



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

March 2012

Coming Club Events

March 27th Club Meeting

This month's program will be a DVD presentation by Ernie **K8RCT**. In addition, we will be discussing re-organization of the Club into a 501C organization. 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.

Club Officers
President
Don N8QX

Vice President
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy
Russ K8RUS

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

Forward Waves

VE EXAMS:

Big Rapids, MI. Saturday, March 24, 2012.
Ferris State University. West Commons Building, Room 109. Walk-In OK. 4 p.m.
Contact: Patricia McKay 231 527-1688

Cadillac, MI. Saturday, May 5, 2012.
Wexauke ARC Hamfest. Cadillac Jr. High. 500 Chestnut St. 10:30 am. Limited Spaces. No Walk-In. Contact: Alan 231 829-3433

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, April 7, 2012. Lowell, MI.
Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell Hamfest. Lowell HS. 11700 Vergennes St. 8 am til ? VE Exams at 10 am. Walk-In OK. TI: 146.62 (PL 94.8) or 145.270 (PL 94.8) Contact: AL at 616 450-4332

Saturday, April 14, 2012. Highland, MI.
Milford Swap and Shop. Milford ARC. 8 am til 1 pm. Milford HS. 2380 S. Milford Road. TI: 145.49 (PL 67 Hz) Contact:

Reflected Waves

March 1992

The CARC program will be a presentation of computer logging for Field Day by club Vice-President Barry K18W. After the business meeting there will be a 20 min video on the Dayton Hamvention. A club activity survey by Chuck W8SGR indicated the following most wanted activities: 1) antennas, 2) construction projects, 3) computers in the shack, 4) Field Day activities, 5) days of old, and 6) soldering skills.

March 2003

This months meeting was a presentation by Keith **KC8TDK** regarding the new county radio proposal which will be up for public voting in May. Ken **KC8LTL** received a certificate for a first place finish in the 8th Call Area, QRP entry, 2002 WPX contest. The CARC will be sponsoring a plaque in this years Michigan QSO party scheduled for April.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OVAL SHACK

To maintain viability, a system or an organization must be dynamic; adapting to the environment that would render it a static entity. The Cherryland Radio Club has reached that point and it has become crucial that the club make changes that will insure our longevity. The repairs and upgrades necessary to keep the 146.86 repeater operational has intensified that need.

In order to maintain a healthy balance in club's check book, we instituted several cost saving measures; turning the Juice into an electronic medium and dropping the auto-patch, and these measures have helped the club remain on an even keel. Now we need a considerable amount of money, which is above and beyond the club's treasury. We need to solicit donations, donations that the contributors would want to take a tax deduction for, but just having club status we are not in the position to oblige.

At the March 6th, 2012 Board of Directors meeting, the Board began seriously investigating the possibility of dissolving the club and reorganizing as a 501C non profit corporation. Ward, **N8WK**, the club's "defacto" counsel is exploring the legalities. The club would sign over it's assets to the new group. In reality, there would be no difference in the way the club operates.

The 501C status would allow us to apply for grants from charitable foundations, Homeland Security, FEMA and a whole host of other organizations. I would like to remind everyone of the hassle we encountered when the club built the radio shack at the Boy Scout Camp. It is not beyond the realm of possibilities that through clever grant writing that we would be able expand our current repeater system and leave a larger footprint within the community.

All members input is more than welcome and I anticipate a rather lively discussion at the club's next general meeting.

Don N8QX

President CARC

aka the guy in charge



WEAVERS WORDS: NEW CLUBS

It is always a thrill for me to receive an application from a club to become affiliated with the ARRL. Healthy affiliated clubs are a great strength of the League -- and of Amateur Radio. They often are the grease that allows ARRL to exert its muscle in fighting for the survival and greater strength of our great avocation, Too often this thrill is dashed when I learn that a new club was formed because of nasty in-fighting among members of an existing club. I don't mean over pure disagreements, but nasty actions that create deep, hard feelings.

A problem with such situations is that fighting between club members generally does not stop with the forming of a new club. This fighting often moves from fighting among individuals to fighting between the old and the new club. This is not a healthy situation--not healthy for either club or for the individuals involved.

