



# The BAARCer



October 2007

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

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**Club Call:** WØUJ

Brainerd Repeaters:  
 53.110 MHz- 123.0 Hz  
 147.225 MHz +  
 145.130 MHz- Echo Link  
 Node number 233515  
 443.925 MHz + 110.9 Hz  
 Packet: 145.670 MHz  
 BBS MNBRD, WØUJ  
 Club DX Cluster:  
 147.525 MHz BRDDX  
 144.390 WØUJ-5 APRS  
 Crosslake 147.030 MHz+  
<http://brainerdham.org>

**President:**

Lyle Amundson KØLFV

**Vice President:**

Jim Talbott WØYA

**Secretary:**

Darrell Schneider ABØVP

**Treasurer:**

John Myers W3MQD

**Director At Large:**

John Luce WØJGY

**Repeater Trustee:**

Fritz Bertelt WØKO

**BAARCer & WWW Editor**

Mark Persons WØMH

**The September 27th Membership Meeting honored ten local Hams who have been in the hobby for 50 years or more.**



**(l-r) Eldon WØMQO--59 years, Fritz WØKO--50 years, Roger WØWUG--53 years, Brian KØEOU--51 years, Jim KØLIO--50 years, Jim W9VEQ--55 years, John W3MQD--60 years, John WØJGY--52 years, Jim WØYA--54 years, and Lyle KØLFV--50 years. Congratulations to them all.**

Stories about hamming from the "old days" were told and cake was served along with ice cream. See a story about Fritz's experiences on Pages 5, 6, and 7 in this [BAARCer](http://brainerdham.org).

Find even more details on the BAARC Web site <http://brainerdham.org>

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**Events Calendar**

- Wednesday, Oct. 3** 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Monthly siren and civil emergency test.
- Saturday, Oct. 6** 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Informal breakfast meeting at the Northwind Grille.
- Sunday, Oct. 7** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+ MHz.
- Tuesday, Oct. 9** 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM **Ham class starting for those wanting to be Hams.**
- Sunday, Oct. 14** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+ MHz.
- Saturday, Oct. 20** 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Informal breakfast meeting at the Northwind Grille.
- Sunday, Oct. 21** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+ MHz.
- Thursday, Oct. 25** 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM BAARC Executive Board meets.
- Thursday, Oct. 25** 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM **Club Membership Meeting** at Brainerd Fire Station
- Sunday, Oct. 28** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+ MHz.
- Wednesday, Oct. 31** Evening hours **Annual BAARC Goblin Watch.**
- Tuesday, Dec. 4** **VE Testing in Brainerd.**

**September 27, 2007, 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes – Brainerd Public Library**

The meeting was opened by President Lyle KØLFV while in attendance were Vice-President Jim WØYA, Treasurer John W3MQD with Vi, Al WØRC, Mark WØMH, Director-at-Large John WØJGY, and Secretary Darrell ABØVP. The Report of the August Board of Directors and the General Membership Meetings as published in the BAARCer were accepted as written.

Treasurer John W3MQD presented the August 31st Financial Report to the Board. John WØJGY moved approval of the financial reports that after a second by Jim WØYA were unanimously approved.

Six students are expected for Al WØRC's Ham Classes to begin on October 9th. The purchase of Ham study and training materials of about \$250 to support this program was approved following a motion by Jim WØYA that was seconded by John WØJGY.

The Ski-Gull Repeater is now working well after work by Kurt Martin at a cost of \$270.

Al WØRC reported on a fold-out step on the Communications Trailer and other materials to complete the project for a cost not to exceed \$400. It was approved following a motion by John WØJGY that was seconded by Jim WØYA.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M. following a motion by Jim WØYA and a second by John WØJGY.

Respectfully submitted, **Darrell ABØVP**, Secretary

**September 27, 2007, 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes – Brainerd Main Fire Station**

President Lyle KØLFV opened the meeting held in the Training Room of the Main Brainerd Fire Station with twenty three Hams and two guests in attendance.

The Minutes of the August Membership Meeting as published in the BAARCer were accepted as written following a motion by Fritz WØKO that was seconded by Steve WØTNT.

The August Financial Report presented by John W3MQD was unanimously approved following a motion by Terry KIØFW and seconded by Al WØRC.

