



The BAARCer



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

OFFICERS

President:

Al Doree **WØRC**

Vice President + WWW

Editor:

Steven Mott **KCØYTE**

Secretary:

Darrell Schneider **ABØVP**

Treasurer:

John Myers **W3MQD**

Director-At-Large:

Roger Williams **WØWUG**

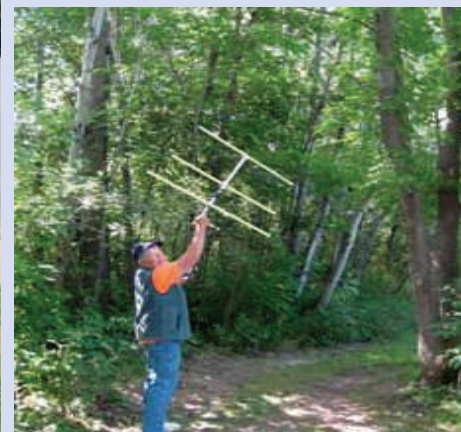
Trustee + BAARCer

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

Index

Meeting Minutes	2
Club News + For SALE—by KØLFV	3
WØZPE-DX + ARRL News	4
Club Project—High Rise-Photos and Rpt.	5
WØUGV-SK—Obit.& Triathlon Report	6
ARRL News-Picnic + Fox Hunt by KIØFW	7
Cartoon Art by Ron, KDØGOP + NCS	8



Photos from the Picnic and Fox Hunt.

Group photo by Lyle KØLFV and bottom photos by Lyle KØLR. See the write-up by Terry KIØFW and Lyle KØLFV in this BAARCer page 7. Kathy KØTHY has apparently treed a mini-fox. ALL HAD FUN!

— Events Calendar —

Sat., September 5—Club Breakfast @ Northwind Grille @ 9 a.m.
Sat., September 12—Cuyuna Bike Tour—more details on Sun. Net
Sat., September 19—Club Breakfast @ Northwind Grille @ 9 a.m.
Thurs., September 24—Board @ 4 and Membership Mtg. @ 7 Brd. Fire Hall
 Program on “ARMER” by Scott Heide, C.W. County Communication’s Supervisor
Thurs., Oct. 29—Board @ 4 and Membership Mtg. @ 7 p.m. Brd. Fire Hall:
Program on Good Grounding Techniques by Pat Goff of Crow Wing Power
Election Coming Up. Please Volunteer for an Office. Contact Any Officer.
CLUB BREAKFASTS ARE ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SAT. OF MO.
ACTIVITY UPDATES ON THE SUNDAY EVENING NETS

July 30, 2009 - 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes – Brainerd Fire Station

President Al WØRC opened the meeting with Past President Lyle KØLFV, John WØWY, Terry KIØFW, Fritz WØKO, and Secretary Darrell ABØVP in attendance. Previous meeting minutes have been/will be published in the BAARCer.

Members of the Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report prepared by John W3MQD and Hamfest results:

- Hamfest was successful showing a good profit to the Club —after all bills were paid (See W3MQD for the amount).
- Paid Attendance – 181 tickets were sold – 338 raffle tickets were sold.
- Good sales at the tables including the BAARC tables.
- The Armory was reserved for July 17th for next year.
- BAARC gets a favorable cost consideration due to our Public Service activities.
- There were discussions of ways to cut costs and charting of terms for the raffle drawings.
-

The Treasurer's Report dated 6/30/09 was unanimously approved after a motion by Lyle KØLFV and second by John WØWY.

Upcoming BAARC events and activities:

- August 29th Saturday - Picnic/Fox Hunt/Membership Meeting – 10:00 am – Lum Park.
- Sept. Membership Mtg. Program – Scott Heide, Crow Wing County – “ARMER” system.
- Oct. Membership Mtg. Program – Pat Goff, Crow Wing Power – Grounding Systems.
- August 23rd – Baxter Triathlon – Lyle KØLFV will send an e-mail on this.
- Sept. 12th Cuyuna Bike Tour – Steve KCØYTE will Co-chair with John WØWY with the start and finish at the Deerstand.

