



# The BAARCer



May 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 rpt)  
 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**

## **Technology Day: A Show-and Tell Event of New Toys**



**WØWY (not pictured), Lyle KØLFV and Ron KØGOP demo new APRS enabled radios. More on Page 5. (Photo provided by KØLFV).**

**Index**

Mtg. Mins-KØGOP	2
DX Report—WØZPE	3
WØRC--Military-Ham Crossband Event	4
Latest Technology KØLFV, et al	5
SKYWARN DRILL	6
Dinner-Mtg. Details Marathon	7
Last Word—Updates Sunday Night Net	8

**— Events Calendar —**

**Sat., May 7, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd**  
**Sat., May 7, DULUTH-SUPERIOR HAMFEST**—same place & time  
**Sat., May 14, Military-Amateur Radio Crossband Event** —see p. 4  
**Sat., May 21, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd**  
**Thurs., May 26—Annual Dinner-Meeting. Nisswa Legion \$15/**  
**person. More Details in this BAARCer and on Net. See p. 7.**  
**Sat., JUNE 4, Tour of the Lakes Bike Ride. Operators needed**  
**Contact Charles W5CCL, Terry KIØFW, Shirley KØDCW**  
**BRAINERD HAMFEST JULY 9, 2011**  
**CHECK THE SUNDAY NIGHT NETS FOR ANY UPDATES/**  
**CORRECTIONS TO THIS PUBLICATION.**

## Thursday, April 28, 2011 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes Brainerd Fire Station

**President:** Charles Lane, W5CCL  
**Vice President:** Steve Mott, NØCRM  
**Secretary:** Ron Finger, KØGOP

**Past President:** Al Doree, WØRC  
**Past President:** Lyle Amundson, KØLFV  
**E-Communications Director:** John Luce, WØWY

The President opened the meeting at 4:04 PM with 6 board members and 4 members in attendance. The March minutes were approved as printed in the April [BAARCer](#). The Treasurer's report was presented and approved for the Treasurer by Charles with some details to follow at the 7 PM membership meeting.

**Upcoming Events:** Charles discussed final details regarding the **March of Dimes Walk** at Forestview School in Baxter. Only a small group of operators will be needed and will operate 2M simplex over the course. Co-chairs Al WØRC and Shirley KØDCW distributed maps and schedules to the operators of the **Brainerd Jaycees "Run For The Lakes" Marathon** in Nisswa, also to be held on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. **Spring Dinner** Chairman Jim WØJDS said that sign-ups so far are at 24, with the usual 40 expected. John WØWY suggested giving our scheduled presenter, Al KØCN: \$25, his meal, and a certificate of appreciation, which was approved. A chairman is being sought for the **Tour of the Lakes Bike Ride** on June 4<sup>th</sup>, and will be solicited at the membership meeting.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** Al reported on the recent installation and operation of the Club's 147.225 MHz repeater at the new Gull Lake site. Adjustments are being made, both on-site and remotely for audio levels, identifiers, and other features. Al is also repairing the damaged UHF-packet antenna coupling and will reinstall on the high-rise site soon.

**Old Business:** Steve NØCRM reported on the progress of the Club website project, and Lyle KØLFV on the Club equipment inventory. Ron KØGOP received word that we will not receive the Essentia Health AED grant at this time. Our Club application will remain on file to be re-considered as more funds become available in the future.

**New Business:** Al reported on the Club reflector. This seldom-used tool was set up years ago by Jim WØIRE, and is similar to the web's user groups and bulletin boards in common use today. Club participants are able to post questions, announcements, and items for sale to the rest of the group. Steve will talk to Jim regarding the details of this tool. The Board also approved the donation of an extra TNC to the Wadena Radio Club for APRS node use. Lyle gave an update on the Club station remote access project.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM.

## Thursday, April 28, 2011 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes Brainerd Fire Station

The President opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with 16 members and guests present. A motion to accept the published minutes for March was approved. The Treasurer's Report was then presented by Doug KDØERE, and approved.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** John reported on the recent SKYWARN training class and forthcoming article in the Sunday [Brainerd Dispatch](#). Sixteen Club members attended local training classes. Al discussed the new repeater site now operating at 450' higher elevation than before. Tone access will be added to prevent false triggering.

