



The BAARCer



August 2008

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>

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FOX HUNT—Obviously Doug KBØERE and Charles W5CCL have found something. All Fox Hunt photos courtesy of W5CCL in this BAARCer



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—Events Calendar —

Aug. 2, Sat. Breakfast at Northwind Grille @ 9 a.m.

Aug. 24, Sun. Baxter Triathlon

Aug. 28, Thurs. Board Mtg. @ Library at 4 and Reg. Club Mtg. @ 7 @ Fire Hall

Sept. 3, Wed. Crow Wing County Siren Test 1-2 p.m.

Sept. 6, Sat. Breakfast at Northwind Grille @ 9 a.m.

Fox Hunt Report from Lyle KØLR with these Photos by Kathie KØTHY:

This year, the fox (provided by Terry KIØFW) was hidden by Lyle KØLR and Kathie KØTHY in a wooded portion of Kiwanis Park. Kathie took pains camouflaging the transmitter, and even covered any tracks leading to the fox, to make the hunt a real challenge. The transmitter was turned on at 1000 hours. Steve WØTNT was the first to report in that he had found the transmitter at 1111, followed by reports from Doug KDØERE and Charles W5CCL a minute or two later. Brooks KI4RXX and John WØWY located the fox at about 1130, while Orcy WØQT and Skee WØDCY had cornered the wily critter by 11:45.

A new twist this year was the addition of a "baby fox" operating at very low power within a few hundred feet of the primary transmitter and on another frequency. Unfortunately its batteries faded during the hunt, making it so weak that it was really difficult to detect. That didn't stop the team of Brooks and John from locating it at about 11:40. Congratulations to all the hunters on a good exercise. Thanks also to Curt NØCRM for reserving our picnic spot at the Park. Pictured are Skee upper right; Brooks below on left and Doug, Charles, and Steve.—all happy hunters.





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 of Ham Radio. **In addition, the Club endorses and honors the Radio Amateur's Code : The radio amateur is considerate, loyal, progressive, friendly, balanced, and patriotic.** 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>



ARRL Officials Attend:

As in previous years, the State's leadership attended. This year Jay Bellows, KØQB (ARRL Director Dakota Division) was joined by Greg Widin, KØGW (Vice Director). They visited with many of the participants. Also again in attendance and answering questions from members was MN ARRL Section Manager Skip Jackson, KSØJ.



Congratulations:

Doug Bergsnev of Brainerd took his Technician's exam at the Brainerd Hamfest and a few days later he was **KDØERE**. Then at the Club Breakfast on July 19th, he joined our ranks, becoming a member of the Club. By the way, Doug has a good mentor in Charles W5CCL, who is his brother-in-law. Both participated in the Fox Hunt.

AA

FOR SALE: MFJ 4228 Keyer with Paddle. It is a Bencher iambic paddle and Curtis electronic keyer, fully adjustable, runs on 9 v. battery. Can be easily separated. Same as what MJF calls the 422 D. New price about \$190. This unit nearly new—Bencher paddle alone is worth \$90. Will sell complete unit for \$125 or BO. Contact WØKO <finn.kraut "at" charter.net>.

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TOWER AVAILABLE: If anyone is interested in a very tall tower previously used for a TV antenna, needs to be taken down—please contact Maria for additional information at 218 829-5274 or email mjcardle@yahoo.com

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Website: Please be patient, Members, as we get updated and running under a new webmaster and newsletter editor. We are learning as we go. Of course, it is volunteer effort.

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SUNDAY NIGHT NET CONTROL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We have the usual regular volunteers, but it would be good to spread the duties around. Certainly those who fill in whenever the regular ones cannot are really appreciated. So, if you would like to try it, contact Fritz: <finn.kraut "at" charter.net>

KOHL'S Department Store and Radio Interference to Car Locks in Their Parking Lot:

Shoppers theorized that it was the local power plant causing the interference, but officials at the power plant said it wasn't them. Others thought that cellular telephone towers might be the culprit, but there are no cell towers in the area. The police could not figure it out and the local media got involved to find an answer.