The October Membership Meeting will be on October 25th at the Fire Station with a terrific presentation on Basin Electric Corporation by Don Porter, a Member of Basin's Board of Directors, who has a summer home north of Brainerd.

BAARC Officers for 2008 – Members willing to serve are needed – Vice-President position is wide open – candidates for all positions are encouraged and welcomed – contact President Lyle KØLFV.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM following a motion by Mark WØMH.

Program: Stories by BAARC Hams with more than 50 years of experience – Lyle KØLFV – 50 years, Jim WØYA – 54 years, John WØJGY – 52 years, John W3MQD – 60+ years, Roger WØWUG – 53 years, Brian KØEOU – 51 years, Eldon WØMQO – 59 years, Fritz WØKO – 50 years, Jim W9VEQ – 55 years, and Jim KØLIO – 50 years,.

Respectfully submitted, **Darrell ABØVP**, Secretary



**Mission Statement:** The Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club is comprised of about 85 licensed Amateur Radio Operators who meet monthly to exchange ideas, improve radio skills, organize activities that are of service to the area, promote development of Amateur Radio, and join together in the mutual interest in Ham Radio. The BAARCer newsletter is provided to club members for information and entertainment as a non-profit service. The material is supplied "as is" and without warranty. Permission is granted to copy and distribute any information published here provided the source is credited.

Because space is limited in the BAARCer newsletter, you will often find more photos and more details for club news stories on the BAARC website at: <http://brainerdham.org>

**At breakfast on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>:** Charles W5CCL, Skee WØDCY, Greg NØLJY and his wife Brenda, Paula WØHA, and Mark WØMH. The crew bid farewell to Charles as he left for his winter home in Texas.

**Five years ago in the BAARCer:** Brian Kirks, Animal Surgery Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, explained how radio transmitter collars are used on bears, deer, wolves, and even fish to track those animals and their behaviors.

**At Breakfast on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>:** Jim WØIRE, Fritz WØKO, Skee WØDCY, Paula WØHA, and Mark WØMH. There was a discussion about Tom WØQF who is in a hospital in Rochester, MN, being treated for Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). Learn more at: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/thomasjones>

**From the Mailbag September 28, 2007:** The purpose of this communication is to express to BAARC members, and more importantly the 50+ year operators, a sense of gratitude and more importantly a level of respect that they deserve and have earned. As I sat in the audience and listened to the stories of building radios, erecting towers, and incurring the "RF burns," I felt rather humbled by my 11 months of being an Amateur Radio Operator. Being this new to the hobby, I have been helped and/or coached by many in and out of the BAARC. This exemplifies the spirit of Ham Radio. There is a contingent of people out in the Ham Radio world that suggests relaxing the rules will "dumb down" radio. I must say that I have not heard, seen, nor felt that in any way from the BAARC. Again—gratitude and respect must be given here to all members! In fact, with the knowledge base that exists in the BAARC, I feel that you will lift up all new operators rather than allowing the "dumb down" of Amateur Radio. Sincerely and Respectfully,  
**Steve KCØYTE**

**Spotted at the Carlton Fall-Fest Hamfest on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Lyle KØLFV, Lyle KØLR, Kathy KØTHY, and Curt NØCRM, who won an antenna door prize at the gathering.

**BAARCer Articles?** Club members, and others, are invited to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. If there is something you would like to write about, put the text in an e-mail and send it to the editor: [mark@mwpersons.com](mailto:mark@mwpersons.com) It is important that the piece be written as it should appear in the BAARCer. Be concise and to the point in order to keep it interesting. There is no guarantee that the item will be published. Here is a chance to tell a story about how you got into ham radio or about a funny ham situation in your life. **Mark WØMH**

**Strays: October 4<sup>th</sup> is National Radio Operator Recognition Day. 10-4 !!!**



The Tour of Cuyuna Bike Tour took place on Saturday, September 8th. This year it was based in Aitkin, MN. Seven BAARC members provided communications for the tour. The Club used the BAARC Emergency Communications Trailer as its very own base of operations.

The trailer was placed at the Mahnomen Overlook, and set-up was completed shortly after 6:30 AM on Saturday. The trailer was towed to the hill by John WØJGY. Al WØRC, Lyle KØLFV, and Terry KIØFW assisted in the further setup of the trailer. Al WØRC served as Net Control and also was responsible for overseeing the APRS tracking as well.

