



# The BAARCer



October 2009

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

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

**OFFICERS**

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**Vice President + WWW**

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**Trustee + BAARCer**

**Editor:**

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

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**Scott Heide, Crow Wing County PSAP Supervisor (l) with EC for the County John Luce, WØWY (r).**



After being introduced by John, Scott informed the BAARC members of the County's plans to implement the 7-800 Mhz system which may cost nearly \$5.5 million and will upgrade the communications capabilities of all the services in the area. The present system is ineffective, outdated, and costly. The new project called ARMER (Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response) will remedy the shortcomings associated with the old systems.

**— Events Calendar —**

**Sat., Oct. 3, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.**  
**Sat., Oct. 17, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.**  
**Thurs., Oct. 29—Board Mtg. @ 4 and Membership Mtg. @ 7 p.m. Brd. Fire Hall: Program on Good Grounding Techniques by Pat Goff of Crow Wing Power**  
**Sat., Oct. 31, Goblin Watch. Details on the Sunday Evening Net.**  
**Watch for Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Announcements.**  
**Election: Ballot will be in November BAARCer**  
**CLUB BREAKFASTS ARE ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SAT. OF MO.**  
**ACTIVITY UPDATES ON THE SUNDAY EVENING NETS**  
**HAM RADIO CLASSES COMING UP—CONTACT AL WØRC-see P. 7**

## **September 24, 2009 - 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes – Brainerd Fire Station**

President Al WØRC opened the meeting with Vice President Steve KCØYTE, Shirley KØDCW, John WØWY, Lyle KØLFV, Terry KIØFW, Treasurer John W3MQD, Charles W5CCL, Curt NØCRM, and Secretary Darrell ABØVP in attendance. Previous Membership meeting minutes and the Financial Report closing July 31<sup>st</sup> were approved by all, following a motion by John WØWY and second by John W3MQD. The Treasurer's Report dated 8/31/09 was unanimously approved after a motion by Lyle KØLFV and second by Terry KIØFW—including keeping \$1500 cash available in the Hamfest account with the remainder to be transferred to the general account.

Cuyuna Bike Tour — Steve KCØYTE was commended for computer templates useable for many projects.

Motion by John WØWY to reimburse \$225 for work on the Wadena water tower APRS node including new feed-line, parts, and software for one year; second by Lyle KØLFV; approved by all. Terry KIØFW moved the approval of the LogMeIn.com software for one year for use by any member of BAARC, second by John W3MQD, approved by all.

Al WØRC led a discussion of Digital and Emergency Communication Activities:

Brainerd APRS (I-Gate) High Rise. Motion to reimburse \$80 for computer repairs by Terry KIØFW, second by John W3MQD, and approval by all.

Tag and mark equipment and antennas at High Rise – done by Al WØRC and John WØWY.

Gull Lake tower antenna installation – Al WØRC explained details of the installation.

Court House EOC antenna – Al WØRC & Lyle KØLFV installed inverted trap dipole this afternoon.

Portable repeater. Conversion will be to 444.925. Work to be handled by Roger WØWUG.

Headphones for Hospitals and Health Departments – this is a site problem to be solved on an individual basis—low cost items. SET Emergency Emcomm Exercise Oct 3, 4, 2009.

Mille Lacs Band 150' Water Tower – St. Cloud Radio Club will install a new repeater.

BAARC Insurance on equipment – due Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> – replacement vs. used value vs. self-insurance was discussed – motion by Al WØRC to continue on present basis for one year – second by Lyle KØLFV – approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM – motion: Lyle KØLFV – second: John W3MQD.

## **September 24, 2009 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Minutes – Brainerd Fire Station**

President Al WØRC opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with twenty Hams and two guests in attendance. Previous meeting minutes as published in the BAARCer were approved by all following a motion by Fritz WØKO that was seconded by John W3MQD. Treasurer John W3MQD presented a Year-to-Date Financial Report dated 8/31/09 that was approved by all – motion: Lyle KØLFV – second: Skee WØDCY. President Al WØRC reviewed items from the Board meeting as shown above.

Club Officer Election – Lyle KØLFV circulated a sheet for those interested running for office to sign to be put on the ballot – votes can be by e-mail – results to tabulated and announced at the November membership meeting.