**Upcoming Events:** Details were given on the upcoming **March of Dimes Walk, Brainerd Jaycees "Run For The Lakes" Marathon, Spring Dinner, and Tour of the Lakes Bike Ride** (see Board Meeting minutes). Lyle discussed and distributed info sheets on the **ARRL Field Day**.

**Old/New Business:** Reports were given on the Club website, ARMER, AED grant, Club reflector, and the WØUJ remote station project (see Board Meeting minutes). The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

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

## DX and the Paper Chase

Finally...I worked Andaman & Nicobar (VU4) after trying for over 10 years that had produced no results either because of propagation and/or the inability to break into the pileup. This time it was different because I was able to listen to the operator as he selected a call from the pileup...take time to listen instead of trying to beat the other guy to the punch. Finally, I listened and success is so sweet. Also, there was a card from Cameroon in the mailbox, another confirmation on the road to 300. DX was and still is very good with daily openings into Europe and Russia, and later in the evening the JA's were on 17-meters with excellent signals. The Japanese are good operators. The news from NOAA that Cycle 24 was going to be the weakest cycle in modern times was a damper for most serious operators who look ahead to more good DXpeditions to fill out their dance cards. Someone said (and it's true) that the final contacts as you get closer to 300 and over are going to be garnered from organized DXpeditions. Is it possible that NOAA may be wrong? We'll have to wait and see on that forecast. As for me—I'm working harder than ever and loving it more and more as DX becomes more and more plentiful. I'm still looking for open frequencies that I'm able to call CQ on and I am seldom disappointed. Furthermore, I never become bored with a DX rag chew. Looking back to when I set up my HF station for serious DXing—I've made changes as my operating techniques became better. Of course, I'm once again making changes that I hope to share with you in a future column. In the meantime, sit down at your HF station and call CQ because you might be surprised who is listening for your call. So long from Huntersville for now. 73 and good DX from **Bob/WØZPE**

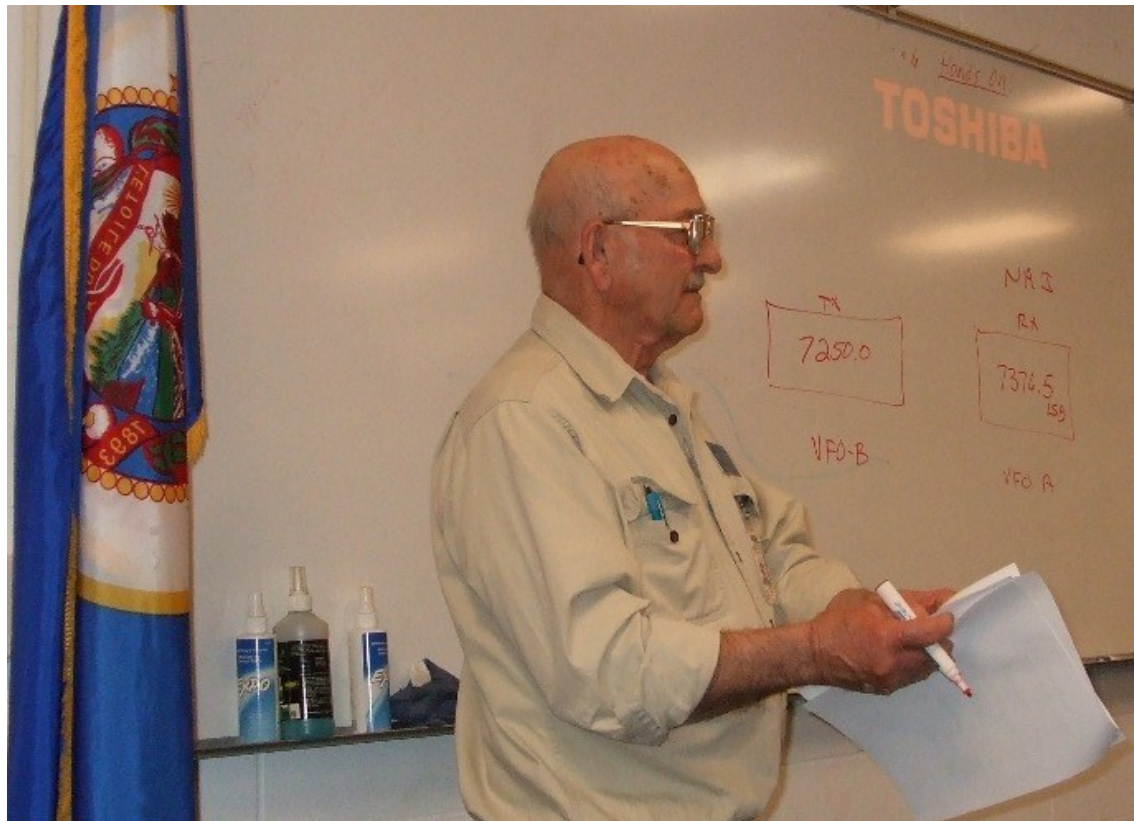
### Tour of the Lakes Bike Ride is June 4th—Saturday—starts in Pequot Lakes:

Charles W5CCL, Terry KIØFW, and Shirley KØDCW are the contacts. They need volunteer operators for one net control, 7 rest stops, and 4 SAG wagons. Charles can be reached at 218 545 1965. Advanced planning is required for this, so let the co-chairs know on the Sunday Net or by calling Charles. Thanks in advance for helping out.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Got any want Ads or For Sales?** Just send the info to Fritz with all the details. Charles W5CCL did this recently and sold his tuner by having it listed in the BAARCer.  
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***HAVE A GREAT MEMORIAL DAY COMING UP. LET'S REMEMBER OUR FALLEN CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS!***

**Ham Radio and Military Crossband Exercise to be Held on May 14:** Al WØRC, an active Navy MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) operator, gave the members a quick lesson in how to do it. Basically hams will listen for the military stations outside of the ham bands, and in order to make contact, hams must transmit within the allowed frequencies—not on the military's frequency. It is like working split frequency with DX stations. Photo by Lyle KØLFV taken of Al below.



**ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND  
MILITARY/AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TEST  
(14 MAY 2011)**

The Army, Air Force, Navy Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 21, 2011, the AFD Military/Amateur Cross band Communications Test will be conducted 14 May 2011 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (20-22 May 2011), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur cross band communications SSB and Morse Code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.

All the frequencies, times and modes can be found at [www.netcom.army/mil/mars/docs/AMC\\_test\\_2011.pdf](http://www.netcom.army/mil/mars/docs/AMC_test_2011.pdf) or do a Google search for other web sites as there are too many to list here.

Of special note, the Minnesota Navy/Marine Corps MARS is located in MARS Region Five with its Headquarters located at the Great Lakes Naval Station. Minnesota used to be located in Region Four with a call sign of NAV 4. That call sign went away when we were moved to Region Five, so our Region Five director located the old original call sign of the Great lakes MARS station that was issued back in 1916 and was last used in 1958. That call sign is NNNØNAJ or abbreviated NAJ.

Some stations will be using digital modes such as MT63 and PSK31 along with CW, so look for the times and modes being used by each station.

Submitted by Al WØRC.

## Technology Show & Tell—continued from page 1

From time to time a product will appear on the Amateur Radio scene that is worth talking about. The most recent product that a number of us in the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club felt were very impressive, innovative and useful was the new series of Yaesu Handhelds that are APRS ready. Lyle KØLFV, John WØWY and Ron KØGOP each own a Yaesu VX-8 series radio. During our April Membership Meeting the capabilities of this HT was shared with Club Members. I have used this handheld from inside the car and also flying with my son in a Cessna 172 airplane with just the rubber duck antenna and have had favorable results in using APRS to track location, speed, altitude, and route. The Yaesu VX-8GR is a Dual Band 5W FM HT that includes a built-in GPS and data terminal which makes it APRS capable and ready. This is truly an HT that can be considered an all-in-one handheld with many, many features that are too numerous to list. Another nice feature is the weather alert capability and a CW training feature you can program to sharpen your CW skills.

Yaesu brochures and catalogs were handed out to the membership that listed and talked about the many features of this product. Also a thank you to Yaesu for providing the handouts and the door prizes, which included hats and The Radio Amateur's World Map. If you need additional information on the VX-8 series, you can go to the Yaesu website which is: <http://www.yaesu.com/>  
Text and Photo provided by Lyle KØLFV.



**Ron Finger, KØGOP**, demonstrating how APRS helps in tracking for the public service events the BAARC does in the area. This presentation was part of the April meeting focusing on new technology in ham radio.

**SKYWARN DRILL HELD 4-14-11 DURING TORNADO AWARENESS WEEK IN MN**

This report confirms the facts surrounding the participation of the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club (BAARC) in the above referenced test from 1300 -1400 hours today, 14 April 2011.

