



The BAARCer



April 2012

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+ (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 + WWW

Editor:

Steve Mott NØCRM

Vice President:

John Luce WØWY

Secretary:

Ron Finger KØGOP

Treasurer:

Doug Bergsnev KDØERE

Director-at-Large:

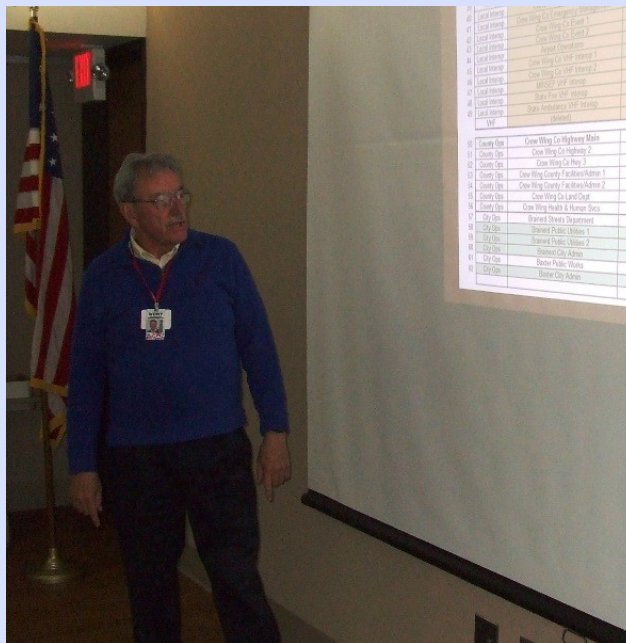
Lyle Amundson KØLFV

Trustee + BAARCer

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt WØKO

Club Meeting Program 3-26-12 on new Crow Wing County ARMER system and SKYWARN & WX Net Preparedness by John WØWY . Also the Balloon Launch Report was presented by Al WØRC. (Photos provided by Lyle KØLFV).



Al provided the role of technical advisor to the group of 13 Forestview Middle School students, who launched a balloon with payload from Brainerd. It landed successfully in WI. Two teachers were involved as well. The event was in the local paper and covered on TV stations in the area. See p. 6 +.

County	City	Club Name	Club Type	Y	N	S
1	County	Crow Wing Co Highway Maint	CW Hwy 1	Y	Y	Y
2	County	Crow Wing Co Highway 2	CW Hwy 2	Y	Y	Y
3	County	Crow Wing Co Highway 3	CW Hwy 3	Y	Y	Y
4	County	Crow Wing County Park/Highway 1	CW PA 1	Y	Y	Y
5	County	Crow Wing County Park/Highway 2	CW PA 2	Y	Y	Y
6	County	Crow Wing Co Land Dept	CW Land	Y	Y	Y
7	County	Crow Wing Health & Human Servs	CW HHS	Y	Y	Y
8	County	Brainerd Shores Department	BS 01	Y	Y	Y
9	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 1	BLC 01	Y	Y	Y
10	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 2	BLC 02	Y	Y	Y
11	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 3	BLC 03	Y	Y	Y
12	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 4	BLC 04	Y	Y	Y
13	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 5	BLC 05	Y	Y	Y
14	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 6	BLC 06	Y	Y	Y
15	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 7	BLC 07	Y	Y	Y
16	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 8	BLC 08	Y	Y	Y
17	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 9	BLC 09	Y	Y	Y
18	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 10	BLC 10	Y	Y	Y
19	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 11	BLC 11	Y	Y	Y
20	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 12	BLC 12	Y	Y	Y
21	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 13	BLC 13	Y	Y	Y
22	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 14	BLC 14	Y	Y	Y
23	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 15	BLC 15	Y	Y	Y
24	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 16	BLC 16	Y	Y	Y
25	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 17	BLC 17	Y	Y	Y
26	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 18	BLC 18	Y	Y	Y
27	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 19	BLC 19	Y	Y	Y
28	County	Brainerd Lakes Children 20	BLC 20	Y	Y	Y

John talked about the New 800 Mhz system here. In addition, he attended the Duluth NWS meeting which prepares the hams for the upcoming storm season.