Membership Meeting Programs:

- October – Grounding Techniques – Pat Goff, Crow Wing Power
- November – 2009 Year in Review

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. – 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>

**THE FREQUENTLY USED TERM "Hi Hi."** Steve KCØYTE and many others were wondering where/how the term "Hi Hi" came to be. We hear it often on phone/voice communication in ham radio. It is also used on CW. It has never really made any sense to many from the phone operators' point of view. So in the spirit of the new technology age Steve "Googled" it and came up with a nice little blurb on the background of "Hi Hi."

**hi hi - ha ha (laughter)**

"hi hi" is the Morse equivalent of a laugh as in Morse it sounds like someone chuckling ("hehhehhehheh hehheh"). That is ditditditdit dit dit --- or dot dot dot dot dot dot. You really have to listen to it sent in Morse to appreciate its laugh-like sound. It is most commonly used in CW (Morse Code) but has carried over to voice as well. Many CW expressions have carried over to voice -- such as 73 (Best Regards) and 88 (love and Kisses), etc. The origin probably dates back to before radio to the telegraph days. And since Hams used Morse long before voice became practical, the sound of the Morse characters HI HI was used to resemble a laugh sound. In some sense it is equivalent to a smiley. It's onomatopoeic--that is, the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as *buzz*, *hiss*). The definitive answer might be found in the "Dodge's The Telegraph Instructor Manual" circa 1850 to 1900. ( It would be interesting to see its transition from code to voice—if only one were able to locate a copy of the aforementioned text). Thanks for looking it up for us, Steve. KCØYTE suggests you check it all out yourself on <http://www.ac6v.com/jargon.htm>

**WHAT DOES THE CW ABBREVIATION "DE" STAND FOR AND WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?** That question and discussion came up at the last breakfast. Alan AAØAS suggested Fritz look into it. Well, he did, but did not come up with a satisfying answer. We do know that "de" in the Romance languages means "from." So that would be a short designator indicating the sending station: For example on CW, Fritz would call Alan this way—"AAØAS de WØKO." That would mean "AAØAS from WØKO." We hams extend the meaning of "de" also to "by" to shorten things up in print. However, even after e-mailing Ward Silver, NØAX of ARRL and QST fame, we are not any closer to the origin of the "de." Ward was puzzled as well and guessed that there must be some early telegraphy use that carried over from the railroad application of Continental Morse code to our ham CW use of International Morse Code, as it is often referred to. The search goes on. Your assignment is to find out the origin of "de." There will not be a test on it. Hi!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Condolences** to **Tom Saari, KAØTMU**, who lost his brother and shortly thereafter his mother. The BAARC extends its heartfelt sympathy to him and the family. A card has been sent.

# Photos of the Cuyuna Bike Tour Taken by John WØWY.



Pictured are some of our volunteers along with a few of the participants in the annual ride in the Lakes Area. See the next page for all the details of the entire operation and list of Club participants. Our thanks to all who made this event another success.

## Report of BAARC's Role in the Cuyuna Bicycle Tour September 12, 2009—by Steve KCØYTE and Lyle KØLFV

### **Many members of the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club came out early on a very foggy Saturday morning to represent our Club and provide support for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of Cuyuna.**

**The Set-Up:** The morning was off to an early start for Charles W5CCL and Lyle KØLFV, who were busy well before 7:00 AM to set up a command post at the Deerstand Bar and Restaurant in Crosby. They used Charles' communications trailer and represented the BAARC with a banner and information about the Club. At the same time several miles to the west, John WØWY and Steve KCØYTE were setting up the Club's main ECOMM trailer on top of the hill on the Cuyuna Overlook. They were soon joined in set-up duties by Alan AAØAS. As always, each event presents its own set of issues. One encountered was a stuck float on the carburetor of the generator and subsequently a fuel-saturated air filter. But as always, the spirit of Ham radio prevailed and the generator was soon purring and ready for a day's work. Al WØRC came to the ECOMM trailer after dropping Shirley KØDCW off for her SAG Wagon #1 duties and helped set up the Club's laptop and APRS tracking system.

