



The BAARCeR



March 2011

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

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Club Call Sign: 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>

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Vice President + WWW

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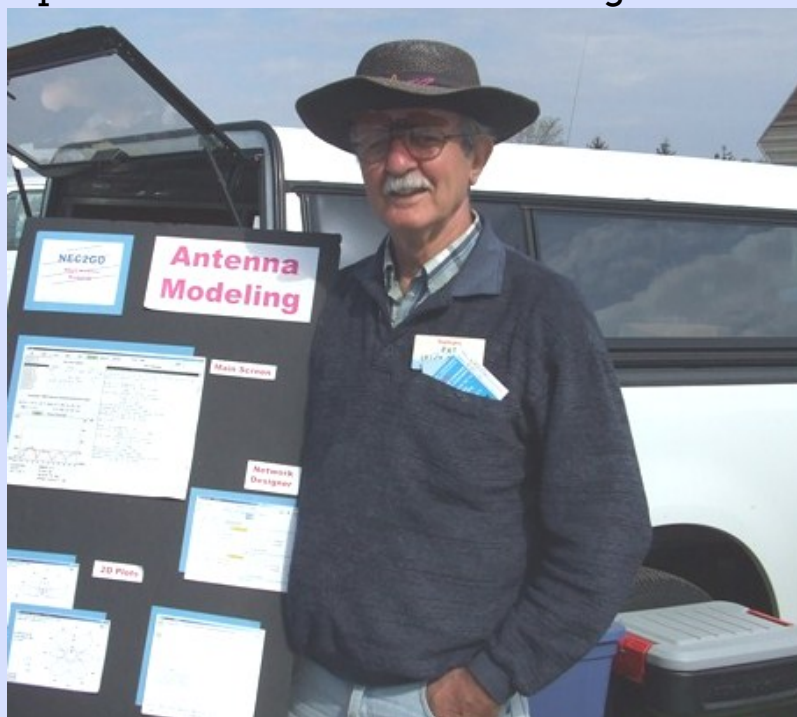
Trustee + BAARCeR

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

Antenna Modeling Program Expertly Presented to BAARC

Members Feb. 24: Pat Wintheiser, WØOPW, now of Pillager, demonstrated his NEC2GO Software. Pat is a Boeing retiree & computer programmer. We are fortunate to have Pat in our area and a member of the Club. With his antenna work, Pat travels—even to Dayton where Lyle KØLFV caught this photo of him meeting hams from around the world. Thanks, Pat, for an excellent presentation. Check <www.nec2go.com> for more info.



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— Events Calendar —

- Sat., March 5, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd**
 - Sat., March 19, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd**
 - Sat., March 26, Mid-Winter Madness Hamfest—in Buffalo**
 - Thurs., March 31, Club Mtgs. @ 4 and 7 p.m. Fire Hall Brainerd**
 - Sat., April 2, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd**
 - Sat., April 9 MN Repeater Council Spring Mtg in Owatonna @ 12.**
 - Sat., April 16, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd**
 - Sat., April 30, March-of-Dimes Walk (Brainerd) & Annual JC Marathon Nisswa—Ops. Needed for Both. Volunteer on Net.**
- CHECK THE SUNDAY NIGHT NET FOR UPDATES**

Thursday, February 24, 2011 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes Brainerd Police Station

President: Charles Lane W5CCL

Vice President: Steve Mott NØCRM

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

The President opened the meeting at 4:03 PM with 7 board members and 3 members in attendance. The January minutes were approved as printed in the January [BAARCer](#). The secretary reported the sending of email reminders to 2010 Ham Class members who have not yet renewed for 2011. The Treasurer's report was presented and approved for the Treasurer by Charles with details to follow at the 7 PM membership meeting. Charles also informed the Board that due to a schedule change, Doug will now be able to attend future 4 PM Board Meetings.