So after calling numerous places to help her out with this mystery, one official happened upon Reggie Leister, N3KAS, and Bob Rex, K3DBD, of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club (PA); Rex is Vice-President of the club and Leister is the club's Public Information Officer (PIO). And as hams do, they were quick to volunteer to help out.

Leister and Rex went to the parking lot in question. Rex built an antenna out of aluminum tubing and hooked it up to a spectrum analyzer. "Somewhere in the vicinity of this parking lot," Leister said, "there is a big source of radiation, some sort of signal." When Leister aimed the antenna in the direction of the Kohls' store, he hit pay dirt. "There are actually two signals there. It looks like [they're] coming from the building," Rex said when he read the analyzer.

Leister and Rex moved in closer to the building and pinpointed that one signal was coming from one set of doors, while the other signal emitted from another set of doors. Rex, an engineer, said that the thing that bothers him about this is that the signals "are running constantly." When Kohls' management was approached with their findings, the hams were told that "they [Kohls] will look into it."

"The FCC licenses radio signals and these ham radio operators say the fact that some signal is interfering with remote locks isn't good," the television crew member said in her report. Rex concurred, saying, "The FCC rules are pretty clear on that. It might be something that's broken." Leister and Rex agreed that the store security sensors located at each set of doors might be the culprit.

Three days after Leister and Rex located the source of the interference, remote car door lockers worked again. "Kohl's will only say that they're working on it," Cahn (TV announcer) said. "The FCC says it does sound like something malfunctioned and they have had reports of similar incidents in New York City and Tampa, Florida." The short of the story is that Hams solved it.

Thanks to W3MQD for forwarding the info. It makes all Hams look good!

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Can you spot the fox? Transmitter is hidden by leaves and the antenna magmount is the black unit on top. Fun was had by many at the Hunt and Picnic. It looks like the WX cooperated. Again, thanks to Charles for providing the pix. Lyle KØLR, with help from Kathie KØTHY, placed the foxes this year—two foxes, one a “baby.” Thanks, Lyle and Kathie, for your effort to make it a success. See page 2 for Lyle’s report and more pix.



DX and the PAPER CHASE

The month of July was an exciting time for HF radio. There were openings into both Europe and the Near East for some good DX. The 10-meter band continues to enjoy sporadic-e openings with terrific signals. I was able to get a "new one" on 20 meters when I was successful in busting the huge pileup on a station from Amman, Jordan. Now the hard part begins: obtaining the confirmation QSL card. Return postage is not available for Jordan, so the only way to QSL is with an SAE and 2 IRC's and hopefully the operator will respond. Obtaining the elusive QSL card begins with Bill Plum plumdx@msn.com. Bill supplies postage for just about every country in the world, and he is the most important resource a DXer has at his/her disposal. First-class postage from the US to foreign countries is \$.94 per ounce. I use a white self-sealing envelope (4-1/8X9-1/2) and inside is my QSL card, the return SASE and an IRC. The SASE is a self-sealing (3-5/8X6-1/4) complete with the required return postage to the US. Even though I include the return postage, I feel that the IRC is necessary to cover the DX station's QSL card expenses. International Reply Coupons are more secure than including a "Green Stamp" and in some Islamic countries the US dollar is not acceptable for the operator to have in his possession. Using Bill Plum and the aforementioned procedure has been 95% effective in obtaining QSL's for DXCC credit. QSLing is expensive. The new IRC's are \$2.10, outgoing postage is \$.94, and the return foreign postage averages \$2.00. If you're a DXer and you're chasing DXCC credits, remember that it's only money and not arms-and-legs. I'd give up my Starbucks latté in a New York minute for QSL confirmation on a new DX! (Hi). Remember, get on the air and call CQ and open up an entire world from your station. This is the greatest hobby in the world, enjoy it by operating HF.

