



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

November 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
Joe N8OUZ

CLUB NETS

MESH NET
8 pm Monday
146.86 MHZ

SMASH NET
9 am Sunday
3.935 MHZ

Club Repeaters
146.86 PL 114.8
W8ZTB Memorial
Repeater

442.50 PL 114.8
W8NHG Memorial
Repeater



ARRL Affiliated Club
#1082

Coming Club Events

November 25th Club Meeting

Program: Ernie K8RCT has a fantastic program prepared for you.
Dan Scott will be presenting a short program regarding the
Brown Bridge Dam failure including some truly amazing photos.

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

Nov 30: Midland, MI
Sponsor: Midland ARC
Salvation Army Building, 330 S. Waldo Rd.,
Midland MI 48640-4474
7pm, Walk-ins allowed.
Contact: Dennis K. Klipa n8erf@arrl.net
989.636.7704

Dec 8: Gaylord, MI
Sponsor: Top Of Michigan ARC
Otsego County Public Library, 700 South
Otsego Ave, Old 27 South. Meeting room,
Gaylord MI 49735-1723
9am, NO Walk-Ins.
Contact: Chad W. Johnston
cjphnston@mysgo.com 989.217.8003

HAMFESTS

No Hamfests or Swaps publicized within 100 miles for 2012. Be watching for swaps in 2013; especially the CARC Swap-N-Shop coming on February 9th!

Reflected Waves **November 1992**

Rod N8QVR gives a presentation at the regular club meeting about easy home-brew circuit boards.

Dick WD8ILB reports that after the formation of a committee and several efforts to communicate "good repeater etiquette" that the use of the club repeater has improved dramatically. Efforts were focused on getting information to the newly-licensed and re-acquainting other members with proper use principles.

November 2003

A representative from the Gaylord National Weather Service (NWS) discussed spotting and operations of the Gaylord station at the club meeting.

CLUB UPDATE

The CARC re-organization as a 501 (c)3 non-profit is almost complete. Government paperwork has all been filed, and we await the official news acknowledging the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club's official 501(c)3 status.

DUES-R-DUE

A reminder that Dues will be .. Um.. Due on the first of the year - January 1, 2013. The dues for this year have increased to \$20 (the first CARC dues increase in.. Um.. I think forever?). Ward N8WK will gladly be accepting your dues payments this year.

CARC ELECTIONS

A reminder that elections for the CARC are approaching. Do you have someone to nominate, or would you like to volunteer for a position?

More information will be forthcoming on the email lists and at the next general club meeting (speaking of club email lists - are you subscribed? Check the Oct 2012 CJ for details).

CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

Each year, the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club has its annual Christmas Dinner party. This year, the party will be on the 2nd Tuesday of December, which is December 11th.

The location is the Elks Lodge (#323) in Traverse City. The address is 625 Bay Street, Traverse City MI, 49684. It is at the Junction of US-31, M-72. See <http://www.elkstc.com>.

The time is 6pm with dinner being served at 7pm. Food is served buffet-style with Chicken or Beef Entree options, and a large assortment of side dishes and desserts.

The cost, per person, is \$19.00 and includes your table, meal, dessert, and drink. There is also a cash bar for alcoholic beverages.

We would like you to attend and have large gathering as we have a special program planed.

This dinner party is a great time to treat your spouse or significant other to another side of amateur radio. We hope you can arrange your schedule to participate.

Reservations can be sent to:

Joseph R. Erlewein, N8OUZ, PO Box 1842, Traverse City, MI 49685-1842

(please include a check or money order made payable to the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club)

Alternately, please contact me for other arrangements:

Phone - 231.668.4223, or email - joe@n8ouz.org

Repeaters - 146.86- PL 114.8 (CARC - Traverse City), 442.5+ PL 114.8 (CARC - Traverse City)

Thank you -
Joseph R. Erlewein, N8OUZ
CARC Cherry Juice Editor

AREA REPEATER UPDATES

There are several new repeaters in the area! Here is a partial list:

<u>Freq</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>PL</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Notes</u>
147.340	+	114.8	FM	North of Lake Ann	KJ4KFJ	N/A
442.2875	+	N/A	TDMA	Traverse City	N8OUZ	MotoTrbo DMR-MARC
443.3125	+	N/A	GMSK	Traverse City	KD8OXV	D-Star (currently Central Lk)

