011

WHERE: WOODLANDS CONFERENCE CENTER AND CAMPGROUNDS
318 S. Sage Lake Road, Hale, MI 48739 (17 miles east of West Branch)

COST: Free to attend!

Campsites (improved and unimproved) as well as beds in the Bunkhouse have a nominal charge (see the webpage for details). Motels and Bed-and-Breakfasts are available in West Branch just a short drive away. Meals are Pot-Luck but a main course will be provided. Donations are accepted to help cover costs.

WHAT: The Michigan Summer Outing is a 4-day fun-filled event hosted by your ARRL Michigan Section Staff and paid for totally from donations, involving fun events for the whole family! Camping, Rving, Canoeing, Horseshoes, Volleyball, Softball, Boating, Swimming facilities are available all day every day of the outing for your pleasure.

There will be games, campfires, and sing-a-longs for all to enjoy. There will also be informative seminars on Friday and Saturday for any who wish to participate. Womens, kids, and non-Ham activities are planned, so there is something for the whole family!

Take some time off, meet the Section Staff, talk about ham radio and have a good family time at this event. Attire is casual of course and so is everyone's attitude!

REGISTRATION: See the website, but pre-registration is NOT necessary, so don't let that stop you from attending. Just show up and we will take good care of you and we trust you will have a fun time :)

FLYER: A one-page flyer (PDF) is available on the website. Consider downloading and printing a dozen or two copies to hand out at your next few club meetings, ARES/RACES/ARPS training sessions, or at any Swap-n-Shops in your area. And don't forget to talk it up on your local Net! Help get the word out! We hope to have you join us!

Jay Nugent **WB8TKL**

Michigan Section Summer Family Outing Event Co-ordinator

RIKERS ISLAND?

Russ **K8RUS** sends along the following as a suggestion of a fun way to spend an afternoon or more.

Here is my radio and and buddipole operating from Silver Lake recreation area this past Saturday. Twenty meters was hopping and I made some great contacts both stateside and DX. The best part was that there isn't a power line or anything near my spot here to generate the RFI which kills me at home. I had forgotten how HF is supposed to sound with out a ton of noise wiping out even the loudest stations!

73 and gud DX **K8RUS**



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