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

- Brainerd APRS (I-Gate) High Rise - Now in operation and working well.
- Tag and mark equipment and antennas at High Rise – in the next month.
- Gull Lake tower antenna installation – waiting for availability of a tower worker.
- Court House EOC antenna – will acquire and activate soon.
- Portable Repeater – UHF Freq. much smaller & simpler for non-continuous use.
- Headphones are needed for hospitals and health departments to limit disturbance.

Club Officer nominating committee: Need candidates by the end of September for a ballot to be in the October BAARCer.

It is recommended that the New Board develop a Long-Range Plan that includes:

- An Annual Calendar of Events defining programs and emergency work for getting volunteers early.
- Membership Committee Chair – recruiting – retaining – training of new members.
- ARES – organize activities – have a director.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM – motion: Al WØRC – second: Lyle KØLFV.

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>

FOR SALE

**Our local Radio Club (BAARC) is helping some of the local Hams in the Brainerd Lakes Area sell their equipment and the following is a list of items that are for sale at this time. If you are interested, please contact me for details and pricing. Thank you—Lyle KØLFV
Phone 218.765.3100 Email: amundson@brainerd.net**

Yaesu FT-757GX 160-10M HF Transceiver
Yaesu FT-897D 160-6M & 2M+440 HF Transceiver (NIB)
ICOM IC-756 160 - 6M HF Transceiver
ICOM IC-271A 2M All-Mode Base Transceiver
Standard 2M FM Xtal Transceiver
Radio Shack PRO-2044 Scanner
Uniden Bearcat BC-170 Scanner
Ameritron ALS-600S Linear Amplifier with Switching P/S
Ameritron ARB-704 Relay Box
MFJ-267 1500W Dry Dummy Load with SWR/Watt Meter
MFJ-260C Dummy Load 300W
MFJ-422 Keyer with Bencher Paddle Combo
Yaesu FT-227R Speaker Phone Patch
Radio Shack 10A 12VDC Power Supply
Realistic Nova 10 Earphones
TomTom One GPS Car GPS Navigation
CDE TR44 Rotor with Control Box
Archer in-line coax surge protector
Cushcraft A3S 3 Element Tri-Band Beam
Cushcraft A743/A744 30M or 40M Add on Kit for the A3S
Hy-Gain Explorer 14 3-Element Tri-Band Beam
Carolina Windom HF Dipole Antenna with Lead in (40-10M)
Cushcraft ARX-2 2M Vertical
ProAm by Valor 6M Mobile Antenna
Diamond X-50A Dual-Band Vertical
Spider Portable/Mobile Antenna (HF) (80,20,15,10M)
Misc VHF UHF Mag Mount Antennas
Ham Stick for 75M (no mount)