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. Terry KIØFW stated that Jan Kipka at the MOD has been notified of our availability. Event Chairmen for the walk will be: Charles, Terry and Dave. Chairmen for the **Brainerd Jaycees "Run For The Lakes" Marathon** will be: Al, Shirley, Terry and Dave. Dave presented a submission form he has prepared in an effort to make it easier to input past event contacts and details for the "master event database" he is compiling. Dave stated that although he started this project early last year, he has still not received any event contact information for it. Once compiled, the database will be forwarded to the Secretary for web/email retrieval. The board thanked Dave for his efforts. Charles questioned whether participation was diminishing for the **Spring Dinner**, and if another venue might be better. Spring Dinner Chairman Jim WØJDS said that the turnout has been holding at the usual 40 for several years, but offered the idea of catering the meal at a location closer to Brainerd, such as the GLRA building in Baxter. The dinner has been held at the Nisswa Legion in recent years. Al reported that the **Mid-MN 150 Dog Sled Race** might be moved to the weekend prior to the **Ice Fishing Extravaganza** to provide colder running temperatures for the dogs.

Digital & Emergency Communications: John reported on modifications he has made to his Club Vest regarding adhesive patch attachment and a plastic ID holder. He also gave an update on the ARMER system switchover for public service communications and the Fifty Lakes Lions Club repeater inquiry.

Old Business: Al has the new repeater ready for testing at the Club station, pending switchover from the current repeater site. Lyle circulated a listing of the Club equipment inventory to add to for the current equipment totals.

New Business: John has found a local source for a new backup generator for the Club trailer. The unit is offered for a discounted price of \$859 at Brainerd Country Power. Lyle presented a proposal for setting up remote access to the Club station at BHS. An equipment cost of \$500 or less is anticipated to make the station usable remotely by Club members via the Internet. Ron reported on an opportunity to receive a free AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for Club event use, through Essentia Health's "Take Heart" grant program. The application for the unit and related training has been submitted and awaiting processing.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Thursday, February 24, 2011 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes Brainerd Fire Station

The President opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with 18 members and guests present. A motion to accept the published minutes for January was approved. The Treasurer's Report was then presented by Doug, and approved. Al presented a bill for a duplexer for the Club trailer and Lyle presented a check for Club equipment sales.

Digital & Emergency Communications: John reported on his Club vest modifications and the upcoming ARMER system switchover. (see Board Meeting minutes) A short video detailing the new ARMER system was viewed.

Upcoming Events: Details were given on the upcoming **March of Dimes Walk, and Brainerd Jaycees "Run For The Lakes" Marathon**. (see Board Meeting minutes) Club members were urged to sign up for both events. (See p.2)

(Minutes Continued)

New Business: Charles briefed the Club on the new generator for the Club trailer and remote Club station access project at BHS. The Secretary reported on the "Take Heart" grant program for a Club AED. (see Board Meeting minutes) The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

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

DX and the Paper Chase

What is going on? The solar flux numbers are rising as are the sunspot numbers but where is the propagation to the upper Midwest? I missed the last two DXpeditions, both of which I needed for DXCC credit--and the reason is simple: I wasn't able to hear them well enough to transmit a signal back to them. There was some DX this month workable from my QTH into Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, but that was about it for me. Most of my HF activity this month was spent rag chewing, which I enjoy immensely. I am still getting to know the ins and outs of my FT-950, so the ragchewing allowed me to experiment with some of the bells and whistles that the rig offers. I have mentioned previously the iPad (my birthday gift) that I use in the shack to access the Internet while chatting, mostly QRZ.com. This marvelous device has become one of the most valuable resources in my shack. I might also mention that I've brought our computer systems into the 21st century with wireless keyboards and wireless mouse (mice?) along with installing a wireless router--is it really that important or necessary to sit on the front deck with a laptop? My kids think the old man is really wired, or did they say the word weird? As you can see, there isn't much DX to talk about. The numbers 9 and 10 of the DX rules are as follows: **No. 9**-- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine. **No. 10**-- I will not transmit when the DX station calls other geographic areas than mine. These rules are available on several Internet sites and they're being posted on DXpedition websites. When push comes to shove, how about some good common sense when operating HF stations. Someone pointed out that common sense died and has been buried. However, as good radio operators we can resurrect common sense one contact at a time. In the meantime, turn on your rigs and call CQ because there's all sorts of excitement out there even if it's a rag chew. So long from Huntersville for now. 73 and good DX from **Bob/WØZPE**.

