



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club      traverse city, mi

SEPTEMBER 2009

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

## Coming Club Events

### September 22<sup>nd</sup> Club Meeting

This month we are back at the Governmental Center at 8<sup>th</sup> and Boardman for our regular club meeting. Ward **N8WK** will present the highlights of his trip to England and Normandy. Meet at the Governmental Center at 8<sup>th</sup> and Boardman 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month which is reserved for the regular club meeting.

## Forward Waves

### VE EXAMS:

**Sault Ste Marie, MI.** Saturday, September 26, 2009. Eastern UP ARC. Faith Lutheran Church, 1600 Park St. 11 am. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Dave (906) 635-5295 or email: [WA8OLD@sault.com](mailto:WA8OLD@sault.com)

**Sault Ste Marie, MI.** Saturday, October 31, 2009. Eastern UP ARC. Faith Lutheran Church, 1600 Park St. 11 am. Walk-Ins welcome. Contact: Dave (906) 635-5295 or email: [WA8OLD@sault.com](mailto:WA8OLD@sault.com)

### HAMFESTS:

**Sunday, September 20, 2009.** Adrian, MI. Adrian Ham Fest. Adrian ARC. 8 am til 1 pm. Lenawee County Fairgrounds, 602 Dean St. Adrian, MI. TI: 147.37 (PL 85.4) Info: Marjie **KB8T MM**. [maggie214@frontiernet.net](mailto:maggie214@frontiernet.net)

**Saturday, October 17, 2009.** Holland, MI. Lakeshore Super Swap. West Ottawa HS 3600 152<sup>nd</sup> Ave. TI: 147.06 (PL 94.8) Contact: Tom K8TB 616 662-1080. [k8tb@bosscher.org](mailto:k8tb@bosscher.org).

## Reflected Waves

### September 1986

The September meeting featured Walt Fricke on radio-controlled sailplanes. Novice classes are currently being conducted by Jim **N8AYQ**. The Leelanau Bike-A-Thon was handled by Warren **W8KAN**, Al **W8CHT** and Don **K8OEX**. Several club members also assisted with communication for the motorcycle Enduro race at Ranch Rudolf.

### September 2001

The September meeting was presented by Ward **N8WK**. Ward took part in choir tour of Europe performing in Italy, the Vatican and Austria. A slide show with interesting commentary was enjoyed by about 40 members. John KX8CW announced the rules for the October TBI contest. Gerald K8GER discussed the activation of the South Manitou Lighthouse by Joe K8DT, Roger N8KV and himself. The team made over 500 contacts, in 6 countries. Thirty-five lighthouses, 2 light ships were contacted and they were spread over 15 states and 2 countries.

### THIS AND THAT.....

Well, I'm back on track with the monthly Cherry Juice and hopefully I won't be doing any bi-monthly issues again. If you have read the minutes of the Board meeting this month you no doubt noticed that we have been discussing a dues increase. No, we haven't raised dues, they still remain at \$1.00/month. Incredibly low!

The concern that prompted this discussion is that as it stands right now, we have no major vendor for the February Swap-n-Shop. After the owners of Com Dac retired, Elmer's Ham Shack in Gaylord picked up the torch. Sad to say, they are closed and while we will have some vendors of specialty items, we do not have a complete ham supplies vendor. If you know of a vendor who might consider the trip to TC in February, please contact them or contact one of the Board members and we will initiate the contact. Our concern is that due to the fact that the Swap is our only fund raiser and accounts for a large chunk of our operating budget, if attendance drops due to the absence of a major vendor we may have to raise dues or figure out some other way to "feed the kitty".

The Fox Hunt last month was rather poorly attended and only 2 teams joined in the hunt. First to find the Fox was the team of Hope **AA8SN** and Ward **N8WK**. Coming in second was the team of Ann **KA6AYJ**, Dave **K8WPE** and Ken **KC8LTL**.

Providing interesting programs that will attract a large number of our members is the biggest challenge the Board faces. If you would like to put on a program or have a subject you would like to see covered, or know someone you think should put on a program for the club, please let any of the Board members know. We will do our best to get the job done.

### THE K8RCT REPORT

Report on Grand Traverse R.A.C.E.S activities for August 2009.