You might have noticed - there are two listed as non-FM repeaters in the list above. As digital modes increase in popularity, Traverse City is proving to be no exception. TBARG is currently in the process of installing a new UHF D-Star repeater here in Traverse City. D-Star systems use GMSK modulation instead of traditional FM/Analog. More information on D-Star is available at <http://www.dstarinfo.com>. Also, I have a UHF Motorola MotoTRBO digital repeater online, which is yet another flavour of digital. MotoTRBO uses TDMA modulation. More information is available at <http://www.dmr-marc.net>. There has been talk at many of the CARC Project Nights about future programs regarding VHF/UHF digital modes. Expect some more information and at least one presentation in the very near future!

SPEAKING OF DIGITAL

via Jeff Peters, K9JP:

Low Budget SDR Receiver

Over the past few months various hams have been reporting success with budget SDR receivers that started out in life as a TV or DAB tuner. Well, I had to try one to see if it really worked and how well would it work. I found one of these little devices on eBay from a seller called cosycave in England. I ordered a RTL2832 R820T version that was shipped for the total cost of just under \$22.00.

The usb stick looks very 'budget' and has that tell tale squeak of parts that don't quite fit together. But it does the job and I'm more than happy. Various people have reported being able to do all sorts of things with these including using up converters to get the hf spectrum as well as the stock 25MHz to 1800MHz

Installation of the stick isn't too tricky and made even easier from this seller as all the right software(SDR#, driver etc) is supplied with the dongle. The only issues I experienced were with the installation of special drivers for the stick on Windows 7. This can be overcome very easily and within a few minutes searching on the web or though joining one of the many Yahoo SDR groups.



The end result is a simple and low budget method of accessing SDR. I managed to hear APRS packets, FM broadcast stations, monitor the local area 2 meter, 222 MHz, and 440 MHz repeaters, local Police, Fire, and County VHF and UHF broadcasts, and even listened to FM radio station broadcasts. You will need a PC with a bit of 'Umpf'. My "Ham Radio Only PC" (new last year) was able to run the software and the audio output was very good. One of the issues I did notice though is that the tuners are very wide band. They can benefit from additional band pass filters/pre amps to help reduce out of band signals and increase sensitivity depending on local conditions and your antenna type.

If you'd like a tinker then I recommend giving SDR a try. Tim, G4VXE has all the info you'll need to get started using the SDR dongle on his blog. See: <http://g4vxe.blogspot.co.uk>. There are a few useful posts there or a Google search will be able to assist you as well.

CLUB INVENTORY

On Oct 26, I sent notice that the CARC Board has completed taking and recording our club's current inventory. The inventory was sent out to the board in plain text and the information is kept in a Google document that all members of the board are able to edit once logged in with their Google accounts. This keeps the information "in the cloud" and editable by the entire board, and viewable by everyone else. The only downside is that the Link URL is long. If you wish to take a look at the club inventory that has been recorded, it is available for viewing at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/cc?key=0AhokXhChPs9bdENVNGtuTW1xVTFzkbVtejNuOEZxb3c>