Three Yachtsmen Killed by Somali Pirates were Hams—from ARRL-2-14-11

Four Americans--including three Amateur Radio operators--who were being held hostage on their yacht by pirates off the coast of Oman have been killed. Scott Adam, **K9ESO**, and his wife Jean, **KF6RVB**, along with Bob Riggle, **KE7IIV**, and Phyllis Macay were on board the S/V *Quest* when pirates boarded their vessel on Friday, February 18. The Adams were based in the Los Angeles area; Riggle and Macay were from Seattle.

Amateur MF Allocation Moves a Step Closer—from Arrl 2-14-11

Amateur Radio has moved a step closer to a medium frequency (MF) allocation below the AM broadcast band. During the first week of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference ([WRC-12](#)) of the International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)), held in Geneva February 14-25, delegates completed the drafting of nine pages of analysis of the technical and regulatory issues related to WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.23: consideration of a possible secondary allocation to the Amateur Service of about 15 kHz somewhere between 415 and 526.5 kHz. Two possible methods of satisfying the agenda item, along with the possibility of there being no change (and therefore no allocation), are set out in the CPM Report, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each.

MID-MN 150 SLED-DOG RACE—CLUB MEMBERS' PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN VOLUNTEERING: 2-12-11. All photos of the Race courtesy of Lyle KØLFV and Steve WØTNT.

Sled-Dog Race Reports Submitted by Various Participants

Mushers Meeting - Village Inn

At the mushers meeting at the Village Inn, Dan, Al, and Joe, sled dog officials, talked to the group about the condition of the trails and about spots to watch out for. They highlighted one of the areas to watch out for to be the Pikus Road area and that someone had just plowed the road in days ago and work had been done to try and clean it up. They also asked that teams try to help each other out getting to the lake and starting line. After getting all the updates of mushers either moving, adding, or dropping out, I moved outside to check on the starting line, and once Lyle and Kathy were on the starting line, I moved my way back to the ECOMM trailer to go back to Net Control support when I saw a team coming towards the lake. There was a younger woman leading that team who was covered head to toe with snow, so I went over and asked if she needed help. I helped her and the team to the starting line. Once they were off, Shirley was asking for help on the Pikus Road, so I ran back to the trailer, gathered my backpack and headed for Pikus Road as fast as I could. I got there just in time. **Steve NØCRM**

AT PIKUS ROAD

Ever hear of an expression "where the hell is _____," and then just fill in some remote, "God-forsaken," totally unknown place that may or may not exist? Well, this is one of them: US Forest Service, Pikus Road; it does exist and if you get out the "right map," you'll find it roughly north of where Cass County Road 58 and Aitkin County Road 19 come together. Does that help?

Needless to say, it is a pretty obscure place unless you're **Roger WØWUG**, or **John WØWY** – and now added to those two, **Steve NØCRM** and **Lyle KØLFV**, who know exactly where it is and why hams need to be there. Oh, sure, snowmobilers and dog sled mushers know where it is, but only because they followed posted trail markings. Therein lies the need for the hams to be there. There is a very dangerous intersection right under a big DC electric transmission line, where unsuspecting snow machine operators' trails and the dog sled trails come together for about 100 feet and then part. Both approach the area towards one another (that's head on) and rather than playing "chicken," they need to try to figure out where to go. That's where the hams help. The other occurrence is the inability of either type of sled and operator to stop quickly. So the answer has been for the hams to "direct traffic" by waving their arms wildly and shouting out the potential danger to unsuspecting sled operators, both engines and dogs. This year, new to the scene in place of Roger, were Lyle and Steve. Both learned in the first few minutes of their arrival when machines and dogs come together, anything can happen. (Just ask Steve what it's like to have a 6-dog team drag you into a ditch with 4 feet of uncompacted snow in it. He got a "snoot-full.") Safety is what it was all about. And if you don't count a few close calls, the hams did a great job way out there on the Pikus Road. **John WØWY**