August was a very busy month for the RACES group. Munson hospital was involved in a District 7 (Northern Lower Peninsula) exercise where Munson and several other hospitals had to evacuate patients because of a simulated power outage. The Region 7 RACES/ARES groups were mobilized to assist in this drill. Our group quickly organized operations at both Munson hospital and at the Grand Traverse EOC.

At Munson, Jim Palmer **K8OJP** coordinated the activities. He had Joe Novak **W8TVT**, operating 2 meter simplex to communicate with the EOC. Chuck Perry **WX8R**, set up a 2 meter packet station to send packet data to and from the EOC. Bernie **KC8TDG**, assisted by running messages to and from the Munson command center.

We set up our operations on the roof of the parking deck at Munson. This works OK for summer operations but would not be a good situation in the winter. Luckily, plans are in the works to find us a permanent home inside Munson.

Over at the Grand Traverse EOC, I helped coordinate the activities with great help from the group. Richard **NK8R**, operated the 2 meter simplex stations and was kept busy reading exercise messages to Joe over at Munson. Ken **KC8LTL**, established net control on our 146.86 repeater and kept the frequency clear for exercise messages (thanks for your patience everyone for keeping the frequency clear). Bill **AC8CN**, set up the packet station at the EOC and was soon passing packet messages between the EOC and Munson.

Our big surprise was the RF noise level on the HF bands at the EOC. This made communications on 75 meters impossible. Luckily, Chuck **W8SGR**, quickly recognized the

situation and set up an off-site HF station. This put us in contact with the state EOC and other county EOC's and hospitals.

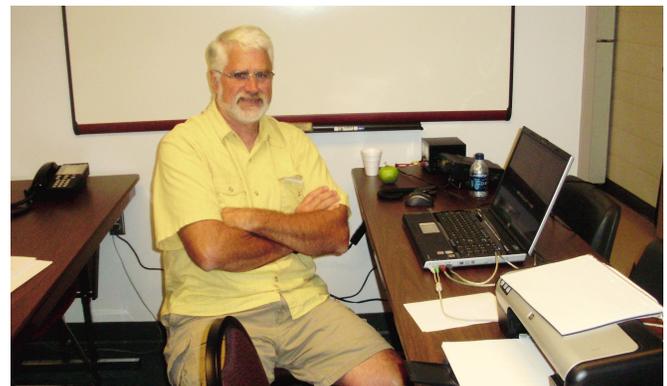
Our participation in the exercise was very well received by both the Incident Command staff at Munson and also by Dan Scott, the Grand Traverse County Emergency Manager. We can put a feather in our cap for a job well done.

I'm including a few pictures from the Grand Traverse EOC. Unfortunately, I don't have any pictures from the Munson operations.

-73 de Ernie **K8RCT**



Ken, **KC8LTL**, net control on 146.86 MHz



Bill, **AC8CA** at the EOC packet station



Richard, **NK8R**, operating 2 meter simplex

## HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE!!

If you are interested in joining RACES or ARES, you are invited to an organizational meeting on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the lower level of the Grand Traverse Government Center. Jim Palmer **K8OJP** and I will be hosting the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to kick off an effort to enhance our emergency response capabilities. Current RACES/ARES members as well as any other interested hams are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

If you any questions, feel free to call me: 231 922-3672

Ernie Abel **K8RCT**

## LICENSING STATS ON THE RISE!!

New Amateur licenses seem to be overcoming the blip in licensing figures brought on by the onset of the 10-year license. There are about 14,000 more licensees now than a year ago.

Last year's increase brings the number of ham licensees in the US to over 674,000. This total is just under the all-time high for US licensees. If we add another 14,000 this year, we will have exceeded the all-time high for ham licensees.

Therefore, current facts do not support the contention being spread by many amateurs that ham radio is a dying avocation. We may not be in a teen-age growth supurt, but we are growing. Don't count Amateru Radio out!

For further details see <http://www.ah0a.org/AH0A.html>.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH 5 WATTS?