There is no doubt that whenever two or more people gather together in an effort, there can be--will be--disagreements. These disagreements can be healthy toward promoting energy and focus for the group, but they also can become pathologic if the parties involved allow them to become centered on individual personalities. The disagreement then often becomes

one of personal pride involving individual-against-individual. What began as a discussion aimed at strengthening the club deteriorates into one to determine whose pride will win over another's pride. The fracturing of one club into two becomes inevitable.

I am not talking about situations in which the parent club does not provide activities that meet the needs of groups of members. In such instances, it may logical to form a separate club with aims that differ from the parent club. Here, the two clubs and their memberships can continue to work together on common interests. The new club merely offers new outlets that the old club could not provide.

What I am getting at is that there is nothing more likely to result in nasty relations between people than when they allow disagreements to become personal instead of viewing them as tools that allow that promote growth. It has been my experience that no single individual has the best answer to a complicated issue. If we allow ourselves to believe we as individuals are the font of all knowledge, we are wrong.

When we personalize the debate by believing it centers on us as individuals, feelings are bound to be hurt and we begin to believe "it" is all about us when it should be about the club.

I strongly encourage everyone to realize we each are an important cog in the machinery of a club. We each have contributions to make to the success of the club. If we are to fulfill our goal of working to the benefit of the club and Amateur Radio, we must avoid reacting selfishly.

New clubs are great and needed. Founding a new club out of spite is neither great nor needed. Instead of forming a new club to get even with members of an existing club, would it not be best to swallow our pride, focus on the welfare of the group and get back to work to make the existing club better.

NEW 60 METER OPERATING PRIVILEGES

On March 5 amateurs were granted new privileges on the 60 meter band. The effective radiated power level was increased from 50 to 100 W, along with the ability to use CW and the digital modes PACTOR III and PSK31. The response thus far has been enthusiastic with all five 60 meter channels buzzing with activity. Sideband operators in particular have welcomed the 3 dB power boost. Many have reported substantially improved range, especially in noisy conditions. Sideband DX activity on 5403.5 (Channel

5) has increased significantly. CW and PSK31 operators are making good use of the new privileges as well, but are reminded that their transmissions must take place on the channel center frequencies as specified by the FCC:

Channel 1: 5332.0 kHz

Channel 2: 5348.0 kHz

Channel 3: 5358.5 kHz

Channel 4: 5373.0 kHz

Channel 5: 5405.0 kHz

“CW operators seem to have little problem figuring how where they need to transmit, but some PSK31 operators are reading the text of the FCC Report and Order and coming away a bit confused,” said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager. “The R&O states, ‘We adopt a modified instruction for PSK31 channel use to correct an error introduced in the NPRM. To have a PSK31 signal transmitted on the center frequency, the control operator should not set the carrier frequency to the center frequency but should instead set the carrier frequency 1.5 kHz below the center frequency (i.e., the same as for phone and data emissions).’

“The word ‘carrier’ in this context means the suppressed carrier frequency of a transceiver when operated in the USB mode, but some have taken it to mean the PSK31 signal itself. They read this text and come to the conclusion that the PSK31 signal should be 1.5 kHz below the channel center. They are mistaken. The PSK31 signal must be in the center of the channel.”

Hams are advised to carefully check not only their PSK31 software, but also their transceivers to make sure the radios are not shifting PSK31 signal frequencies during digital operation. The same is true for CW operators who may be using transceivers that have an automatic CW offset when operating in that mode.

Henderson notes that a few PSK31 operators appear to have missed the injunction to transmit only one signal per channel. “We’ve seen some guys deliberately starting conversations above or below the center frequency when the center frequency is already occupied with another PSK31 QSO or a CW transmission,” Henderson said. “Not only is this in violation of the requirement to be at the channel center frequency, it also violates the restriction that mandates only one signal per channel. If you want to operate but you hear someone already using the channel, you have to try a different channel or check back later. Remember, we have only one operating frequency on each channel. This is not a situation where you can squeeze multiple signals within the channel based on the belief that it is okay because a PSK signal is so narrow.”

Some ARRL Official Observers have reported the use of Minimum-Shift Keying RTTY, Contestia and other digital modes on 60 meters. “By a strict reading of the R&O some of these transmissions may not be in technical violation of FCC rules, but they not in line with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) request,” Henderson said. “The NTIA administers these frequencies, not the FCC, so their request that digital enthusiasts restrict themselves to PSK31 and PACTOR III is a prevailing guideline.”

