



The BAARCer



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

OFFICERS

President:

Charles Lane **W5CCL**

Vice President + WWW

Editor:

Steven Mott **KCØYTE**

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Ron Finger **KØGOP**

Treasurer:

Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

Director-At-Large:

Roger Williams **WØWUG**

Trustee + BAARCer

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

Frank Karnauskas, N1UW, ARRL's MN Section Affiliated Club Coordinator :

At our April Mtg, Frank convinced us that the League is the most important ally we hams have. It is our only voice in DC.



Many interesting facts were presented: MN has some 42 ARRL Affiliated Clubs—the BAARC is one. It has 2640 ARRL members, yet we have 11,300 licensed hams in the State but only about 6000 are active. By License Classes, Extras make up about 2050, Advanced 1360, General 2570, Technician 5400, and Novice 460. Slowly the numbers from Technician to General to Extra are growing. Even though code is no longer a requirement, there seems to be a resurgence of interest in code learning and operating CW. These are good signs. Also the technological age of computers has many applications and uses in amateur radio. Later Frank also answered many questions and promised to be back. By the way, in his non-hobby life Frank is self-employed in teaching communications systems to many agencies around the country. **Above all, join ARRL!!!!**

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— **Events Calendar** —

- May 8, Amateur/Military Crossband Contest—info WØRC**
- May 15, (Sat) Breakfast at 9 at the Northwind Grille**
- May 14-16—Dayton Hamvention**
- May 18+19 Licensing Refresher 6-9 & Testing next day at 6 p.m. Fire Hall**
- May 27, (Thurs) Annual Club Dinner-Meeting, Nisswa Legion**
MAKE YOUR RESERVATION(S) NOW WITH JIM WØJDS
See P.3 of April BAARCer for details
- June 24, (Thurs) Board and Membership Mtg. Program:** Ron Finger KØGOP will be giving a presentation and demo on “**Military Communication Shelters.**” Interesting how he got his—will have his unit in the parking lot. More on this in the June BAARCer.
- June 26-27-Annual ARRL FIELD DAY—Same Place—Details later.**

Thursday, April 29, 2010 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes**Brainerd Fire Station****President:** Charles Lane W5CCL**Vice President:** Steve Mott KCØYTE**Secretary:** Ron Finger KØGOP**Director-At-Large:** Roger Williams WØWUG**Trustee & “BAARCer” Editor:** Fritz Bertelt WØKO**Emergency Communications Director:** John Luce WØWY**Community & Special Events Director:** Dave Fournier KCØTGT**Past President:** Al Doree WØRC**Past President:** Lyle Amundson KØLFV

President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting with 9 board members and several other members in attendance. A motion to accept the published minutes for February was approved following a motion by Al WØRC, and seconded by Dave KCØTGT. The Treasurer’s Report was then presented by Charles W5CCL, on Doug KDØERE’s behalf and approved following a motion by Lyle KØLFV and second by Terry KIØFW. The status of the Club accounts was discussed in relation to ongoing operating costs, as well as upcoming events, and special projects. A donation check for \$250 was presented to the Club from the Brainerd Jaycees in gratitude of radio communications provided for the Brainerd Jaycee’s Ice Extravaganza in January.

Upcoming Events: Jim WØJDS posted a sign-up sheet for the **BAARC Spring Dinner** on Thursday, May 27th, with 12 attendees, and their guests registered so far. Lyle KØLFV will send an email reminder six weeks prior to the event.

Digital & Emergency Communications: Roger Williams WØWUG gave a status report of his work on the new Club repeater site at Ski Gull that will be completed later this year.

John WØWY spoke on the local SKYWARN classes and drill held this month, and thanked all those who participated. Al WØRC discussed the status of emergency communication capability at several area hospitals, and their difficulties in providing trained amateur operators on staff. A recent Ham Class member, and new licensee Jody KDØLFB, is interested in forming another class for her fellow staff at St. Joseph’s Medical Center.

Old Business: John WØWY and Al WØRC reported on a very successful Ham Class, and testing that resulted in 11 new Hams and Club members, as well as other upgrades. There will be another **test session** on May 19th at 6PM, preceded by a **Review Class** the evening before, on May 18th. John and Al, as well as the 6 VE’s who administered the exams were thanked for their dedicated efforts in support of amateur radio and the Club.

Fritz WØKO reported on **The MN Repeater Council Annual Meeting** held on April 17th. Fritz was on hand to assist that group, including re-directing them to a new location in a last-minute change on the Fire Hall availability. Fritz also distributed extra copies of MN repeater sites available from that meeting.