Thanks to Doc Dave **K8WPE** for introducing me to the world of QRP (low power HF radio) a few years back. Last summer, I built a Hendrick's PFR-3 QRP CW transceiver for Dave. Please see (<http://qrpkits.com/pfr3.html>) This fun, portable, and easy to use transceiver, covers 20, 30, and 40 meters bands. The receiver is very good, and you can use paddles or a straight key for sending. This little rig(about the size of a paperback book) also has a built-in balanced line tuner(BLT), which makes simple portable antennas a joy to experiment with and use.

Well, I just purchased a used PFR-3 and wanted to give it a try, but I needed a simple portable antenna to use with the PFR-3. I wanted something I could build myself, easy to setup, and small enough to pack, making it portable. My first choice was a Doublet "44" or Norcal Doublet (<http://www.norcalqrp.org/norcaldoublet.htm>)

My second choice would be the crappie antenna found at [www.amqrp.org/projects/crappie/crappie.htm](http://www.amqrp.org/projects/crappie/crappie.htm) Both are very simple and effective portable antennas.

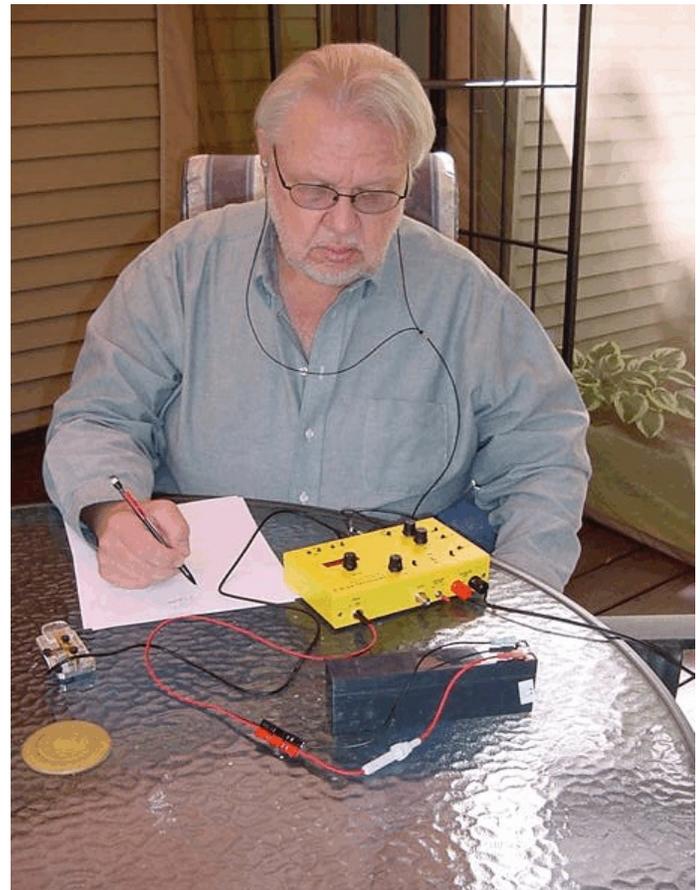
The Doublet "44" antenna is made using 50 feet of 18 gauge lamp cord, speaker wire, or zip cord. You start by splitting 22 feet of cord into two wire elements. The remaining attached 28 feet of wire is Not Split and becomes the feed line. Using a piece of scrap plexi-glass from the local hardware, I made a center support/hanger. I hung the "44" Doublet up about 20

feet from a tree in my backyard. The ends of the two 22 foot elements were tied off to other trees or bushes. Attaching the feed line end of the antenna to the PFR-3 antenna binding posts, I was able to tune a good match using the built-in tuner and SWR indicator. My first contact was on 40 meters, Joe KA0ENU, near Nashville,TN receiving a 449 signal report. It works!

After we finished our QSO I then switched to 20 meters and retuning the PFR-3 was just as easy as tuning the antenna on 40 meters. I then heard a CQ and copied the call sign as S58AL. Wow DX! I gave him a call and to my surprise he answered me. Albert, gave me a 559 report and thanked me for answering his CQ. Checking QRZ.com later, I found that Albert is located in the country of Slovenia. The distance between our stations was nearly 4600 miles. While that is no record for watts per miles, I was amazed that he could even hear my 5 watt signal.

So, if you are bored and looking for something new. Try building a kit, or make a new antenna, experiment with a different mode. Just try something different!

-73 de Jeff - **K9JP**



CQ, CQ, CQ de K9JP

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