“The confusion arises because many amateurs mistakenly believe that the FCC controls all of the radio spectrum in the US. That is incorrect. The NTIA controls frequencies that are allocated to governmental users, including FEMA, DHS, and the military. The five channels on the 60-meter band are under the direction of the NTIA. The FCC has worked with the NTIA to, in essence, ‘negotiate’ a secondary allocation for amateurs on that band. Amateurs need to keep in mind that the NTIA is the body that will either support the expansion of our privileges at some future date, or request that the FCC pull the plug on 60 meter Amateur Radio activity entirely. The NTIA is most definitely listening and non-compliant behavior puts our use of the band in jeopardy. Fortunately, instances of non-compliance appear to be isolated.”

To date there have been no reports of PACTOR III activity on 60 meters. PACTOR III is restricted to live keyboard-to-keyboard use only.

–tnx to *The ARRL Letter*

AMATEUR RADIO PARTICIPATION IN DISASTER RELIEF TO BE STUDIED

A bill that passed both the House and the Senate on February 17 -- and signed into law by President Obama on Wednesday, February 22 -- includes a provision for a study of the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

Section 6414 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 mandates the completion of the study, with a report of the findings to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. This study would “use the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations” to recommend how to best use radio amateurs in emergency communications and disaster relief efforts, and how to best utilize the Amateur Radio Service in coordination with the federal government in these efforts.

In addition, the study would also discuss the effects of *unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations* and recommend ways to remove such impediments. The bill passed in the House by a vote of 293-132. In the Senate, it passed by a 60-36 vote. -tnx to *The ARRL Letter*

ON-LINE FREE ELECTRONICS COURSES

Did you see this news item from ARRL? <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/surfin-learning-circuits-and-electronics-online>. This discusses a free electronics course from MIT. If you want to have a good background and have been wondering how to do it...this could not be more convenient. Click on the MIT links for more info.

Trying to pass your higher level license exams, this should just about do it for the electronics part. It does estimate 10 hours per week of study and knowledge of math thru calculus. Let’s see now where is that online course for the math?

–73 de Dave K8WPE

ICS 300 and ICS 400

Completes the NIMS requirements for all General and Command Staff

ICS 300 is April 10th and 11th – Tuesday-Wednesday

8:00 am-5:00 pm

ICS 400 is April 24th and 25th – Tuesday-Wednesday

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Registration at 7:30 am – 8:00 am each day

Class begins promptly at 8:00 am each day

Meals and refreshments are provided

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

Contact Emergency Manager – Dan Scott

dscott@grandtraverse.org

231-995-6059

Prerequisites include all of the following: IS 100, IS 200, IS 700 and IS 800. You MUST present copies of your certificates on the day of class.

If you need any of these prerequisites, visit the FEMA web site at:

<http://training.fema.gov/> or <https://mi.train.org>

**This training will take place at the Great Wolf Lodge
US31/M37 South Traverse City, MI**

**Sponsored by Grand Traverse County
Emergency Management
Funded by Region #7 HSPB**

Any questions, please contact Dan Scott at:

(231)-995-6059 or

dscott@grandtraverse.org

BIG SCREEN EPIC FEATURES AMATEUR RADIO

In the movie *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*, Sean Anderson (played by Josh Hutcherson) receives a coded distress signal that comes from a mysterious island where no island should exist. Sean decides to follow the signal with the unwilling assistance from his stepfather Hank (played by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson).

The movie opens in Dayton, Ohio with Sean on his motorcycle, being chased by police officers. Sean had been caught breaking in to a “satellite facility.” When questioned by Hank, Sean confesses that he had received a coded message from his grandfather (played by Michael Caine), but his equipment was too weak to copy it; he decided to go somewhere where there were bigger antennas. The message -- a string of one and two syllable words taken from the books by Jules Verne -- makes no sense to Sean. Hank, a former US Navy cryptographer, offers to help decode the message; he feels this will be a good chance to bond with his stepson.

