



# The BAARCeR



April 2011

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

Page 1 of 8

**Club Call Sign: WØUJ**

**BAARC REPEATERS**

53.110 MHz- 123.0 Hz  
 147.225 MHz+ (MAIN-RPTR)  
 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:**

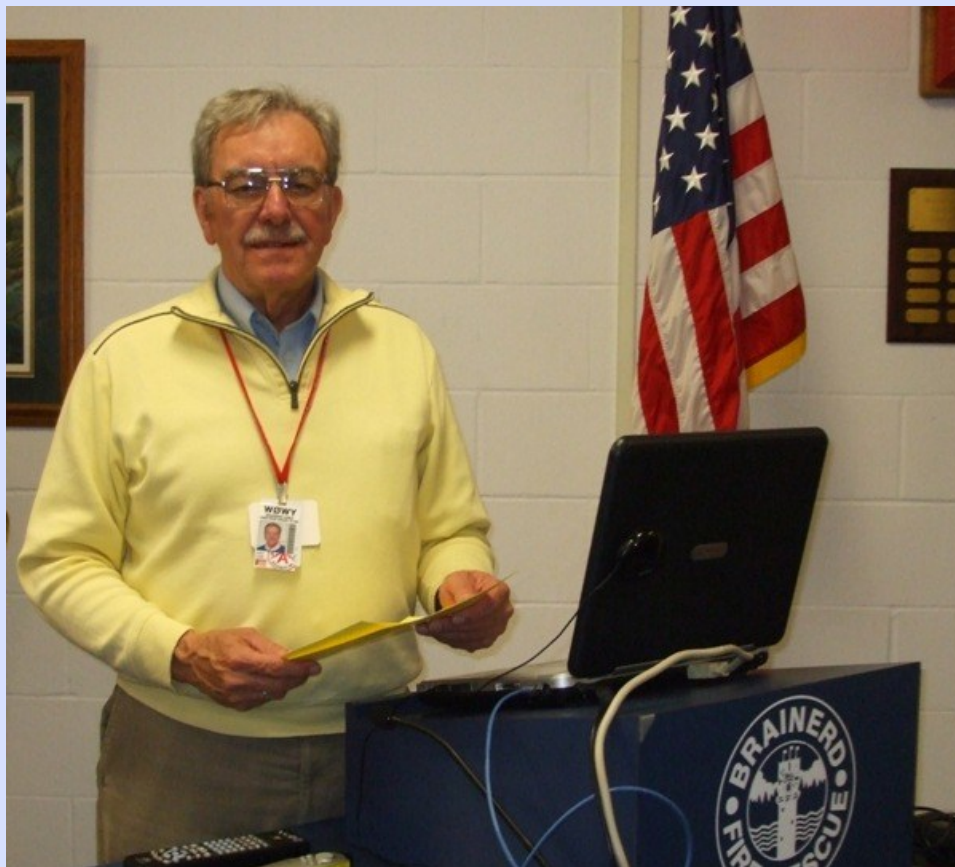
Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

**Director-at-Large:**

Lyle Amundson **KØLFV**

**Trustee + BAARCeR**

**Editor:** Fritz Bertelt  
**WØKO**



**John Luce, WØWY, BAARC Emergency Coordinator,** making his SKYWARN and Emergency Preparedness presentation to the Club on Thursday, March 31. More details in his write-ups on pp. 3, 5, + 6. Photo provided by Lyle KØLFV.

**Index**

Mtg. Minutes-	2
WØWY Presentation	3
DX by WØZPE + NØCRM	4
SKYWARN —WØWY Emergency Com.	5
More from John WØWY	6
May Dinner + WØRC Repeater Update	7
Last Word—Latest Info + NCS	8

