



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

September 2011

Coming Club Events

September 27th Club Meeting

This month's program is a DVD presentation on understanding *Standing Waves* (hint: not the kind of standing waves you see at the Cherry Festival Grand Royale parade). Mike **W8VPC** is the presenter. Afterwards, the usual coffee and cookies and chatter. **Where:** The Governmental Center lower level cafeteria at Eighth and Boardman. **When:** Tuesday, September 27th, 7 p.m.

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:

Muskegon, Saturday, October 1, 2011
Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council. 9 a.m. Walk-ins OK. American Red Cross Bldg. 313 Webster Ave. Contact: Bob 231 799-3634

Traverse City, MI. Saturday, Nov 5th, 2011. Cherryland ARC. 1 pm. Salvation Army Bldg. 1239 Barlow St (Corner of Boone and Barlow). Walk-ins OK. Contact: Hope AA8SN 231 941-7262 or hopeaa8sn@juno.com.

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, October 16, 2011. Kalamazoo Hamfest. Kalamazoo ARC ans SW MI Amateur Radio Team. 8 am til noon. Kalamazoo Fairgrounds. 2900 Lake St. Kalamazoo, MI. TI 147.040 (PL 94.8) Info: Info@KalamazooHamFest.com.

Sunday, September 10, 2011. USECA Hamfest. Utica-Shelby Emergency Communications Assoc. 8 am to 1 pm. VE Exams. American Polish Club, 33204 Maple Lane. Sterling Hgts, MI. TI: 147.180 (PL 100). Info: wb8sjd@arrl.net.

Reflected Waves

September 1991

Jack Leishman **K8XX** reports that his daughter Theresa will be in Japan for at least a year. Theresa holds an Extra Class license and is licensed in Japan as **7J9AAC**. Theresa will be looking for someone from back home to talk to. The CARC bus is for sale. The new no-code license is proving extremely popular with over 16,000 no-code licenses awarded during the first four months of availability.

September 2001

John **KX8CW** gave a short presentation on the upcoming TBI contest. This contest is the "Tom's Bright Idea" contest and is confined to CARC members. Also discussed was the fantastic response by hams to the terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center. Transmitting antennas for all but one of the NYC TV stations were on the tower as well as several radio stations, ham repeaters and hundreds of 2-way radio systems. Hams were needed for over 1 month in NYC and over 2 weeks in Washington, DC.

Club Officers
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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

TBARG EmComm Net
9 pm Monday
146.86



ARRL Affiliated Club
#1082

LIGHTHOUSE SE STATION

Hope **AA8SN** sends the following report on the August Lighthouse Special Event station. Operators Ward **N8WK**, Ed **K8SZN**, Chuck **W8SGR** and Hope **AA8SN** made a total of 80 QSO's. They worked 28 states, 5 Canadian provinces (Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec) and DX contacts in Anguilla and Panama.

In addition, they contacted 4 other Lighthouses. Total air time was around 3 hours with the first QSO at 11:20 am and the last one around 2:15 pm.

–nice job gang! **N8CN**

D STAR TRAINING 101

We have all been hearing about this new digital ham radio communications method called Dstar. Dstar means **D**igital **S**mart **T**echnology for **A**mateur **R**adio. It is a method of digitally encoding voice and data and transmitting both voice and text messages on the same time channel at the same time.

Here is your chance to learn about this new ham radio technology and even try out Dstar equipment. This training is designed for new Dstar users and those who are interested in learning about this new method of communications..

The training will take place at the Traverse City Salvation Army building on September 24th starting at 10:00 AM and going to 2:00 (ish) PM. There is no charge for this training and lunch will be provided by the Salvation Army.

Please Email or Pmail me if you would like to attend so we know how many donuts to buy!

My email address is: Enabeler@gmail.com Pmail to my call (**K8RCT**) on the .09 digipeater.

I'M HOOKED

My first rig, in 1977, was a Heathkit HW-16 and along side of it was an old army surplus AM receiver. The HW-16 had the optional VFO, which replaced the need to purchase \$8 crystals for each frequency I wanted to operate. I also had a Murch tuner, which was an ugly green with a black front panel.

My second rig was a Ten Tec Argosy with the moving L.E.D. bar, not the L.E.D. readout. Each time you turned the rig on, you needed to calibrate the readout to make sure you were on frequency and you had to watch the edge of the bands carefully, since being off by 3-4 Khz was easily done. The possibility of operating outside of my privileges made me highly nervous.. There were at least two occasions when I caught myself, in error, operating in the Extra class portion and I thought I was toast. I thought, any day now, that warning letter was going to show up from the FCC. The newer rigs have squelched this problem, significantly, unless you're not paying any attention.

