



The BAARCer



August 2010

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

OFFICERS

President:

Charles Lane **W5CCL**

Vice President + WWW

Editor:

Steven Mott **NØCRM**

Secretary:

Ron Finger **KØGOP**

Treasurer:

Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

Director-At-Large:

Roger Williams **WØWUG**

Trustee + BAARCer

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

Hamfest's Happy Winner of the FT 1900 Transceiver was **Dustin Smith, KDØLEV**, shown here (l-r) with Al **WØRC** (Co-Chair of Hamfest), Dan Fish of Radio City, Dustin with son Oliver and wife Julie, and Charles **W5CCL**, BAARC President. The WX cooperated and hams came from a wide area. Shirley and her Kitchen Crew sold out the chili—Doug **KDØERE** reported some 166 admission were counted. Overall, the count was down on table rentals, but everyone had a good time. All these factors encourage us to do it again for next year. Al, co-chair with Lyle **KØLFV**, said that we had tremendous support from all the volunteers within BAARC and thanked all who contributed their talents and labor to the two-day effort on the part of the BAARC. Many do not realize how much work and expense go into it.



Index

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Mtg. Minutes— | 2 |
| Club News and WØZPE DX Report | 3 |
| Wadena Disaster | 4 |
| Our 2010 FD Event | 5 |
| Hamfest 2010 Write-up—WØKO | 6 |
| Hamfest Pix—WØKO | 7 |
| Latest Info + Sun. Night Net Sked. | 8 |

— **Events Calendar** —

Sat., Aug. 7 Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd
Sat., Aug. 21 Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd
Sun., Aug. 29 Lakes Country Triathlon—Brainerd-Baxter—Need 5-6 ops.
 —Contact Dave **KCØTGT**—check Net for more upcoming details—
Sat., Aug. 28 Annual Club Picnic and Foxhunt @ Lum Park
 Check Net for more Updates. Foxhunt details coming from Terry **KIØFW**
Note: NO Regular August Membership Meeting During this Month.
Sat., Sept. 4 Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd
Sat., Sept. 18 Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd
Thurs., Sept. 30 @ 4 and 7—Reg. Brd. Mtg. + Membership Mtg + Program.

Thursday, July 29, 2010 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes

Brainerd Fire Station

President: Charles Lane W5CCL

Vice President: Steve Mott NØCRM

Secretary: Ron Finger KØGOP

Treasurer: Doug Bergsnev KDØERE

Director-At-Large: Roger Williams WØWUG

Trustee & “BAARCer” Editor: Fritz Bertelt WØKO

Emergency Communications Director: John Luce WØWY

Community & Special Events Co-Director: Dave Fournier KCØTGT

Past President: Al Doree WØRC

Past President: Lyle Amundson KØLFV

President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting at 4:10 PM with 10 board members in attendance. A motion to accept the published minutes for June was approved. The Treasurer’s Report was then presented by Doug KDØERE and approved following a motion by Fritz WØKO and second by Al WØRC. The Treasurer reported on the very successful Club Hamfest. The annual July event is the main revenue source for the Club’s treasury, and this year made a substantial profit from admission and raffle ticket sales, kitchen sales, Club equipment table sales, and vendor table fees. Raffle ticket sales were up this year with new ham and Club member Chris KDØLFA selling 148 tickets. Veteran “Ticket-Master” Fritz WØKO outdid himself, selling 478 raffle tickets! 166 attendees visited over the four-hour Event.

Digital & Emergency Communications: John WØWY reported on a presentation he gave to the Pequot Lakes Police and Police Reserve on July 20th. John’s presentation to the 15 department members outlined the communication capabilities of BAARC amateurs in providing communication support and assistance. John used the SKYWARN protocol with the NWS in Duluth as an example, and discussed what we do, and don’t do, as a preliminary dialog in orienting that department towards the possibility of working together in the future.

Al WØRC reported on the continuing repeater work that is taking place at the Club station site at BHS-South Campus. Although it is not the final working location for the repeater, the BHS site provides easy access for testing and configuring the repeater, which will ultimately find a home atop the Ski Gull Hill northwest of Brainerd. Roger WØWUG, having already completed the main work in converting the commercial gear for amateur use, will assist Al in the final preparations and testing.

Al also has installed “shape files” on the APRS computer in the Club trailer with the help of his friend Jerry NØMR (Two Harbors). These additional files will provide map overlay capability for NWS weather watches and warnings along with the normal APRS map data. Al also reported on the installation of a 9600 Baud UHF packet repeater at the Club high-rise repeater location. This will allow for reliable high-speed text communication by radio in an emergency.