Lyle KØLFV served as a coordinator at the Aitkin base (bike tour headquarters). Kathie KØTHY, Curt NØCRM and Terry KIØFW were stationed at the rest stops. Shirley KØDCW and John WØJGY served as sag wagon riders and drivers.

The Bike Tour had two loops. One was 30 miles and the other was 60 miles with scenic routes heading south from Aitkin, around the southern side of Farm Island Lake, then looping close to Deerwood and around Crosby (for the long route), then back to Aitkin.

The Club used the 145.13- Repeater, and it provided excellent coverage over the whole area of the tour. The APRS setups provided very useful tracking information for following the positions of the sag wagons. Approximately 55 bikes were registered for the tours, including some tandem bikes. There were no problems or incidents of any kind during the duration of the event.

Also see: <http://cuyunalakestrail.org/index.cfm?pageid=107>



My thanks to event co-chair Lyle KØLFV and to all the volunteers who provided their time and expertise. Hams have had a long tradition of community service, and our efforts seemed to be genuinely appreciated. de Terry KIØFW



Al WØRC and John WØJGY are going to teach another Technician Ham class starting Tuesday, October 9th. The class will run from 6:30 PM to about 9:00 PM on Tuesday evenings and will be held in the Brainerd Fire Station Training Room. Anyone interested should call Al Doree WØRC at 218-575-2404 and/or show up at the first class.

There is a new television series starting this fall. It features celebrity shark wrestling. The network is calling it, "Stump the Stars."

The BAARC is looking for a new Volunteer Examiner Coordinator to replace Jim WØIRE who is retiring from the job after about five years of faithful service. Contact Lyle KØLFV to volunteer for the position.

### Some Reflections on 50 Years in Ham Radio—by Fritz WØKO

In junior high I started with building a fox-hole radio using a diagram I found in a book about radio and television. After also listening to a lot of shortwave broadcasts and Hams on AM on a tube-type radio, I slowly got into the hobby. I was licensed in 1957. My brother Wil [formerly KØRJØ and W6SAL (SK)] followed me into the hobby which he and I shared from our house in Baxter.

Before I got my first call sign KNØMAH, I had already purchased a Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver. While I was waiting for the license to arrive, I built a Heathkit DX-40. On the day the ticket arrived, I remember my first contact was with WN6NGB on 15 meters. I used a 40-meter dipole strung between two poles. No antenna tuner was used—the pi-network did all the necessary matching and I never knew what the SWR was, nor did I care. If the transmitter loaded up, it worked. I just wanted to make CW QSO's.

For Novices like me, it meant we were power restricted (75 watts) and had to have crystal control of the transmitter. Thus, it was common for new Hams to get an ARRL Official Observer notice for out-of-band operation because the operator forgot to check the fundamental of the crystal against the band that was to be used. For instance, a Novice would use a 7050 KHz crystal and triple it for 15-meters on 21,150 KHz—legal. However, if he forgot the band switch position and left it on 40, he would be transmitting in an illegal portion of 40 meters, out of band for his license class. Of course, that never happened to me. Ha!

During these years I have had a lot of fun in the hobby—even being Emergency Coordinator (ARRL) for Crow Wing County while I was in high school. As far as I know, I was the first at that age in MN, and I worked with Joe Nolan, former city police officer, judge, and county emergency/civil defense director.

There is so much to share. Some other material about this Club and our high school club and early years can be found on our website. Some of that I wrote previously. Still, my most humorous memory from the past (one I have shared with a few after the statute of limitations had run out on my “crime”) is the following and concerned my brother--then KØRJØ. You see, we were always competing in the hobby and he let me take the lead always hoping he would benefit later. His bedroom was upstairs in our house and mine was downstairs. I offered to let him use my station, but he would have to contribute money and in that way we would have one good station instead of two average ones. His response was that we probably could never agree on who would get to operate when, so he thought it was best to set up our own separate stations in the same house. Mom and Dad never interfered and saw ham radio as a hobby to keep us both out of trouble. So whenever I got a “new” piece of gear, I pawned the old off on my brother. He always thought he was getting a good deal. After he got his station on the air with a separate antenna and my “old” equipment, he wanted to make a contact on 80 CW in the afternoon. This was my chance to pull a good one on my younger brother. While he was calling CQ and not getting an answer, I was listening to him with earphones on my receiver from my downstairs station. While listening, I had my VFO ready to transmit a weak signal. After a few minutes of hearing his endless CQ's and when no one would answer him, I pretended to be a German station and replied to his CQ. I could hardly contain myself downstairs as I had him royally fooled.