de Lyle KØLFV

DX and the Paper Chase

Here we are in the middle of August with fall right around the corner...where has the summer gone? Speaking of which, when are we going to get out of this solar minimum we're stuck in. Since 2004 we've had 691 spotless days on the sun with the typical being 485. This, of course, has affected the quality of DX as the bands continue to struggle. Does this mean that there is no DX out there? Absolutely not...there's good DX if you're willing to chase it. This station worked Europe, Asia, Africa and several stations in the Caribbean this past month. I keep my shack laptop connected to a DX spotting website that is a good resource for DXers. I also cruise the bands looking for pileups, and, most importantly, I call CQ. There was good news at the mailbox this month with a QSL card from Central Africa Republic (TLØ) that puts me another card closer to my goal of DXCC 300. I have to mention my new rig. I'm having a blast operating my new FT 450 as I learn all of the bells and whistles that enhance the experience of HF radio for me. The buffer control is still on backorder preventing me from operating with my linear, but I'm amazed how well one can do when operating barefoot even to the point of busting pileups. Patience and more patience is a good starting point for DX operators to learn. In closing for this month, I would remind all of you HF operators to sit down at your station and call CQ. There is someone out there someplace in this world waiting to answer your call. So long from Huntersville, 73 and good DX from **Bob/WØZPE**

~~~~~  
**From the 8-7-09 ARRL Letter: MFJ Acquires Cushcraft:** According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. "We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc.

### **ARLB028 Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10:**

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10-year term.

### **From the ARRL Letter (Aug. 20): It's Hurricane Season Again**

**The HWN (Hurricane Watch Net) -- operating on 14.325 MHz -- relays real-time weather observations to WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>> at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>>.**

**"We want all of our reporting stations, especially those closer to the US, to keep in mind that we're also prepared to operate the HWN on 7.168 MHz or 3.668 MHz," Lefavour explained. "If propagation is such that we cannot maintain contact with reporting stations on 14.325 MHz, we'll open a Net on one or the other of those frequencies. Plans are to try 40 meters first, with 80 meters as our last choice of bands." (This, of course, means that unless you can offer some help, do not transmit on those frequencies. Instead, listen to the way they operate and handle messages. It's fun. For our area, depending on the time of day and conditions, the 20-meter frequency is perhaps the best one.—de WØKO)**

**The Sunspot Cycle News---from the ARRL:** This minimum is similar to the one prior to Cycle 19 (the big one) and earlier cycles, rather than more recent cycles after 19. Currently we have had 48 continuous days of zero sunspots. One observer said if this continues for the next couple of days, it will be the only cycle minimum since 1855 with two greater than 50 day runs of zero spots. Back then it was the transition to Cycle 10. It is happening right now, and it happened in 2008 also. He notes, "There is still DX to be worked. You just have to be very patient. **Also from the ARRL:** The current space shuttle has three hams aboard: Jose Hernandez, KE5DAV; Nicole Stott, KE5GJN; and Christer Fuglesang, SA0AFS/KE5CGR.

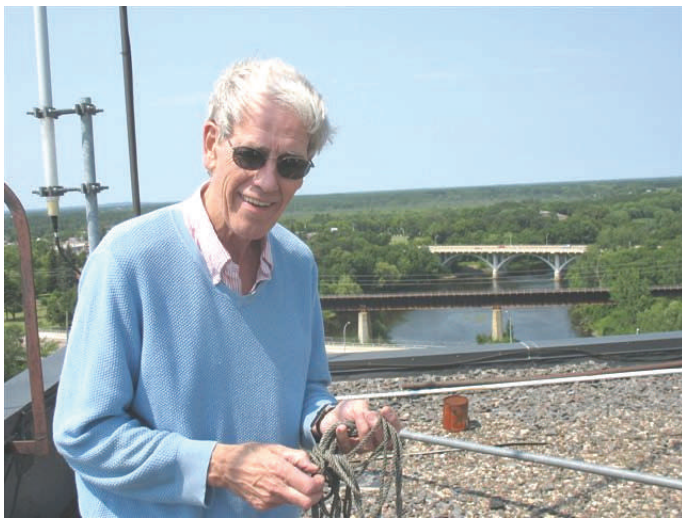
## Antenna Party on 8-3-09 at the Brainerd HRA High Rise Antenna Site (Info and Photos by WØWY):

Al WØRC and John WØWY are shown on the tower moving and relocating the broadband antenna link belonging to Brainerd Public Schools. They are doing this to help with the management of the site and to accommodate an expansion of the AT&T cellular equipment, an upgrade to 4G status.



Roger WØWUG is servicing the 6-meter club repeater in the “penthouse” of the building.

