

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

June 2010

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President's Note

May and June are some fun amateur radio months. The weather is looking up and we are all ready for some outdoor fun. Don't forget that "Girls on the Run" is Thursday, June 3, 2010 at

5:30PM in Northend Park. We need help staffing this event and I hope you can join us. Directly after the event, the club meeting will take place in Northend Park. Think of this club meeting as a mini-field day. There are many preparations that need to take place to get ready for Field Day in June. This month's club meeting will give us an opportunity to practice with and inspect our equipment. Again we plan on operating 3-alpha this year. This takes three stations on the air, three antennae, three logging computers, and lots of operators to cover the 24 hours of on air operation.

The BRAARC Club station will be at the meeting and I'd like to get it on the air that evening. Maybe someone can snag some rare DX! We are planning on using the N3FJP network logging software also and laptops need to be configured and tested on the network. At this point, we have one computer and one station available. I think this can be a fun event for our group and maybe even turn into a

regular activity. I hope you'll bring your portable HF station.

Field Day Success = Member fun

Are you new to the club? Have you missed out on past field days? Been to 150 field days and worked them all?!? Well, don't let that stop you! Make this year the year you jump right in with both feet. Don't worry that you might not know what to do or how to help. Field Day is all about learning and discovery. Everyone starts out at the same place. This is an adventure of learning for all of us. I guarantee that no one knows everything about amateur radio. I know that I don't. Every time I turn on the radio I learn something new. Field Day is a great time to compress a lot of learning into 24 hours. I hope you will join us!

Members or not = Amateur Radio Friends

I hope you feel welcome to join us at our meetings and events. We really do need you and enjoy when you participate in the club events, meetings, and nets. Without participation, our club is nothing. No one person can do everything and we don't expect that from you. Remember that many hands make light work... I'm sure that quote is familiar to many of us. I'm looking forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Happy Hamming!

Mike, KD8DIB

**BRAARC
4/1/10 Minutes**

Called to order at 7:04 by President Mike KD8DIB. Mike introduced guests, members shared news and announcements were made

Announcements – Check the website calendar application for events

- Ham in a day & VE Testing on April 10th was successful – 8 people passed
- Next meeting on June 3rd at 7pm at Northend Park - Field Day Planning
- Club Dinner – May 7 at 5:30pm – FSU Rock Café – \$8 per person
- “I’m not at Dayton” Foxhunt: May 15, 2010 at 10AM meet at the BR pool
- Girls on the Run – June 3rd at Northend Park meet at 5:30PM
- Kids Day – June 19, 2010 from 1PM to ?
- Field Day – June 26 – 27: need to confirm location
- Damage Assessment exercise – Saturday June 26th 9am to noon at the Morton Township Hall – Contact Shila @ 592.0108

Treasure Report – Val KD8IAM, moved and approved

Secretary Report – Shila KD8IAL, moved and approved

Repeater Committee – Fritz was not present, no report

AARL Special Service Club Status – Shila KD8IAL and Mike KD8DIB application approved, renewed status complete

Old Business

- **Girls on the Run** – Mike KD8DIB - Thursday, June 3 at 5:30pm at Northend Park. This is the night of our June meeting, so we will meet after the event.
- **Field Day, June 26-27, 2010** – Mike KD8DIB - the June meeting is set aside for planning of field day. Mike sent around sign in sheets for field day. A budget of \$500 has been established. Looking at the BR school administration office parking lot.

New Business

- **Big Rapids Fly-in, July 7, 2010** – Moved and approved for BRAARC to participate again in this event. Help park the planes, this is an event where communication is vital

Program – Air Operations Roundtable. Attendees shared about their HT’s and mike explained net control. Jim K4UIH is net coordinator for 440 and Patricia KD8GGD is net coordinator for 2 meter.

Snacks for May – Mike & Patricia
\$10 Breakfast Gift Certificate – Jim
50/50 – Jim

Adjourned 8:35PM

Club Announcements

Next club breakfast Saturday: May 29 at 9:00 a.m. at our new permanent breakfast location--Sharon's restaurant in Rogers Heights. Talk-in on the 146.740 Big Rapids 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

Mystery Station for May.
Who is the proud owner of this station?



A dual band 2m/440 Icom 2350 is hiding on the right.

