



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

May 2009

Club Officers
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Don N8QX

Vice President
Hope AA8SN

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Corresponding Secy
Bill W8PIT

Treasurer
Ward N8WK

Directors

Jon 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

May 26th Club Meeting

This month's program has not been firmed up yet. Look for an update on the home page. Once again, we will meet at the Governmental Center at 8th and Boardman at 7 pm in the lower level cafeteria.

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:

Hudsonville, MI. June 6, 2009.
Independent Repeater Assn at the Hamfest. 9 a.m. Walk-ins OK. Contact: Robert (616) 532-5196. Hudsonville Fairgrounds. Off Chicago Dr., Hudsonville, MI.

Midland, MI. June 20, 2009. Midland ARC. 12 noon. Walk-ins OK. At the Hamfest: 330 S. Waldo Ave. Midland, MI 48642. Contact: Glenn (989) 835-9112

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, June 6, 2009. Hudsonville, MI. Independent Repeater Association's "Good Old Days" Hamfest. At the Hudsonville Fairgrounds. TI: 147.160 (PL 94.8) Web site: www.w8hvg.org Contact: Don K8YES at 616 532-7769 or andrewsdon@juno.com

Saturday, June 20, 2009. Midland, MI. Midland ARC. 8 am til 12 noon. Salvation Army Building, 330 Waldo Rd. TI: 147.00 Contact: Pat KC8RTW 989 828-6657.

Reflected Waves May 1986

David KA8UCQ has volunteered to be Field Day Chairman this year and Warren W8KAN has arranged for the club to use the Observatory site on Birmley Road. Doug DeMaw W1FB, good friend and honorary member of the CARC received the Technical Excellence Award at the Dayton Hamvention this year. Approximately 25 club members attended the Wexaukee Swap this year.

May 2001

The May meeting was a presentation on Propagation by Roger N8KV and a report on the Dayton Hamvention by Ward N8WK and several other club members. Joe W8TVT announced that this years Ham Bike Outing (HBO) will take place in the Manistique area in the UP in July. Joe also brought several treasures he collected in Dayton and awarded them via the usual 50-50 raffle: Yaesu hats, DX maps and log books.

EMERGENCY EXERCISE

The May 2nd emergency exercise organized by the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is history and Amateur Radio was uniformly praised by all the participants. Most of the people involved had little previous contact or knowledge of the capabilities of the ham community and all came away impressed with both the technical abilities and personal talents displayed by the participating hams.

Jim Palmer **K8OJP** acted as head of the ham contingent and liaison between CERT, Dan Scott and the hams. Jim did a great job in this regard and sent the following letter for publication in the Cherry Juice:

From Jim Palmer **K8OJP**:

I would like to thank all of the participants from the amateur radio community who were part of making a success of Operation Lost and Found, the District 7 Emergency Exercise on May 2nd, 2009.

Thirty amateur radio operators from Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet counties answered the request for assistance from the District 7 Co-coordinators to help complete the trainees requirements for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members from Northern Michigan.

It was a large and complex operation requiring skills and networking with numerous other agencies from our community and other areas of Northern Michigan. Going into this project we were well aware that amateur radio was going to be watched closely by evaluators of the exercise. Our work was stellar and well accepted and was praised by all both during the exercise and afterwards at the joint meeting.

We can be proud of our skills and our willingness to be part of our community in its endeavors to make it safe in times of need.

Sincerely,

Jim Palmer **K8OJP**

I also received a short note from Ed Elkin **K8ZZ** and he stated that the Pugsley Correctional Facility ERT was also highly impressed with the performance of the ham radio teams.

Time and time again, amateur radio has lived up to the motto, "When all else fails, amateur radio gets through". Over the years that I have been involved with the CARC, RACES has been an up and down activity but the bottom line has always been that when called upon, the amateur radio community responds. Possibly, the success of this effort will inspire many of our members to get the necessary training and help develop a more active RACES program.

Thanks again to all who participated, you made us all look good!