In accordance with the plan, a SKYWARN weather net was called from the Crow Wing County EOC by county Emergency Manager, John Bowen, KDØCIZ, at 1300 hrs. Ron Finger, KØGOP, reported to the EOC and was joined by John WØWY.

The net was called and stations were asked to check-in if they were available to participate should there have been any severe weather to monitor and/or report, covering all of Crow Wing County and the southern halves of Cass and Aitkin counties.

During the course of the hour-long net, a total of 18 stations checked-in; of those 7 were mobiles and of those 7, 5 were equipped with APRS for tracking purposes.

Of the fixed stations, three reported being connected to the NWS chat room and would have been able to collect and report information to NWS/DLH. And net control from the Crow Wing County EOC, had direct radio contact with NWS/DLH via the NØBZZ repeater connected through the LSAC-1 system. A report was given to NWS/DLH via that path at the conclusion of the test at 1400 hours.

EOC Emergency Manager, John Bowen, said he was very pleased with the way the test ran and with the high-level of participation by BAARC members.

Thanks to all who have participated in the past, did so today, and will be available in the future.

A SKYWARN new and refresher training session will be conducted on Wednesday, April 27, at the Land Services Building, Laurel Street, Brainerd at 6 PM.

73's from John Luce, WØWY

Crow Wing County, EC

**Editor's Note: Photo is of Ron Finger, KØGOP, operating at the EOC. Our thanks to John WØWY for the photo & text.**

## 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 at 7 PM**

**Program by Al Senechal, KØCN**

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

**Reservations 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 during the Sunday Night Net or call Jim WØJDS at 218-543-5041 or email [jamyshu@uslink.net](mailto:jamyshu@uslink.net)

**IMPORTANT:** You must do this by May 20th.

## Brainerd Jaycees RUN FOR THE LAKES MARATHON a Success Despite WX

The BAARC provided radio communications for the “Run for the Lakes” Marathon on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2011. Some 514 runners participated in an all-day rain.

Thank you to all of the radio operators. They were Terry KIØFW and Shirley KØDCW, net control from the club trailer located at the Nisswa Community Center. Alan AAØAS did a great job shadowing the race medical director; Steve NØCRM and John WØWY covered Medical Tents #1 and #2; Jim WØJDS and Wynn KA3DQN covered the water stops; and Ron KØGOP, Steve WØTNT, George WDØHXR, Chris NØSHR, and Chris KDØLFA covered various corners during the race. Al WØRC was our Rover and filled in positions when someone had to leave. Charles W5CCL and Doug KDØERE were on standby if we needed additional operators. From home Fritz WØKO monitored WX info received from the Airport’s automated beacon—especially concerned about lightning. The Brainerd Jaycees Marathon officials thank all the radio operators who helped make this year another great event. (Text and info provided by KØDCW). *Below NØCRM provided info and the photo of Nurse Robin, apparently shivering in the damp cold. When she was not busy, Steve’s vehicle provided WX protection at mile stop 4 and 18 (medical).*



SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

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

06/05/11 Jeff KDØHBI  
 06/12/11 Becky KDØHBH  
 06/19/11 Jim KBØINZ  
 06/26/11 Joe KBØVYJ

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>

**Condolences to Paula WØHA and Mark Persons, WØMH,** on the death of her dad Chester Timman (4-18-11). "Chet" was a proud veteran of WWII and also served in the CCC. He was best known in this area for his successful heating and air-conditioning business. He was 88; his wife Ione passed away last year. To help convey sincerest condolences, on behalf of the BAARC, we sent a sympathy card, which was gratefully acknowledged. Please keep the family in your prayers. The funeral was held 4-22-11 in Brainerd.

**Congratulations to BAARC Members and SKYWARN:** The Brainerd Dispatch had a great one-page spread in the weekend edition (May 1) with an excellent photo of the refresher course group on page 8B. Included was Carol Christenson's (KCØMAK) praise of our amateur radio work with the NWS. Also, **John WØWY** was pictured in his mobile showing the latest technology ham radio uses to assist the public. Other Club members were visible in the group photo as well. Great Publicity!!

**March of Dimes Walk:** Charles W5CCL reported that the BAARC was not needed Saturday, April 29. Still we thank those who were prepared to participate in it.

**Our Main Repeater has new features and voice: Details on the Gull Lake Site in June BAARCer.**

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