— **Events Calendar** —

**Sat., April 9 MN Repeater Council Spring Mtg.** in Owatonna @ 12.

**Sat., April 16, Club Breakfast @ 9 @** Northwind Grille in Brainerd

**2 EVENTS—Same Day**

**Sat., April 30, March-of-Dimes Walk (Brainerd)—Contact**

**Charles W5CCL & Annual JC Marathon Nisswa—Contact**

**Al WØRC. Ops. Needed for Both. Volunteer on Net.**

**CHECK THE SUNDAY NIGHT NET FOR ANY UPDATES/ CORRECTIONS.**

**May 26—Annual Dinner-Meeting. Nisswa Legion \$15/person.**

**More Details in this BAARCeR and on Net. See p. 7.**

**Thursday, March 31, 2011 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes****Brainerd Fire Station****President:** Charles Lane, W5CCL**Secretary:** Ron Finger, KØGOP**E-Communications Director:** John Luce, WØWY**Past President:** Al Doree, WØRC**Past President:** Lyle Amundson, KØLFV**Special Events Co-Director:** Dave Fournier, KCØTGT

President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting at 4:00 PM with 8 board members and 4 members and visitors in attendance. A motion to accept the published minutes for February was approved. The Treasurer's Report was given by Charles and approved.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** John WØWY briefly discussed the topics he will present at the evening membership meeting; ARRL band protection, MARS cross-band exercise, and SKYWARN. He presented a reimbursement request for \$113.41 for SKYWARN related expenses. John talked about the advantage of having off-site members, such as Fritz WØKO, monitoring the weather radar during Club outdoor events, and reporting any approaching weather hazards. Al reported on the testing and tweaking of the repeater that will eventually replace the Club's main 147.225 repeater and be located at the new "Ski Gull" site. This repeater is currently operating from the Club station site with new features such as automated voice ID, "anti-kerchunk" timer, and courtesy beeps. The addition of an access tone is being considered to help eliminate false triggering due to RFI.

**Upcoming Events:** Details were discussed regarding the **March of Dimes Walk** at Forestview School in Baxter and the **Brainerd Jaycees "Run For The Lakes" Marathon** in Nisswa— both to be held on Saturday, April 30th. Charles is looking for one more volunteer for the walk event. Chris Nelson from the Brainerd Jaycees will be speaking to the Club this evening regarding the details for the marathon event. Lyle KØLFV distributed flyers for our **July Hamfest**. Dave KCØTGT was contacted by Justin Reichert of WMARC in the Twin Cities regarding a courtesy request to use the Club repeaters for events they may have in our area. Jim WØJDS posted a signup sheet, reported on menu options for the **Spring Dinner**, and will take a vote at the membership meeting. John WØWY will be contacting Al KØCN as a possible guest speaker for that evening. Al has recently traveled to the Kilimanjaro area of Africa and has posted many photos on the Piconet website. Al WØRC read a thank-you letter from Dan Levno for Club services during the recent **Mid-MN 150 Dog Sled Race** and confirmed that the 2012 event will be scheduled in January to provide better weather conditions for the dogs.

**Old Business:** Ron KØGOP reported that he expects to receive word regarding the Club's application for the "Take Heart" AED grant program, within a week.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM.

**Thursday, March 31, 2011 - 8:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes****Brainerd Fire Station**

President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting at 8:00 PM following the evening program on SKYWARN and the Jaycees Marathon, with 23 members and guests present. A motion to accept the published minutes for November as approved, was made by Al WØRC, seconded by Chris KDØLFA, and passed. The Treasurer's Report was then presented by Doug KDØERE, and approved.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** John WØWY reported on an ARRL concern regarding the possible loss of amateur band use of 420-430 MHz. As more pressure is put upon the FCC for bandwidth usage, the amateur bands are under increased scrutiny. John encouraged any interested hams to visit the HR607 area of the arrl.org website for further information and a sample letter form. John also reminded members about the upcoming MARS cross-band exercise held near Armed Forces Day. Al WØRC reported on the new Club repeater work (see Board Meeting Minutes), and received thanks from the Club for his many hours of work in that area.

**Upcoming Events:** Details and sign-up sheets were presented for the **March of Dimes Walk, and Brainerd Jaycees "Run For The Lakes" Marathon** (see Board Meeting minutes). Jim WØJDS reported on menu options for the **Spring Dinner**, and a vote was taken in favor of the menu: BBQ ribs and fried chicken with roasted Yukon Gold potatoes, including mixed vegetables, ranch salad, rolls, dessert and coffee. Reservations should be made with Jim; cost is \$15.00 per person, including tax and gratuity.