Upcoming Events: Community & Special Events Co-Director, Dave KCØTGT led a discussion about three upcoming Club events: **The Lakes Country Triathlon, Tour of Cuyuna Country Bicycle Tour, and BAARC Picnic & Foxhunt.** The Triathlon is under new management this year with the Brainerd Kiwanis Club, and they have been in touch with Dave as to their communication needs. A need for 4-6 operators to conduct course sweeping and other duties is anticipated. The event will be held at Whipple Beach in Baxter on Sunday, August 29th, with a start time of 8:30 AM. The Cuyuna Bike Tour is a more ambitious event, communications-wise, and will be held on Saturday, September 11th. The Club Picnic will be held in lieu of our August Membership Meeting as usual, at Lum Park, Brainerd, on Saturday August 28th at 10 AM. Terry KIØFW will be providing both short and long-range “foxes” for this summer-end event.

Old Business: John WØWY was asked to proceed with the purchase of magnetic vehicle signs for Club events. The signs are black lettering on a white background, and read “Radio Communications,” as on our Club vests. He will provide a unit cost for any other members that wish to order their own along with the Club order at the next (September) meeting. A motion to purchase magnetic signs for the Club was made by Al WØRC, and seconded by Fritz WØKO, passing unanimously.

Fritz reported a visit by former member, George KCØBH, who had generously donated his radio gear to the Club. George asked Fritz to greet Club members for him, and to say that he will try to attend a future Saturday breakfast meeting.

Charles W5CCL reported what seems to be a lack of interest from the local Boy Scout organization following attempts to interest them in amateur radio. This winter he and Ron KØGOP spoke briefly at a leadership meeting on the possibility of working with them on Radio Merit Badges, JOTA (Jamboree On The Air), and invited them to visit the Club Field Day site in June. Although there seemed to be an interest in pursuing these activities by those present at the meeting, no follow-through has been seen from their end, nor any visits to the FD site. Charles reported that he would once again contact them to determine if there is any further interest in amateur radio projects.

New Business: Al WØRC and Shirley KØDCW have made an outreach on behalf of the Club to the Wadena Area Amateur Radio Club (WAARC). After working in the ECOMM support efforts in Wadena following the June 17th tornado, they became aware of the inactive status of that club. In an effort to jump-start the group, they held a “club breakfast meeting” for amateurs there on Saturday, July 24th. As a result the WAARC will begin to hold monthly meetings on the second Monday of every month at the Todd County Meeting Room. Following this encouraging outreach, John WØWY suggested contacting the Walker, MN, radio club to see if a similar effort is needed there as well.

Following a motion by Fritz WØKO and a second by Dave KCØTGT, Al and John were asked to purchase new ARRL Technician Class Books with the updated 2010 question pool for use in future Ham classes. Steve NØCRM will post a reminder on the Club calendar to reserve the date for the Brainerd Armory for next year's Hamfest. Reservations are taken on a first-come basis following October 1st.

Regarding future Club Programs: Fritz will contact Frank N1UW about a program on Software-Defined Radios such as his Flex-5000, and Charles will invite Gordon NØZRD to do a program about providing communications support for the recent MS Bike Tour that passed through the Brainerd area.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Thursday, July 29, 2010 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes

Brainerd Fire Station

President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with sixteen Hams and guests in attendance. A motion to accept the published minutes for June as approved, was made by John WØWY, seconded by Dave KCØTGT, and passed. The Treasurer's Report was then presented by Doug KDØERE, and approved following a motion by John WØWY and second by Wynn KA3DQN.

Digital & Emergency Communications: John WØWY presented information to the Club regarding his recent meeting with the Pequot Lakes Police Department. Al WØRC gave a report on the Club Gull Lake repeater project, the APRS shape files, and the UHF packet repeater. (See Board Meeting Minutes)

Upcoming Events: Dave KCØTGT informed the Club about the recent MS Bike Tour in which several Club members participated. (See BAARCer story) Plans for three upcoming Club events were discussed: **The Lakes Country Triathlon, Tour of Cuyuna Country Bicycle Tour, and BAARC picnic & Foxhunt.** (See Board Meeting Minutes) Al WØRC, John WØWY, and Fritz WØKO thanked the many members that provided volunteer effort in making the recent Hamfest a very successful Club event. Set-up and takedown, Club table sales, Kitchen help & cooking, ticket sales, and VE testing were among the many efforts put forth by willing Club members. (See BAARCer story)

Old & New Business: The membership was advised of the preceding Board Meeting business. (See Board Meeting Minutes)

The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.