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— Events Calendar —

- Sat., April 7, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd.**
- Sat., April 14, Brainerd Annual Hamfest @ the Armory—**Help needed to do set-ups on Friday about 12:00 and take down afterwards on Sat.. Lots of onsite help needed on Sat.. Check the Net for latest/updates. See page 5.
- Sat., April 21, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd.**
- Thurs., April 26, BAARC Monthly Mtg.** Board meeting @ 4 and Club Mtg. @ 7
- Fri. & Sat., April 27 & 28, Annual Nisswa Marathon .** Volunteers needed.
- Sat., May 5—Duluth-Superior Hamfest—**same location.
- Sat., June 2, Tour of the Lakes Bike Ride.** Volunteers needed. More details soon.

Listen for Activity Updates on our Sunday Night Nets

Thursday March 29, 2012 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes Brainerd Police Station

President: Steve Mott, NØCRM
Vice President: John Luce, WØWY
Treasurer: Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE
Secretary: Ron Finger, KØGOP
Director At Large: Lyle Amundson, KØLFV

Past Presidents: Charles Lane, W5CCL, Al Doree WØRC
Community & Special Events Director: TBD
Director At Large: Lyle Amundson, KØLFV
Emergency Communications Director: John Luce, WØWY
Repeater Trustee: Fritz Bertelt, WØKO

Attendees: Steve NØCRM, John WØWY, Doug KDØERE, Lyle KØLFV, Al WØRC, Shirley KØDCW

The President opened the meeting at 4:00 PM with 6 members in attendance. The February 2012 minutes were approved as published in the BAARCer. The Treasurers report was given, discussed, and approved by John WØWY and Al WØRC. Doug ran a prior year comparison of income and expenses, but found most of the data difficult to correlate and compare.

Upcoming Events: Plans for the **Brainerd Hamfest** were discussed for April 14, 9 AM-12:30 PM. More volunteers are needed to fill key positions. Al has arranged another excellent deal for the Club on the use of the MN National Guard Armory. He and Shirley have finished preparing their traditional chili. VE examiners are still being sought, but the raffle permits and prizes are arranged. The **Brainerd Jaycees Run for the Lakes Marathon** will be held on April 28. Volunteers are requested to sign up, and Lyle KØLFV will circulate an event email. Al and Shirley have graciously agreed to chair this event if no others come forward.

Old/New Business: Event summaries were given for the **Mid Minnesota 150 Dog Sled Race** and the **Forestview Middle School Balloon Project**. A thank you letter was received and read for our participation during the sled dog race, with news of a 2-day event planned for next year. The WRØG repeater is no longer in place, and other plans will need to be made for coverage next March. The FMS balloon launch and tracking was a great success and thrilled all who were involved in the preparations, tracking, or radio monitoring that Saturday. Al was again thanked for his dedicated efforts and attendance at every meeting with the students and teachers on the project. The students want to do another flight at the end of April. The old **Boy Scout Camp repeater site**, NØCTT is up and running near Walker, with a weekly net on Monday nights at 7 PM, 147.390 MHz +, no tone, and all are encouraged to check in. The **Ham Classes** are continuing with 4 Extra, 4 General, and 7 Technician class students attending the Tuesday night sessions. John is looking for VE's for testing on April 10th and 14th. A motion was made, seconded and passed by Al and John to purchase a Fuji Snap Scanner for text conversion and digital mode transmission in preparation for the June 20, 21 **Emergency Communications Exercise**.

Thursday March 29, 2012 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes Brainerd Public Library

The President opened the meeting with 15 members and guests present. The February 2012 minutes were approved as printed in the February BAARCer. The Treasurers report was presented, approved and seconded.

Digital & Emergency Communications: John WØWY discussed the ARMER project and the training course that we, as well as first responders and firefighters, must take in order to operate the new radios. John also provided details from the recent SKYWARN planning meeting in Duluth, as well as upcoming training, and refresher courses.

Upcoming Events: Steve WØTNT will look into finding a speaker regarding wildlife radio telemetry and tracking for the **BAARC Spring Dinner**. (More: see Board Meeting minutes).

Old/New Business: Al WØRC and John WØWY discussed their HAM radio classes with an enrollment of 15 students. (More: see Board Meeting minutes).

Thanks to Steve NØCRM for taking notes in my absence.