Lyle KØLFV and Steve WØTNT were the extra “pairs of hands“ doing much of the "ground work," leg work etc., to help the rest . The cabinet between Lyle and Roger is the new club APRS I-gate station put up there by Al to provide connections from 144.390 to the Internet. Thanks, Guys, for all your work for the BAARC.



Lyle KØLFV—High! Hi!

Professor Roger (ret.)—WØWUG, but still working!



(L-R) Steve WØTNT, Lyle KØLFV, and Roger WØWUG inside the Penthouse.



Really High!! John WØWY on left and Al WØRC on right.



**WØUGV-SK :** Marty was a former member of the BAARC when he lived in the Brainerd Lakes Area. He was a great guy. Most of the following information from the Star Tribune with some additions and editing by WØKO.

**McGowan, Martin J., Jr.**, long-time Minnesota newspaper publisher, former legislator, age 88, of St. Paul, passed away on August 13, 2009, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis after a short illness. Mr. McGowan was born Oct. 28, 1920, at Appleton, MN. He was graduated from Appleton High School in 1938, the University of Notre Dame and the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1942. Following college graduation, he joined his father on the staff of the Appleton Press, and later upon his father's retirement became editor and publisher of the Press until the paper was sold in 1965, at which time the Press had been owned and operated by the McGowan family for over 51 years. Mr. McGowan was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1958 and represented Swift County in the Legislature until 1967, serving as secretary of the Liberal (DFL) caucus for his last 4 years. He served on the State Ethical Practices Board for six years during the Perpich administration including two terms as Board Chairman. After the sale of the Appleton Press, Mr. McGowan moved his family to St. Paul where he joined KTCA-TV as a coordinator of special projects which involved lobbying at the State Capitol and in Washington, D.C., grant writing, and on-air moderating of a senior citizens' program entitled "Seminars for Seniors." He later owned and published newspapers in Blue Earth, Winnebago, and Elmore, Minnesota, and New Richmond, Wisconsin, served as the public relations director at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, and as an account representative for Volkmuth Printers in St. Cloud. McGowan served on the board of the Minnesota Newspaper Association, the Minnesota Press Club and Sigma Delta Chi, the journalistic society. In retirement Mr. and Mrs. McGowan spent a major portion of their years at a home on Pelican Lake north of Brainerd where Mr. McGowan continued to indulge his passion for news writing by covering the Crow Wing County Board meetings for the Lake Region Echo in Pequot Lakes. In 2001 the McGowans moved to the Lyngblomsten Senior complex in St. Paul where Mr. McGowan lived at the time of his death. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" of St. Paul; and 8 children and their families. Funeral services were held August 19, 2009, Burial was in the McGowan family plot at the Appleton Minnesota City Cemetery at 1:30 PM on August 20, 2009. **P.S. We, the members of the BAARC, have sent our condolences to the family.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **LAKES COUNTRY TRIATHLON EVENT A SUCCESS:**

Once again the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club provided communications for the Annual Lakes Country Triathlon on Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The center of activity included the start and finish at Whipple Beach in Baxter. The Triathlon started with a 1/2-mile swim in Whipple Lake, then switched to a 17-mile bike ride through the rolling hills surrounding the Brainerd Lakes Area and ended with a four-mile run through a nearby residential area. Members of BAARC monitored the bike and running courses with Net Control persons keeping close to the Triathlon Coordinator to pass on participants' status and to report any problems encountered.