Thank you,
Joe, N8OUZ

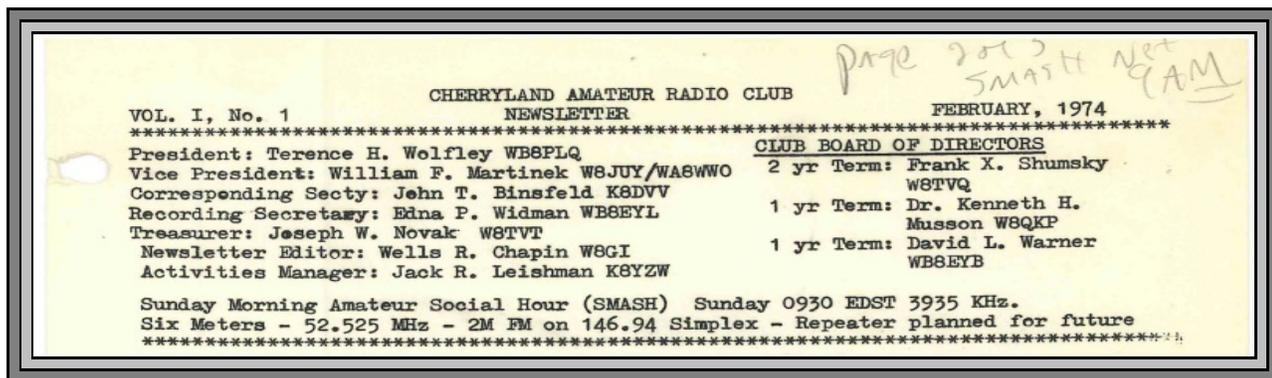
A LITTLE HISTORY

As I alluded to in a previous Cherry Juice (Pg 3, Sep2012), a pet-project of mine (ongoing) is to build a collection of all

available historic CARC Cherry Juice issues online, available for viewing. The process is lengthy, as each issue needs to be scanned, edited, and

oriented for online presentation or download. But.. The good news is that I have the first few years completed. You can view them at:

<http://cherrylandarc.com/CJArchives.html>



CARC SMASH NET

Via Jeff K9JP, I was passed this info that was posted to the Elecraft internet board. Just a reminder that the net is still very active. Hope to hear you on it soon!

I have had so much enjoyment in only a few weeks with my Elecraft KX3, but this morning I used it for the first time on SSB. Using a 125 foot long wire, a poor ground from in my upstairs den and the internal batteries and only 2.5 watts output I was able to get into the Sunday Morning Amateur Social Hour (SMASH) net on 3.930 MHz. The comments about my audio with such a low power were outstanding. They all know I run QRP mostly so they had to believe me, but I was impressed because none of my other low power QRP radios have received those high of complements. Thank you CARC SMASH net members and Elecraft.

Dave K8WPE

TBARG RECOGNIZED

Ham radio gets recognized by Grand Traverse County. Ernie K8RCT received the following letter from Larry Inman, Chairman of the Grand Traverse County Commission:

To TBARG

On behalf of the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners, we would like to personally thank you for responding to the Brown Bridge Dam breach in October. It was your quick response and experience in dealing with emergency management situations that promptly and appropriately dealt with the urgent situation.

Your dedication and leadership was strongly recognized at the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners meeting and we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the long hours and teamwork that controlled the situation.

Thank you once again for all your efforts with this emergency situation and we commend you for a job well done.

Sincerely, Larry Inman, Chairman

Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners

SOCIAL NETWORKING

I bet you didn't know that the CARC has a Facebook page! We do! If you're a user of Facebook, please take some time and check it out: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/174551019257712>

NEWS VIA QRZ

RADIO IN SPACE: SPOT THE ISS SERVICE FROM NASA

A new service from NASA called Spot the Station will send you a text message when the International Space Station is within visual range of your house.

The service will only notify users if the station is easily visible above trees, buildings, and other objects. Spot the Station will calculate the station's proximity to more than 4,600 positions on Earth, updating its information several times each week.

The International Space Station is usually at peak visibility at dawn and dusk. When skies are clear, it typically appears as fast-moving point of light.

You can sign up for the service on line by visiting <http://spotthestation.nasa.gov>. (NASA, N6ZXJ)

WINTER WEATHER REPORTING

Here is a note from NWS Gaylord regarding weather reporting information:

Hi NWS Gaylord spotters.

The individual presentations from our recent Winter Weather Talk Series have been posted to our web page (about 3/4 of the way down the page):

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/apx/?n=spotter>

We are always interested in receiving 12 and 24 hour snowfall information, as well as rainfall and icing reports. Ideally, we would like the information during the morning and evening hours (although we will take it anytime). There are several ways that you can relay this information to our office:

800#: 1-800-647-8676

Facebook: NWS Gaylord page

<http://espotter.weather.gov>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/apx/?n=cocorahs>

Thank you for your commitment to the spotter program in northern Michigan. We appreciate your interest and enthusiasm for weather reporting.

Jim Keysor

NWS Gaylord

2013 CLUB SWAP-N-SHOP

It's coming!

This is a VERY VERY TINY reminder to watch for more information about the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club's annual Swap-N-Shop on Feb 9, 2013.

Mark your Calendar!

<SK>