Ron KØGOP reported on the completed first order of Club event-volunteer vests that were used at the April 24th **“Run for the Lakes Marathon”** event. Lyle KØLFV canvassed several Wal-Mart stores in MN to provide the needed quantity of vests, at the best price, in order to meet the time-line for printing before the event. The Board thanked Lyle and Ron for their efforts.

New Business: John WØWY discussed a modification idea he had for updating the magnetic signs in use at Club events. John solicited an estimate for a quality sign from Action Graphics to match the style in current use. A motion to purchase a price-break quantity of 20 signs was made by Al WØRC, seconded by Lyle KØLFV, and passed.

Terry KIØFW is organizing a work party for the Club Comm-trailer, and will circulate an email with details, shortly.

The board discussed a letter received from George Swanson KCØBH, who is retiring from amateur radio activities for health reasons, and is offering a sizable and generous donation of equipment to the Club. The board voted to thankfully accept this offer, and appointed Fritz WØKO and Lyle KØLFV to handle the details of securing the inventory of gear.

Fritz will respond with a letter of acceptance and thanks to George on the Clubs behalf.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Thursday, April 29, 2010 - 8:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes**Brainerd Fire Station**

The Membership meeting was delayed until after the speaker presentation, to accommodate his 3-hour return trip to Bloomington, MN. President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting at 8:00 PM with twenty-nine Hams and guests in attendance. A motion to accept the published minutes for February as approved, was made by Fritz WØKO, seconded by John WØWY, and passed. The Treasurer’s Report was then presented by Doug KDØERE, and approved following a motion by Eldon WØMQO and second by Steve WØTNT.

Upcoming Events: Jody KDØLFB asked for any volunteers that would be willing to act as “victims” in an upcoming disaster-preparedness drill at St. Joseph’s Medical Center.

The planning and coordination for future Club events was discussed by **Community & Special Events Co-Director:** Dave KCØTGT and the membership.

Digital & Emergency Communications: John WØWY gave a report on the recent SKYWARN classes, drills and thanked Club participants. John also announced the addition of his new WØWY digi-peater, now in service from his home QTH. John also reported on the pending Club acquisition of magnetic vehicle signs for volunteer events, following the recent Board approval.

Old Business: John WØWY and Al WØRC reported on the very successful Ham Class, and testing that resulted in 11 new Hams and Club members, as well as other upgrades. There will be another test session on May 19th at 6PM,

preceded by a review class the evening before, on May 18th.

Fritz WØKO reported on **The MN Repeater Council Annual Meeting** held on April 17th, and distributed extra copies of MN repeater sites available from that meeting.

Ron KØGOP reported on the completed first order of Club event-volunteer vests and asked the 4 or 5 remaining members that want a printed Club vest to purchase and turn in their vests for a second printing ASAP.

New Business: Steve WØTNT reminded Club members about the **"Clean-Up Party" at Cuyuna Country State Recreational Area** in Ironton, that the Club uses for **Field Day** operations. Volunteers will meet at Pennington Access at 5-7PM on Wednesday, May 5th, with a picnic meal to follow at Serpent Park in Ironton. Publicity for **Field Day** at the end of June was discussed with Steve KCØYTE volunteering to help Fritz WØKO with the media publicity duties. Ron KØGOP distributed samples of 3 poster designs that he and Lyle KØLFV have worked up for use in local store windows and bulletin boards to encourage public awareness and participation in amateur radio and the BAARC. At the June Membership Meeting, Ron will be giving a program and demonstration on **Military Communication Shelters** and his conversion of a surplus shelter into a mobile station that he will be using at the Club site on **Field Day**.

Al WØRC presented information about an **Annual Crossband Military/Amateur Communication Test** to be held on Saturday May 8th. Normally held on Armed Forces Day, it is an opportunity for amateur operators to work crossband communications in a variety of different bands and modes. More specific information is available at several sites online, via Internet search.

The Membership was informed about the generous equipment donation offer from George Swanson KCØBH, who is retiring from amateur radio activities for health reasons. Fritz WØKO and Lyle KØLFV will be handling the details of securing the large inventory of amateur radio gear. The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.



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

Meet Another of Our Members/Officer: Dave Fournier, KCØTGT

My wife Denise and I live in Ironton, MN, where we raised our 4 children (Timothy--25, Heidi--24, Joey--22, and Julie--20). They also attended high school here and now are doing their own thing.

We have 2 grandchildren--Carter 5 and Oliver 1 (almost 2) and enjoy them very much!