In there were a few older 2 meter FM rigs, and I do remember when 2 meter was A.M, although I never operated 2 meter A.M. In fact, a friend of mine had an A.M 2 meter in the mid 70s, which fascinated me.

Around 1984, I sold my Ten Tec, which was a big mistake. To this day, I can't determine why I did that. The Argosy was LOADED with all of the options, including all of the filters. Big mistake!

When I lived in Pittsburgh, moving there in the 90s, I threw the 2 meter rig in the car for my commute, but never heard anyone on 2 meters very often. Since 2 meters was dead in Pittsburgh, I lost interest for a few years, for the hobby. Not sure why.

In 1999, I just happen to be on 2 meters one day, in Midland, after finding my 2 meter rig in the garage, in a box, stuffed away after one of my moves. I hook up the rig in the car and found myself talking to John, **WB8RCR**. John's one of the most friendly hams on the air and when I told him I loved CW and was hoping to get back on the air some day, he showed up at my house with a Norcal 20 meter CW rig (to borrow). I had that thing hooked up by the weekend, with a 20 meter dipole on top of the house, strung from end to end. It's stunning to learn that 4 watts will allow communication to Russia, and I was also surprised as to the number of Russians on the air. I don't remember that many during the 70s. I was infected again with the bug.

It's now 2011, and in my backyard is a Butternut vertical with about 35 radials. The Icom is on the air every night and this hobby has me hooked. I can still recall Roy, **W8RP**, asking me, back in the early 80s, if I had the bug. Well, I do. I have the "bug", Roy, and I'm infected.

There are few hobbies as fun and as rewarding as ham radio.

-by **W8OKN**

TBARG NEWS – THE 2011 SET

The TBARG group has been very busy preparing for the 2011 Simulated Emergency Test on October 1st. We have been at Munson Hospital working on the antennas to make sure they are all operational for the October 1st event. We installed and tested a new HF 80 to 6 meter vertical. The antenna loaded on all the HF bands. The mounts for the VHF/UHF antennas were checked to make sure they are ready for both the SET and the winter months.

Speaking of the SET, we will need a fairly large group of operators for this year's event. We will be partnering with the Red Cross who will "Open" several of their shelters and provide a Red Cross volunteer to submit messages to Munson and the EOC. All communications will be done on simplex as the scenario simulates an ice storm event which makes our repeaters inoperable. This should be a challenge as we are all used to relying on our 146.86 repeater. Packet will be operational but not from the current location because the repeater was "damaged" by the ice storm. Instead, we will have a digipeater operating from our EmComm van parked on Tower Hill (The windmill).

Specifically, we will need several mobile vehicles to go to the Red Cross shelters and pass messages. If possible mobiles with packet or HF capabilities would be especially welcome. Other operators will be needed to staff Munson Hospital and also the EmComm van. Here is a chance to sharpen your skills as net control operator, Packet operator, HF net operations and Dstar. Just to make this scenario even more interesting, we are also partnering with our friends in the BARF group (not a stomach problem, Benzie Area Radio Friends). Once again all the communications will be on simplex. Watch your email for a more detailed plan and an opportunity to sign up for this fun and important test of our ability to function during a real emergency.

TBARG NEWS - D STAR TRAINING

On Saturday, September 24th we will be sponsoring an area wide Dstar training session. We are calling it Dstar 101 as it is designed to be an introduction to Dstar. As you have probably heard, Dstar is a fairly new mode of communication which digitizes voice and data and transmits the information via amateur radio. Using the Dstar gateway repeaters it is possible to talk to stations around the world...on VHF. It is amazing to see in action and this is your opportunity to learn about Dstar and actually use a Dstar radio. We are setting up several of these radios so you can actually make your first Dstar contact at the training session. The training session will be at the Traverse City Salvation Army building starting at 10:00 AM (come early if you can). Please let me or Mike know if you are coming so we can get a head count. We would hate to run out of donuts! Many thanks to Mike, **W8VPC**, for getting this class organized and to Harry and the Salvation Army for hosting the training and providing lunch for us.

Hope to see you at both the Dstar training and the SET!