73 for now and good DX de Bob WØZPE

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Have an interesting ham radio story to share? Some of our members have already shared their ham history, but many of you have equally informative stories that many members would like to read also. Maybe some have no connection with ham radio. Nevertheless, please send it in—Fritz will edit it as needed. Remember, this is your newsletter.

CLUB NEWS: Charles W5CCL now has HF, UHF, and VHF capability with his antennas on the tower. Likewise, Skee WØDCY has his log-periodic antenna repaired on his tower, so he is also ready for the Cycle 24 DX to come. Good Luck, Gentlemen.

Brainerd's 9th Annual Hamfest 2008: Well, the 2008 Hamfest is now history. The one thing I like about our Hamfest is that it sure feels good when it's over. There were the usual bunch of helpers again this year that just come and help out without being asked which makes it really nice to know that there are people out there that are ready and willing to help. Shirley KØDCW manned the kitchen again and would like to thank all those that made bars and brownies and cookies to share. She said Steve KCØYTE was a big help in the kitchen and was willing to do anything she asked. Kay, XYL of John KØJO, and Marilyn, XYL of Lyle KØLFV, sold donuts and helped in the kitchen also. Lyle KØLFV was a big help as co-chair this year and helped getting flyers out to hams at other hamfests and selling items for the Club. Jim WØJDS collected money at the front door. John WØWY, Jim WØYA and Charles W5CCL handed out all the door prizes and raffle prizes. Fritz WØKO and Alan AAØAS talked a lot of people into buying raffle tickets again this year. Vendors saw the same two friendly faces at the back door again with Ed KAØEXB and Curt NØCRM selling tables. And where would we be without John W3MQD handling all the monies and collecting for the chili all day. John provided cash up front for the doors and kitchen to make change. He had a pretty big pile of money when he left the Armory on Saturday afternoon. Skee WØDCY and Terry KIØFW helped with talk-in, setup, and take down. Also helping with setup was Roger WØWUG, and take down was Al KCØGWB and Jack K9CDM as well as many of the others that also did other jobs. This year was our first ever VE session at the Hamfest and Dick WØECJ and Pat WØETY were more that willing to come down from Longville to help out as did John WØWY. This netted us four new Technicians in the area. Art NØTNJ also helped man the club table all morning. Radio City was our main vendor again this year and provided some door prizes as well. While the attendance was a little down from other years, this was expected due to gas prices, but for those that did come, the chance to have an eye-ball QSO with the many friends they talk to was well worth the drive. Again, a big thank you to everyone that helped out to make this ninth annual Hamfest a success.



That date for next year is July 18, 2009—our 10th. 73, de Al WØRC (Editor's Note: Al did a great job filling a variety of roles as well—as usual)



Some examples of the activity at our Hamfest on Saturday, July 12, 2008. Photos by WØRC.

P.S. Did you or anyone leave an insulated shirt-jacket at the Hamfest? Contact Al.



SUNDAY NIGHT NET CONTROLS

8/03/08	Marcia	WØZMC
8/10/08	Bob	WØZPE
8/17/08	Marcia	WØZMC
8/24/08	Bob	WØZPE
8/31/08	John	WØWY
9/07/08	John	W3MQD
9/14/08	Terry	KIØFW
9/21/08	Dave	KCØTGT
9/28/08	Jim	WØYA

Can't make the schedule? Find a substitute operator. BAARC Sunday Night Net Control Coordinator is Fritz WØKO. Contact him to volunteer: finn.kraut "at" charter.net



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 - -

See page 1.

There was no business meeting in July, so there are no minutes. Watch for the updates in the September BAARCer.

DUES:

Have you forgotten? Please help W3MQD out by getting this year's dues in—still only \$20—full year is Jan. 1-Dec. 31. As Treasurer John would like to get our books in order and we want you to keep receiving the BAARCer via e-mail now or snail mail. Please send check to:

**John Myers, BAARC Treasurer, 34570
BEAVER TRAIL, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472**

United We Stand



FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested

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