After signing off with the “German” ham after a not-so-brief QSO, he flew downstairs and yelled excitedly that he had just worked Germany. By then my rig was quickly turned off and I was doing my “homework.” I told him that I doubted the QSO since it was on 80 meters and in the afternoon. Even though it was during a good portion of the sunspot cycle, you could not work DX like that on that band at that time of the day. Besides, he was only running 75 watts on a wire antenna. As I recall, he tried to convince me of the validity of that DX QSO by giving me the German call sign, QTH as Berlin, and that the operator's name was Hans—and, finally, he showed me his important log entry. Managing with great difficulty to keep a straight face I let him enjoy his “DX” contact for a short time. Needless to say, all good things had to come to an end—so later I told him the facts of my prank.

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Of course, he was “ticked” and probably threatened to call the FCC for my using an illegal call sign—a false signal. Often, in the years before his death, we both fondly recalled that event—or, rather, I reminded him of his fabulous DX contact that afternoon.

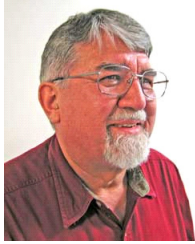
Another reminiscence I wanted to share was related to my beginnings with Judy (ex-KAØTMZ, ex-NØGFE, now KØMAH). Judy and I grew up as high school sweethearts. When we were dating, her mom was concerned about all the time we were spending together in the car. However, Judy reassured her that we were just “hamming.” She explained that I had a rig in the front seat, and the date consisted of a lot of hamming—but that is not what her mom was worried about. At that time I had a Gonset AF 67 transmitter and converter under the dash of a 1951 Ford sedan. Besides, there was not much more room in the “front” seat of the car. HI. For those technically interested at this point in the narrative, the antenna was a whip with an EF Johnson base-loaded coil that was switchable for 80-10 meters. Of course, we were using AM in those days. The converter changed the broadcast radio to shortwave and included the Ham frequencies.

Perhaps I should also mention two other events: both public service opportunities for Ham Radio. The first occurred when I was in high school. It was the fall of 1958 as I recall. The weather could change quickly—and it did when a massive ice storm blanketed the North Shore. There were power outages and the only reliable communication was with Ham Radio. After doing some home work, I turned on the rig on 75 meters and heard the discussion about the need for someone to copy messages from a weak CW station (WØBBN—Doc Smith from Grand Marais). He had a low-power station on CW, and news of the outages needed to reach Duluth. I volunteered to copy the messages from him and others on CW and re-layed them on the phone net. Later, I was sent a public service commendation from the ARRL.

However, the most memorable for me was message handling during the first Gulf War. The neat thing was that Judy was able to participate in it and it still leaves a warm spot in our hearts when we talk about it today. Here is how it came about—completely out of the blue—just like the MN incident I described here. One March afternoon after arriving home from the college, I turned on the rig and listened to some Europeans. Obviously the band was open, so I made a few contacts with them. After finishing the last DX QSO, I had the best one—one that would stretch over several days from March 1-6 of 1991. An American voice broke in and said: “Break! Break!” Not knowing exactly what kind of a contact I had, I said, “Go ahead.” Then the voice replied phonetically: “This is TAUS1 and we are 75 miles inside southern Iraq.” I was amazed but still skeptical, so I asked what I could do for him. He said that he and his mobile hospital group were in the middle of a dust storm and he had been listening to me—just bored and probably homesick, I thought. They were in a truck with a 15-foot whip antenna. Since I follow the news, I knew that many soldiers had not received actual mail from home for weeks, so Judy and I offered our services—make phone calls to family and get replies. Tim, the guy operating from Iraq said no to our offer because it would cost us too much money. We insisted and after gaining their trust, they allowed us to provide a human link to some of their families in the San Antonio area. Judy made several phone calls and got replies which we sent back to the guys in the truck. Then propagation changed, so Tim and I agreed to try each day at the same time. Fortunately we connected for several more days and were at least able to make some stateside families happy while keeping the soldiers’ spirits up. We still have the records in a folder: I re-read thank-you notes from grateful families. Needless to say, yes—we did something any Ham would do—but those soldiers and their families allowed us to enjoy this hobby to the fullest.