STUFF

This issue of the Cherry Juice will for a variety of reasons be somewhat shorter than usual. The primary reason is that I didn't end up with a lot of material and the second reason is that I was at the Dayton Hamvention from the 14th of the month to the 17th. This is normally the time I put the Cherry Juice on-line as I try to post it around the 15th. In addition, I had some other rather time-consuming duties to attend to and didn't spend as much time keeping up with the latest amateur

radio news as I usually do. My apologies.

Now for a few words about the Dayton Hamvention. This year was my 17th and I think one of my most favorite. On Friday, the weather was nearly perfect, sunny and mid-70's with no moisture. On Saturday, we had some brief early showers then clearing until around lunch, another brief shower, and then clearing until around 4 p.m. when the skies opened up and everyone in the flea market covered up and packed up. We stood around under our tent for about 20 minutes and then the rain let up and we were able to fold up under just a light drizzle. Sunday was sunny, dry and cool.

This was the first time in several years my son, **N8OUZ**, was able to go with me and this also made the trip special.

As always, lots of new gear is introduced at the Dayton Hamvention and this year was no exception. One of the most interesting (and imposing!) items was a 140 foot, free-standing, motor driven collapsible tower complete with a staircase to the 20 foot collapsed position. Adhering to the dictum, "If you have to ask, you can't afford it", I didn't ask!! At any rate, even if I could afford it, it would be the end of a 36 yr marriage as my XYL can barely stand my 50 ft tower let alone 140 ft!

GPS is coming to both mobile rigs and HT's and on the way back home, my son and I were able to play with a VX8R with GPS, APRS and stereo FM broadcast that will play through the line-in on the car radio. You can listen to FM broadcast in stereo and monitor 2 ham freq's and the radio will mute the FM whenever the ham band opens. An amazing little HT.

While the attendance has not yet been released, it looks like the numbers were definitely up this year. Our first hint that attendance would be up was on Thursday night when I went to the vendor office to get 2 more vendor tickets. When we got there, we were told they had sold out of vendor tickets and were issuing general admittance tickets and hand signing them as vendor tickets. They printed tickets based on last years numbers and sold out!

Two vendors told me their sales were up considerably and at 4 pm on Saturday, all of the Yaesu vendors had sold their VX8R's and there were no GPS units or speaker mic's either.

Computers and computer parts and peripherals are slowly disappearing from the Dayton hamvention. Back in the 90's there were lots computer and memory vendors and in the flea market there were many people selling lease pull-outs, monitors, speakers, printers, etc. Prices are so low in stores like Best Buy and web sites like New Egg, Tiger Direct, etc that the flea market is no longer competitive.

The forums that I attended were literally packed with people standing around the sides and sitting on the floor. The antenna forum, the DX forum and the contesting forums were all well attended. A friend told me the Digital forums were also packed.

As per usual, several CARC members were part of the Dayton experience. Members I spotted there included Joe **W8TVT**, Ken **W8QKP**, Norm **N8STS**, John **WD8MQN**, Tom **K8BTE**, Art **N8HKQ**, Chuck, **W8SGR**, Pete **K8WQK**, Brad **W8QPO**, Joe **N8OUZ**, Tom **KE8KX**. If you were there, I'm sorry if I missed you.

But, the Dayton experience is not just about new rigs and equipment or getting the latest info on contesting. It's about people, ham radio people specifically. Every year it's kind of a re-birth for me as I am reminded of the scope of the

hobby from slow-scan TV to straight key CW and public service to contesting. I have a cousin in Wisconsin who is also a ham and we try to meet for coffee every year in Dayton and as I mentioned, it's always a special trip for me when my son is along. My son was able to meet with some hams he knew from the radio club at Michigan Tech and it looks like Dayton will be a meeting place for his friends in the coming years.

If you have never attended the Dayton Hamvention, you really must put it on your "to do" list. You won't be sorry.

ARRL SEEKS SUPPORT

The ARRL is asking its membership to contact their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to become co-sponsors of HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009.