The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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

## Speaking at the March meeting, Club Emergency Coordinator John Luce, WØWY, covered a number of items of interest to members.

John handed-out a *Spring 2011 SKYWARN INFORMATION* sheet that listed dates and events relating to club activity. He described the activity surrounding a Mock Tornado Drill that will be held on Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone that could, to check-in to a Severe Weather Net that will begin at 1:15 PM that day. Other information included the dates, times, and locations for the weather spotter training this year.

He told about the annual meeting of SKYWARN ham radio coordinators that is sponsored by the NWS/DLH and was held on March 12<sup>th</sup>. He said there were 28 hams in attendance and that senior forecaster Carol Christenson, KCØMAK, moved the meeting to the Douglas County EOC in Superior, to accommodate everyone. New items this year included an enhanced use of APRS at KØNWS and a NWS Chat Room to interconnect (real time) net control operators with others “working” the same severe weather event.

As far as our club’s participation in the ARRL ARES efforts, John thanked all 15 BAARC members who have submitted their ARES equipment listings and who have now received their ARES patches and ID cards. He asked if there were others not present at the last meeting, and five additional members signed-up

WØWY also said that there would be a written handout at the next club meeting (4-27) that would detail an annual event in May called the Military/Amateur Radio Cross Band Test. This information will give the date, times, and frequencies that will be used. He said that this is an important ARES function and encouraged everyone who could to participate.

**Action Item:** The last item presented was notification by the ARRL of proposed action in Congress in the form of HR 607, which the League opposes because of a potential loss of UHF spectrum, in its present form, and they are asking each amateur to agree to write to their Congressional representative about it. John said for us to go to [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and type HR 607 into the search window. This will bring up all the information including a sample letter and how it is to be sent to their (ARRL’s) lobbyist for hand-delivery to the Congressional representative.

John added to this last item a bit of information about his trip (3/27 – 3/30) to Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress and the FCC over issues in the National Broadband Plan that have been deemed unfair to rural America telecommunications by that industry. By the way, John is on the Board of Directors of Consolidated Telephone Company of Brainerd.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Hams Come to Help When Phones Fail:** When nurses and other caregivers picked up their phones at Children's Hospital of Orange County in California in the early morning on March 21, there was no dial tone. A power surge caused the central processor in the hospital's phone switch to fail. Following established procedures, the lead operator at the hospital switchboard immediately activated the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, using an off-switch tie-line to reach April Moell, WA6OPS, head of this ARES<sup>®</sup> group that specializes in helping hospitals when their communications fail. *News item from the ARRL.*

## DX and the Paper Chase

Beep-beep, honk if you love DX because let's face it...there's a lot to love. The month of March has been a DXers dream with exotic DX from every corner of the globe. I worked so many good stations that it's difficult to remember them all. I did work India (simplex on 17-meters) and Sudan on the same band also simplex. It's so much fun working a rare one on simplex because of the pileups. What's better in this hobby than breaking a pileup?...Not much!!! I sit back and listen to the operators getting through and when I have the pileup figured out, I go for the gusto. The pileup on the operator from India was humongous, and with the band stretching out, the calls were from everywhere...no biggie. I had the guy figured out and was able to get his attention on my 3rd try. I honestly believe that the real deal is busting the pileups rather than putting the call in the log. The Sudan operator was fun to work because when an operator got out of line, he let him know what he thought. I think he purposely avoided several operators because they were rude. Anyway, I have Sudan (again) in my log. I'm not a propagation expert, but if Cycle 24 picks up steam from here on in, we're going to have some good DX on all of the HF bands. 4A4A has and is still QRV on all bands and most modes. I decided to try to work him on CW as he was working a split. So I could toss out my call and listen for his reply on his calling frequency, but I soon figured out that he was replying at somewhere near 35+ words per minute. No way for me! I'm still hitting my straight key around 13 WPM. I have a smile on my face as the bands open bringing good signals for lots of good DX. Remember to sit down at your station and call CQ. After all, there is someone somewhere listening and waiting. So long from Huntersville for now--73 and good DX from Bob/WØZPE.