Immediately, Hank figures out that the message is really in Morse code: each one syllable word is a “dit,” while each two syllable word is a “dah.” Hank translates the message, which gives clues to the location of the grandfather’s whereabouts.

Sean explains to Hank why he wants to hunt down the signal: “A few nights ago, a radio signal got sent out from these coordinates. It could be the mysterious island that Jules Verne wrote about.”

Hank replies: “You think you’re gonna travel halfway around the world and meet up with some lunatic who’s messing around on a ham radio?”

“That’s not some lunatic,” Sean says. “That’s my grandfather.”

This scene takes place at Sean’s desk in his bedroom. There are various pieces of radio gear -- such as a Kenwood TS-450s transceiver, an Ameritron AL-80 linear amplifier, an ICOM IC-28A 2 meter transceiver, an MFJ 949E antenna tuner, a Lowe HF-150 receiver, a microphone and books on radio dating from the 1930s -- on the desk; when Sean’s house is shown from the street, however, no antennas are visible. Behind the desk are posters from Jules Verne works, as well as maps -- including The Radio Amateur’s World Map from Yaesu -- and QSL cards on the bulletin board behind the desk.

One of these QSL cards belongs to Ned Conklin, KH7JJ, of Honolulu, Hawaii. Conklin is the President of the Battleship Missouri Amateur Radio Club, KH6BB. “The movie people contacted Joe Speroni, AH0A, looking to borrow radio gear for the movie,” Conklin told the ARRL. “He didn’t know anyone who had equipment they could loan, so he contacted me to see if the Missouri had any. We provided him with some gear, as well as some beautiful QSL cards that we had received from hams in the South Pacific. They shot the scene with the radios here in Hawaii, but the movie people asked if they could take the equipment to North Carolina in case they had to use it again.”

Through the clues in the coded message, Sean and Hank learn that Sean’s grandfather is on an island off the coast of Palau, located about 500 miles east of the Philippines. The two go to Palau, in hopes that they can charter someone to take them to the island where they believe Sean’s grandfather to be. There, they meet up with Gabato (a helicopter pilot played by Luis Guzman) and his daughter Kailani (played by Vanessa Hudgens). The group makes their way to the island and finds the grandfather, who takes them to the hut that he has built out of the boat that brought him to the island.

The grandfather explains that he was glad Sean was able to receive and decipher his message. He said he built his radio in three months “out of an alarm clock, copper wire and a teaspoon.” When the others tell him that they should get on the radio and call for help, the grandfather says that would be a good thing, but “you have to wait for the communications satellite to come around into the proper position.” When asked when the next time would be, the grandfather says “Oh, about two weeks.” After this scene, radio is never mentioned again.

Eventually, the five get off the island in a most unique way, with Sean and Hank returning to Dayton. Kailani also ends up at Dayton as a student at the University of Dayton. Thanks to the remarkable way the group escapes the island, Gabato’s fortune is made and he expands his tour business. And the grandfather? He’s ready to set off on another adventure.

“We appreciate being asked to be a part of *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*,” Conklin told the ARRL. “It is always thrilling to see Amateur Radio in popular culture, and hopefully young people will feel the excitement and want to explore the magic of radio.”

-tnx to The ARRL Letter

SINGLE BAND CONTESTING

My favorite activity in ham radio is contesting. While I enjoy the competition, I also like the way contesting pushes me to improve my station, my on-air technique, my knowledge of propagation and my antennas. Two of my 5 antennas are home built and I plan to add another this summer.

My favorite contests have always been the 48 hr world wide contests such as the ARRL DX, the CQ WPX and the CQ WW. But, I have found that aging has considerably softened my butt and decreased my stamina and I no longer enjoy sitting in “the chair” for 30-34 hours of a 48 hour contest.

While I am not a “big gun” and certainly not an elite contester I have enjoyed some modest success with a 1st in the 8th call area in the CQWW and several 1st place finishes in the MI and /or Great Lakes Sections. But in 2009 and 2010 I didn’t compete in any of the full weekend contests as I just could not “stay in the chair”. And, that quite simply, is what you have to do to compete. Stay in the chair and keep a signal out there.