--Respectfully submitted by **Ron KØGOP**, Secretary

DX and the Paper Chase

Nobody can hear you listening,—think about that statement for a moment, and the next time you're on HF remember...how do you know the band is dead? I've been guilty of the same thing as I tool around the bands hoping for some activity. Sometimes I think I'm the only operator calling CQ especially when several stations come back at the same time. I've preached the value of being the first to set the tone for a good QSO or even a good DX station that might hear you calling. Okay, so the bands were lousy for the most of the month, but this doesn't mean I gave up looking. I worked plenty of DX because I know that they're looking just like I am. Calling late in the afternoon a few days ago with one of the yagis beaming 320° I worked a weak signal from Alaska as I was looking for Japan. I'll take Alaska and even though it was difficult, we made it work for a nice QSO. This morning I was able to work an old friend in Hong Kong as the bands were behaving with nice openings around the world. I still get an adrenalin rush breaking into a pileup, and Charlie Ho had half of North America trying to get him. I hope there will be better days ahead, for Cycle 24 continues to baffle all of the pundits. I have a confession: the opening sentence was something that was passed to me by WØKO. Thanks, Fritz! HF radio is alive and kicking, so sit down at your station and call CQ because I'll guarantee there's someone out there listening for your call. So long from Huntersville, 73 and good DX from **Bob/WØZPE**.

MS Bike Tour—A Report: Dave KCØTGT and Charles W5CCL reported that the MS Bike Tour through our area went well and that the officials appreciated the use of the BAARC repeater. Dave and Charles put in many hours—stormy/rainy WX included. Mike **KJ5WU** and Mary **KC5EGV** of Browerville also assisted. Tom **KØHHF** started them from their church south of Brainerd on the first day. It was a well organized tour with lots of equipment and talent. From home Fritz **WØKO** noticed the changing/threatening WX conditions, so he relayed direct broadcasts of the NOAA station at Leader via our repeater. That way all the principals could hear the same information at the same time. Dave also stated that ham radio proved its superiority again when a medical emergency arose, and the cell phones would not work in that particular location. All the volunteers' effort was appreciated. Thanks again for your involvement. Charles hopes to have the chief of operations at a future BAARC meeting to present a program.

Wadena County Tornado (June 17, 2010) and Ham Radio Volunteers from the BAARC and Area Assist Residents and Authorities:

From information provided the editor, Steve WØTNT, Ron KØGOP, Shirley KØDCW, Al WØRC, John KCØWCG (from Wadena), Art NØTNJ, Mike KCØTAF, Charles W5CCL, and Chris KDØLFA and others volunteered. They drove to the affected area and checked in with authorities, providing communication assistance as needed. They used 147.525 simplex with handhelds. Photos here provided by W5CCL. The BAARC members' aid was appreciated. At the June meeting Steve WØTNT relayed that there were some heart-wrenching moments as residents told of their personal plight. One woman had been ripped off by a dishonest person who offered to do tree removal for her, but demanded payment up front. Needless to say, he never finished what he promised to do and simply disappeared—taking the already needy woman's money, funds she could not afford to lose. Steve, recognizing her distress, brought her situation to the attention of support services at the scene.



Charles W5CCL and Ron KØGOP on Duty near Todd County Emergency Unit. Al WØRC, Shirley KØDCW, and Art NØTNJ are also shown at the same location. Again, thanks for the helpful effort toward our neighbors to the west.

MN's ARRL SEC's June Report from Dan Anderson, KDØASX, SEC:

There was a Section-level activation and deployment to the City of Wadena to assist Wadena and Ottertail counties in immediate recovery operations. Todd County EC Mike Wisniewski, KCØTAF, led a total of 53 individuals in volunteering 1,040 ham/hours over a seven-day period. (Editor's Note: As noted above the photos, the BAARC was well represented, though not mentioned in the ARRL's MN Section News)

Interesting and Funny Side Note on Our Hamfest: Shirley KØDCW reported that a couple of elderly ladies wanted "ham" because they saw the term "hamfest" on the signs leading to the Armory. Shirley, in her kind manner, explained to them what hamfest meant in our radio context. That makes us wonder if we should sell ham sandwiches, so our advertising does not mislead some members of the public! Hi!

Wadena Area Amateur Radio Club is Being Revived. We all hope they get repeater KØJO up and running. Apparently there is a feedline problem and is being worked on. Al, Shirley, and others are closely involved in generating support for that Club. Thanks for doing all this!

Brainerd FD 2010—Photos provided by Charles W5CCL.



A Review of NVIS

At the July membership meeting, Steve NØCRM reviewed in pictorial/slide show format the annual event.

