



The BAARCer



February 2013

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

Page 1 of 8

Club Call Sign: WØUJ

BAARC REPEATERS

53.110 MHz- 123.0 Hz
147.225 MHz+ (main rpt)
 145.130 MHz- Echo Link
 Node number 233515
 443.925 MHz + 110.9 Hz
 Packet: 145.670 MHz
 MNBRD, BRDBBS
 144.390 WØUJ-5 APRS
 Crosslake 147.030 MHz+
<http://brainerdham.org>

OFFICERS

President + WWW

Editor:

Steve Mott **NØCRM**

Vice President:

John Luce **WØWY**

Secretary:

Ron Finger **KØGOP**

Treasurer:

Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

Director-at-Large:

Lyle Amundson **KØLFV**

Trustee + BAARCer

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

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Program: Winter Field Day & Small/Portable Set-Ups—1-31-2013



Club President Steve Mott, NØCRM, (l) presented a program on extreme (WX) ham radio possibilities. Yes, hams do this in the cold outdoors—with proper gear—in January even. A slide presentation was shown by Steve, who made many stateside and foreign radio contacts. Lyle Amundson, KØLFV, shows an older (Index Labs.) QRP rig for members to use. The transceiver is an all-band HF operating on 12 volts; it was recently donated. It is fun and challenging to operate, said Fritz WØKO, who tested it to work DX with very low power and on CW. Interestingly, the WX at the time of this program was quite cold, but that did not deter the hardy souls who showed up at the meeting for camaraderie and some ham radio education. Ham Radio has many facets of interest—just ask a member what his/hers is.

— Events Calendar —

Note: Club Breakfasts are always on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the Month.

Thurs., Feb. 7, Licensing Classes start at 6 and 7 PM. @ Brd. Fire Hall

Sat., Feb. 9, Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.

Sat., Feb. 9, Mid-MN 150 Dogsled Race—Remer & Outing—Volunteer Ops Needed—contact NØCRM or WØRC—Event is a “GO.”

Sat., Feb. 16, St. Cloud Hamfest @ St. Cloud Armory—from 9-1. A Good One!

Thurs., Feb. 28, Club Meeting: Board @ 4 and Membership @ 7 @ Fire Hall.

Program: “BAARC Year in Review”

Listen for Activity Updates on our Sunday Night Nets

Encourage New Membership: Dues (see p. 7) are still only \$20/year—a bargain for all you get. E-mail Doug for info: djbdesk@gmail.com

Thursday-January 31, 2013 - 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes

Brainerd Fire Station

President: Steve Mott, NØCRM
Vice President: John Luce, WØWY
Treasurer: Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE
Secretary: Ron Finger, KØGOP
Repeater Trustee: Fritz Bertelt, WØKO

Past Presidents: Charles Lane, W5CCL; Al Doree, WØRC
Community & Special Events Director: TBD
Director-At-Large: Lyle Amundson, KØLFV
Emergency Communications Director: John Luce, WØWY

Attendees: Steve NØCRM, Doug KDØERE, Ron KØGOP, Lyle KØLFV, Al WØRC, Shirley KØDCW, Roger WØWUG, and Dave KBØSCT.

Secretary's Report: Delayed till Membership Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Report given showing all month's account transactions and balances to date. Need to put a budget together to document how we will allocate funds. **Motion to accept:** Al WØRC, **Second** Lyle KØLFV, **Passed.**

Membership Meeting Program: **Membership Drive Program** discussed. The program will be delayed for a later meeting date.

Upcoming Events: **Mid-MN 150 Sled Dog Race** scheduled for Feb 9. NØBZZ Aitkin repeater will be used for event (147.360 +, 203.5Hz Tone). **FMS Balloon launch:** Al WØRC reported a count of 20 students in 4 groups working on 4 different payloads including 2 cameras, trackers, and a worm and plant experiment. **Winter Ham Classes** for Technician and General licenses by Al WØRC and John WØWY will start on Feb 7. **January Meeting** and **April Hamfest.** Fritz WØKO has completed an invitation letter for the open house. Shirley KØDCW suggested condensing it and mailing using a postcard format on brightly colored stock, and has a bid of \$49.50 for 150 cards. Ron KØGOP will help develop the postcard mailer with Fritz and Lyle, and suggested approaching the *Brainerd Dispatch* with an event story for publication.