"Getting a bill successfully through Congress is a formidable task--one that is going to require the involvement of every ARRL member," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Working with our Washington consulting firm Chwat & Co, we are laying a dynamic approach that will allow us to make our case most effectively. We have developed a strategy to maximize our impact when dealing with each member of Congress."

Since the anthrax scare that followed the 9/11 attacks, all incoming mail to Congress is delayed anywhere from four to six weeks while it is screened. This means using normal US Mail is no longer an effective method of letting Congress hear your voice. While e-mail is convenient, it is also not effective, due to the large volume of e-mail that each Congressional office receives.

"To ensure that ARRL members' letters are quickly and expediently received by Congress, our strategy is to ask ARRL members send their letters directly to Chwat & Co," said Henderson. "Chwat's staff will sort the letters by Congressional district and hand-deliver them to the appropriate House offices, providing a direct point of contact with the Congressman and their staff. This personal contact gives us the chance to provide not only letters from constituents, but information from the ARRL on why this legislation is important."

The ARRL has provided a sample letter for League members to personalize and send to their Congressional representative:

www.arrl.org/news/files/DearMemberOfCongressHR2160.doc

"Personalized letters make a better impression than a standard form letter or petition," Henderson explained. You can find the name and address for your member of Congress on the ARRL Members Only Web page:

www.arrl.org/members-only/.

Once it has been personalized, ARRL members should send their letter to Chwat & Co using one of three methods:

- 1) as a signed attachment to an e-mail: arrl@chwatco.com
- 2) as a signed fax to 703-684-7594 and 3) as a regular letter to John Chwat, Chwat & Co, 625 Slaters Ln, Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314.

If you chose to e-mail your letter, please send it as an attachment to the e-mail instead of having it be the text of the e-mail. This allows the letter to be easily printed and delivered. Should you decide to draft your own letter supporting HR 2160 instead of editing the sample, please remember a couple of things:

- 1) Identify the bill by number and title: HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009

- 2) Keep the letter brief and on topic--one page tops.
- 3) Ask your congressional representative to consider becoming a co-sponsor.
- 4) Thank them for their consideration

"Simple is better when making this kind of a request to a representative," said Henderson. "They and their staff are looking to gauge interest and support for the bill. A lengthy letter that strays off-topic can detract from the focus of asking for support for the legislation.

If you send your letter directly to your Representative, it is still important to send a copy to Chwat & Co. This allows Chwat to discuss accurately with the Congressman and their staff the amount of support for the bill in each individual district. "There is strength in numbers," said Henderson.

Aside from bill sponsor Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), the ARRL is fortunate to already have six additional members of Congress who have signed on as co-sponsors of HR 2160 -- Madeleine Bordallo, Brett Guthrie, Mary Jo Kilroy, Zoe Lofgren, Blaine Luetkemeyer, and Bennie Thompson.

"We congratulate ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and his grassroots legislative action team in Kentucky for securing the support of Rep. Guthrie--the first new co-sponsor of the bill," Henderson said. "It shows that our grassroots effort can work!"

"What should you do if your Rep has already signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2160?" The answer is simple: Thank them for their support. If your Congressman is one of those listed as a co-sponsor, please send them a letter thanking them for their support. Use the same contact information for Chwat & Co. "It is important to convey your appreciation to your Representative when they sign on as a co-sponsor or support the bill," Henderson explained. "That simple 'thank you' may help open the door the next time their help is needed."

Once you have prepared and sent your letter supporting HR 2160, your job is not over: Feedback is an important part of the process. "What your Congressman has to say in regards to your contact can provide the ARRL with important information as we try to push our bill forward," Henderson noted. "This feedback can possibly help us identify potential new support for the bill or a weakness in the legislation we may need to address."

When you receive a response from your congressman, please forward a copy to the Regulatory Information Office at ARRL Headquarters via e-mail: reginfo@arrl.org or hard copy to Regulatory Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity--but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard," Henderson summarized. "HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and covenants. To be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away. But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters and other emergencies".