



The BAARCeR



March 2009

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

Page 1 of 8

Club Call: WØUJ

BAARC 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 MNRD, WØUJ
 144.390 WØUJ-5 APRS
 Crosslake 147.030 MHz+
<http://brainerdham.org>

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Roger Williams **WØWUG**

Trustee + BAARCeR

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

Chris Nelson (shown here at the last meeting) of the Brainerd Jaycees gave an informative presentation urging not only Brainerd hams but also those from neighboring clubs to join in on the fun **Run for the Lakes Marathon** on Saturday, April 25. It will start in Nisswa. Chris is your friendly **Aflac** insurance agent. If you have any questions regarding this 2nd annual marathon, call him at 218 330 5425 or e-mail him at [<c_nelson@us.aflac.com>](mailto:c_nelson@us.aflac.com) . The race benefits non-profits and helps promote the area bringing in needed dollars to the Lakes community.



Index

Meeting Minutes	2
Club News-WØWUG KDØGOP—new	3
WØZPE DX Report +WØMH <u>QST</u> Letter	4
WØZPE DX Report +WØMH <u>QST</u> Letter	5
SKYWARN—WØWY	6
Dues/Membership Form	7
Reminders and INFO Sunday Night Net	8

— Events Calendar —

- Sat., March 21**, BAARC Breakfast at Northwind Grille @ 9 in Brainerd
- Thurs., March 26**, BAARC Board Mtg at 4 p.m. @ Brainerd Fire Station
- Thurs., March 26**, BAARC Monthly Membership Mtg @ 7 p.m. @ Brainerd Fire Station
- Sat., March 28**, **Midwinter Madness in Buffalo**. VE Testing, Details @ [<www.kØltc.org>](http://www.kØltc.org)
- Wed., April 1** @ 1 p.m. Medical Net Drill. Listen 147.015
- Sat., April 4**, BAARC Breakfast at Northwind Grille @ 9 in Brainerd
- Thurs., April 16**, SKYWARN Training and Refresher in Brainerd. Pass the word.
- Sat., April 18**, BAARC Breakfast at Northwind Grille @ 9 in Brainerd
- Sat., April 18**, Hamfest in Fargo
- JULY 18--SATURDAY—BRAINERD HAMFEST— TALK IT UP!!!**

March 5, 2009 - 4:00 P.M. - BAARC Board Minutes – Brainerd Fire Station

This meeting was originally scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2009, but was postponed because of bad weather that made travel difficult.

President Al WØRC opened the meeting with Roger WØWUG, Lyle KØLFV, Shirley KØDCW, Terry KIØFW, and Secretary Darrell ABØVP in attendance.

The Minutes of the January Meeting as published in the BAARCer were accepted as written following a motion by Lyle KØLFV and second by Roger WØWUG. Treasurer John W3MQD provided Lyle KØLFV with information to lead a discussion of the Financial Report dated 1/31/09. Terry KIØFW moved to approve the Financial Reports; the motion was unanimously approved following a second by Lyle KØLFV.

There was a discussion of costs for printing flyers for the Hamfest in July. Terry KIØFW moved to authorize the reimbursement of these expenses; second by Lyle KØLFV; approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned about 5:00 P.M. Respectfully submitted, **Darrell ABØVP**, Secretary

March 5, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.- BAARC Membership Minutes – Brainerd Fire Station


This meeting was also originally scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2009, but was postponed because of bad weather that made travel difficult.

President Al WØRC opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with fourteen Hams and a guest in attendance. The guest was Chris Nelson, an Aflac insurance rep and member of the Brainerd Jaycees who was present to make a presentation on the **Run for the Lakes (Nisswa) Marathon** scheduled for April 24 and 25, 2009, headquartered in Nisswa. Chris Nelson as Medical Coordinator for the event is planning on major participation by BAARC members to the tune of as many as 30 ham radio operators and has made many accommodations in the event system recognizing the importance of the role ham radio plays. BAARC ham radio operators demonstrated their value in the first Nisswa Marathon in April 2008 in the face of extreme weather conditions. Chris even invited us to bring in ham radio operators from other clubs – the more the merrier.