We also host foreign exchange students every year and are volunteers for Youth For Understanding, the exchange group. This year we have Nina from Russia and Zhiying (Joyce) from China.

I am a paramedic and have worked in the EMS field for over 30 years and still love it!

I enjoy communications, electronics, fishing and helping neighbors and friends with projects. I have been interested in communications and Amateur Radio since high school. When I was asked to take WØRCs class to become a ham for emergency communications, I jumped at the chance! --especially as code was no longer required for the tests anymore—that kicked my butt before! I joined the BAARC after the class and became very involved. Shortly thereafter, I upgraded to a General Class license. Then a job change required me to take a 2-year absence. Since having returned I am looking forward to working with everyone as the Community and Special Events Co-Coordinator.



Joe NØUME is Happy to be Back on the Air: Thanks to **Lyle KØLFV and John WØWY**

who donated time and equipment, Joe appreciated it and is enjoying Ham Radio again.

He can be heard checking into the Sunday Night Nets. His getting back on the air is an excellent example of "hams helping hams"—this one being done by two of our

members. State-wide there is an organization that began in MN with affiliates all over—**HandiHams**. Helping hams also, it is based in Golden Valley and focuses especially on

those who have special needs.

2010 Run-for-the-Lakez Marathon: BAARC Members again provided valuable communication from start to finish for the event with the following members participating: **KIØFW, WØWY, KA3DQN, KDØERE** with grandson **KDØLFE, KØGOP, WØWUG, W5CCL, WØJDS, WDØHR, KCØYTE, NØSHR, WØRC, KØDCW**. From home **WØKO** radioed in Airport WX info on potential lightning. According to the Brainerd paper, this event had more participants than previously and it keeps growing. The following pix were provided by John **WØWY** of **KØDCW** (Shirley) and Terry (**KIØFW**) in our communications trailer. The other photos, provided by President Charles, **W5CCL**, show Charles enjoying the attention of some ladies also at the race. Notice that he is near the jail?????Another photo shows the typical roadside scene at such an event. Congratulations to the participants and a big thanks to our BAARC members for volunteering for this big community event.



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Special Thanks: Ron **KØGOP** has gone out of his way to get these vests purchased and printed. Neat job with the improved LOGO. We appreciate the effort and attention to detail, Ron. Nice JOB! Also, often going unnoticed, Lyle **KØLFV** and Al **WØRC** have been regularly spreading the word on our Hamfest at other hamfests—they are our good will ambassadors. Thanks, Guys! In addition, there are many other members (officers and past officers) who extend themselves: Al **WØRC**, Roger **WØWUG**, John **WØWY**, Steve **KCØYTE**, Lyle **KØLFV**—these and others do a lot of the technical electronic work associated with keeping our systems of repeaters, digipeater, APRS, and Club station going. THANKS so much for what you all do for the BAARC—More members to be recognized later. Stay tuned.

Request: Terry **KIØFW** (whose work on this we also appreciate) asks that you return all magnetic signs to our trailer. In addition, he’s also asking for volunteers to prepare the trailer for field Day. Can you help? For info, contact Terry < ki0fw “at” crosslake.net >.

DIGIPEATER OPERATIONAL: **WØWY** reports the Club’s digipeater is QRV at his QTH. Try it.

DX and the Paper Chase

Highlights and lowlights. The month of April had considerably more lowlight HF activity by far than anyone might have wanted. The sunspot activity has been poor to actually non-existent. Welcome to the solar minimum of Cycle 24. Most of the world's DXers were pretty excited about two major DXpeditions in April (Iraq and Vietnam), and most came away disappointed. This station haunted the bands for a shot at Iraq for 5 days with nothing but poor propagation into the upper Midwest from Iraq. On the afternoon of the first Friday of the Iraq DXpedition the signals started to become stronger and when they built to an S7, I made the contact and found my call in the online log the following day. I wasn't so fortunate with Vietnam as the signal strength hardly broke a sweat into my shack. Oh well...hopefully I'll have another shot another day. The remainder of the month has seen very poor propagation and at this writing: there are no sunspots and none in the offing. What a huge disappointment. There was an upside: one fine day as I was in a "Q" with an old timer discussing the ups and downs of solid state linears. I learned a lot from an old-time operator who had been there and done that. The discussion was about overdriving amplifiers and what damage over a long period of time this activity can do. I'm using solid state linears for my two operating positions in the shack and overdriving them was the norm for me. Without going into all the sordid details, I am now very careful where the RF output on the exciter is set to achieve the most output of the equipment without wasting it. Well, I did it—I have a brand new Yaesu FT-950 TXCVR with enough bells and whistles to keep me occupied for a very long time. I used to think that menu-driven radios were to be avoided like the plague, and sometimes I still believe it. Read the book and once you understand what those button, knobs and blinking LED's are all about, the fun of operating really begins. All of us to some extent or other avoid change because it's an imposition on our daily lives, and I'm one of those folks who (used to think) the status quo with HF radios is okay with me, but now I'm enjoying more of what HF radios can really do. In closing today, I hope we'll see a return of Cycle 24 very soon and the DX it'll bring to radio land. That's about all for now from this station. Remember to sit down at your own station and call CQ because there's someone somewhere listening, don't disappoint anyone of them. So long from Huntersville, 73 and good DX from Bob WØZPE.