Finish Line Thoughts

My son and I put my pickup truck about 25 yards past the finish line so that we could see the teams as they came in. This was at the request of a race official. We had a good seat, and the radio kept us informed as the sleds made their way north to Remer. There were non-racing sleds with their dogs there, giving rides to people for \$5. They would turn left past the side of the pickup as they looped around the finish line area. One lead dog looped his team all the way around our truck and got sled, dogs, and cables tangled up in the tires, bumpers, etc., and a dog handler untangled the whole barking mess while my son and I sat in the middle of the scene. We listened as the teams got closer, and finally the sleds started coming in. My son (**KBØHXL**) would write down the team numbers and finish times and then hold it up in front of me "teleprompter-style" for our finish-line reports to net control Shirley. We had a good time, and I think our Club's efforts were important for the functioning and safety of the whole event. Mike and I would like to be a part of this event next year wherever we would be needed. **Jim – KBØINZ** P.S. I have never seen so many dogs in one place before! ☺

Jim Shubert, WØJDS, Reported his Unique Experience.

Regarding my encounter with a sled-dog team at Windy Lake South checkpoint, it is NOT true that I was "run over by a sled," but it was close! Two dog teams approached the left turn off the trail onto the lake, one immediately behind the other. My friend **Marwin**, another bystander, and I stood on the trail with out-stretched arms to help the dog teams make the turn. The lead team kept going straight and passed between Marwin and me, while the trailing team made the turn. I managed to grab the tow line behind the second dog and pulled them to my right, heading them in the direction of the lake. In the process, I fell spread-eagle and the two dogs ran over me. Fortunately, the tow line didn't catch on anything and the sled missed me by several feet. In addition, to some laughter, I heard the musher call back to us—"Thanks for your help!" This is the same crossing where Steve **WØTNT** had his encounter with the run-away team a couple of years ago. Needless to say, this excitement was a bonus to our volunteer activity -- all done in the interest of community service!
Jim **WØJDS**.

**More Photos of this Race on website <<http://home.comcast.net/~rogerlaurence/site/?/photos/>>
The many photos are great, all taken by Judi Laurence and available to us. Thanks.**

More on SLED-DOG RACE—CLUB MEMBERS' PERSONAL Experiences



APRS used for the Sled Dog Race

Terry **KIØFW** and Shirley **KØDCW** worked net control for the Dog Sled Race from the BAARC trailer positioned in Outing, MN. We used Roger's **WRØG** repeater for communications, and the coverage was great. Thanks, Roger! Steve **NØCRM** had made spreadsheets for us, listing the bib numbers and the racers' names. Thanks, Steve! Ron **KØGOP** input the race times into the computer spreadsheets, which allowed the race officials to know where teams were located and what the race times were. Thanks, Ron! The operators positioned at road crossings and critical lake entrances and exit positions reported the bib numbers and the times of the racing teams as they passed each of the positions. Thanks to Lyle **KØLR**, Kathy **KØTHY** and Wynn **KA3DQN**, we received critical times from the starting line; Doug **KDØERE** and Dylan **KDØLFE** covered the Hwy 58 crossing; John **WØWY**, Lyle **KØLFV** and Steve **NØCRM** worked the hazardous Pikus Road area; Jim **WØJDS** and friend **Marwin** worked the Windy Lake South area; Steve **WØTNT** handled the Windy Lake North area; Charles **W5CCL** covered 88th Ave. and Hwy 200; Lyle **KØLR** and Kathy **KØTHY** were re-assigned to 76th Ave. and Hwy 200; and Jim **KBØINZ** and Mike **KBØHXL** covered the finish line, reporting the critical finishing times. All **WØRC** and Kurt **KDØYTC** followed the last sled dog team by APRS-enabled snowmobiles. It was great to know where the last sled dog team was, instead of having to look for it. Thanks, everyone for a job well done! **Shirley KØDCW**

From AI WØRC—Final Thoughts—His Perspective on this Successful Event.