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

2011 SET Draft Scenario and TBARG Plan

General scenario:

A major ice storm has hit the area. Many residents have lost power, cell phone towers are damaged, and some radio systems have been damaged. The American Red Cross has opened several shelters in Grand Traverse County and Benzie County (we can expand this to the Northern Counties if they want to participate). TBARG and BARF has been asked to supply mobile units to the shelters to provide communications. Munson Hospital has opened their emergency communications center.

One of the shelters is located in the SE quadrant of Grand Traverse County (maybe Fife Lake area) that will require the use of the mobile communications van. The Red Cross has a list of Benzie County Shelter sites and if BARF wants to participate, they will provide the locations of those shelters. The Red Cross will, if we want, supply a person at each shelter site to send/receive messages. This will make the exercise more realistic.

Unfortunately, the Grand Traverse Co. EOC has no radio equipment at this time. EOC operations will be conducted out of the Munson Hospital Emergency Communications Center.

Time Frame:

October 1st, set-up at 9:00 AM. Begin the exercise at 10:00 AM and conclude the exercise at 2:00 PM. In Grand Traverse Co, operators will meet at 8:00 AM at Munson Hospital for planning, 9:00 AM dispatched to operating positions and set-up; 10:00 AM begin operations. At 2 PM we meet back at Munson for a Hot Wash.

Goals to accomplish:

1. Establish a relationship with the American Red Cross staff and volunteers.
2. Practice using standard message formats. The Red Cross will provide sample test messages and lists that need to be sent to Munson.
3. Send the EmComm van to a remote area to test communications from the SE quadrant of Grand Traverse County.
4. Test all equipment at Munson and other operating positions (EOC's, mobile units, EmComm van).
5. Practice sending lists via packet or Dstar. The Red Cross will provide the data to be sent.

Communications Plan:

1. VHF voice communications will use the 146.86 repeater (unless it "fails" during the exercise). If the 146.86 repeater fails, use 147.100 or 146.52 simplex to maintain voice communications.
2. Packet radio will use the 146.09 digipeater and use "Outpost" to send packet mail messages to other stations.
3. Dstar should be tried to see if we can establish a reliable Dstar network. The **W100K** Dstar repeater may be able to be inked to **W8CCE** and other Dstar repeaters to provide wide-area Dstar coverage.
4. Drats (data transfer via Dstar) should also be attempted with station equipped with Drats.
5. The Communications van will be dispatched to the SE corner of Grand Traverse Co and will attempt to contact Munson Hospital on all modes and frequencies.

Communications resources needed by TBARG:

Two mobile units equipped with packet to operate from the Red Cross shelters

Four operators at Munson, one for Packet, one for Dstar, one for HF, one for VHF. The Munson crew will also operate as net control stations.

Three operators for the Barge. One for Dstar, one for VHF voice, one for Dstar/Drats.

WASHINGTON ISLAND STORY

The following is the text from a QRZ article on George **W9EVT**—if you find the text interesting, go to QRZ and view the pictures that accompany the article—they are amazing and truly stunning!!

George has been active in ham radio since 1938. Originally licensed as **K1ABU**, like all other hams he put the hobby on hold during World War II. After the war, he was granted the callsign **W9EVT**, which he holds to this day. In the 70+ years that George has been a ham, he has achieved a number of firsts in the hobby that many of us can only dream of. Some of his more notable achievements include building the first repeater system in Chicago, being the first person to hold a reciprocal callsign in Mexico, and having worked nearly every country in the DXCC list, including several that no longer exist. George's call sign can be found in the 1947 callbook and in every issue since printed.

George lives on Washington Island, Wisconsin, a small community located in the middle of Lake Michigan. It takes about two hours to get there by car from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and that includes a 30 minute ferry ride across Death's Door Strait. While once considered treacherous, crossing the 5 mile passage these days is safe, pleasant, and scheduled on the hour during the summer months.

George's QTH sits on about 500 acres of the northern part of the island and it consists of a farm house, several barns, and a few guest cottages that were once were part of an apple and cherry farm. George's "shack" is situated in one of those cottages and is about the size of a four bedroom home. There are five or six large towers on the property and some wire and loop antennas that stretch out over a thousand feet. More than 30 pieces of coax gather these into the shack and terminate at the main operating desk that runs the length of the long, rectangular main room.

Stepping into the shack, the enormity of George's achievement becomes evident. Here is, quite simply, what could be the most extensive collection of working amateur radio gear ever known. George's first radio from 1938 is there, as is nearly every make and model by all of the popular brands spanning the past 70 years.

Eight foot high shelves line three of the four walls in the long, rectangular room and are stacked with rack after rack of Hammarlund, Hallicrafters, Collins, Drake, Ten-Tec, Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, HRO, National, Henry, Heathkit, and well, everything.