**The Tour:** This year's tour provided a 35-mile (short route) and a 75-mile (long route), with 2 rest stops on the short route and 4 rest stops on the long route. Operator assignments were handed out ahead of time and all volunteers were at their designated duty stations ahead of schedule (Hmm, imagine that; a HAM not this prepared...I don't think so!). Throughout the event we had a total of 15 volunteers for the day's activities. Due to the early mechanical problems Net Control activities started in earnest at approximately 7:59 AM, but the command post at the Deerstand was able to cover until we were up and running. The first bike was reported to Net Control by Rest Stop #1 at 8:07 AM. Some 35 riders took the long tour and 42 riders took the short one.

**The Mystery:** The mysterious Kelley-1, who is Kelly-1? Everyone wants to know who this Kelly-1 is on APRS. This mysterious Kelly-1 was showing up at a fixed location, and this fixed location just so happened to be the same location as Rest Stop #1. Since SAG2 (WØWY) had arrived at Rest Stop 1, we asked him to look for a vehicle with an antenna and find out who Kelly is. Within minutes a report came back that the mysterious Kelly-1 was, in fact, Alan AAØAS. Mystery solved.

**SAG Wagons and Rovers:** SAG Wagon #1 was Shirley KØDCW, and SAG Wagon #2 was John WØWY. Rovers were Alan AAØAS and Steve WØTNT. There was not a lot of need for SAG wagons, but nonetheless, they were certainly appreciated when they were needed. For instance, John WØWY had to transport one rider who was nearly to Aitkin on the long route and bring him and bike back to Crosby.

**Other Operator Assignments:** Judy Velser (New BAARC Member) helped Steve WØTNT monitor the intersection where the long and short routes separated. Dave KBØWGO and Alan AAØAS monitored Rest Stop #1, which was located on the short route. Jim WØJDS, Bill (No Call Sign Yet) and Ron KDØGOP handled the traffic at the second rest stop on the short route. Curt NØCRM and Terry KIØFW worked Rest Stop #3, which was located in Aitkin with Terry later in the event handling the duties of Rest Stop #4, which was the last one on the long route. Doug KDØERE also offered to help and was only a phone call away if needed. As the bike-tour traffic cleared a monitored area, operators were able to move around and fill in at other needed locations.

**Extras Who Showed up for Duty:** Al WØRC and Steve WØTNT, and Bill, a friend of WØJDS.

**Visitors to the Club Trailer:** During the Bike Tour Operations we had several visitors to the Club Trailer and they were very impressed with our unit. One gentleman was looking into this hobby many years ago and seemed very interested--so this event may have sparked him into studying again for the tests. He and his wife may even participate in a future Bike Tour and indicated that they can see the value of having a Ham radio group with an event like this.

**Special Thanks:** As co-chairs of this event, John WØWY and Steve KCØYTE extend a special thanks to Lyle KØLFV for gathering all of the information about the Tour so it could be organized.



## **DX and the Paper Chase**

My last column pointed out that we were at the end of August and I was wondering where the summer had gone. Here we are at (almost) the end of September and it's 80° out there and I'm wondering, what's going on? Never fear, the snow is going to fly sooner or later. Now to the important items: first, we're still embroiled in a deep solar minimum and the longer it goes on the bleaker it's beginning to look. All of the so-called sun pundits are at a loss to explain the minimum in the same terms, meaning that each one has his/her own theory. Has this shut down DX? Absolutely not. If you were on HF over the long Labor Day weekend, you were able to work the world and I mean every corner of the globe. I did most of my DXing on 20-meters until late in the afternoon (6:00PM Central) when I worked a JA with a terrific signal that prompted me to go up to 17-meters where the Japanese operators like to work. I was not disappointed, after only one CQ I made my first JA contact on 17, and from there on I had a mini-pileup going on my call. I logged 13 JA's before the band began its regular afternoon dance, and I announced I was going QRT. Glorioso Island (FT5/FR) is QRV for another week or so, and this is a DXCC entity. So far I've been able to hear them, but I don't have the propagation to work their weak signals. My QSL card from Lord Howe Island did not arrive this month, which leaves me to believe that my call was busted. Those stations I've worked that worked (VK9) tell me that their cards have arrived. Oh well, it happens. I'm continuing to enjoy my new rig (FT-450), making each session at my station an adventure. I studied the operator's manual diligently prior to going on the air, and, believe me, it has paid off. In closing this month's column I would like to remind all of you to sit down at your station and call CQ because someone somewhere is listening for your call. So don't disappoint them! So long from Huntersville, 73 and good DX from Bob/WØZPE

