



# The BAARCer



December 2012

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 + 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**



The re-elected officers of the BAARC wish you and yours a **Blessed and Meaningful Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthful 2013.** In keeping with the spirit of the season we want to share again Ron's artwork that graced the **BAARCer** in 2009, when his call sign was longer. In its creation **KØGOP** says he was inspired: "I think it's a good reminder of how God always outdoes us with His wonders; that's why I put in the forlorn little string of lights outside the house." We cannot agree more, Ron. **Thank you.**

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**— Events Calendar —**

**Sat., Dec. 1, Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd. Visitors Welcome**

**Sat., Dec. 15, Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd. Visitors Welcome**

**Thurs., Dec. 20, Club Meeting: Board @ 4 and Membership @ 7 @ Fire Hall.**

**Program: Our Annual Get-together. Bring some goodies to share and visit.**

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**Check the Club's Website and Activity Calendar**

**Listen for Activity Updates on our Sunday Night Nets**

**Encourage New Membership: Dues (see p. 7) are still only \$20/year—**

**E-mail Doug for info: [djbdesk@gmail.com](mailto:djbdesk@gmail.com)**

## Thursday-November 29, 2012 - 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes Brainerd Fire 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, Ron KØGOP, Lyle KØLFV, Al WØRC, Shirley KØDCW, and Roger WØWUG.

**Secretary's Report:** November meeting minutes approved as published in the October BAARCer and accepted in lieu of reading. BAARC website has been updated for Christmas along with 2013 Membership application, and April Hamfest information. First Club member business cards are complete. **Motion to accept:** Lyle KØLFV, **Second** Al WØRC, **Passed.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Report given showing all month's account transactions and balances to date. **Motion to accept:** Al WØRC, **Second** Lyle KØLFV, **Passed.**

**Membership Meeting Program:** The program calendar was reviewed through March 2013, with the special **January 31 Membership Drive Program** discussed. No Club members have yet come forward to form a planning committee.

**Upcoming Events:** **Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza** on January 19<sup>th</sup>: we will attend the planning meeting to help plan for their communication needs. **Mid-MN 150 Sled Dog Race** scheduled for Feb 9: members will be asked to test coverage of the NØBZZ Aitkin repeater for possible event use (147.360 +, 203.5Hz Tone). Possible real-time racer tracking options were discussed. **FMS Balloon launch:** Al WØRC recently taught soldering skills to 20 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, planning a Jan or Feb launch with additional WX-related payloads. **Winter Ham Classes** to be held for Technician and General licenses by Al WØRC and John WØWY. John will get mail labels for local Hams from ARRL to promote these classes to area Technician holders, as well as promoting our **January Meeting** and **April Hamfest**. Ron KØGOP will develop a postcard mailer.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** John WØWY: Members are asked to help locate interference affecting the 147.030 repeater in Crosslake on Wednesdays between 6-9PM. This is a chance to put our fox hunting skills to work. Al WØRC: Working on setting up a new IP switch that will provide remote shutdown of the Gull Lake Repeater. An additional Club operator is being sought to man the CWC Public Health Department radio for the short Central MN Hospital net at 1PM, on the first Wednesday of each month. (Dave KDØNRI has volunteered for this starting December 5; thanks Dave!)

### Old Business:

**Crosby Tower Project:** Update: further progress temporarily stalled as AT&T delays vacating existing equipment on old tower. Shared engineering drawings for the Crosby Tower Project. Dietz Bros. is planning a removal of the old tower by January 14.

**Membership Meeting Committee:** The Board still seeks interested members to create a membership drive or open house, inviting local residents and non-member Amateur Radio operators to join the BAARC

**Coax Prep and Crimping Tools:** Ron KØGOP reported good results with the new Club coax tools. He will hold the set for Club use and order a supply of 40 crimp connectors for member purchase. **Motion:** Lyle KØLFV, **Second** Al WØRC, **Passed.**

### New Business:

**BAARC Business Cards:** Ron KØGOP will provide a Club business card PDF file for all 2013 paid members.

**Club Communications Trailer:** Al WØRC showed the extendable hitch lift purchased for the Club.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

## Thursday-November 29, 2012 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes Brainerd Fire Station

The President opened the Club membership business meeting at 7:00 PM with 20 members and guests present.

