



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

November 2009

Coming Club Events

November 24th Club Meeting

This month we are back at the Governmental Center at 8th and Boardman for our regular club meeting. Joe **N8OUZ** will give a presentation on packet radio which is enjoying a resurgence in Emergency Communications. Meet at the Governmental Center lower level cafeteria at 7 p.m. As always, cookies and coffee and eyeball QSO's. The general meeting is the best way to keep up with club activities. Hope to see you there!

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:

Gaylord, MI. Saturday, December 5, 2009. Top of Michigan ARC. Otsego County Public Library, 700 S. Otsego Ave. 9 am (Walk-ins OK) Contact: Chad 989 705-9322 or chad@nuwaysupply.com

Grand Rapids, MI. Friday, December 11, 2009. Grand Rapids ARA. Red Cross Bldg. 1050 Fuller Ave NE. 6:30 pm. Walk-ins OK. Contact: Richard (616) 531-6218 or kc8nka@arrl.net

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, December 6, 2009. Mt. Clemens, MI. L'Anse Creuse ARC. L'Anse Creuse HS. 38495 L'Anse Creuse St. TI: 147.08+ (PL 100) Contact: Marty **K8HVI**. k8hvi@arrl.net

Sunday, January 17, 2009. Hazel Park, MI. 44th Annual Hamfest, Hazel Park ARC. Hazel Park HS, 23400 Hughes St. 8 am til noon. TI: 146.640 (PL 100). Contact: Mike wd8s@arrl.net or 248 399-7970

Reflected Waves

November 1986

The November meeting was presented by avid SW listener, Nelson Cole. Along with an outstanding presentation, Nelson provided a superb list of English speaking foreign stations and a guide to over 40 Utility stations. A request was sent to the Michigan Repeater council to move the club repeater from 146.85 but not to the recommended 146.84 due to the proximity of the Gaylord repeater.

November 2001

The November meeting was a presentation by Hope **AA8SN** of the winners in last month's TBI contest. Dale **N8VX** reported on the first contest entered from the club station **W8TCM**. This was the October 4 hr FISTS CW contest. The club operated QRP and made 66 contacts. The op's were Hope **AA8SN**, Tom **AA8YI**, John **KX8CW**, Brian **N8BRI**, Roger **N8KV**, Tom **KC8KVV**, Bill **KC8NEK** and Dale **N8VX**. Joe **W8TVT** showed up in time for pizza! Most of the contacts were on 15 and 20 meters. 80 meters was dead but Brian tuned the 80 meter dipole for 10 meters and made a few contacts on 10.

Club Officers
President
Don N8QX

Vice President
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy
Gloria N8KXJ

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY

As I write this issue of the CJ, it is exactly 4 weeks until the CARC Christmas party. This years extravaganza will be on Tuesday, December 8th and once again, the party will be held at the Traverse City Elks Club.

We will have a cash bar cocktail hour starting at 6 pm and around 7pm dinner will be served. The price is the same as last year, \$17.50 per person. The Christmas party is always a nice way to close out the radio club year, good food, good friends and the Ham of the Year. Dave **N8CN** is taking reservations and monies at the November general meeting and at the December board meeting on Tuesday, December 1st.

You can always send a check, made payable to CARC, to:

Dave Erlewein **N8CN**
2738 Ra-Wa-Si Ave
Traverse City, MI 49684

DUES REMINDER

Treasurer Ward **N8WK** has reminded me that club dues for 2010 are coming due and he would like some of your hard earned moolah. Ward tells me that this past year he didn't have to turn anyone over to the Vice-Treasurer, Lucca, *the Persuader*, Bratzi **NOLEG**. He's hoping to keep Lucca home once again this year.

Dues structure remains unchanged, \$12.00 a year for club dues for the first family member and \$2.00 for each additional member. Student memberships (elementary, middle and high school) are \$5.00 per year. Autopatch privileges are an additional \$12.00/year.

We suggest an annual contribution of \$5.00-10.00/year for repeater maintenance as stuff happens and things break. There are only two kinds of repeater antennas, those hit by lightning and those that haven't been hit by lightning lately. If at all possible, please make a donation to the repeater fund.