### **NEWS FROM THE ARRL**

**ALPHA:** Change is in the wind at [Alpha Radio Products](#) as a newly-formed [RF Concepts, LLC](#), has acquired Alpha and all its products as of September 2009. The entire product line will continue to be manufactured in Boulder, CO. Alpha will continue to be available at the same phone number. Extra efforts are being made to reduce the backlog of orders and maintain inventory for off-the-shelf shipping. This is very good news for Alpha customers - past, present, and future! It's interesting to note that 11 years ago, this headline was an item in the ARRL News: "[Alpha/Power Buys RFconcepts](#)". Obviously, not the same company, but somewhat recursive, nonetheless. (Thanks, Rich KL7RA and Bob N6TV)

### **WORD TO THE WISE**

Cloudburner - You've heard the term "NVIS" probably, referring to the use of high-angle signals to provide regional coverage on the lower HF bands. Before it got a snazzy FLA (four-letter acronym), an NVIS antenna was called a "cloudburner" and is still part of every domestic contester's aluminum arsenal. High-angle signals from low dipoles on 14 MHz and lower frequencies allow you to maximize short-skip QSOs. When sunspots are low and 40 and 80 meters hot, putting up a cloudburner to complement your low-angle DXing antenna is a good strategy.

### **OPERATING TIP**

Turn it down! By turning down your receiver's gain, you'll accomplish three things. First, your ears will love you for it. Excessive audio levels leads to hearing loss, eventually. (What?) Second, your receiver will be far less susceptible to overload that creates distortion and spurious products all over the band. Third, by reducing gain, band noise will be amplified less, making the band sound quieter. All three of these things reduce operator fatigue and improve copy of signals on a crowded band. The result? Bigger scores!

# Transmitting Communications for Public Service Projects and Personal Matters, New FCC Rules?---- compiled by Roger WØWUG --(BAARC editor's

note: Some of the text here has been heavily redacted by WØKO from information provided from the QRZ.com website and written by K7FE)

Roger did some checking because there had been some misleading information about what hams can and cannot do. The short answer is yes. The FCC does allow amateur radio operations while the hams are employees—on duty—with some clarifications.



### In "disaster relief" situations for example:

1. An employee of the Red Cross could use the amateur service to transmit health and welfare message on behalf of individuals who have been relocated to a shelter -- but not messages on behalf of the Red Cross.
2. A police officer could use an amateur station to call a tow truck on behalf of a disabled motorist if he or she so chose-but not for official police communications.
3. A Domino's pizza delivery employees could use an amateur station to make a phone patch reporting a house on fire or an accident, even if they had a cell phone in their pockets, but not to take orders or coordinate delivery on behalf of the Domino's store.

Fact: The rules regarding this (Section 97.113) was amended to its current form over 15 years ago; it is not new nor has anything with regard to its interpretation recently changed. Recent discussions in amateur radio circles act as if the FCC has a new rule or interpretation and that is simply not true.

Here is what the FCC has said in the past:

In 1993...the Commission concurred with the commenters stating that, “[t]he capabilities of modern mobile communication services have all but eliminated the incentive to use the amateur service instead of those services. We will relax, therefore, the current prohibition, as proposed, to provide amateur operators greater flexibility for public service and personal communications.”

The Commission further stated, “Rather, we will rely on the amateur service’s traditions of self-regulation and cooperation between licensees, the corner-stones of the amateur service, to determine whether specific communications should be transmitted on amateur service frequencies.”

In 1999, the Bureau explained that Section 97.113 allows “amateur radio stations to transmit any amateur-station-to-station communication unless it is specifically prohibited; transmitted for compensation; done for the pecuniary benefit of the station control operator; done for the pecuniary benefit of the station control operator’s employer; or communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be furnished by other radio services.”

