



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

October 2010

Coming Club Events

October 26th Club Meeting

This months program will be presented by county hunter supreme, Ed Eklin K8ZZ. Ed has worked all US counties more than once and has lot's to say about mobile HF and county hunting. This will be one of the most interesting programs of the year. Where: The Governmental Center, lower level cafeteria on Boardman near the intersection with Eighth St. 7 pm on Tuesday, October 26th. Coffee and cookies following the program.

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:

Sault Sainte Marie, MI. Saturday, October 30, 2010. Eastern Upper Peninsula ARC. Faith Lutheran Church. 1600 Park St. 11 a.m. Walk-ins OK. Contact: Dave WA8OLD at wa8old@att.net Or 906 440-4605.

Traverse City, MI. Saturday, November 13, 2010. Cherryland ARC. Salvation Army Building, corner of Barlow and Boone. 1 pm. Walk-ins OK. Contact: Hope AA8SN at 231 941-7262 or aa8sn@arrl.net

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, October 24, 2010. Sterling Hghts, MI. Utica-Shelby Emergency Communication Assn Hamfest. American Polish Century Club. 33204 Maple Lane Dr. VE Exams 8-10 a.m. TI: 147.180 PL 100. Contact: Jeff KD8CIA kd8cia@gmail.com

Sunday, December 5, 2010. L'Anse Creuse ARC 38th Annual Swap. Harrison Township. L'Anse Creuse HS. 38495 L'Anse Creuse Rd. 8 a.m. til noon. Exams: 9 a.m. TI: 147.080 PL 100. Contact: Gregg N8GEO@arrl.net

Reflected Waves

October 1987

At the October meeting, President Jim **N8AYQ** explained both ARES and RACES and managed to convince several club members to sign up for these valuable emergency services. Jim also announce that he will be conducting classes shortly after the new year for Novices wishing to upgrade to Technician. Bob **W8NGH** reports he keeping in touch with Larry **K8SME** and XYL Maureen on the Marine Mobile nets.

October 2000

The October meeting was a presentation by George Race **WB8BGY**, Director, Great Lakes section of the ARRL. George updated the members regarding current and future ARRL activities. The September Foxhunt was won by the team of Hope **AA8SN** and Ward **N8WK**. The Club constructed a new outside entrance to the basement of the Red Cross Building so that our comings and goings will not disturb ongoing Red Cross classes.

- Club Officers
 - President
 - Don N8QX
- Vice President
 - Hope AA8SN
- Recording Secy
 - Gloria N8KXJ
- Corresponding Secy
 - Dave K8WPE
- Treasurer
 - Ward N8WK
- Directors
 - Ann KA8AYJ
 - 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

SET REPORT

Traverse Bay Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Group

2010 Simulated Emergency Test Report

On Saturday, October 2nd, the TBARG ham operators conducted an emergency communications drill in cooperation with several other ham radio emergency communications organizations. The scenario for this year's drill was that the fiber optic lines serving NW Michigan had been cut. Munson Hospital requested that TBARG provide emergency communications with other Northern Michigan hospitals.

The TBARG group set up operations in the penthouse on the roof of Munson hospital. We also dispatched our communications van to the top of Tower Hill to provide a station to relay messages to other counties. We also dispatched two operators to Green Lake EMS. Operations commenced at 9:00 AM by announcing the exercise on the 146.86 repeater and closing the repeater to all but emergency or simulated emergency traffic. The net control station, **K8RTC**, maintained net discipline for the duration of the exercise.

Communications was conducted on the 146.86 repeater, 145.58 vhf simplex, 146.09 packet and D-star. We also attempted to make contacts on 80 meters but experienced equipment failure on HF. Messages were passed on all modes and bands except 80 meters.

One of the highlights of this year's SET was the cooperation we had with other Northern Michigan EmComm groups. The Benzie County hams (BARF group) and operators from the CCE EmComm group all cooperated to establish communications between their hospitals and Munson. The hospitals contacted were Munson, Paul Oliver, Northern Michigan Hospital and Cheboygan Hospital. In addition Green Lake EMS was sending and receiving messages from Interlochen.

The exercise was concluded at 11:30 AM and the 146.86 repeater was opened to general amateur radio use.

Operators participating this year were:

Munson hospital: Ernie **K8RCT**, Joe **W8TVT**, Jon **N8UL** and Mike **W8VPC**.

CommVan operators: Russ **K8RUS**, Jim **K8OJP**, Chuck **W8SGR** and Brad **W8QPO**.

Green Lake EMS: Chris **KD8MTT**, Norm **N8FUN**

Here are some of the lessons we learned during the exercise:

1: Dstar allows simultaneous voice and data transmissions. This facilitates message handling.

2. VHF simplex from Munson hospital is possible only in a limited area. The CommVan was needed to relay simplex messages outside of Traverse City.

3. Packet worked well and was used to pass messages to the CommVan for relay.

4. The 146.86 repeater was the main communications method and was used to coordinate operations.

5. Area hams were very patient and cooperative during the operation and did not use the 146.86 repeater until the event ended.

6. We could have used several additional operators, one of which would be an event logger.

7. We used the ICS-213 message format for messages passed locally and the NTS format for messages passed to other counties. This is still a confusing issue.

8. We used tactical call signs (Munson, CommVan, and Green Lake) which reduced confusion as to which station we were calling. Each station did identify every 10 minutes with actual call signs.