So, last winter I decided to try single band contesting. I chose 10 meters figuring it would be open the least amount of time and being a daylight band I could still get my beauty rest plus spend a little time with my wife in the evenings. In March 2011 I entered both the ARRL DX and the CQWPX and then in October I entered the CQWW. What a difference. Most of the time the band didn’t open until mid-morning and was closed by 7-8 pm. Not tiring at all!

So how did the old man do? Well, in the ARRL DX I was 1st in Michigan and in the CQWPX I was 1st in the 8th call area, 4th in the United States and 7th in North America. Not too shabby for working from the "black hole" of radio propagation—aka Northern Michigan. The scores for the 2011 CQWW haven't been published yet but I don't think I did as well—the anticipation is part of the fun.

So, if you don't think you are up for the long weekend contests, try single band—you can have your fun and your sleep!! Not so much if you try 80 meters though. That would be a good band for prez N8QX—he's a night owl.

-73 de N8CN

NASA SHUTS DOWN LAST MAINFRAME

There was a time when IBM's mainframe computers were the cutting-edge machines for scientific and engineering calculations. Now, for NASA that's all come to an end.

The day of the giant mainframe computer began in the 1960s, when IBM's System 360 rewrote the rules of computing and before humans walked on the moon. When NASA acquired two of the then super-speed System 360 Model 95 mainframes in 1968, IBM touted the machines' mathematical abilities.

But February marked the end of the era in NASA computing. This as the space agency powered down its last IBM Z9 mainframe that was located at Marshall Space Flight Center. Linda Cureton is a Chief Information Officer who once programmed a System 360 mainframe in assembly language at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. She is quoted as saying that mainframes are really not so bad and they have their place. She notes that things like virtual machines, hypervisors, thin clients, and swapping are all old hat to the mainframe generation though they are new to the current generation of what she termed as cyber youth.

But for many in the industry, mainframes had become so burdened with a reputation for a bygone era of computing that they became synonymous with dinosaurs. To counter this IBM fought back, boosting performance, adding new technology. The company succeeded in that these newer mainframe systems remain a fixture in some corners of the computing industry.

In the old days, mainframes were the size of several large rooms. Today these units are only the size of a refrigerator. And even though NASA has shut down its last one, there is still a requirement for mainframe capability in many other organizations.

SOMETHING OLD

I was poking around in my toolbox and junk box and rooting through parts bins recently when I came across a little box marked "Crystals". Oh yeah, I recalled - I had picked these up from various hamfests and whatnot when one caught my eye. My rack of crystals from my Novice days was long gone but I'd never gotten over that feeling of plugging in an FT-243 and pounding some brass, seeing the needles jump, and just maybe hearing my call come back over the headphones.

Having several crystals was important if you wanted to call a station that might be several kHz away and not make them tune the whole band to find your 3-by-3-by-3 plea for attention. Of course, with the broad-as-the-side-of-a-barn receivers most of us used in those days, being a little off frequency wasn't the handicap it is today...you just had to squint!

I enjoy holding a crystal now - if it happens to be on a useful frequency, so much the better, but that's not the story. The point is the feel of it and the way it was manufactured and used. Those old crystals - from JAN, Texas Crystals, International Crystal, and many, many other companies from the back pages of QST - were hand-assembled and had attractive logos and text engraved into the crystal holders. Each one was an advertisement for the manufacturer and many were miniature works of art in their own right. Some were even hand-labeled.

Everybody ought to have one little thing from 'back then' - maybe a tube or a key or a meter or an insulator. Hold it in your hand and think about how many different meanings that artifact has had throughout its history. At first, it might have been cutting-edge technology, then a more ordinary commodity, finally to be dropped into a junk box as obsolete. Someday, someone like me spies and buys it for a pittance - like a lucky radio buckeye, polished and rounded and comfortable in my pocket or drawer.

If the item is truly fortunate, its new owner may go home and put it on the air once again. I am reminded of many childhood stories of forgotten toys that were rescued from an attic or basement to find new purpose. I have a soft spot for crystals, obviously, but you might find a tool or connector equally evocative. "Old" is subjective - perhaps all we mean is just "from a period preceding mine". These visitors from era gone by help connect us to the traditions of radio. Like grandparents, they connect us to history and might be no farther away than the next hamfest or swap meet, in a little box marked "Crystals".

73, Ward NØAX

tnx to the ARRL Contest Updates

<SK>