Check your listing in the club directory and if there are any errors in spelling, address, call sign, license class, ARRL membership, etc be sure and correct the info with Ward **N8WK**. Also, if you don't receive an e-mail notice when the Cherry Juice goes on-line or when important club info pops up, make sure I (**N8CN**) have your e-mail address.

THE K8RCT REPORT

At the November club meeting, Joe **N8OUZ** will be discussing packet radio and provide a demonstration. In addition, Ernie **K8RCT** will have a portable packet station that he has put together.

The TBARG group as moved some desks into the penthouse at Munson hospital and we will be installing some antenna's up there soon. We want to have some operating gear in place before the December 15th FEMA drill. We will also be looking for RACES members who might be available on Dec 15th in the morning to participate in the drill. The details about just what is going to be happening during the drill are pretty fuzzy at this point in time. I am in regular contact with Dan Scott, Grand Traverse Emergency Management Director about this drill and will notify the group of details as I get them.

I would also like to remind area hams that there is an emergency net that meets on Monday evenings at 9:00 PM on the 146.86 repeater. This is a directed net so just follow the instructions of the net control operator to check-in. The net has an alternate repeater on 147.100 in case the 146.86 repeater is out of operation. In case both repeaters are inoperable, check

into the net on 146.52 simplex. During the last net session we had 16 check-in's. The net moves along quickly as it is a directed net.

Ernie **K8RCT** is the net control for November and Russ, **KD8LCJ**, will be net control in December. Ann, **KA6AYJ** has volunteered to be net control in January. I'll be looking for you on Monday evenings at 9:00 PM.

-73 de Ernie, **K8RCT**, Grand Traverse Co. EC

RADIO THEFT

On Monday evening, November 16th, someone broke into my car while it was parked at the Central United Methodist Church. They took my Realistic HT 202 2 meter handheld transceiver along with several other items. They also took the cigar plug charger so the radio can be recharged (unfortunately). The incident has been reported to the polices.

This means you may hear someone trying to use the radio that is unlicensed. I suggest that if you do hear someone using the radio you tell them that they need a FCC license and that using the radio puts them in violation of FEDERAL law. Although I would like to get the radio back, I would much rather have the thief not use the radio.

The HT is somewhat identifiable because it has an oversize lithium-metal hydride battery (not stock) and the battery pack has a charging port built into the side of the case.

Sorry that this happened. The lesson for the day is to double check that your car is locked.

MICHIGAN PRB-1 UPDATE

PRB-1: The ARRL Michigan Section PRB1 Committee would like to announce some developments in our efforts to get the PRB-1 exemption codified into Michigan Law. Representative Steve Lindberg, **N8UZP**, (D-Marquette) forwarded our proposed bill, the Michigan Emergency Communications Preservation Act to the Legislative Services Bureau to be drafted into the proper language for submission to the House.

The Bill has now been given the proper form, a new title and has been submitted to the Committee for Inter-Governmental and Regional Affairs, with Representative Lindberg as Sponsor. It is now known as House Bill # 5556, an amendment to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. How did the Bill become a Zoning Act? Representative Lindberg felt that our proposed bill was in fact a Zoning Act versus a Communications Act. His plan is to modify an existing law, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. The Michigan PRB-1 Committee and your Section Manager discussed this and determined that we would enthusiastically support Rep. Lindberg's strategy. The Bill now also includes a "height clause" (i.e. if we stay below the specified height, local governments would not be allowed to challenge it except in unusual circumstances). A copy of the bill 5556 can be found at: www.prb1michigan.org/id17.html

It is the PRB1 Committee's intention to introduce a similar bill through the Michigan Senate. We are currently seeking support from several potential Senate Sponsors. Should you have a solid connection with your Senator, we ask you to consider working directly with us to solicit the Senator's support for our Bill.

If you would like to tackle this approach, please contact PRB-1 Committee Project Manager Len Todd, **N8AGS**, at

n8ags@arrl.net The process of getting PRB-1 codified is a long and involved one, but we are making headway. If you'd like to lend your services to the effort or to make a supporting contribution, please contact Len, **N8AGS** at the address above.

-tnx to Dale **WA8EFK**, ARRL Michigan Section Manager

NEW TECH QUESTION POOL FOR 2010

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is due to release the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010.

Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.