Although the SET is not a contest, we do get scored on our participation and this year we scored over 200 points thanks to the participation of the other EmCom groups.

Many thanks to all the help plan and who participated in this years event. We could have used several more operators so if you didn't participate this year I hope you can join us next year!

73, Ernie **K8RCT**

Grand Traverse County, EC/RO

UNEXPECTED GIFTS

There's no better feeling than to help someone anonymously or by presenting them with an unexpected gift. There's also nothing like receiving a free gift, especially when it has value. We hear stories of the people that find things in their backyards worth thousands, like the guy in England last year who found a pile of gold leftover from some king who was running from his enemies hundreds of years earlier. The king never returned and the gold sat there for a thousand years only to be found by a farmer in 2009.

Then there's my friend who remodels homes and tells me about finding valuable items in the walls that he tears down. Finding these free things is somewhat of a special feeling since it's a free gift and there's no work or effort involved in acquiring it.

When I was younger, I always looked forward to being the recipient of the gift, like the day I got a Murch tuner for Christmas to use with my Ten Tec Argosy. But as I got older, and had my own children, I found that I actually had more enjoyment watching the reaction on the faces of my kids and it didn't take long at all for me to really enjoy giving gifts to people. It's especially nice when I know that the recipient isn't in a position to afford the item, either financially or due to some other factor, like time.

As many of you know, my summer was plagued with a felled tree in my front yard which destroyed three cars and a boat. The good news in all of it was the fact that insurance took care of most of the financial losses. I'm still out some cash, but most of it was taken care of.

I already told you that my close friend Jim came by to help me one Saturday to cut up the tree. He wasn't obligated to do so and his kindness will always be remembered. Not all of the tree, however, was cleaned up that day. There were large pieces that took me a few weeks to get to. One piece, which was about 3 feet wide by 8 feet long, was too large for my chain saw. And after struggling with it for longer than I care to remember, I was nearly out of steam and about to give up. It was sitting there, in my front yard, staring at me every morning when I'd leave for work.

Then, while out of town one day, my beautiful wife called me to tell me that someone cut up that last piece and made mince meat out of it. They did it anonymously and to this day, we have no clue who came by to chop it up. It had to have taken at least 2, if not 3 hours to do, and it had to take a lot of hard work.

On that day, I was the recipient of a free gift. I'm grateful to whoever did it and I want to find them to say thank you. That may never happen, I know, but at least I've been given this opportunity to thank them publicly and maybe they'll read this note.

If there is a message here that applies to ham radio, it's this. When we serve, specifically through ham radio, I'm convinced that nearly everyone we touch with our ham radio service appreciates our help. And more importantly, I think it feels better to give than to receive. The people we help don't always get the opportunity to thank us, but I do know that the gratitude is almost always there. And even though we don't serve the community in order to receive the thank you, we can feel good about this service just like we feel good about seeing the happiness in the eyes of the children that receive their gifts at Christmas time.

It does feel good to receive a free gift, but it also feels good to give a gift. Now that I'm older, I think it feels better to give than to receive. That alone, is a good reason to be active in ham radio and look for more opportunities to serve our communities as licensed ham radio ops. As I said, there's no better feeling than to help someone anonymously or by presenting them with an unexpected gift.

-73 de Sean **W8OKN**

TBARG CAN USE YOUR HELP

Dear Traverse Bay area ham,

As you probably know by now, we have formed a new ham radio emergency communications group in the Traverse Bay area. We are incorporated as "Traverse Bay Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Group" – TBARG for short. This group of hams comes from several counties around the Grand Traverse area. We are dedicated to providing emergency communications to area agencies such as

Munson Hospital, County Emergency Managers, and private agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

As amateur radio operators we feel it is our responsibility to be ready to assist area emergency responders. In past exercises we had to break down our own radio stations and then reassemble them to use in the field. This is hard on our equipment, on us and was time consuming. There had to be a better way!

This past year we were successful in obtaining an ambulance from North Flight that had just been retired from active service. The vehicle is in good condition and we have been busy renovating the ambulance into a mobile communications vehicle which we call "The Barge"! Several radios have already been installed in The Barge and several more will be installed in the near future.

The Barge has been deployed several times already this summer and we anticipate several more drills and exercises in the next few months. It was recently used at the Boy Scout 200th year anniversary Camporee, Race around Torch, a bike tour, Field Day and was also in the Cherry Festival parade. The Barge was used during the annual SET where it was a critical asset in relaying messages. We anticipate using it in an upcoming Munson Hospital FEMA exercise.

As you can imagine, keeping The Barge filled with diesel fuel, paying the insurance and repairs is a financial issue. We could sure use your help to keep The Barge on the road.

We invite you to both join our organization and to help support us financially. We need your communications skills and also your financial support.

So what I am asking you to do is two things:

Please make a financial donation to TBARG. A donation from you would help us keep The Barge on the road. We are a not-for-profit 501© 3 organization so your donation is tax deductible.

Thank you for your time and hopefully for your check and membership application!

Ernest Abel, **K8RCT**

Grand Traverse County Emergency Coordinator

To donate to TBARG send you check and a request for an application to:

Ward Kuhn **N8WK**

Treasurer, TBARG

412 S. Union St.

Traverse City, MI 49684