Digital & Emergency Communications: Al WØRC: Working on setting up a new IP switch that will provide remote shutdown of the Gull Lake Repeater. Work is continuing on resolving some remaining issues with this repeater.

Old Business:

Crosby Tower Project: Update: Dietz Bros will start putting up AT&T's antennas and transmissions lines the week of the 28th. When that's completed, they will start taking down the old tower. In the meantime they will terminate the feedlines to BAARC's two antennas and "sweep" the lines showing us any loss, resonant frequencies etc. **Membership Meeting Committee:** Fritz has created a nice welcoming letter. Steve has secured address labels and has provided an electronic listing that we need to pare down.

Publications:

Fritz will work with the local newspapers; Ron and Lyle will help.

Lakeland TV Calendar of events needs our information 2 weeks in advance; Lyle will provide.

New Business:

Club Communications Trailer: Interested members are invited to join a planning committee to discuss.

Purchase of some Club Owned Test Equipment (Need to check out donated items prior to selling)

Lyle suggested obtaining a variac, and oscilloscope

Club Antenna Analyzer Upgrade: need a VHF/UHF antenna analyzer; MFJ 269 or equivalent. **Motion:** to purchase VHF/UHF antenna analyzer; not to exceed \$350: Al WØRC, **Second** Doug KDØERE, **Passed.**

Repeater Planning Group: to plan for future expansion of our VHF/UHF Communications Network.

Need a chair and volunteers; Steve volunteered to chair; other volunteers: Al, Roger, Terry

Installation of the recently donated Remote Base HF Station from KØLR

Lyle will work with Brainerd members (Doug, Ron) and get it running and documented.

The business meeting was adjourned at 5:17 PM.

Thursday-January 31, 2013 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes

Brainerd Fire Station

The President opened the Club membership business meeting at 7:00 PM with 15 members and guests present.

Membership Meeting Additions to Business above: December meeting minutes approved as published in the January BAARCer and accepted in lieu of reading. **Motion to accept:** Fritz WØKO, **Second** Shirley KØDCW, **Passed.** John WØWY sent his thanks to all Club operators that worked the Jaycee's Ice-Fishing Tournament.

Terry KØFW suggested investigating available public grants towards a new Club communications trailer.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

--Respectfully submitted by **Ron KØGOP**, Secretary

Information from Rick KBØWWJ and LTF Activity

We have formed a Ham Radio Club here in central MN. We've hot linked together the Avon 443.650+ pl tone 85.4 with Larry's Little Falls 443.075+ with Shannon's St Cloud 146.555 pl tone 103.5 with Litchfield 443.800+ pl tone 146.2 using the Echolink. You can access our system over the air on the frequencies listed, or you can connect to them using the Echolink. Brainerd is not part of our system, but we put it on the map cuz that repeater has Echolink. We're also active with D-Star digital Ham Radio with our Little Falls 444.000+ which we are in the process of converting to a 2 meter D-Star digital repeater. We currently do not have any membership fees because we've been successful at raising funds thru donations to accomplish what the Club wishes to do. I'm the acting Club President until we have an election to elect Club officers such as President, Vice-President, & Secretary-Treasurer. If you'd like to join our very informal Club, please contact me: Rick Houle, KBØWWJ, 1105 5th Ave N. E., Little Falls, MN 56345 -2503 I can send you any forms needed. Please include if you are a member of the ARRL or not too. We eventually want to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We've been conducting our meetings on the air & thru E-mails. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you for your time & consideration, 73's ---Rick Houle, KBØWWJ, Echolink Link Node 616197 on Larry's 443.075+ Little Falls repeater.