## A BAARC Member's First DX —by Steve Mott, NØCRM, BAARC V.P.

Just had to share this with someone. After all these years of being busy with life and all, I have finally obtained my first DX contact!

I was busy in my basement shack last night working on non-radio type of stuff, but I did have the 746 Pro on and was just kind of tuning around. There was some activity and I was just listening while I worked. It trailed off and the things were quiet. I was busy and did not continue to tune around (too focused on what I was working on), when this call came--calling CQ. I thought that someone would pick him up, so I did not attempt a reply. Then a few people started to give him a call, and things were sounding good, so I gave the auto-tune a try with the 746, but I came up with a high SWR on 40M. Consequently, I switched to my reliable Palstar. I turned my antenna switch to my analyzer, dialed in 7.161 and proceeded to tune my Windom way down to a very low SWR and got a good 50 ohm match.

Then I waited for an opening, but naturally (as my luck would have it) he started to get a good pile-up going. I had a very difficult time copying his call sign, but his signal was fine. So I kept on trying to understand it. Finally when there was an opening, I threw my call out. Well, low and behold, he came right back---TO ME!!!! Now I had to really work to understand his call. I knew his name was Leo, so we chatted back and forth a couple of times and I told him he was my first DX. We closed and then I had to get out my headphones and start messing with the notch filters to see if I could capture his call sign. Well, I finally got it: PAØLEG from the Netherlands. I was officially pumped up now.

Being that it was now well after midnight, I thought that I had better get to bed so I could get up for work at 5:00 AM. Well, good luck trying to go to sleep now, I thought. In fact, I almost got back up and went down to fire up the radio.

In any case, I have officially been bitten by the DX bug, and even with my little Windom at a mere 37' I was able to reach out across the world. Fun? Yea, you bet!

I hope this was not too long winded, but I simply had to share this. Thanks for listening.

**Editor's Note:** Thanks for sharing it. We heard again from Steve again while he was camping at Tettegouche State Park. He says, "I am portable out in the woods with my Buddipole configured for vertical. Well, I did it again. I captured Siberia with 70 watts, on 20m. SSB. Who needs aluminum and amps!" However, Steve, be warned, there is no cure for the DX bug. Once infected, always infected. Enjoy Cycle 24!

## Notes from John Luce's Attendance at the Skywarn Coordination Meeting held in Duluth, Saturday, March 12th —Portions also presented at the March 31, 2011 Mtg.

The following are items by category:

1. Our **geographical area** of responsibility remains the same: all of Crow Wing County; southern Cass County (from an east-west line through Backus; and southern Aitkin County from an east-west line following Highway 210. The northern halves of those two counties will be picked up by the Itasca club. As usual, if we receive severe weather information from any of the contiguous areas to these, we will report it.
2. Our **call-out notification** will come from either the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center, and/or from the EOC, and John Bowen (KDØCIZ) either by telephone notification (John will call his list of club members until he finds one that answers, and that member will need to call others) and/or, he will get on our 147.225 MHz repeater and start a Skywarn Weather Net. (John likely, because of his other responsibilities, will not remain as Net Control, but will monitor and advise us of any information he comes by.) The NWS/DLH notifies Crow Wing County by calling the Dispatch Center or John Bowen over a regular 10-digit phone number. They can also activate a warning by dialing into the NAWAS drop, which comes into the county PSAP and the State Patrol's PSAP.
3. Our Club's **Skywarn operation** will remain as printed on the yellow Operating Protocol for Skywarn, revised 3/10. There may be one additional change this year, and I am asking Al WØRC TO PLEASE CHECK THIS OUT WITH HIS LSAC CONTACT: According to Doug AAØAW, the Coleraine site (where I believe our UHF 443.925 connects to LSAC) is coming down. If that is the case NWS/DLH, KØNWS wants us to connect with them through the new Aitkin repeater, which is NØBZZ, at 147.360 + with a 203.5 tone. We've used this repeater before when it was not connected to LSAC. Now we think it is. (Try it out). If the LSAC links are not working, be patient. At any rate, it has a hellofa big footprint which we need to map out, so that we know its full coverage area. This would connect us directly to NWS/DLH, KØNWS for reporting our severe weather. Local coordination with Itasca County will be through WRØG at Outing.
4. Our **Skywarn training dates** have not as yet been set for Crow Wing County. I or John Bowen will let us know. According to Carol KCØMAK, who is setting them up, there has been one scheduled for Lake Shore, but I don't know the date for that and she couldn't remember and it is not, as yet, on their website. That will not be the "main" training date and/or location but will be in addition to it. I am sure John KDØCIZ will arrange it for the usual place, etc. Also, like last year, NWS/DLH will hold a training drill at 1300 hrs on Thursday, April 14th, which will be a practice net. We will want as many of our members to check-in as possible.
5. Our meeting was given a **head's-up on two new items** this year. One was a chat room that is being set-up for folks like John Bowen in the EOC to log into and be made aware of a "larger picture" of information of what's going on; and two, a flood-watch program which will provide status monitoring (for our area) of the Mississippi River levels so that we can check on information that heretofore we have not had access to. Carol showed us examples of this for all the flood-prone areas that her NWS/DLH handles and it is pretty cool. Not only does it give current and projected status of water levels relative to flood stage, but it also tells at which points various significant pieces of infrastructure in each community go "out-of-service," such as water treatment plants, communications centers and there are some, hospitals, etc.