I would like to thank John **WØWY** for taking the trailer up to the Village Inn on Friday and Steve **NØCRM** for returning it on Sat. afternoon with Ron **KØGOP** shadowing him on the way home. I would also like to thank Steve **NØCRM**, Shirley **KØDCW**, and Terry **KIØFW** for setting up the trailer Sat. morning at the Village Inn. We tried something new this year: APRS and two-meter radio on a snowmobile. With the help of a two-meter antenna donated by John **WØWY** that didn't need a ground plane and one of the Club's D-700 radios from the trailer, I mounted the equipment on my 1995 Polaris 500 snowmobile. It seemed to work pretty well after installing a power plug and making an antenna mount on the rear bumper. The goal was to follow the last musher from Outing to Remer (was going to be Emily to Outing to Remer before the race was cut short) and set up the APRS computer in the Club trailer so that Net Control and the Mid MN 150 officials would know where the last dog team was located. The APRS signals were received and digipeated through the Aitkin, Tamarack, and Grand Rapids digipeaters and Net Control always knew where the last musher was located. This also gave me and my son **Kurt KCØYTC**, who rode with me, an opportunity to see all the checkpoints from the mushers' point of view and the Mysterious Pikus Road crossing. I have a much different point of view of Pikus Road after seeing how difficult it is to navigate. Pikus Road is also where the mushers leave the snowmobile trails and enter the woods on old ATV trails. We also observed the Windy Lake area and the SOO Line trail crossings. All in all, it was a neat experience. The weather was perfect for humans, but it may have been a little warm for the dogs. Thank you to everyone who participated and hope to do it again next year. —**AI WØRC**.

The Infamous Pikus Road Crossing: Shown (L-R) Judi Laurence, Roger Laurence (WRØG), John WØWY, Al WØRC, Lyle KØLFV, and Steve NØCRM. This photo by the Kurt Doree, KDØYTC. Lower left photos show what can happen with spirited dogs who want to run. Bottom right is Al on snowmobile mobile with 2 mtr. and GPS.



What made this race possible? Sleds, like the one shown, beautiful and lovable animals, and, of course, our Club Members as Volunteers. Photos: KØLFV & WØTNT



Pictured here in the Club's Communications Trailer left to right are John WØWY, Terry KIØFW, Shirley KØDCW as the ever-capable NC, Ron KØGOP, and Steve NØCRM. Both doing data entry and lots of record keeping, using racing formats, time sheets, and maps created by Ron and Steve for the Club to use in these public service events. Ron and Terry had other duties described in enclosed reports here.

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

03/06/11 Marcia WØZMC

03/13/11 Bob WØZPE

03/20/11 Jim WØJDS

03/27/11 Fritz WØKO

04/03/11 Lyle KØLR

04/10/11 Doug KDØERE

04/17/11 Dylan KDØLFE

04/24/11 Tom KØHHF

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

Thanks to Ron KØGOP, Club Secretary, for spearheading the Take Heart AED Grant Application to Essentia Health. This has the potential to be a lifesaver for us whenever we are doing public service work in the greater community.

Condolences to Jim Barry, WØIRE: We offer our sincerest condolences to Jim on the loss of his dad on 2-17-11. His dad was blessed with a long life into the nineties, and we trust that the Barry family has many memories of those years to sustain them. The Club has sent a card to Jim.

Post Office and Mailed BAARCers: The last mailing was returned to Fritz because the Post Office could not accept the stapled 4-page newsletter, that it jams and/or harms their sorting machines. After getting the details, Fritz is now taping the mailed B&W newsletter, according to directions from the P.O. For the record, we mail about 10 copies every month. The rest of the members get to see the BAARCer in all its magnificent color via the website, our preferred method of getting the info out—plus it saves time and money, too.

Congratulations, Joe Kimler. KBØVYJ earned his General Class License on Feb. 19. Is Extra next, Joe? Keep going!!!!

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