As you gaze down this nearly forty foot corridor, your jaw drops and you begin to get a sense of the immensity of the collection. Just around the corner is a smaller, living-room sized space and in it you find an unbelievable collection of Collins radios stacked on several tables and racks. In the corner also sits a refrigerator sized Collins broadcast transmitter. Opposite that, you spot a Johnson Desk Kilowatt which is literally a large metal desk with a built-in kilowatt amplifier! I've certainly never seen one before and yet, here it was, 100% complete and looking as if time had stood still for the past 50 years.

Then, after seeing all of this, you're hit with an almost unimaginable fact: you've just seen only a third of the collection. There are at least another 500 pieces still in storage! Next, George treated me to a visit to his "workshop" where I saw a portion of the radios that weren't yet on display. Again, I saw row upon row of radios stacked floor-to-ceiling, in a garage space big enough to hold three or four cars. In addition to the stacks of radios there is a complete machine and electronics repair shop.

Due in part to its out-of-the-way location, George's shack doesn't get a great number of visitors. He estimates that about 400 or so guests come by each year and stay at the bed and breakfast cottages that he and his wife operate on the property. Few of these visitors are hams however, and so there is great excitement when someone from our community stops by for a visit.

All ham visitors are encouraged to sit down at the console and burn up some air waves. The only problem here is deciding which radio, amplifier and antenna combination you will use. Will it be the ICOM IC-7800, the Alpha 9500, and a 20 meter, 8-element beam? Perhaps you'd rather operate the Yaesu 2000, or maybe the FlexRadio 5000. In all there are dozens of radios, amps, and antennas to choose from. Want Vintage? No problem. Fire up a Collins S-Line or the KWM-380, or any of about a dozen other classic glow-in-the-dark radios. You can even sleep in the shack's fully furnished guest quarters, or stay up all night chasing DX that you've only dreamed of entering into your log. Whatever your dream station is made of, it's all there waiting for you to push the button and start talking. And don't be afraid because George will be right there with you, helping with antenna switching and offering guidance of all sorts.

If you're looking for a DX Vacation located on a beautiful island that is right here in the USA, then this is it. The property also has a private beach, fishing, a boat house, hiking trails, biking, nice restaurants, and some of the most beautiful lakefront property anywhere.

George is one of the most gracious hosts that I've ever met. His first concern is your comfort and he and his wife make sure that your time on the farm is as pleasant as it can possibly be. It isn't hard, however, since the accommodations are simply beautiful and include premium satellite TV, wireless internet, a full kitchen, books, games, everything. These cabins are first rate, spacious, and painstakingly clean.

George remains very active in amateur radio and hosts and/or participates in a number of daily nets on the air. He will also keep you interested for hours on end with stories and accounts of the way radio was back in the early days, and everything in-between, right up to today.

During my visit, I couldn't help but feel that I was being treated to not only a mind boggling collection of vintage and modern amateur equipment, but also to the man himself. George is a veritable encyclopedia of amateur radio and the evolution of the hobby over the past 70 years, and being able to spend time with him was in itself a treat.

By now you've probably guessed that George isn't exactly a spring chicken, and that he's getting up in years. This is very true and it is one of his great wishes that his collection find a permanent home after he's gone so that future generations can enjoy and appreciate the hobby for many years to come.

Finding a permanent home for this gear will be no small task. All total, there are nearly 1000 pieces of gear to be displayed. A huge portion of these are "boat anchor" sized and very heavy. George is not interested in selling the collection but would instead be very happy to donate it to an organization that could fulfill his dreams of putting it on permanent display. He would prefer a location that is within 30 minutes of a major airport, and is one that can devote enough space to put the entire collection on display.

We're all hoping that a dedicated museum or preservation organization will step forward to take on the task. Sure, it's a big collection but it's nothing compared to a battleship or a submarine museum, several of which are on display every day. All it will really take is a group with the right goals and determination to make it work.

Alas, I have run out of awe and inspiring words to describe the breadth and importance of George's collection, his personal friendliness, and his contribution to the hobby. I feel truly fortunate to have spent these past two days poring over the collection and having him as my personal tour guide with an encyclopedic memory.

If you ever get the chance, Greengate Farm is a ham radio destination that simply cannot be missed. Check out the links below to contact the Farm and be sure and mention that you're a ham and would like to have George show you around. It will be an experience that you'll never forget.

<SK>