It's WA4FRJ's, Don's, rig. An Icom 756 Pro, a Palstar tuner, an Ameritron AL811H linear and a Yaesu 800 series rotor. Antennas are a 20m wire dipole, courtesy of KC8WGA, David, and his dad, N8ZH, Jon. Below is this array with a Force 12 triband (10-15-20) Yagi, a Force 12, 40 meter dipole and Diamond dual-band 2m/70 cm vertical. Not shown is a Cushcraft 2m/70cm Yagi and rotor on a roof mounted tripod.



Mystery Station for June
Who is the proud owner of this station?



DON'T FORGET BREAKFAST
Helens Restaurant
Rogers Heights

Saturday, May 29 @ 9AM



Retirement Congratulations

An era ends as George, W8OWN retires as BRAARC - VE Team Liaison. He has served many years in this important club capacity and helped license and upgrade countless new amateur radio operators. George's duties as VE Team Liaison included organizing licensing exams, directing the club VE's, registering exams with the ARRL, verifying exam paperwork and submitting exam results to the ARRL.

George has served as Liaison for longer than most people hold paying jobs now days. About twenty five ago George accepted the call to help license new hams. I really felt that the Club must honor him in some special way because of George's extensive service to Amateur Radio and BRAARC. During annual Club Dinner George was honored with the 2010 BRAARC – VE Team Liaison, Dedicated Service Award. This award is reserved for those who go well beyond the normal duties of the office and demonstrate exemplar dedication to the office and Club.

Many club members owe their license to the hard work of George, W8OWN. So next time you see George don't forget to offer some special thanks to him for all of his hard work over the years. Thank you, George, I'll never forget the day you told me, "You passed, congratulations."



Pictured left to right: George, W8OWN; Mike KD8DIB, and Helen Rouman.



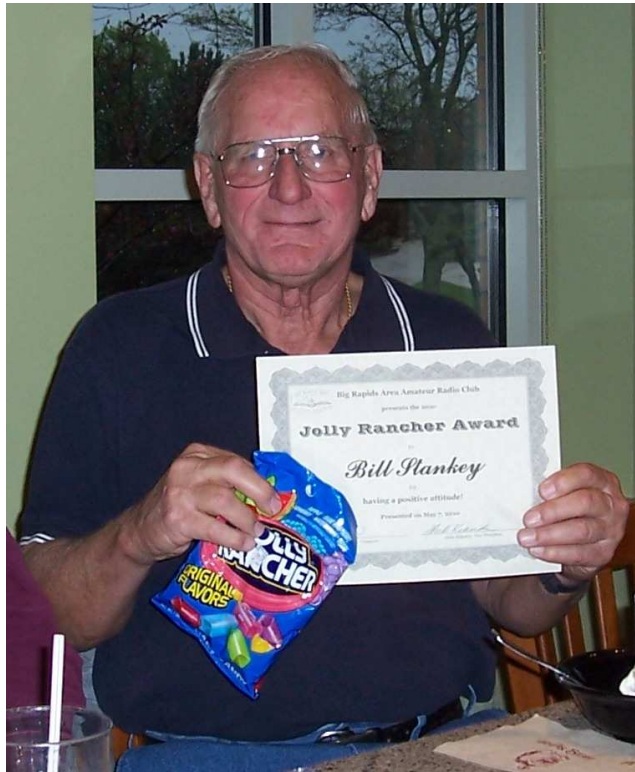
Jeff, WD8DLK

The BRAARC Annual Dinner was held at the Ferris State University Rock Café'. We all enjoyed many good selections from the variety of food bars.

A number of awards were presented.