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

DX and the Paper Chase

Solar flares were the big news this past month—lots of them. The flare activity was responsible for some very noisy band conditions, so noisy they sent a lot of good DX "south." Working DX was challenging, but there was good DX available on both 12 and 17 meters. Also there was a surprising lack of DX on 20 meters, which is usually a good band to use when the going gets tough. Since I'm not a guru on propagation, I am amazed that my amplifier did very little other than hold the top of my operating table down. I operated without my linear, and I even worked several QRP stations, mostly QSO's around the country. Swaziland was QRV on 17 meters in the CW portion of the band, and it didn't take me long to gear up for CW and make the contact. What's really nice about making contacts using CW is that the operator you're working will slow down to your speed in answering your call. Another thing that makes life simple in copying CW is having a "zero" in your call sign...five dahs in a row is easy to hear. I'm just a beginner, folks, but I am having fun. The paper chase was pretty good with two QSL cards showing up in my mailbox. To me, this is the ultimate in DXing: to receive the confirmation and this also makes a bond with the operator I worked. Most of my operating this past month was rag chewing with folks around the country and Canada, all hams who share my excitement of this hobby. If I never worked another DX, I can say I've enjoyed sitting at my HF station communicating about anything and everything, mostly about just having good conversation and good fun. What a fantastic hobby! Perhaps there will be better band conditions in the next weeks and months to come that I can share with you. In the meantime, sit down at your radio and call CQ because someone somewhere is listening for your call. So long from Huntersville for now, 73 and good DX —**BobWØZPE**.

The Ballon Group



Photos by Al and Shirley of the group and the recovery with payload intact in a WI tree.



See pages 4 and 6 for write-up and other photos by KØDCW and WØRC.

MID-MN 150 DOG SLED RACE A FUN TIME FOR ALL

After two postponements due to a lack of good snow, the annual Mid-MN 150 Dog Sled Race took place on Saturday March 3rd, with 13 BAARC operators helping with organization and safety.

The snow conditions were good enough between Outing and Remer for 16 dog teams made up of professional and novice mushers to run the 35 miles from noon to 4 PM.

Ham operators were stationed at key corners and mile markers along the trail for safety and directional control of the teams. Roger **WØWUG** was at the Sunset Hill Road turn; Dave **KCØTGT** and his partner **Nina** (foreign exchange student) were at the Pikus Road intersection along with Doug **KDØERE**, Dylan **KDØLFE**, and **his friend**; Lyle **KØLR** and Kathy **KØTHY** were at Windy Lake South; Jim **WØJDS** and **Fred Luce** were at Windy Lake North; and **Terry KIØFW** gave directions to the Soo Line grade—along with Kevin **KAØWJC**, who monitored traffic on the grade going into Remer.

Operators at the Remer finish line were Dave **KCØTGT** and Roger **WRØG**, who helped coordinate overall efforts and gave the club the use of his fine VHF repeater for the day's activities. Steve **NØCRM** was Event Chair and Net Control along with John **WØWY**. Steve also produced the stats combining sled times and checkpoint locations to determine margins of safety for the mushers. Al **WØRC** was again this year the "sweeper" on his snow machine following the last dog sled and was available to find any team that could have strayed from the course. Thankfully none did, this year.

A huge thanks to all BAARC members who participated in this event from **Dan Levno** and **Al Larson**, the race organizers. Both said at the Musher's Meeting before the race that they could not do the race without our help. Pats on the back all around, guys.—de **John WØWY**

BALLOON PROJECT—COMPLETE REPORT

The balloon project was the brainstorm of teachers **Mr. Jim Reed** and **Mr. Cory Olson** at the Baxter Forestview Middle School. They put the challenge to the kids of the 7th and 8th grade. They had to fill out an application and say why they thought they would be a good fit for the project and why they should be chosen. Only 13 students were selected from the 7th and 8th grades.

With the guidance of the teachers, the students did all the work. They started by building the payload box and all the other parts of the project, meeting after school each Wednesday.

The payload included a GPS/APRS tracker set to 144.390 MHz, a camera set to take pictures every two minutes and a device called Pocket Finder. It receives GPS satellites and reports its location on Google maps. The balloon could then be tracked both by APRS and the pocket finder on smart phones.

The balloon was launched on March 24th from the school parking lot at 10:09 AM. Also assisting with the project was **Mr. Dave Timm**, a Baxter police officer, who is the liaison officer between the school and the Baxter Police department--also a Ham with the call sign of **KBØWGO**.