According to ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY10, the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are kept current with the latest amateur practice and technology, as well as addresses information relevant to that particular license class. "In the case of the Technician pool, the question set should provide for the new Technician licensee to be able to establish his station and operate it legally, courteously and safely. The Technician question pool and exam are intended to be the beginning of the journey into the Amateur Radio Service. It prepares the person for the enjoyment of operating, and that of preparing to learn electronics, the cornerstone of the education needed to obtain the further enjoyment that can come with the higher license classes."

Green is a member of the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee. Other members of the QPC include Chairman Roland Anders, K3RA (Laurel VEC), Larry Pollock, NB5X (W5YI VEC), Jim Wiley, KL7CC (Anchorage VEC) and Tom Fuszard, KF9PU (Milwaukee VEC).

Green said that earlier this year, the QPC solicited input from Amateur Radio operators concerning the new question pool, accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as suggestions for changes or deletions: "The QPC must rely on members of the Amateur Radio community to suggest questions and answers in a responsible manner to preserve a high level of legitimacy for our radio service, so the NCVEC QPC seeks input from the amateur community concerning a revision."

The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

-tnx to *The ARRL Letter*

CHEATERS BEWARE

Every major sport has at some time or another suffered from cheating. Whether it be athletes using illegal substances to enhance performance, taking a risk that the officials won't notice that rules are being flouted or just falsifying the score-sheet. So it should come as no surprise that amateur

radio contests can be subject to cheating too.

The issue is gaining greater publicity through the disqualifications to be handed out by the CQ World Wide Contest Committee.

It has introduced a Yellow card and a Red card system, just like a soccer referee. Under the CQ World Wide Contest rules all entrants agree that the use of the card system and other decisions of the Contest Committee are official and final. For a low level indiscretion a Yellow card will be issued making the entrant ineligible for an award. But two Yellow cards in three consecutive contests means a two year ban.

For higher level matters, a Red card means the submitted log is rejected or no score recorded, the entrant or operator is banned for 12 months and listed at the end of the contest results for all to see. Get two Red cards and there is a three year ban.

Cards are issued for breaches of contest rules or the operating requirements of a country, unsportsmanlike conduct such as using non-amateur radio means to pre-arrange contacts contrary to the rules, or taking credit for excessive unverifiable QSOs or multipliers.

Hopefully this innovation will discourage those who don't abide by the rules or are outright cheats.

-Tnx to Jim Linton VK3PC

WHO ISSUES CALLSIGNS?

If you're an American ham, chances are that your call sign was issued by the Federal Communications Commission. A "no brainer," right? Well, if you're an American ham who happens to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay or at one of the US bases in the Antarctic, your call sign is not issued by the FCC -- it's issued by the base commander! Guantanamo Bay (or Gitmo as it's commonly called) uses the KG4 prefix, followed by a two-letter suffix; this block is reserved exclusively for American hams at Gitmo. As for Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty, signed on December 1, 1959 (and entered into force on June 23, 1961), established the legal framework for the management of Antarctica, including allocation of amateur call signs; the National Science Foundation received their block on July 1, 1959.

US military hams in Japan and Korea are also issued special call signs:

KA2AA-KA9ZZ -- reserved for US Army-authorized amateur stations in Japan.

KC4AAA-KC4AAF -- reserved for the National Science Foundation's use at the South Pole.

KC4USA-KC4USZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at their Antarctic bases.

KG4AA-KG4ZZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at Guantanamo Bay).

KL9KAA -- KL9KHZ -- reserved for assignment to US personnel stationed in Korea.

The 40 call signs having the first two letters AF, KF, NF or WF and the letters "EMA" following a numeral are available to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FCC once issued call signs to hams who lived in the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands. Even though these entities -- former United Nations Trust Territories -- now have their own sovereignty (and DXCC prefixes), the FCC will not issue call signs in the following blocks:

KC6AA-KC6ZZ -- KC6 was two DXCC entities: The Eastern Caroline Islands and the Western Caroline Islands. The Eastern Carolines became the Federated States of

Micronesia (V6) and the Western Carolines became the Republic of Palau (T8).

KX6AA-KX6ZZ -- the former Marshall Islands, now the Republic of the Marshall Islands (V73).

You can find out more on the FCC's Web site. Now you know!

<SK>