DX and the Paper Chase

We had back-to-back ice storms, one of which had me off HF radio for a week in the month of November. I was given some curbside advice from Fritz (WØKO) about installing a tuner between my amplifier and my antenna system both for tuning around the ice and some added protection for my solid-state amplifier. The tuner, an Ameritron ATR-20, arrived Christmas eve day, just in time to get me back on the air after the 2nd ice storm coated my antennas. It's amazing how well a good tuner can find a match even when antennas are coated in ice. I was back working DX during the excellent band conditions we had for several weeks. I didn't add any "new ones" to my log, but DX is good DX no matter what. Band conditions continued to be excellent until conditions changed the 21st of January. Have no fear, for they'll return just in time for some good DXpeditions that are scheduled to start in January and throughout the year. As for the paper chase, it was also good with two new DXCC entities landing in my mailbox. One was from Yemen (7O6) and another from Papua New Guinea (P29) which I worked on CW. Getting those cards was exciting especially New Guinea because I worked them on CW. I cannot explain the thrill I get out of working CW. I'm not a great CW operator, but I can proudly say that I do operate CW. I feel more attached to the Amateur community since taking up the CW mode. What took me so long to realize that there was something missing? I programmed my FT-950 to send my call sign in CW at the touch of a button. What fun that is. Marcia and I had a wonderful Christmas and a nice quiet New Year's Eve and we hope all of you had the same. We're settling into the cold winter months as we eagerly look to the coming spring and summer season ahead. In the meantime, there's a lot of good DX out there, so sit down at your station and call CQ. Someone somewhere is listening for your signal--don't disappoint him or her. So long from Huntersville for now, 73 and good DX from **Bob/WØZPE**.

Postage Rate Increased Jan. 27, 2013.—Affects Hams who QSL and Club

Mailings —Info from the ARRL.

Beginning Sunday, January 27, it will cost more to mail first class letters, postcards and packages within the US. The cost to mail a first class letter will be 46 cents, while the cost to mail a postcard will be 33 cents, an increase of 1 cent for each; this is the third increase for postcard postage in less than two years. This month, the USPS will also introduce a First Class Mail Global Forever Stamp that will allow customers to mail 1-ounce letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10. The cost to mail flat-rate Priority Mail packages and letters will also increase.

BRAINERD HAMFEST APRIL 20TH—TALK IT UP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

MN Repeater Council Mtg. in Brd., and a VE Test Session also at the Armory the same day.

WINTER'S WINDY WEATHER TAKES OVER AT FISHING EVENT—January 19, 2013—Gull Lake

Wind chills estimated at minus 35-degrees fueled by single-digit air temperatures and gusty winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour at times made chilling conditions for some 10,000 “fisher-folks” on Gull Lake.

Nine BAARC members formed the radio communications team working most of the day Saturday, January 19th at the **23rd Annual Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza**.

Net Control was handled by **Shirley KØDCW** and **Jim WØJDS**, who operated from the Club’s EMCOMM trailer on the 147.225 MHz repeater, for stations coming to/from the tournament area, and simplex on 146.580 MHz for stations out on the ice. They also interfaced with the public safety folks on the new ARMER radio system, which isolated all of the police, fire, EMS, and Jaycee’s administrative folks, as well as our net control function, into one Talk-Group. This then provided a seamless means of inter-communication with those groups without needing to listen to unrelated public safety messages on a non-dedicated channel as we’ve done in the past.

Other communications assignments were carried out by the following: **Terry K1ØFW** in the First Aid tent, providing liaison with the first responders; **Ron KØGOP**, with the transportation folks coordinating the arrival/departures of buses; and being shadows for the Jaycee’s Quarter Bosses (managing on-ice fishing activities) were **Dave KDØNRI**, **Doug KDØERE**, and **Rick KDØLFC**.

