



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

June 2012

Club Officers  
President  
Don N8QX

Vice President  
Hope AA8SN

Corresponding Secy  
Dave K8WPE

Treasurer  
Ward N8WK

Directors

Dave KJ4KFJ

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

### June 26th Club Meeting

This month's program will be a video entitled "The Last Big Field Day". Coming off our own Field Day exercise, this should be very entertaining. Also we will have updates on the club reorganization and the CARC repeaters. 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month which is reserved for the regular club meeting.

## Forward Waves

### VE EXAMS:

**Gaylord, MI.** Saturday, August 4, 2012.  
Top of Michigan ARC. Otsego County Public Library Meeting Room. 700 Otsego Ave. 9 am (No Walk-ins) Contact: Chad. Email: [cjohnston@mysgo.com](mailto:cjohnston@mysgo.com)

**Traverse City, MI.** Saturday, August 11, 2012. 1 pm (Walk-ins OK) Traverse City Public Library. Contact: Hope AA8SN. Email: [hopeaa8sn@juno.com](mailto:hopeaa8sn@juno.com)

### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, July 28, 2012.** Lansing, MI.  
CMARC Trunk Sales & Computer Equipment Hamfest. 8 am to 1 pm. Holt Christian Church. 2424 S. Washington Rd. Free Trunk Spots and Admission. TI: 145.39 (PL 100).

**Saturday, August 4, 2012.** Escanaba, MI.  
Delta County AR Society. Bay de Noc Community College. 2001 N. Lincoln Rd, Escanaba, MI. 9 am til 2 pm. TI: 147.15 (PL 100) Contact: John WD8RTH. Email: [wd8rth@dcars.org](mailto:wd8rth@dcars.org)

## Reflected Waves

### June 1992

At the June meeting, Jerry K8YVU gave a ham's account of the 1984 Olympic Torch Relay. Jerry participated in the relay with another TC native, Ed Litchfield. Jerry said he worked pretty hard and that amateur radio is a vital part of the caravan. Jerry showed numerous slides of the vans, motor homes and other equipment necessary for the logistic support of the runners.

### June 2003

As the monthly meeting occurred before Field Day, Norm KC8CLM, Chuck W8SGR and Ward N8WK discussed knot tying, grounding and filters and the NA logging program respectively. CARC members Tom AA8YI, Hope AA8SN, Ward N8WK, Chuck W8SGR and Bill W8PIT visited the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Living God Christian School and each student was given an AM crystal set to build and listen to WTCM AM 580 via an antenna installed by Ward N8WK. Both mentors and students had a great time!



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.

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!!

## TRAVERSE BAY AREA EMERGENCY GROUP

### May 22 Munson Hospital Emergency Exercise

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Munson Hospital had an emergency exercise and TBARG was invited to participate. The scenario was secret so none of the participants knew what to expect when the drill started. However from past experience with these exercises, I notified the Benzie County Emcomm group that they might be included and to be available. However, in hindsight I should have also notified the CCE group that they might be needed (and they were).

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> the TBARG operators met at the Munson Hospital cafeteria at 8:30 for a pre-event briefing. One operator (Jim Palmer K8OJP) was dispatched to Munson Incident Command Center to participate in their pre-event briefing. Four operators went to the Munson Hospital ham radio room and got the equipment ready for operations and another group was dispatched in the Commvan and tasked to set up a remote relay at a site that could reach both Benzie County and counties to the North. My task was to function as the auxcomm manager (term used by the FEMA trainers at the auxiliary communications class). Mainly this task is to make sure all stations are functioning and coordinated and that all messages are passed expeditiously.

We established a radio link between Jim Palmer in Incident command and the radio room and used this link until a dedicated telephone line was established linking the radio room to Incident Command. Messages were passed using the ICS-213 format.

The scenario turned out to be that a tornado had hit the Charelvoix area with extensive damage. As the scenario unfolded, a tornado later hit the Grand Traverse area with extensive damage, blocked roads and injuries.

Within a short period of time we were in communications with the Commvan on both VHF simplex and through the 146.86 repeater. The Commvan operators were busy setting up the NVIS antennas and getting the gear operational. The Commvan initially set up on Old Mission Peninsula but later was moved.

The Munson radio room had communications functioning on the 146.86 repeater, 146.52 simplex and 145.09 packet. We also had 440 MHz and 220 MHz available but they were not used for this event. We had the HF radio operational but had only marginal communications with Commvan on HF.