**Membership Meeting Additions to Business above:** BAARCer editor Fritz WØKO moved that the Secretary cast a unanimous vote for the 2013 Club Officer ballot. **Motion:** Fritz WØKO, **Second** Terry KIØFW, **Passed.** Wynn KA3DQN suggested we contact Camp Ripley as a possible source of new Ham Class students, and Club members. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.—Respectfully submitted by **Ron KØGOP**, Secretary

**Program Highlights from the November 29th Meeting:**

**Al WØRC** talked about the Club's involvement with the MN Hospital/Medical Group providing Amateur Radio Communication for the Area's Emergency Needs. This is an ongoing service/drill activity involving the local hospitals, county health offices, etc. Part of that is preparedness for the real events. In that regard, on June 11, 2012, some of our BAARC people participated in the *Gone With the Wind* exercise held at the fictional Cinderblock City located at Camp Ripley. Our participants were Al WØRC, Ron KØGOP, and John WØWY. The authorities were impressed with our ham radio operators' efficient communication skills and their low-budget volunteer operation. Hams put the professional (public service) efforts to shame. Our system was up and running in minutes—whereas their big-bucks system left a lot to be desired. Everyone learned something from that exercise that will come in handy for future events.

**John WØWY provided an update on the Crosby Tower Project.** The work is planned, well documented and engineered. The old tower has to be removed and the Cons. Tele. system will be in place. The building is ready. Our gear is almost ready. Help will be needed on the ground. John is also looking for help in finding a "FOX." The fox is an interfering VHF radio signal that covers the 147.030 Crosslake repeater output frequency. Strangely, it is heard approximately on a given schedule from 6-9 P.M. +/- on Wednesdays. We are all scratching our collective heads as to the source. There is no audio—only a very strong pulse-type signal. Can you help find it with your DF gear? More coming. Please contact John.

**Lyle, KØLFV, came through with his resourcefulness.** Since our tentative program presenter(s) could not make it, Lyle showed us that there are some really interesting/informative topics available on the Internet. First off, we got a video tour of our parent organization, the American Radio Relay League. The complex at Newington, CT, is impressive. It is a museum in part dedicated to our hobby from the very beginnings. We take for granted the pioneering work done by Hiram Maxim, W1AW. That call sign forever graces the headquarters station. Many hams, who visit, want to operate it. The multi-towers and massive HF, VHF, and UHF antennas are all evidence that its signals can be copied worldwide. But beware of the Wouff-Hong. Look that up! Lyle also showed us some interesting video clips of yesteryear. Especially noteworthy was one made from an old silent film from the 1950s showing a PA group setting up their FD stations. As we recall, the Club call was W3OK. Interestingly, the film was discovered in the attic by the son of the film's silent-key owner. Some of that old gear is still around and being used. Of course, anything that old and in operating condition would be a prized possession of many antique radio buffs. Nevertheless, it is fun to reminisce. Some presently in the BAARC owned/operated gear from those years. Yet we suspect that none in the Club now used "spark." However, some years ago we did have one who experienced it as a kid. He was George Melin—WØIN of Brainerd. (Thanks, Al, John, and

Lyle for the composite program)

**Echolink Info: Little Falls and St. Cloud Area.**

As of 11/21/12 our 443.000 analog repeater in Little Falls has moved to its new frequency of 443.075 + as coordinated by the Minnesota Repeater Council. My Echolink Link KBØWWJ-L and Shannon's Echolink KDØILL-L have moved to the new frequency as well.

Shannon's Echolink will continue to be connected to me and bring in the St Cloud area on 146.555 simplex with PL tone 103.5. All are welcome to connect on Echolink or over the air.