President Al WØRC reopened the membership meeting at 7:35 P.M. The January Membership Meeting Minutes as published in the BAARCer were accepted as written after a motion by Curt NØCRM and a second by Shirley KØDCW. Lyle KØLFV in behalf of Treasurer John W3MQD presented a Year-to-Date Financial Report dated January 31, 2009. Fritz WØKO moved to approve the financial report that was unanimously approved following a second by Charles W5CCL.

The business meeting was adjourned about 8:00 P.M. The next Membership Meeting will be on March 26th, 7:00 P.M. at the Brainerd Fire Station. The Brainerd Fire Station will be available for BAARC monthly membership meetings through May 2009.

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 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>

Introducing Roger Williams, BAARC Director-at-Large—WØWUG:

He was first licensed as WNØWUG in 1954 while still a kid in school. Originally out of the Twin Cities, Roger had an early interest in electronics, so it was only natural to develop that into a career. It is no wonder he became an Electronics and Wireless Communications Instructor in the technical college system of the state. In fact, he spent 37 years teaching in the field—most of it at Wilmar. Some of his students in the area working productively in the field of two-way communications are Kurt Martin, who has his own business in Brainerd, and Jeff Teske, who is employed by the MN Department of Transportation in the same field.



WØWUG is slowly making Merrifield his permanent home although he loves to travel and is heavily involved in snowmobiling and all its trappings. He says his goal is to have his tower up with HF and VHF functioning. Of course, the Club is the grateful beneficiary of his talents in the field.

ARLP010 Propagation de K7RA—as of 3-06-09 (excerpts)

No new sunspots since the recent brief three-day appearance of quickly fading sunspot 1013 on February 24-26. It was another Cycle 24 sunspot, but not too encouraging, considering how brief and weak it appeared. There are no predictions for new sunspots, but these events tend to occur suddenly....Now that February has passed, we can take sunspot data from December 1 through February 28 to calculate a three-month average, centered on January. The total daily sunspot numbers for that period was 208, divide that by 90 days, and the result is 2.3.

Welcome, our newest BAARC member: Ron Finger, KDØGOP

As a new ham residing in Baxter he is not on the air just yet, but he is actively getting involved in the Club activities. Apparently Chris and Steve Weber were the catalyst-links to ham radio and the Club. Nevertheless, Ron's real work is as a freelance commercial illustrator for the In-Fisherman group and other publications around the state as well. Another interest at the moment is constructing and modifying a military communications unit he purchased as surplus and converting it for personal use—including presumably communication and travel with ham radio. We are glad to have you as a member, Ron.



ARRL Letter March 6, 2009. (Excerpts)

FCC SPECIAL COUNSEL LAURA SMITH VISITS ARRL HQ

Laura Smith visited ARRL Headquarters on March 5 and 6, her first official visit as Special Counsel. Smith was named to the position earlier this year, filling the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008; Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the Commission's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>>.

Smith, a lawyer, is no stranger to the FCC or Amateur Radio. She began her legal career with the Commission, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), working with Senior System Analyst Bill Cross, W3TN; she also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith also knew Hollingsworth through her father-in-law Richard M. Smith, former Chief of the Field Operations Bureau, at the time responsible for all FCC field engineering and enforcement activities. Richard Smith led many investigations of illegal uses of the radio spectrum, including the successful apprehension of "Captain Midnight" who overrode a satellite television broadcast signal <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain_Midnight_%28HBO%29>.

Smith also served as Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET). Riley worked for my father-in-law for years," Smith said. "My father-in-law was the Chief of the Field Operations Bureau at the FCC for 25 years. So enforcement is actually something that is a long-standing family tradition. A member of my family -- the Smith family -- has worked at the FCC continuously since 1964: Myself, my husband and my father-in-law."

Calling Hollingsworth "irreplaceable," Smith said what he did for the Commission and for the amateur community was "amazing." He volunteered for that job. He stood up and said, 'I'm an amateur. I love this community and I want to give back to it.' This position needs to be filled by somebody who is interested in doing it long-term. This [job] is not a stepping stone; it's not a short term process. This wouldn't work if I were trying to be Riley. I'm not going to be Riley. We're very different people. But we both have the same goal: To make the amateur community better."