In all, the meeting was very good this year as in the past. There were 28 people in attendance, which far and away were too many for the conference room at NWS/DLH, so the location was moved to the Douglas County EOC in Superior. That is an impressive place! Afterwards, we had a short meeting of county EC's (ARRL's Emergency Coordinators). I represented Crow Wing County and found that meeting very interesting as well. We mainly talked about reporting, how, when, where, value of, and such—but also what folks were doing in the various counties. This was good because there was a broad representation present. The EC's in Wisconsin are further advanced in their ARES/RACES programs than we are here in north central and northern Minnesota.

Anyway, as usual, this got longer than I expected but CU on the air——73, John WØWY



# Crow Wing County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

## SPRING 2011 SKYWARN INFORMATION

The following is a listing of dates and **SKYWARN** activities for the Crow Wing County area.

- March 12 (Sat.) Ham Radio EC coordinator's meeting NWS/DLH
- April 11 - 15 Severe Weather Awareness Week NWS/DLH
- April 14 (Thurs.) State-wide Tornado Drill; 1:45 and 6:55 PM CW County
- April 14 Crow Wing County spotter network(s)  
activated at 1:15 from NWS/DLH & CW County
- April 14 BAARC **SKYWARN NET** activated; 1:15 PM  
on club VHF repeater(s) 147.225(+) or 145.130(-)  
by Crow Wing County EOC (KDØCIZ) or any ARES Member
- April 14 Mock tornado WARNING issued; 1:45 PM NWS/DLH &  
CW Count
- April 14 Watches and Warning Expire; 2:00 PM;  
All units may stand down CW County & NWS/DLH
- April 18 (Mon.) **SKYWARN** spotter training, new and refresher;  
6 PM; City Hall, 8583 Interlachen Rd, Lake Shore NWS/DLH
- April 27 (Wed.) **SKYWARN** spotter training, new and refresher;  
6 PM; Crow Wing County, Land Services Bldg NWS/DLH

=====

### The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Time and Frequency Division is conducting a [survey](#) to learn more about its users, seeking to

determine how the agency can make its services more useful in the future. NIST services include [WWV](#), [WWVH](#) and [WWVB](#), which provide reference time and frequency signals via radio. The NIST also provides the Internet Time Service -- which provides accurate time synchronization to computer systems -- and several other services to offer accurate time information via telephone or web pages. Radio amateurs are encouraged to complete the survey. "If you use any of these services, we want to hear from you," said WWVH Electronic Technician Dean Takamatsu. "The survey should take just a few minutes to complete and your input will be greatly appreciated." WWV and WWVB in Fort Collins, Colorado, along with WWVH on Kauai, Hawaii, broadcast continuous time and frequency information to millions of listeners worldwide. Information broadcast includes time announcements, standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a BCD time code, geophysical alerts, marine storm warnings and Global Positioning System status reports. (From the ARRL)

## BAARC ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual BAARC Spring Dinner-Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2011, at the Nisswa American Legion Post. The Legion is located on Main Street, approximately ½ mile north of the Highway 371 stoplight.