Rick KBØWWJ-L Echolink Link Node 616197 on Little Falls 443.075 +  
Shannon KDØILL-L Echolink Link Node 766704 on 146.555 simplex tone 103.5

Thanks,  
Rick Houle, KBØWWJ

**DX and the Paper Chase**

Happy (belated) Thanksgiving from my shack to yours. What a fantastic DX month this has been. As usual there were ups and downs as far as band conditions went, but it didn't dampen my quest for two new ones. I worked Papua , New Guinea, on CW and St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks on SSB. Imagine this operator working DX and using CW. Both of these are DXCC credits towards my 300 endorsement from the ARRL. St. Paul Rocks was the most difficult contact I've ever made—it was also difficult for the DXpedition operators who were exposed to the sea and some equipment failures along the way. I give them a lot of credit; my hat is off to them. I tried every day for 5 days to get them—sometimes I was on frequency for hours at a time trying to both bust the pileup and listen for my call during periods of weak-signal operation. Since the online logs were not uploaded until after the DXpedition was completed, I was on pins and needles waiting for my call to appear. The PTØS QSL's will be handled by the OQRS system that's becoming the way to go for DXpeditions. The cost is around \$5.00 with a couple of bucks going to support the expenses of the DXpedition. This comes at a time when the US Postal Service has announced the discontinuing of IRC's that many DXers worldwide have depended upon for many years. That's it for this month, but remember to sit down at your station and call CQ. Someone somewhere is listening for your signal. So long from Huntersville for now, 73 and good DX from **Bob/WØZPE**.

#####

**FOR SALE:** ALS-1300 Ameritron solid-state amplifier with power supply, fresh from the factory with modifications for 10-12 meters and a thorough check out. This amplifier is 14 months old and in pristine condition. Output is 1200 watts with less than 50 watts exciter power needed. The power supply is brand new (never used).

Retail price is \$2350.00

For sale \$1500.00

Contact Bob Feuer at [w0zpe@arrl.net](mailto:w0zpe@arrl.net)

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**2013 BAARC Election:** It was a unanimous vote for our team: Thanks again for serving our members. Your work for the Club is greatly appreciated and your talents are duly recognized!!! Officers for 2013: Steve NØCRM—Pres.; John WØWY—V.P.; Ron KØGOP—Sec.; Doug KDØERE—Treas.; Lyle KØLFV—Director-at-Large. (see p. 8 also)

## **More Local and National News Relating to our Members and Hobby.**

### **Propagation**

According to K7RA, our regular ARRL analyst of the sun and its activity, the solar flux will be the following on the dates indicated: December 5-6, 120; December 7, 130; o December 8-11, 135; o December 12-15, 140; December 16-17, 135; o December 18-19, 130; December 20-22, 120; December 23-24, 115; December 25, 110; December 26-28, 15; December 29-30, 120; December 31, 125; January 1-2 and 130 on January 3-7. What do the flux numbers mean? Here is your editor's opinion: Basically it indicates that the conditions for HF DX should be improved with higher numbers rather than the lower numbers. However, try the bands even when there seems to be no activity because you may be pleasantly surprised. Sometimes their predictions are off. So don't just listen---call a CQ and see what happens. I know that our Club's very active DXer Bob WØZPE would agree. Furthermore, there is some thinking among the experts that Cycle 24 may have two peaks instead of the usual one. Crazy sun, right? Look at how crazy the world's WX is!!!

What else should you make mental note of? The A and K indices. Low numbers (single digits) mean quiet geomagnetic noise----thus good for copying those weak DX signals and pulling them out of the mud. I would like K to be 0-2 and the A to be 7. Add a solar flux of maybe 90-130, and you have fun DX conditions.

K7RA predicts the following A indices for the dates shown: December 2-6, 10; December 7-8, then 5 and 8 on December 9-10; 5 on December 11-15; 8 on December 16; 5 on December 17-31. The New Year is expected to begin slightly unsettled with predicted planetary A index at 10 on January 1-4. Listening to WWV at 18 minutes after the hour can get you these reports. Good luck with this.—Fritz WØKO

### **First Wednesdays of the Month Hospital/Medical Net @ 1 p.m. in this Area.**

Al WØRC and John WØWY of our Club have been busy over the years organizing a check-in net to prepare for emergencies that would arise within the medical communities in our various counties in this portion of MN. They meet on the various repeaters that serve the county health departments and hospitals. This past Sunday Al mentioned on our Net that WØMBD helped kick it off in on the Colledgeville 147.015 repeater, and it has grown to other groups and repeaters over the last couple of years. In a real medical emergency, we will all be in this together. What does all this mean? Preparedness. More help is needed—just check in at first and go from there. Al said he would provide some training help if you are unsure. Your time commitment is short each month.