DX and the Paper Chase

The month of February was an emotional roller coaster. John Oehlenschlager, KØJO, was laid to rest and is in the hands of God, no longer suffering the pain of cancer. We learned a great deal about John and his unparalleled commitment to his community and his public service. We also learned of his unwavering devotion to his country and his 20+ years in the USN as a commissioned officer. We also learned about his love of family, his wife Kay and his devotion to God. KØJO SK—God's speed, my friend.

The world of Ham radio didn't see much in the way of Cycle 24 activity, but those of us who chase DX weren't disappointed. Openings into Europe in the mornings on 17-meters continued throughout the month along with openings into the South Pacific later in the Day. H44MS continues to be QRV from the Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal), and the ZL and VK operators were plentiful in the later afternoon hours. There was plenty of activity from Africa and the JA's were there for good DX around 6:00 PM central with unusually good signals. Desecheo went QRV a day late but they're on the air as K5D with fantastic operators and very strong signals into the upper Midwest. As of this morning 02/18/09 they've booked almost 50 thousand QSO's from around the world. This station is in the log on 15, 17 and 20 meters for this very rare opportunity to operate a remote island station that most likely will go QRT for another 10 years. On another subject, Jim Smith VK9NS is now SK. Jim was one of the world's best and most likeable DXers, and I worked Jim on many occasions from his QTH on Norfolk Island. It was Jim's call that put me over the top for my DXCC 100. Jim sent me a note of congratulations and coming from a guy that had been hamming for over 60 years was the ultimate high for me. The mailbox produced another DXCC QSL card from ZC4 land (whoopee). I probably sound like a broken record but...if you don't turn your radio on and call CQ, you'll never know what you're missing. So long from Huntersville, 73 for now and good DX from Bob/WØZPE

State Call Sign Clearly (Letter QST published March 2009—it is good advice always)

You do yourself - and others - a favor by clearly announcing your call sign when you are on the air. Yes, you know your call sign so well that you can say it twice as fast as you normally talk. That is a problem for others. Call signs should be given more slowly than regular speech so that everyone, including people you don't even know, can hear and understand.

I was listening on HF the other day. One Ham gave the other Ham's call sign clearly, and then zoomed through his own because he knew it so well. I was unable to get his call sign even though it was 59 copy otherwise. We should know better than that.

When you were first licensed, you were issued a call sign. When you first saw it, you studied it carefully drinking-in every letter and the number. You didn't race through it, because you could not...it was new to you. Definition of a call sign from a dictionary: A series of unique letters and numbers assigned to a person who has earned an Amateur Radio license.

Your call sign is a one-of-a-kind. No two are alike. You will not find it in any dictionary. It is your Amateur Radio name, but it is not a word.

The older we get the more difficult it becomes to hear. Let us all proudly announce our call signs clearly and distinctly for everyone to hear. It is a matter of courtesy and good operating practice.

Mark Persons, WØMH

M. W. Persons & Associates, Inc.

SKYWARN 2009 HAM RADIO KICKOFF MEETING

Before we know it spring 2009 will be upon us regardless of how the weather outside looks today. And, we all know the threat of severe weather, beyond ice and snow, means the possibility of tornados, heavy rains and high winds.

In keeping with our need to be ever-aware and always prepared, the National Weather Service at Duluth (NWS DLH) held its annual amateur radio Skywarn coordination meeting Saturday March 8th at the weather bureau office, also the location of KØNWS.

The meeting was conducted by Carol Christenson, KCØMAK, whose title at the weather bureau is Warning Coordination Meteorologist. She welcomed the 18 hams in attendance from various locations among the 11 counties in Minnesota and 8 counties in N.W. Wisconsin, after which she reviewed the protocols for call-out in each county as to notification persons, offices, telephones, pagers, etc.

Radio communication procedures and reporting areas were covered next with NWS DLH asking BAARC to extend our coverage beyond Crow Wing County to include southern Cass and Aitkin counties. This makes sense as severe weather often times comes from areas S.W. of Brainerd and moves east to N.E. which would involve these two counties. Likewise, the Itasca Radio Club, represented by Chuck, WDØFKQ, agreed to take the northern half of these counties as well.