The Munson Incident Command quickly began requesting messages to be sent to Paul Oliver Hospital in Frankfort. Luckily, the Benzie group was ready and was able to receive and respond to messages. The most efficient communications method was packet using Outpost on the 145.09 digipeater. Voice communications on the 146.86 repeater worked well but packet had several advantages:

1. The messages were typed so there were no transcription errors.
2. There is an electronic written log of all packet messages.
3. Messages could be posted on the bulletin board and retrieved later if the operator was busy with other tasks.

Later in the exercise we were asked to attempt communications with the hospital in Charlevoix to get a situation report. This task was assigned as a priority to the Commvan. Initially the Commvan could not raise anyone on the repeaters to the north although they could bring up the repeaters. Eventually they were able to contact a station on Dstar which passed the message and received a reply message from the Charlevoix hospital.

Jim Palmer reported that the Incident Commander was impressed with our ability to quickly and efficiently pass messages that were assigned to us and to get responses back to Incident Command.

As with all exercises, there were things that worked well and things that need improvement.

Things that worked well and where we need improvements.

1. The radio room at Munson was fully functional. All radios worked. The one improvement that could be made is to the HF antenna which is currently an all band vertical.
2. The Commvan worked well and could be dispatched to several locations as needed. The HF equipment and VHF equipment, while functional, did have intermod problems. Antenna work needs to be done to separate some of the VHF antennas.
3. While communications with Benzie became reliable, it took some jockeying around before everyone was on the same

frequency.

4. Packet became our backbone message system but it took some effort for the Benzie group to get on the 145.09 bulletin board system. Once that link was established, messages were quickly passed between Paul Oliver and Munson.
5. Dstar came to the rescue when we could not find anyone on the repeaters to the North. The linked Dstar system operating in the NW quadrant gave us wide-area coverage.
6. We used the NIMS form for this exercise. IC213 for messages, and IC214 for planning.
7. We have several newly licensed hams in TBARG and they really came through for this event.

Future thoughts:

1. When future emergency exercises are announced, I will notify all the emergency communications groups.
2. We all need to improve our packet skills, equipment, and procedures. Packet is a real time saver for emergency communication between fixed locations. It proved to be our back-bone system.
3. It would be a huge benefit if we could have communications with the hospitals in Cadillac and Alpena. It would be even better if we had communications with all the District 7 hospitals.

Closing thoughts:

1. The incident command at Munson was very favorably impressed with ham radio. Munson is our major "served agency" and when they are happy, we are happy! TBARG came through when we were needed!
2. Recruiting new hams really pays off. The new hams have the energy and enthusiasm to make emergency communications really work!
3. Having good relations with our served agencies is crucial to our participation in emergency situations. If they don't know who we are, they don't know what we can do or even how to contact us!

Submitted by Ernie Abel, **K89RCT**  
EC/RO Grand Traverse County

### **THINKING ABOUT UPGRADING?**

The new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool released in January this year by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) becomes effective on Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>. The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. The new question pool-including the graphics and diagrams-will remain valid until June 30, 2016. The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions—E1D09, E2A14 and E6E10—have been removed from the new pool. If you are planning on taking Element 4 after July 1 this year. Make sure you have the new study questions in hand.

The current Technician class question pool is valid through June 30, 2014 and the General class question pool is valid until June 30, 2015.

### **OLYMPIC HAM INFO**

If the upcoming summer Olympic games are your thing and you are interested in the progress of the Torch, the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay route is being tracked on the APRS.fi web site. To see it go to <http://aprs.fi/> and enter Torch2012 in the Track Callsign field. Also information on the Worked All Britain Follow the Torch Award is on-line at [www.worked-all-britain.co.uk](http://www.worked-all-britain.co.uk). (Ed note: check out the Reflected Waves regarding CARC member Jerry Cermak's(sk) participation in the 1984 Torch Relay)

### **OHIO ENACTS LAW SIMILAR TO PRB-1**

Ohio hams now have antenna and support structure assurance. On May 15, Ohio Governor John Kasich signed a bill, granting comprehensive protections and rights to amateur radio operators in that state. HB 158 codifies the federal restrictions on the local zoning of amateur station antenna structures, thereby preserving Amateur Radio Service communications as a Homeland Security resource. It also places the burden of proof for compliance on the zoning authority.

The new law states that: "Any legislative authority that denies an application for approval of an amateur station antenna structure shall state the reasons for the denial and shall, on appeal, bear the burden of proving that the authority's actions are consistent with this section."

This language of the new Ohio law removes the burden of proof from the amateur radio operator and places it on the legislative authority. And that's very good news for hams living in the Buckeye State. (ARRL)