Patricia, KD8GGD, and Mike, KD8DIB



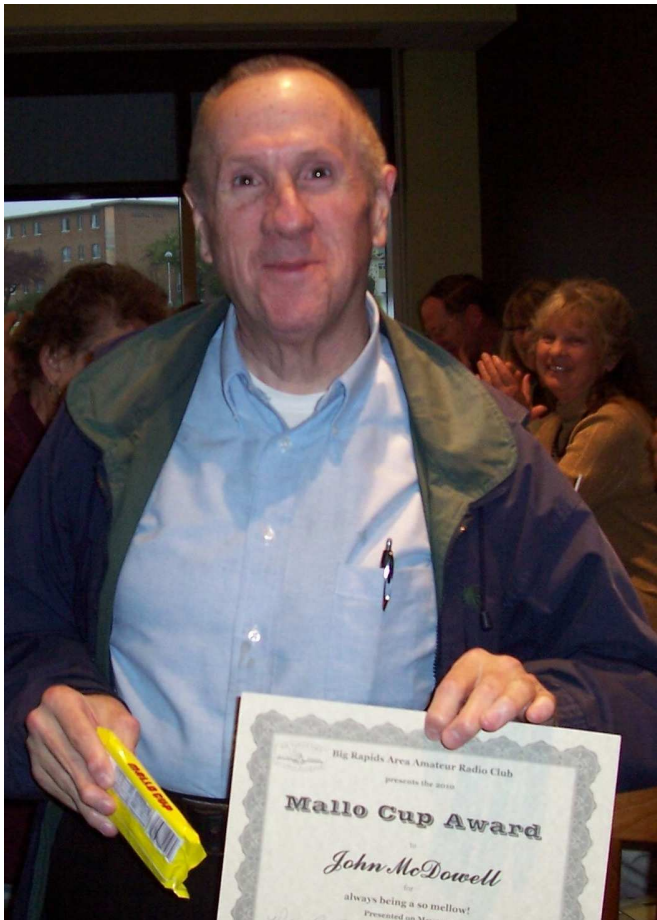
Bill, N8MZB



Dale, WD8AUL, who assisted in the 'ham in a day' VE session this spring, and Mike, KD8DIB



Gary, WB8WIA, and Carmen



John, KC8BAR



Phil, KC8QOV

First Fox Hunt Success

It was a beautiful Saturday morning when members of the club met by the Big Rapids Community Pool for the first foxhunt of the year. At exactly 10 a.m. the automated fox started transmitting. The CW message was the familiar, “KD8DIB” which repeated for one minute and then stopped. There was no carrier and no CW for five, long silent minutes. After five minutes the fox repeated the on-off transmit cycle.

Looking like they were performing some strange ritual, club members turned in circles as they tried to home in on the fox’s strong signal. First to leave the group were Don, WA4FRJ, and David, KC8WGA. Don started off confidently toward the east while David was saying, “I think it’s in the other direction.” Good friend that he is, David followed as they went down a wooded trail by Mitchell creek.

Jim, K4UIH, and his son Gregory, WD8NRO, moved south and then west along with Tricia, KD8KPU and Leon KC8ACO who also headed south and west.

Mike, KD8DIB, our fox master, Patricia KD8GGD and Calvin, KD8KQC stayed to talk to John, KC8BAR, who was a spectator on this hunt. No doubt they had fun watching Don and David go in the wrong direction.

Gregory was the first to find the fox transmitter. It was a tough find with the tiny transmitter hidden behind a log and its miniature antenna mounted on a chain link fence. The location was in a group of trees west of Brookside Elementary school.



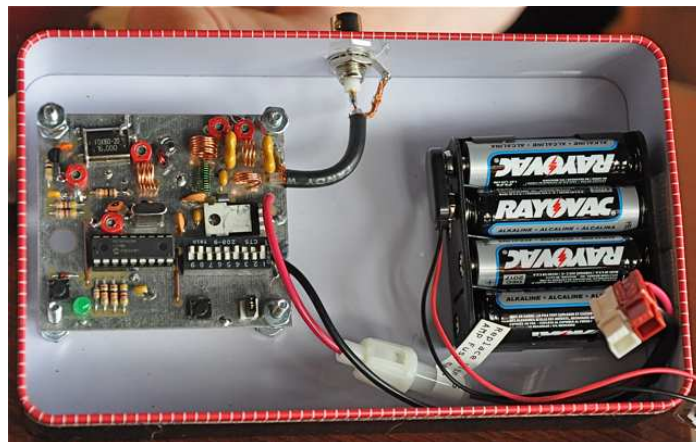
Fox hunt winner, Gregory Woolen

Using Google Earth we measured how far Don and David were away from the fox. It was 2600 feet. Not bad for a beginner Don. Next time listen to David.

The happy hunters headed to Wendy’s to enjoy food, conversation, laughs and congratulations to Gregory. As the winner of the fox hunt Gregory can choose to be the fox next time or perhaps show some older hams how fox hunting is done.

Thank you Mike and Patricia for giving us a great time and thank you also Mike for building the automated fox. Nice job!

Mike’s homebrew fox transmitter with the cover removed





Tricia Walding-Smith Mike McKay David Huhtala Gregory
Woolen Jim Woolen Leon Salisbury

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Thank You Shila (KD8IAL) and Val (KD8IAM) for all the great awards at our club dinner. Nice Job!!

Remember Field Day June 26-27