Again, as last year, the need for Skywarn spotters, who can be mobile during times of severe weather and who can run APRS from their vehicles, are very welcome. This was emphasized by Doug AAØAW, who is one of the main organizers of the cadre of net control operators that staff KØNWS at the weather bureau. "Using APRS by Skywarn ham operators makes location identification so much easier for our net control operators," Doug said, "as we are not familiar with distant and remote areas where you might go to identify and report weather from." "With the GPS generated location information that comes to us, we can pinpoint where the report is coming from without the need for road or other landmark identification", he said. He also said it is quick and accurate especially when they overlay the APRS information on the weather radar information.

As in previous years the NWS folks thanked the ham radio Skywarn spotters over and over again for the work we do in giving them early, accurate and timely information about the weather in our areas. It is extremely important in our area as the weather radar images they get only begin at about 8,000 feet above the ground due to the line-of-sight of the radar signals coming from Duluth, Grand Forks, Sioux Falls, and Minneapolis-based equipment. It puts us in a "no-radar-signal area," and we all know there can be and often is much severe weather below 8,000' AGL.

In closing Carol announced that Skywarn refresher training for our area will be held on **Thursday April 16, 2009**. If it is the same as in years past, it will be held in the Crow Wing County, Services Building behind the courthouse in Brainerd, and will begin at 6:30 PM ending at about 8:30 PM. She also said that Tornado Awareness Day would be held on **Thursday April 23, 2009**. This day usually involves siren testing and special messages to the public through the media.

Remember to get a copy, if you don't already have one, of the BAARC Operating Protocol for SKYWARN if you have been trained and want to participate as a ham radio severe weather spotter. This yellow colored card gives most all of the criteria for the reporting aspect of this activity of our club.

73's, John Luce, WØWY—BAARC Coordinator of Public Service Activities



Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club MEMBERSHIP FORM



Dues Year January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2009

ARRL Affiliated

(Please print/copy this and submit one application for each person.)

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

Street Address: _____ License Class: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Additional 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 _____ (Internet saves Club money)

Amateur Radio Interests: If there is a program you would like to see at an upcoming meeting, please indicate the topic and possible presenter.

The goal is to make Club meetings fun and informative.

Check one: \$20 Full Membership _____ \$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.

Membership Dues \$ _____

Voluntary Contribution \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to BAARC. The club is a 501C3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.
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Mail to: John Myers, W3MQD
(BAARC Treasurer), W3MQD
(BAARC Treasurer)
34570 Beaver Trail,
34570 Beaver Trail,
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

3/01/09	Doug	KDØERE
3/08/09	Lyle	KØLFV
3/15/09	Skee	WØDCY
3/22/09	Steve	KCØYTE
3/29/09	Tom	KØHHF
4/05/09	Lyle	KØLR
4/12/09	Pat	WØETY
4/19/09	Dick	WØECJ
4/26/09	John	KBØNMN

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

Note from the Editor: I want to print as many pix as possible, but we had a problem with the January copy. February went fine—no jam-up on the Internet. In the future we hope to iron out the bugs. Photos this issue by WØKO.

REMINDER: THIS IS THE LAST MONTH YOU WILL SEE THE DUES FORM: Please pay your dues, so John W3MQD can save time with that job, Thanks to those who have done this. Check your label or check with John at < johnm@uslink.net >

Congratulations to Mark WØMH for getting a letter published in this month's OST recommending hams identify their call signs clearly. This is must. In doing so, many of us also recommend using the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) in their voice communications. See p.5.

Congratulations on License Upgrades in February: Scott KDØFMK, Jim KBØLYP, and Linda KCØGVZ all are now GENERAL CLASS hams. We proudly salute them!!!!

The BAARC has received a thank-you note from the **Oehlenschlagers.**

PROGRAM IDEAS NEEDED!? Send them on to **Al** at <w0rc@arrl.net> or at **Steve** >Steve.Mott@landisgyr.com>

United We Stand



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Address Correction Requested

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