Operators were given rides on the ice to/from their assignments by Event Co-Chair **Al WØRC** via his ATV and a “chair-sled”; and **John WØWY** provided a land-side shuttle service for operators going to/from their vehicles in the remote parking areas. **John WØWY** brought the trailer out to the lake and **Al WØRC** set it up. Because of bad WX conditions on Saturday and Sunday, **John WØWY** and **Dave KDØNRI** removed the EMCOMM trailer from the Gull Lake site on Monday instead. The site this year was at the Hole-in-the-Day-Bay boat access.

Trailer preparation prior to the event was done indoors, thanks to our Club’s “host,” the Brainerd Fire Department. A big thanks goes out to these hams: **Kurt KDØYTC** for getting a stubborn generator tuned-up and going; **Al WØRC** for acquiring a new trailer tongue-jack, and **Roger WØWUG** and **Lyle KØLFV** for installation assistance; and to **Dave KBØSCT** and **John WØWY** for providing the trailer a much needed clean-up effort.

“The Jaycees really appreciate the hams being here,” said **Event Security Chair Clint Meyer**, on one of several contacts he made during the event, at the Club trailer. “We were very fortunate this year with this terrible weather coming up so quickly, that there were only a few minor injuries – what with so many folks here,” he added.

The primary role for our Club is, as in the past, to provide message-relay for the safety of all providers and attendees. And, it is always good and noteworthy when we don’t handle a lot of radio traffic as that means there were no or few tragic incidents.

Again thanks to all in the BAARC members who have and continue to support our Club’s public service activities.

John Luce, WØWY

Event Co-Chair and BAARC VP

(all photos by **Al WØRC**)



Bottom left shows John WØWY, Co-Event Chair and BAARC VP, coming out of the windy cold for a few minutes. On the right is newcomer to the event Dave KDØNRI, bundled up facing the elements on Gull Lake. They were joined by more than 10,000 people on the ice. The first catch was a .2 lb. Perch. The winner of the pickup truck brought in a 4.41 lb. Northern Pike. Our thanks to all the Club’s participants who braved this year’s miserable weather to help in the effort to raise money for local charities.

See the following pages for more on the Fishing Extravaganza.

MORE PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE FISHING EXTRAVAGANZA BY AL WØRC, EVENT CO-CHAIR

Top left shows veteran NCS operator Jim WØJDS in our communications trailer. Top right is Shirley KØDCW, another experienced NC at these events. In the middle on the left is Ron KØGOP (BAARC Secretary) with an tourist visiting the site.

At the right in the middle shows some of the line-up for contestants getting their catches weighed and registered in. At the bottom on the left is Doug KDØERE (BAARC Treasurer) with a Jaycees official at the tent over his right shoulder. At the bottom right is the view in one direction before the crowds appeared—note the colorful Avenue of Flags.

Scenes from the Ice: More photos taken by AI WØRC



Top left shows the leader board at the beginning of the contest. At the top right is Terry, (KIØFW) our Club's MD, with Rick KCØLFC in the medical tent. Bottom middle is the view from outside the First Aid tent. Fortunately, there were only a few medical incidents. By the way, the Brainerd Dispatch had a listing of all the catches in Monday's 1-21-13 issue.

Propagation for HF Sunspot Cycle 24: From the ARRL/Tad Cook, K7RA:

The predicted solar flux on February 6-7, 120 and 125 on February 8-9, 120 on February 10-11, then 115, 110 and 105 on February 12-14, 110 on February 15-18, 105 on February 19-23, 95 on February 24-25, 110 on February 26, and 125 on February 27 through March 1. Flux values peak again at 140 on March 3.

Until recently experts predicted this cycle would probably peak in Spring of 2013, which begins in less than seven weeks. But later predictions moved it out to Fall of 2013, with slightly lower numbers. We had a period of higher solar activity in November and December of 2011, which led some to believe that perhaps the cycle had peaked early. Others believe we may see a double-peak in this cycle, as we have in some earlier solar cycles.