LIST OF DONATED HAM GEAR FROM GEORGE SWANSON (KCØBH). Our thanks to him for his generosity to the Club. There may be some other items listed later. Also the BAARC may select some equipment for its own use in doing public service. A Silent Auction will be held later at which BAARC members in good standing may bid on the items. Questions on this may be directed to KØLFV. Watch/listen for details on the Nets/ Mtgs.

HF EQUIPMENT

Kenwood 450 TS (manual)
 Kenwood AT 250 Antenna Tuner
 Heil Headphones (with Boom Mic)
 Clear Speech (Noise Filter)
 Speaker (Outboard non-Matching)
 Astron Power supply
 DSP 9+ time wave signal processor

VHF UHF

Kenwood 742A Dual Band Mobile Transceiver (with Mic)
 Kenwood FM dual band TH78A Hand Held Transceiver
 (with ear/ mic receive/transmit)
 RF Concepts 2-meter Power Amplifier

APRS

Garmin GPS 45xl
 GPS magnetic roof antenna
 ICOM dual-band FM transceiver IC 3210A

Note: BAARC will be picking up the gear no earlier than June 1, 2010.

PACKET

Packet node controllers (2)
 AEA IDR 9600 baud 440 MHz

REFERENCE BOOKS

ARRL Handbook
Electronic Communication, Author SCHRADER

MOBILE ANTENNAS

HAM Stick 9110, 9112, 9115(2), 9117, 9120, 9175(2), 9140
 HUSTLER 80 meters, 20 meters,
 Bumper Mobile antenna Base Magnetic
 "J" pole (2)

ANTENNAS

Model Omni DX88 (Telex) Eight Band VERTICAL Free standing
 (No Guy wires required)
 HY-Gain Explorer 14 Beam with 40 meter rotatable ADD-ON (New in original box)
 SLINKY Dipole (New in original box)

TOWER

40 foot Heavy duty UNIVERSAL Aluminum Tower with rotator plates (New in original wrapping)
 Steel Mast Nine foot (New)



The BAARC Hosted the 2010 Spring Out-State Meeting in Brainerd on Sat., April 17, 2010. (submitted by Fritz WØKO).

With more than a quorum present, the meeting was led by Chairman Jay Maynard, **K5ZC**, and Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Dorf, **NØFWG**. Fritz **WØKO** welcomed the group on behalf of the BAARC and apologized for the short notice on the room change from the Fire Hall to the Brd. Police Dpt. Meeting Room across the street. Previously WØRC had notified everyone of the change, but on that day—the PD meeting room was locked. However, Firefighter Kurt Doree solved the problem. Fritz recognized the members for all their volunteer effort—thanking them all for the work they do for all of us. Beyond that, the meeting went well and ended near noon. The biggest “issue” was the non-compliant repeater trustees who had been given fair notice to update their listings and status. After considerable discussion, the members voted to give them a little more of a grace period in the hope that they will comply with the rules. If they do not do that in a timely fashion before the fall meeting, they may lose their frequency coordination. Many others are waiting for unused frequency pairs. Of course, the extra mailing will cost the Council more money and time. Lots of informational items were disseminated, among them the 900 MHz plan, presented by Paul **KØLAV**. One item the **BAARC** was interested in was tone plans. The Council has a geographically specific tone plan it operates under—it is on its website, as are all the newsletters and many other items of interest. As a trustee for the BAARC, Fritz happily reports that our club is in good standing with the MRC. For more information, go to the MRC web pages <http://www.mnrepeaters.org> and <http://www.mrc.gen.mn.us>

Below are some snapshots of the gathering. On the lower left photo is **K5ZC**, standing as the Chairman. Seated next to him is **NØFWG**, the record keeper as Secretary-Treasurer. The group photo on the right is of those attending—all having Council business to discuss affecting the MN repeaters. Not pictured here is **WØKO**, who snapped these photos. Also briefly attending and but not pictured was Dave **KCØTGT**, an interested observer from the BAARC.