In the same presentation, the subject of suitable NVIS antennas came up again. Near-Vertical-Incident-Skywave is a way to make contacts on HF using low power during daytime hours over a short distance—in an area not covered easily by VHF. Inverted Vees and similar ones are used for that purpose. If you are interested in getting more information on these antennas for your own use and for a future Field Day venture, contact Steve, NØCRM, our Vice-President.

Antennas and FD are always good topics, for this event forces hams to improvise without the luxuries of having a home station. These are precisely the skills needed for emergencies. In future Field Days you might see more hams experimenting with various antennas—just to hone their skills for real emergencies.



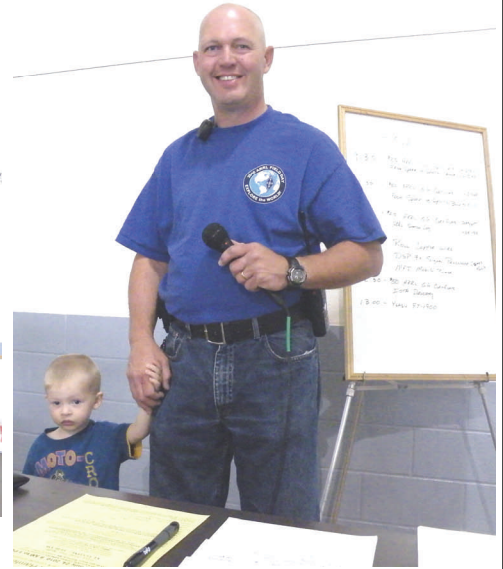
Lyle KØLFV, our main **FD Organizer**, reports the following participants: Some of the stations/operators are those of **KIØFW**, **NØCRM**, **W5CCL**, **KDØERE**, **WØDCY**, **WØUJ** (our Club station), **KØGOP**, **KBØVYJ**, **KDØLFA**, **NØLJY**, **KØLFV**. **KFØNG**, **WØWY**, **WØTNT**, **KCØTGT**, **KDØLEV**, **KØLR**, **KØTHY**, and **KDØLEW**. Non-hams were **Brian Mehr** and **John Davis**. All had a good time.



2010 BAARC Hamfest Another Success: On the day before (Fri., @12 noon), we had a crew getting the Armory ready and many of the same crew helped with the takedown on Saturday afterwards: Al **WØRC**, Shirley **KØDCW**, Kathy **KD5EGN**, Charles **W5CCL**, Skee **WØDCY**, Fritz **WØKO**, Lyle **KØLFV**, Gary **KØPOW**, Chris **KDØLFA**, Dustin **KDØLEV**, Alan **AAØAS**, Dave **KBØSCT**, Jeff **KDØHBI**, Tom **KØHHF**, Ted **KCØVTW**, Dave **KCØTGT**, Ron **KØGOP**, John **W3MQD** and Jerry **NØMR**. The kitchen crew of very capable YL's did the work preparing on Friday and ended with the cooking, serving, selling and cleaning (the latter a big job no guys like to do). They were Shirley **KØDCW**, Kathy **KD5EGN**, Kaye **NØTMZ**, and Michelle **NØCALLy**et (YL of Jerry **NØMR**). Skee **WØDCY** put up and took down the signs and helped with lunch-area cashiering. Doug **KDØERE** performed the treasurer's duties with the cash flow and accounting: he will give us the statistical detail of how successful this year's event was. Charles **W5CCL**, our president, sold tickets at the registration area, welcoming our visitors from around the state with his friendly Texan demeanor. Ed **KAØEXB** was again helping register at the big door, especially for the vendors. This year he had able assistance for part of the morning from Dave **KBØSCT**, retired Crow Wing Co. Emergency Director. Using his selling skills and knowledge of gear, Lyle **KØLFV** did great work selling the donated items for Club—he was busy all day barely resting. **Marilynn**, Lyle's better half, helped with coffee and donuts/rolls sales in the morning. Also working the crowd selling raffle tickets were newcomer Chris **KDØLFA** and veteran seller Fritz **WØKO**. Following plans, tables and chairs for the vendors were set up so equipment could be sold. **Dan Fish** and company of **Radio City** and **Teresa Starrys' Embroidery** were both busy. Another interesting first for us was vendor **QRZ.COM**. Its friendly owner **Fred AA7BQ** engaged many in conversations related to his business and service—Fred came all the way from Arizona to experience friendly Minnesota and its climate. Needless to say, such a successful event takes preparation—often a full year in advance. Lyle **KØLFV** and Al **WØRC**, the co-chairs for the Hamfest, again did just that. At previous ham radio events around the state/area, they distributed flyers advertising it—this was also done via the Internet and announced on area nets, both VHF and HF. Also important to mention is Dave **KCØTGT**'s role in superbly tracking the drawings and making timely announcements, putting out the friendly voice of the Club to our out-of-town guests. With assistance from Ken **KFØNG**, the two made the drawings for the prizes flow smoothly—with drawings done by neutral parties. Lots of people left with smiles on their faces: many for having a successful day selling their wares, some also for having won something unexpected, and others leaving with a memorable purchase or two. Quite a few were seen leaving with something that was free—often unheard of except for Brainerd's Hamfest.