After the balloon was launched, the teachers, all 13 students with parents as drivers, Dave Timm, **Shirley KØDCW**, and I tracked the balloon as it left the Brainerd area.

It was heading pretty much east. The balloon was expected to burst at about 80 to 90,000 feet, and then the parachute would open and it would make a soft landing.

We went out HWY18 east and after stopping in Garrison to take a break and reconfirm the balloons track, we continued to track it east. We arrived in Sandstone, and continued down Interstate 35 to Hinckley, and it was still going east.

John Luce, **WØWY**, and his son **Fred** were home tracking it on ARPR.fi and reporting its position and altitude via the 147.225 repeater until we got out of range of that. Then we switched over to the Aitkin machine, which we also ran out of range, so the final repeater was the Giese machine.

By that time we were in Hinckley taking another break when they reported that the balloon finally burst at 104,685 feet, much higher than expected. We continued to track it with both the smart phones and John and Fred's APRS.fi information.

Well, we finally found it about 6 or 7 miles south of WI HWY 77 and Danbury. It fell in a wooded area and was caught in a small tree from where it was recovered fully intact. Had it gone another 200 feet or so, it would have landed in the Yellow River.

All in all it, was a very fun project; I and the BAARC were glad to be part of it. Media coverage was provided by Lakeland News, Channel 2, KSAX-TV from Alexandria. Channel 5, and the *Brainerd Dispatch*. ---de **Al Doree, WØRC**

Some of our Promoters of the April 14th Brainerd Hamfest

Pictured are Lyle KØLFV, Dave KCØTGT—accompanied by their foreign exchange student from Germany named Nina. They were attending the Buffalo's annual hamfest. There they handed out literature advertising our event. Thanks, lady and gentlemen, for your promotional efforts on behalf of the BAARC. (Photo by Lyle KØLFV)



BRAINERD'S HAMFEST IS SAT., APRIL 14, AT THE ARMORY

The Club also asks for volunteers at our event for set-up and take-down. The set-up usually starts on Friday before the event at about 12:00 noon and takes about an hour.. The take-down also takes effort, but it goes fast with more hands pitching in. We will need help with registration, table rentals, ticket, sales of food, etc. Kitchen help is must. By the way, Shirley KØDCW is looking for people to bring bars and cookies to sell for the Club. Obviously the more help we have, the easier it is for all. In addition, an emcee will be needed for prize distribution from the drawings. In short, lots of helpers are needed if this event is going to be another success. Contact WØRC or KØDCW.

Balloon Launch a Big Success—Fun for the Middle School Students and the Adults (3-24-12)



Al WØRC and **Shirley KØDCW** participated. They reported that the launch went smoothly in the fog. Eventually the balloon and payload rose to an elevation of 105,000 ft. It was recovered at Swiss, WI—near Danbury.

It was tracked with repeaters and on simplex.

According to the information provided by Al, the battery voltage, temperature in Centigrade, and altitude were parts of the data string.

From the Forestview Middle School in Baxter, teachers Mr. **Reed** and Mr. **Olson** were closely involved in the balloon club .

Dave Timm (KBØWGO), an employee at the school, was involved as well. Reportedly parents, students, teachers and Al and Shirley tracked it and brought back the payload—all in amazingly good condition.

Since it all happened on a Saturday, the event was clearly an extracurricular activity.

Editor's Note: *Surely many of us old timers wish we had had science projects with such teacher/school/ham radio involvement when we were kids in school. Also see pages 3 & 4.*

For Sale

I am coordinating the sale of the following listed Amateur Radio Equipment offered for sale by our Club and by some of our members. List includes donated, estate, and personal items. If you are interested in one of the listed items, please contact me for additional information. Thank you——

Lyle KØLFV (Email or call 218.765.3100)