As an afterthought—when Tim got back to San Antonio, we talked by phone and I asked him why he called me that day. He said I was the only American station he could copy at the time. Then regarding that weird call sign, he said that they were issued expired US call signs, but he had forgotten his. So since they were allowed to use the equipment when not in military use, he made up the TAUS1—which stood for **T**im and next letter **A** began his last name, which I will not reveal here. The **US1** became a suffix. He would say, “This is Tango Alpha Uniform Sierra 1.” As he told me, it meant **Tim A. United States #1**. Of course, he made all of us proud with that. (continued on Page 7)

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A postscript: After making a few of these contacts, technically illegally, I contacted the FCC—out of guilt. I told them what I had done and that I probably would do it again because of the unique circumstances. The FCC official said that he had not received any violation notices on me. Could I have special dispensation from the rules? Rather than answering directly, he hinted that I was asking too many question and that under these circumstances the FCC would look the other way. **Fritz W0KO**

Thanks to Vi Myers, wife of John W3MQD, and Marilyn Amundson, wife of Lyle K0LFV, for serving cake, ice cream, and coffee at the BAARC Membership Meeting on September 27th.



**The BAARC wants you.** There will be an election of Club Officers in December. Anyone interested in being an officer should contact Lyle K0LFV at 218-765-3100 to have his or her name put on the ballot, which will be printed in the November BAARCer. We are especially looking for someone to fill the position of Vice-President.

## Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Dues Year January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

Name (First, MI, Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Additional/Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_ Check one: New application:  Renewal:

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ARRL?

I would like to receive the BAARC'er newsletter via the Internet  via the US mail

Check one: \$20 Full Membership  \$10 Additional Family Member  \$10 Student Member

Are you interested in being called to do emergency communications? Yes  No

Membership Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
**Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club**  
**Treasurer - John Myers W3MQD**  
**34570 Beaver Trail**  
**Pequot Lakes, MN 56472**

**Make checks payable to BAARC** Contributions are tax deductible. The club is a 501C3 non-profit organization.

**Sunday Night Net Control Operators on the 147.225 MHz+ Repeater at 8 PM:**

10/7/07	John	KCØWCG
10/14/07	Steve	WØTNT
10/21/07	John	W3MQD
10/28/07	Fritz	WØKO
11/04/07	Jim	WØJDS
11/11/07	Art	NØTNJ
11/18/07	Jon	KBØMNM
11/25/07	Al	KCØGWB

Can't make the schedule? Find a substitute operator. BAARC Sunday Night Net Control Coordinator is Fritz WØKO. Contact him to volunteer.



**BAARC**, Inc.

Ham Radio at its best in the Lakes Area  
Affiliated with the ARRL

Find us on the Web:

<http://www.brainerdham.org>

**- - Upcoming Meetings & Activities - -**

**A Ham class will be held starting October 9th** in Brainerd for those wishing to get their Technician license. Contact Al WØRC at 218-575-2404 to sign-up for the class.

**The Thursday, October 25th, Membership Meeting will be held at the Main Brainerd Fire Station starting at 7 PM.** The speaker of the evening will be Don Porter, member of Basin Electric Power Coop Board of Directors. Don will take us on a virtual tour of the electrical energy alternatives offered by Basin Electric Power, which is the second largest energy cooperative in the country. They distribute electrical energy to Wyoming, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Canada and the Dakotas. Don is a speaker worth hearing.

**The Club will aid local law enforcement on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31st.** Eight to ten radio operators will be needed to patrol the streets of Brainerd, Crosby, Ironton, and Pequot Lakes for wrong-doers. The goal is to keep police informed when problems occur. You can help in this worthwhile activity by contacting John Luce WØJGY at 218 963 4521. Ham participation on Halloween is a long-standing tradition for the BAARC.

**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