Another aspect of our hamfests, as in recent years, was a VE session; John **WØWY**, Al **WØRC**, and Terry **KIØFW** were VE's. **NØWSH** and **WØKO** were standbys. Jerry **KDØLEU** upgraded to General. Of course, ultimately for the whole event it was a volunteer effort on the part of the Club members, who all paid for their own tickets, standard procedure of our Club. What are our expenses?—Of course many, it is for the rental of the building, hundreds for the prizes, etc. These are not the only expenses—many of the volunteers donate goodies for the Club to sell. As a result of the high costs, we also try to recover some of the expenses from table rentals @ \$12 each and raffle tickets in denominations of \$1 culminating in a special drawing that requires a gambling permit from the State for \$50 for just that day. From the **Entrance Ticket Drawing** the winners of various prizes were **KØMGF**, **WØKF**, **KDØLEV**, **NØUC**, **KAØZLG**, **NØCN**, **KØDEJ**, **KCØTSQ**, **KCØNTW**, **W3MQD**, **KBØSQX**. The **Raffle Prize Winner** was Dustin **KDØLEV**—a Yaesu FT 1900. We can surely say that the Club members who volunteered for the event had fun, even though they left tired from their two-day schedule. Pictures of the event in various stages can be found on the following page. **Thanks, Volunteers!!!!!!!!!!**

Photos from the BAARC 2010 Hamfest July 24.



Top to bottom (l-r): The Ladies of the Kitchen: Kathy **KD5EGN**, Shirley **KØDCW**, Michelle **NØCALLyet**, and Kaye **NØTMZ**. Dan Fish of Radio City and Dave **KCØTGT** doing drawings. Dave getting help from grandson Oliver. Pat **WØOPW** with QRZ.Com owner Fred **AA7BQ**. The VE team at work: John **WØWY**, Al **WØRC**, and Terry **KIØFW**. Bottom—group activity near Club tables: Note how busy Lyle **KØLFV** was making sales from the **KCØBH** donation and answering questions from interested buyers. **AGAIN, THANKS TO ALL THE PARTICIPATING CLUB MEMBERS!!!!!!** —pix by **WØKO**

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

| | | |
|----------|--------|--------|
| 08/01/10 | Wynn | KA3DQN |
| 08/08/10 | Bob | WØZPE |
| 08/15/10 | Marcia | WØZMC |
| 08/22/10 | Jim | WØJDS |
| 08/29/10 | Doug | KDØERE |
| 09/05/10 | Joe | KBØVYJ |
| 09/12/10 | Marcia | WØZMC |
| 09/19/10 | Fritz | WØKO |
| 09/26/10 | Bob | WØZPE |

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>

Can you get the BAARCer via the Club's website? Let Fritz know so we can save mailing and time costs. About a dozen members are getting the monthly newsletter by snail mail. For each it costs us time, duplication, and a 44-cent stamp, soon to go up again. Let Fritz WØKO know and he will relay the info.

Got Photos of Club Activities? Send to Fritz for the BAARCer and to Lyle KØLFV for inclusion in the Club's year-end wrap-up.

Latest on Vanity Call Signs from ARRL/FCC:

On July 19, the Federal Communications Commission announced via the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will decrease 10 cents, from \$13.40 to \$13.30. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making August 17, 2010, the first day the new fee is in effect.

Icom 746 HF + VHF Transceiver, covers 160-10, 6 and 2 mtrs (all-mode) –100 watt (AM, FM, SSB, CW)—in excellent, clean condition, like new, in original box, with manual and schematics, dealer-installed extra filtering, has full receive, standard Icom microphone, and power cable--
Contact Fritz WØKO if interested.

SK: Barb Ranson, AAØI, of Sebeka passed away 7-26-10. She was a Professional Engineer, having earned a degree in Civil Engineering. Dying of complications from Parkinsons, Barb leaves a family of hams. An MIT grad, she was also a great promoter of amateur radio in the local schools. Needless to say, though not a BAARC member, she will be missed. (Info from Bob WØZPE)

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