But we should see seasonal improvements in HF conditions in the Spring and again in the Fall. By seasonal, I mean that even if we saw no change in solar activity, just due to the season and position of the Sun relative to us, we see better conditions on the higher frequencies in Spring and Fall than we tend to see in Summer and Winter.



Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Dues Year January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013
(One Application for Each Person)



Name (First, MI, Last) _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____ License Class _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Additional Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Date of Application: _____ Circle One: New / Renewal

E-mail Address: _____ Member ARRL? Circle One: Y / N

I would like to receive the BAARCer via the Internet / US Mail (Circle One). (Internet saves Club money)

Circle One: \$20 Full Member / \$10 Additional Family Member / \$10 Student Member

Note: For first-time members, pay \$5 per quarter for the time remaining in the year you join. For information on a life membership, contact Doug, our treasurer: <djbdesk@gmail.com>

Membership Dues \$ _____

Make checks payable to
BAARC. The Club is a
501c3 non-profit
organization. Contributions
are tax deductible. Mail to
Treasurer.

**Brainerd Area Amateur Radio
Club**
Treasurer - Doug Bergsnev
KDØERE
15912 Olsen Lane
Brainerd, MN 56401

Voluntary
Contribution \$ _____

Total
Enclosed \$ _____

I hereby make this application and agree to abide by the Club By-Laws.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Disclosure: This information will not be sold or given to another organization without express permission of the BAARC members.

Please mail one form, along with dues (check/money order), for each person who wants to be a member.
Check our Club's Website for other Information and Newsletters.

Regular Updates on the Sunday Night Nets on 147.225

www.brainerdham.org

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

| | | |
|----------|--------|--------|
| 02/03/13 | Rick | KBØWWJ |
| 02/10/13 | Marcia | WØZMC |
| 02/17/13 | Bob | WØZPE |
| 02/24/13 | Joe | KBØVYJ |
| 03/03/13 | Fritz | WØKO |
| 03/10/13 | Rick | KBØWWJ |
| 03/17/13 | Doug | KDØERE |
| 03/24/10 | Marcia | WØZMC |
| 03/31/13 | Bob | WØZPE |

Can't make the schedule? Find a substitute operator. BAARC Sunday Night Net Control Coordinator is Fritz WØKO. To volunteer: w0ko "at" arrl.net

PLEASE?!?!?!?!?!?!?

SIMPLEX NET IS OPTIONAL.

Our thanks to all NCS Volunteers.

BAARC Received 3 Donations : We are grateful for three generous donations in the form of equipment to the Club in late December 2012: **Bob Feuer, WØZPE**, donated a computer and monitor, which **Al WØRC** received for Club use. **Al Swanson, KDØBK**, made a sizable donation of used ham gear which **Lyle KØLFV** received and will sell for the Club. Also **Lyle Koehler, KØLR**, made a big equipment donation to our Club, which **Lyle KØLFV** received and will sell for the Club's benefit. All three donors received acknowledgement donation letters from Club Trustee Fritz Bertelt, **WØKO**. Needless to say, we are certainly fortunate to receive these gifts. (See the for-sale note below)

DUES are still being Collected for 2013. Doug KDØERE, our able treasurer, is asking that new and renewing members get the dues for the year in ASAP. It makes the job of treasurer easier and facilitates planning for the year ahead. See form p. 7. **Lyle Amundson, KØLFV, has lots of Used Ham Radio & Related Equipment for Sale .**

If you are looking for some gear to get started in ham radio or to upgrade, contact him. He will have a hand-out list of equipment still available at our upcoming Membership Meeting. Contact information is email kØlfv@arrl.net or call at 218.330.5110

RADIO LICENSING CLASSES START Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at the Brainerd Fire Hall. Technician and General Class Sessions. Cost: \$25 Testing fee in \$25 due on April 20th.

United We Stand



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Address Correction Requested

Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club
c/o M. Fritz Bertelt WØKO
16167 Ahrens Hill Road
Brainerd, MN 56401