**Social hour:** 5 – 6 PM (Drinks may be ordered at the bar)

**Dinner:** 6 PM - Sliced Beef, baked chicken, potatoes, mixed vegetables, ranch salad, dinner rolls, dessert and coffee.

**Short Business Meeting and Program:** 7 PM. (Program to be announced)

**Cost:** \$15.00/person (price includes tax and gratuity). **Checks made out to BAARC are preferred.**

**Reservation must be made by May 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**No refunds for cancellations made after May 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Note:** Individual name tags with call signs will be available at check-in.

**For Reservations:** Sign up at the membership meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> or call Jim WØJDS at 218-543-5041 or email [jamyshu@uslink.net](mailto:jamyshu@uslink.net) by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## OUR MAIN REPEATER .225—UPDATE FROM AL WØRC—the latest.

Hi Everyone,

This is an update on the 147.225 repeater testing. The repeater is still in Brainerd on a vertical antenna that is not very high, so the coverage is not as good as you are used to.

The repeater now seems to be working well and normally. As you have noticed, there are voice ID's, time announcements, and a courtesy beep that we never had before.

The voice ID and time announcement come on every 10 minutes when the repeater is in use; otherwise it doesn't ID.

After a long time of not being used and when keyed up, it will ID in CW.

Please monitor it, use it, and see if this is how you want it to work in the future.

If there are any changes you would like, please let me know at the next club meeting or by email.

It was malfunctioning for a time, but I worked on it and think it is OK now.

I have also programmed an anti-kerchuck timer to prevent random interference. It is now only .5 seconds, so you may have to hold down your PTT switch before talking.

By all means give it a try, **but ID when you do, so we know it is not random interference causing it to key up.**

Thanks for your patience during this testing period.

73— AI WØRC

**Trustee's Note:** You may not know that AI has been putting in a lot of time and effort getting the unit usable. We owe him our gratitude for all the work involved so far. The repeater sounds good to me—— thanks, AI, for your tireless work for BAARC.——de WØKO.

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

04/03/11 Lyle KØLR

04/10/11 Doug KDØERE

04/17/11 Dylan KDØLFE

04/24/11 Tom KØHHF

05/01/11 Lyle KØLR

05/08/11 Doug KDØERE

05/15/11 Dylan KDØLFE

05/22/11 Marcia WØZMC

05/29/11 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>

**NEW GENERATOR:** John **WØWY** reports that he had purchased, according to Club authorization, a new replacement generator locally for our EMCOMM Trailer, and he installed it. Rated at 2KW+ this Honda model will handle everything well. All documentation was provided: manual, warranty, sales receipt information. The old one was sold because it was not reliable enough for the duty cycle required for our public service work. Thanks, John, for doing all of this for us.

**FOR SALE: MFJ-986 DIFFERENTIAL-T TUNER** with 3KW Roller Inductor . Call Charles, W5CCL at 218-545-1965.

**UPDATE on Roger WØWUG:** According to an e-mail and phone call, he was recuperating from successful heart surgery done in Rochester and will have some check-ups at the St. Cloud Hospital Heart Ctr. In the meantime, his friend and nurse Annie is expertly taking care of him in Brooklyn Park at her place: Diane Berning, 8209 67th Ave. N., Brooklyn Center, MN 55428. He says he would enjoy the company if you are in that area in the next few weeks. Of course, a get-well card was sent to Roger on behalf of the Club.

**E-Mail List Update: Ron KØGOP and his Effort.** Thanks for getting the e-mail addresses corrected, Ron. You probably needed magnifiers!!! We appreciate the work in getting the details right. Good reminder for all to check our records, FCC database, e-mail address publications. Thanks, Ron.

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