- Kenwood TS-2000 HF thru UHF All Mode Transceiver
- Kenwood TS-930 HF All Mode Transceiver
- YAESU FT-1802 2M FM Transceiver
- ICOM IC-2200H 2M FM Transceiver
- Number of CB AM Mobile & Base Transceivers (Project Items)
- Astatic D-104 Silver Eagle Microphone
- MFJ-259 SWR Antenna Analyzer
- MFJ-921 VHF-UHF Antenna Tuner
- SEC 1235M 12VDC 25A Power Supply
- Jetstream JTPS31MB 12VDC 25A Power Supply
- Kantronics KAM TNC
- Heil HM10 Dual Microphone with adapters
- CSI CS900 Simplex Auto Patch
- Daiwa CS201 Coax Switch 2 Position
- Nietzsche NB-50R 50W 2M SSB/FM Linear Amplifier (Project Item)
- TE Systems 1412G 160W 2M SSB/FM Linear Amplifier
- Comet CFX-514 Triplexer
- CDE Ham III Rotor and Control Box
- CDE Control Box only
- Cushcraft A148-10S 10 Element 2M Beam
- Cushcraft A270-6 VHF UHF 6 Element 2M/440 Beam
- Hy-Gain VB-25FM 2M 5 Element Beam
- Hy-Gain Explorer 14 3 Element Tri-Band Beam
- Hy-Gain QK-710 40M Add On Kit
- Cushcraft A4S 4 Element Tri-Band Beam
- Rohn Stamped 64 foot Tower Model BX64
- Rohn 25G 68 Foot Tower with top section

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Fred Maia, W5YI, SK: The holder of one of the best-known US Amateur Radio call signs, Frederick (Fred) Maia, W5YI, died of cancer Wednesday, March 28. He was 76 and was a resident of Arlington, TX. Fred was a leading Amateur Radio journalist for nearly 35 years and a pioneer of the volunteer examining program adopted by the FCC in 1984. Maia published "The W5YI Report," dubbed "America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter," from 1978 to 2003, and has been a *CQ* contributing editor since 1985. His regulatory affairs column, first titled "Ticket Talk," then "Washington Readout," offered news and perspective on FCC Regulations and ITU actions. His final column will appear in the May 2012 issue of *CQ*. After the FCC adopted volunteer examining for all levels of Amateur Radio licensing in 1984, Fred became the first Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) appointed by the FCC. Fred subsequently founded The W5YI Group in 1986 to develop, publish and sell amateur and commercial radio license study materials. In the realm of FCC commercial radio licensing, Fred formed National Radio Examiners to provide examination services. Maia served as President of the W5YI-VEC until his retirement in October of 2000 when he sold The W5YI Group study material products to Master Publishing, Inc. The retail operations were purchased by General Manager Larry Pollock, NB5X, newly appointed President of the W5YI-VEC and National Radio Examiners organizations. Maia continued writing "The W5YI Report" newsletter until July 2003. (Info from the ARRL)

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

04/01/12	Rick	KBØWWJ
04/08'12	Dave	KDØNRI
04/15/12	Joe	KBØVYJ
04/22/12	Doug	KDØERE
04/29/12	John	WØWY
05/06/12	David	KCØTGT
05/13/12	Jeff	KDØHBI
05/20/12	Doug	KDØERE
05/27/12	John	WØWY

Can't make the schedule? Find a substitute operator. BAARC Sunday Night Net Control Coordinator is Fritz WØKO. To volunteer: w0ko "at" arrl.net

Running the Simplex Net is Optional.

Thanks to all NC Stations for this weekly service. Please let Fritz know if you can volunteer.

Congratulations to Sharon Duit, KBØSQX, formerly of our Club and now living in AR. She won the grand prize at the Russelville Hamfest: an IC 7000. We wonder if Jim KØTXT will be allowed to use it. Hi! Info provided by Lyle KØLFV.

John W3MQD proudly and justifiably reported three generations of hams in his family: John's dad was first and now SK, then John himself, and now his nephew has joined the ranks. We understand they are all or have served in the US Marine Corps. Great!

FYI—MN Repeater Council Mtg. to be held at the Duluth-Superior Hamfest on Sat., May 5, If you would like to represent the Club, let Fritz know. By the way, if you see a dues listing with Fritz' name—it is not his personal dues that is paid thru 2012. It was sent in by Fritz as trustee of and for the Club to the MN Repeater Council..

On April 1, Google announced that it has unveiled a new way to use its popular *Gmail* e-mail system. Called **Gmail Tap**, it uses dots and dashes to form letters, a system of communicating that should be very familiar to radio amateurs. "Morse code is perfect," said *Gmail Tap* Engineer Mitch Fedenko. "It's just a dot and a dash." (ARRL)

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