The 1999 Bureau Order is entirely consistent with the rule. That Order addressed a question as to whether an amateur radio operator may use an amateur radio station to transmit messages "while in a paid duty status" and did not address “communications on behalf of an employer.”

Whether or not this is an appropriate use of company time is an entirely different matter and one that needs to be addressed between the employee and his employer; but certainly is not a violation of Commission rules. Thus it is allowed!

In another response to questions, it is clear that there are no hidden meanings. Follow the FCC rules as written and you may continue to provide emergency communications on amateur radio bands..... even from your workplace.

The latest from ARRL and WØWUG: (10-1-09— From the ARRL Board— [The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks, The Issues](#), the document offers guidelines to assist radio amateurs and anyone wishing to utilize the capabilities of Amateur Radio in understanding the FCC Rules that prohibit communications in which the amateur has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer.

For more information without redacted sections, go to [http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL\\_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf) and <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=218729> . Out thanks to Roger for keeping us informed on this issue. More is certain to come.

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**Ham Radio Licensing Classes Coming Up: Of course, it depends on interest. One class for Tech and another for Upgrade. Tentatively, one will be in Staples; another in Brainerd. Please express your interest to Al WØRC <w0rc "at" arrl.net> Books need to be ordered.**

**SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS**

10/04/09	Ron	KDØGOP
10/11/09	Wynn	KA3DQN
10/18/09	Mike	NØGAU
10/25/09	Skee	WØDCY
11/01/09	Doug	KDØERE
11/08/09	Bob	WØZPE
11/15/09	Becky	KDØHBH
11/22/09	Jeff	KDØHBI
11/29/09	Darrell	ABØVP

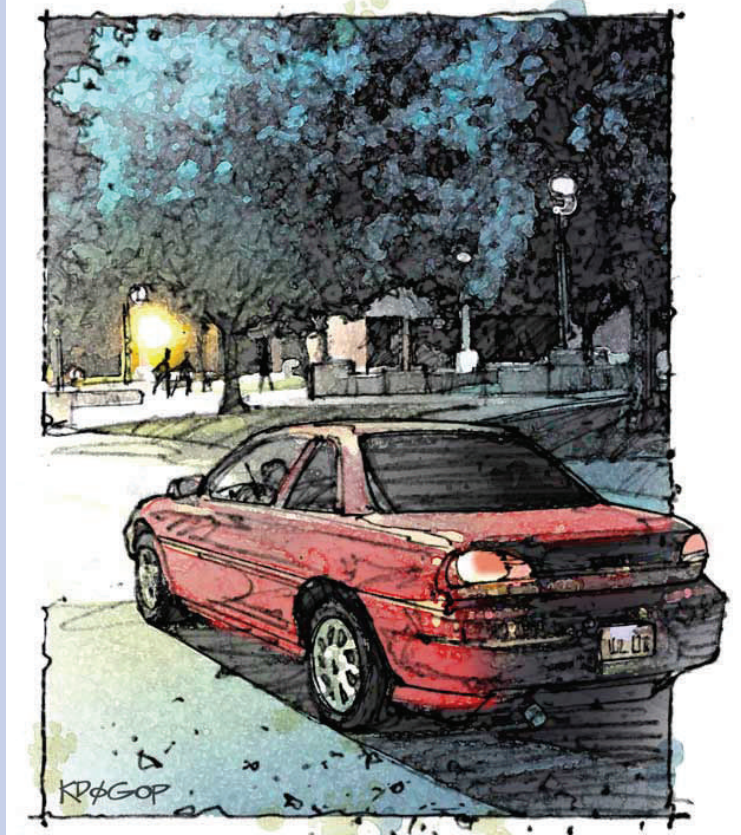
Can't make the schedule? Find a substitute operator. BAARC Sunday Night Net Control Coordinator is Fritz WØKO. To volunteer: w0ko "at" arrl.net



BAARC, Inc.  
Ham Radio at its best in the Lakes Area  
Affiliated with the ARRL

Find us on the Web:  
<http://www.brainerdham.org>

**Goblin Patrol on Duty—BAARC + Halloween**



Our thanks to Ron Finger for supplying his commercial artist's talents to our pages.

**United We Stand**



**First Class Mail**  
Address Correction Requested

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