### **Welcome to two New Members of the BAARC.**

At the November meeting we met two gentlemen, who ended up joining even though they are not yet licensed. They are planning to take advantage of the classes that the BAARC is offering starting in February. Dave Satre is from rural Brainerd and was formerly licensed with a "2" call sign. Curtis Richmond of Harding is also very interested in the hobby. In addition, they already possess one unwritten requirement of hams: a sense of humor. First, we welcome them to the Club, and, secondly, we wish them luck with the upcoming classes. They should do well.

**Good News—Roger WØWUG:** We are happy to report that Roger is back home recuperating after being in the St. Cloud Hospital from what he reported as "being tazered" by his defibrillator—17 jolts. Seriously, it was no doubt scary when you don't expect it. Luckily he had a neighbor who was close by who heard him holler for help. After the stay, he also had his friend Annie, a very capable nurse, help whip him into a healthful state again. Members, get ready now for more of Roger's unusual sense of humor, obviously a by-product of years of successful teaching in the MN community and technical college system. His assignment: analyze the circuitry/electronics of the defibrillator!! HI !!

## **Ham Radio and the HMS Bounty —From the ARRL Letter of 11-1-12**

Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, Missing at Sea after Sinking of Tall Ship *Bounty*; Ship's Electrician Doug Faunt, N6TQS, Rescued Every DXer knows the story of the HMS *Bounty* and Pitcairn Island, VP6: In 1789, the HMS *Bounty* -- a small three-masted sailing vessel sent by Britain's Royal Navy to the Pacific on a supply expedition -- was roiled by tension between its crew and its captain, William Bligh. After landing in Tahiti and taking on a cargo of breadfruit, the *Bounty* set sail for the West Indies; it never reached that destination. Instead, Master's Mate Fletcher Christian led the men in a mutiny, eventually allowing Bligh and his loyalists to sail off in a longboat. After an arduous journey, they reached safety at the Dutch-owned port of Kupang. Christian and his followers ended up on Pitcairn Island where they burned the *Bounty* and settled on the island. Passing ships did not discover the enclave until after the turn of the century.

On Monday, October 29, a replica of the [Bounty](#) – built in 1960 for a remake of the 1962 film *Mutiny on the Bounty* -- sank off the coast of North Carolina as Hurricane Sandy made its way toward New Jersey. Of its 16 crew members, 14 were rescued by the US Coast Guard. *Bounty* Captain Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, never made it to one of the two deployed life rafts and is presumed dead. Claudene Christian, who claimed to be a direct descendent of Fletcher Christian, was unresponsive and passed away at a North Carolina hospital on Monday evening.

Doug Faunt, N6TQS, of Oakland, California, was one of the 14 who was rescued by the Coast Guard; Faunt served as a deckhand and was also the ship's electrician. A noted DXer and ARRL Life Member, he was part of the FO0AAA DXpedition crew in 2000 to Clipperton Island. He was also a member of the VP6DIA DXpedition to Ducie Island, and in 2007, he was part of the DXpedition to Lakshadweep. According to Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, Faunt had satellite communications equipment and *Winlink* capabilities on board the *Bounty*, but he was not the ship's radio officer. "Sailing on replica ships was a hobby of Doug's," Roscoe told the ARRL. "He had previously sailed across the Great Australian Bight on a replica of the [HMB Endeavour](#), Captain Cook's ship. He was an able seaman of the watch." Roscoe was the radio officer on the replica *Bounty* for its original voyage to France in 1962.