**A special thanks to the following BAARC members and organizers:** Terry KIØFW and Ron KDØGOP, who handled the Net Control responsibilities; Lyle KØLFV, Wynn KA3DQN, Alan AAØAS, Charles W5CCL, George WDØHXR and Steve KCØYTE for monitoring the different points along the Bike and Running Courses.

Clearly, it was a job well done by everyone! Brad Pickle, the director of the Triathlon, expressed appreciation to the Club members who helped with this event. **de Lyle KØLFV**

## **ARRL PRESIDENT HARRISON PRESENTS LEAGUE'S VIEWS ON DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS TO SAFETY ADVOCACY GROUP -Aug.**

### **14: (condensed by WØKO)**

To ensure that Amateur Radio is not an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written a letter to the National Safety Council (NSC) <<http://www.nsc.org/>>, highlighting issues regarding the use of Amateur Radio emergency communications devices in vehicles

<[http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC\\_Letter7-30-09.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf)>. Many states have outlawed the use of cell phones while driving; some states with these laws have ambiguous wording (such as "mobile communication devices" or "mobile electronic devices") concerning the use of Amateur Radio while driving.

Harrison explained to NSC President Janet Froetscher : "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, it boils down to the difference between simplex -- when only one message can be sent in either direction at one time -- and duplex -- a communications mode, such as a telephone system, that provides simultaneous transmission and reception in both directions. Harrison, citing Sumner's 40-plus years of experience as an Amateur Radio operator, puts it this way: "**Simplex, two-way radio operation is simply different than duplex, cell phone use. Two-way radio operation in moving vehicles has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that.**"

### **Sat., August 29th, BAARC Annual Picnic and Fox Hunt at Lum Park in Brainerd**

*We had a reasonably good turnout for the mini-fox and geocache hunt this year at Lum Park. The hunts preceded our annual late-summer picnic. The weather was dry and mostly sunny, but the air temps were cool, and there was a brisk wind off Rice Lake. Approximately a dozen people participated, both BAARC members, and non-hams. The Lum Park area is not very large, and there is a lack of underbrush, making hiding of the mini-fox transmitters and geocaches a challenge.*

*Two different transmitters were used. The winner of the mini-fox transmitter hunt was Kathy (KAØTHY), second was Lyle (KØLR), and third was Charles (W5CCL). Other hams were successful in the transmitter hunt as well. And many participated in the geocache activity and did very well also. It seemed that the biggest issue for those participating in the transmitter hunt was being able to attenuate the radio signals sufficiently to home in on the transmitters, despite the fact that these were operating at very low wattages (microwatts).—de Terry KIØFW*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Saturday was a cold and windy day, so we moved some picnic tables next to the swim building to shelter us from the wind. But we had fun anyway.** Here is a list of people who attended the Fox Hunt & Picnic: Lyle KØLR, Kathy KØTHY, Lyle KØLFV & Marilyn (spouse), Tom NØVFM (Lyle and Marilyn's son) & Tom's kids—Corbin & Katie, Doug KDØERE (his son?), Charles W5CCL, Skee WØDCY, Darrell ABØVP, Terry KIØFW, Judy Velsler (New BAARC member working on her Tech license), Ron KDØGOP & spouse Jan.—**de Lyle KØLFV**

**See pictures taken by KØLFV and KØLR on page 1.**

**SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS**

|          |         |        |
|----------|---------|--------|
| 9/06/09  | Joe     | KBØVYJ |
| 9/13/09  | Steve   | WØTNT  |
| 9/20/09  | Charles | W5CCL  |
| 9/27/09  | Marcia  | WØZMC  |
| 10/04/09 | Ron     | KDØGOP |
| 10/11/09 | Mike    | NØGAU  |
| 10/18/09 | Gary    | KØPOW  |
| 10/25/09 | Skee    | WØDCY  |

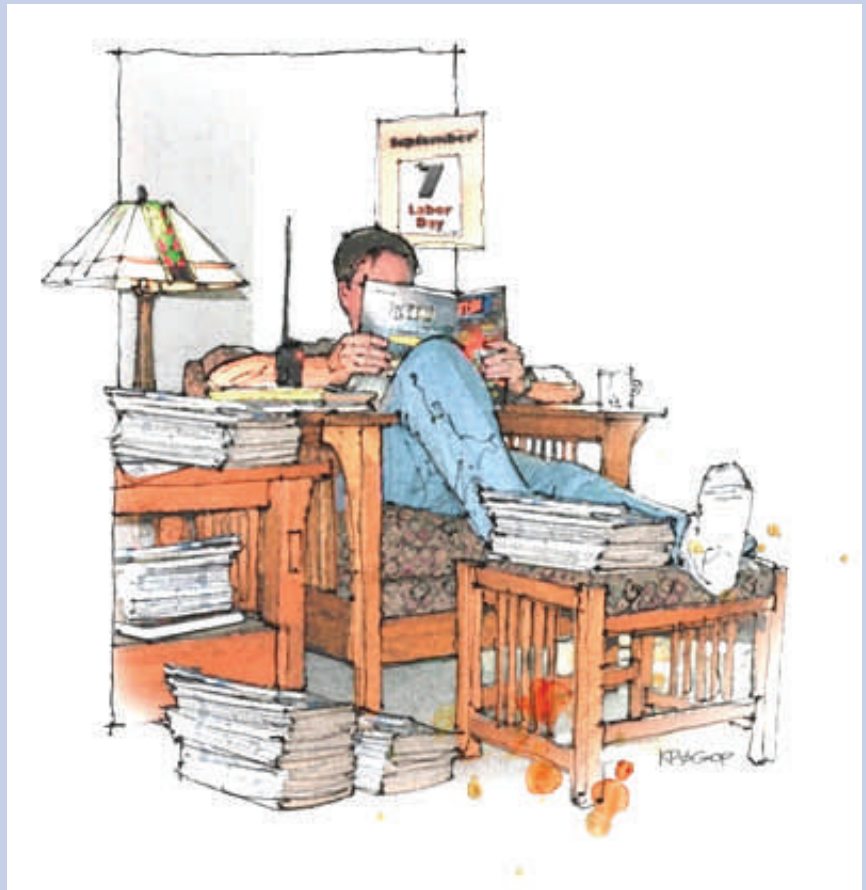
**PLEASE HELP OUT—Jump in!**

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>



Ham Relaxing—QST—HT nearby—Enjoy the Holiday

**United We Stand**

**HAVE A  
GREAT  
LABOR DAY!**



**First Class Mail**  
Address Correction Requested

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