April 22, 2010. BAARC’s WX/Skywarn Drill and Refresher Classes. At 1 p.m. John **WØWY** expertly called the net to order and had some 15 Club members check in indicating their readiness in the event of a real WX emergency. In addition, 7 were also APRS capable. This drill was done in cooperation with the National WX Service, Duluth. We found that the LSAC system was functional only one-way. Later that same day at 6 p.m. a Skywarn Refresher Class was held in Brainerd with some 15 BAARC members attending. Previously another class was held in Crosslake with 6 of our members in attendance. The **Lesson** is this: **Whenever you hear of threatening conditions—a WATCH, for instance, get on the repeater and check in and be in waiting to give information. Many WATCHES never turn into WARNINGS. However, we must be ready just in case.** Thanks for everyone’s participation.

Another Successful Licensing Class and Testing Session: John Luce, **WØWY**, and Al Doree, **WØRC**, conducted another two-level class using Gordon West teaching materials and manuals. The results were made known on Tuesday, April 13, when some 14 people (males and females of all age spans) were served. Ten earned their Technician-class licenses, and three earned their General-class licenses. In fact, one of three passed both Elements 2 and 3 in one sitting. Although not everyone is clearly visible in this picture, the students were diligently completing their exams with volunteer examiners looking on. Roger **WØWUG**, one of five examiners, is standing in the back behind Dylan Bergsnev and his grandpa Doug. Needless to say, due to excellent instruction and motivated students, this BAARC class had a very high pass rate.



Four of the ARRL team of Volunteer Examiners are shown below double-checking the correction work at the table: (l-r) Terry **K1ØFW**, Charles **W5CCL** (BAARC Pres), Roger **WØWUG**, and John **WØWY**. Not pictured is Volunteer Examiner Fritz Bertelt, **WØKO**, who took these photos. The right pix shows Al **WØRC**, also a Volunteer Examiner, and John **WØWY** congratulating the smiling 10-year-old **Dylan Bergsnev** and Dylan's grandpa **Doug Bergsnev** (**KDØERE** and BAARC Treasurer): Dylan is proud of his effort earning the Technician-class license, while he attends Cuyuna Range Elementary School. Of course, Grandpa Doug is also smiling because he just passed his General-class license exam. **Dustin Smith**, son-in-law of **Dave Fournier**, **KCØTGT**, also earned his Tech. Our congratulations to all new hams. Page 8 shows some of the new call signs. So, new ham radio operators, enjoy your **free trial BAARC membership**. We all hope to hear you on the air soon.



SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

05/02/10	John	KCØWCG
05/09/10	John	WØWY
05/16/10	Dave	KCØTGT
05/23/10	Doug	KDØERE
05/30/10	Lyle	KØLFV
06/06/10	Bob	WØZPE
06/13/10	Marcia	WØZMC
06/20/19	Becky	KCØHBH
06/27/10	Jeff	KCØHBI

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>

New Calls in the area: KDØLFA, KDØLEW, KDØLFE, KDØLFB, KDØLEX, KDØLEY, KDØLEU, KDØLFC, KDØLFD, KDØLFZ, and KDØLEV. These were the newly licensed from the last test session. KDØLEW moved to General, as did previously licensed KDØERE and KDØHBI. Congratulations to all and enjoy the hobby!!!

Condolences: The BAARC extends sincere condolences to Jim Barry, WØIRE, on the recent loss of his mother. On behalf of the Club, we sent a card expressing our heartfelt sympathy. Jim acknowledged the card and thanked us for the thoughts and prayers. Please continue to keep Jim and his family in prayer

LICENSING REVIEW SESSION and ADDITIONAL VE TEST: Tues., May 18, from 6-9 p.m., there will be refresher/review session for those who would like another chance at the FCC tests or upgrade. An additional **TEST SESSION** is scheduled for the next day, **Wed., May 19, at 6 p.m.**—both events at the Brd. Fire Hall. Contact: Al WØRC. **ARRL Web Site** : Be patient, for the site is being worked on.

IMPORTANT

May 27 Dinner Reservations: Get them to Jim WØJDS ASAP. You have until May 22 to cancel. \$15/person. Give Jim names of attendees. 218-543-5041 or e-mail him at <jamyslu@usklink.net> Then pay at the door.

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