Faunt told the ARRL that the *Bounty* crew tried various methods, including a satellite phone, to call for help, "but we got nothing when tried calling out on HF. We tried calling the Maritime Mobile Net, but nothing was out there. We had *Winlink* on the ship that we used for e-mail and accessing the Internet to post to blogs and to Facebook, and we finally found an e-mail address for the Coast Guard. As a last-ditch effort, we used *Winlink* to e-mail the Coast Guard for help. Within an hour, we heard a C-130 plane, and later, a helicopter overhead." According to Faunt, it was Walbridge, as master of the ship, who sent out the distress messages. "I don't know how I made it off the ship," Faunt recalled. "I had finished serving a long watch, and then we started going down. I was exhausted. I had to swim to get to the life raft. The water was full of rigging, and here I am, in my Gumby suit, trying to swim. It was so difficult. While swimming to the raft, I came up for air and a spar was coming at me. I finally found a raft and tried to climb into it, but I almost didn't make it, tired as I was. Through the help of my shipmates who were already aboard the raft, I got on." The two life rafts were out about 100 miles from shore when they were rescued.

The vessel left Connecticut on Thursday, October 25 with a crew of 11 men and five women, ranging in age from 20-66. After being treated at a hospital in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Faunt arrived back home in California on Wednesday, October 31. "I'm looking for a new boat to sail and a DXpedition to go on," Faunt told the ARRL. "Ham radio got me into my position on the *Bounty*, and ham radio got me out alive!" (WØKO Note—N.B. As far as we know the Captain's body has not been recovered)

Captain Walbridge—KD4OHZ



Doug Faunt—N6TQS



By the way, some of you may have seen the *Bounty* in the Duluth Harbor in 2010.



# Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Dues Year January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2013

(One Application for Each Person)



Name: (First, MI, Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle One: New / Renewal

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ARRL ? Circle One: Y / N

I would like to receive the **BAARCer** via the **Internet / US Mail (Circle One)**. (Internet saves Club money)

Circle One: \$20 Full Member / \$10 Additional Family Member / \$10 Student Member

**Note:** For first-time members, pay \$5 per quarter for the time remaining in the year you join. For information on a life membership, contact Doug, Club treasurer: [djbdesk@gmail.com](mailto:djbdesk@gmail.com)

Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to BAARC The Club is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Mail to:**

**Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club  
Treasurer - Doug Bergsnev KDØERE  
15912 Olsen Lane  
Brainerd, MN 56401**

I hereby make this application and agree to abide by the Club By-Laws.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Disclosure:** This information will not be sold or given to another organization without express permission of the BAARC members.

Please mail one form, along with dues (check/money order), for each person who wants to be a member.

**Check our Club's Website for other Information and Newsletters.**

Regular Updates on the Sunday Night Nets on 147.225

[www.brainerdham.org](http://www.brainerdham.org)

**SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS**

12/02/12	Dave	KBØSCT
12/09/12	Fritz	WØKO
12/16/12	Steve	WØTNT
12/23/12	Bob	WØZPE
12/30/12	Marcia	WØZMC

01/06/13	Rick	KBØWWJ
01/13/13	Dave	KDØNRI
01/20/13	John	WØWY
01/27/13	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

*PLEASE????????*

**SIMPLEX NET IS OPTIONAL.**

**Our thanks to all NCS Volunteers.**

**Thanks, Officers of the BAARC, for agreeing to serve again. We appreciate your volunteer service. Congrats on being re-elected for 2013.**

**HAM RADIO CLASS:** Al WØRC and John WØWY have again generously agreed to teach a class for Technician and General class. Sessions will start Thursday evenings from 6-9 p.m. at the Brainerd Fire Hall Feb. 7th for approximately 10-11 sessions, with the last one being the test session—April 20 @ our hamfest. The text costs about \$25. More details in the upcoming newsletters and on the Sunday nets. Al and John have been producing high pass rates with classes.

**Club received a Note from Alice Swanson, XYL of KCØBH-SK:** She thanked us for sending her the tribute to George that was in the newsletter. She wrote that George really enjoyed being in the BAARC, especially doing net-control activities. For the family, the "picture of the bike route with the little magnetic sag wagons on it hangs ...in the cabin...a reminder of his good times. Thank you for your friendship."—Alice. (P.S. Earlier the BAARC gave George that thank-you plaque recognizing his service and generosity to the Club)

**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