



# The BAARCer



September 2013

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

Page 1 of 8

**Club Call Sign: WØUJ**

**BAARC REPEATERS**

53.110- 123.0 Hz  
**147.225 + (main rpt)**  
 145.130 – Echo Link  
 Node number 233515  
 443.925 + 110.9 Hz  
 Packet: 145.670 MHz  
 MNBRD, BRDBBS  
 144.390 WØUJ-5 APRS  
**Crosslake 147.030+**  
**Crosby 146.700 –**  
                                   141.3 Hz  
**Crosby 444.925 +**  
<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**

**BAARC Annual Picnic and Fox Hunt Event at Lum Park, Brainerd**



Some of the participants at the event on 8-24-13 pictured here from l-r: Marv Holmes, WØYHE—summer visitor and former co-worker of Al WØRC; Doug KDØERE, Club Treasurer; Jason KDØHRC, visitor from Dickinson, ND—and Lyle KØLFV, Event Organizer Extraordinaire and Club Director. (More WØKO pix p. 3-5.)

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**— Events Calendar —**

**Sat., Sept. 7 , Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.**  
**Sat., Sept. 7, 10th Annual Cuyuna Bicycle Ride** Contact John Luce, WØWY, at [w0wy@nisswa.net](mailto:w0wy@nisswa.net) or call 218.820.3799  
**Sat., Sept. 21, Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.**  
**Thurs., Sept. 26, Board Mtg @ 4 and Membership Mtg. @ 7 @ Fire Hall—Brd**  
**Sat., Sept. 28—FARGO HAMFEST—** Info? Their website <[www.rrra.org](http://www.rrra.org)>  
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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 are still only \$20/year—a bargain for all you get. E-mail Doug for info: [djbdesk@gmail.com](mailto:djbdesk@gmail.com)**

## **More Pictures from the Picnic and Foxhunt:**



**Ron Finger, KØGOP and Club Secretary, brought his military-type communications trailer to the park—loaded with great emergency and fun gear, usable in any setting. Various antennas are mounted on it as well.**

**Enjoying the beautiful sunny day at the park were Charles Lane, W5CCL, former BAARC President (on the left) visiting with new member (on right) Kyle Christensen, KDØWEQ, of Motley. He is an employee of Costco in Baxter.**



**Also enjoying the gentle breezes were new hams on left Geoff KDØPDB of Wadena. Jeff is a member of the Wadena Club. On the right is Rick Vinje, from Little Falls and no stranger to BAARC members. Rick holds the General Class call sign KDØVLR. Also he expertly uses his electronic talents in the military at Camp Ripley.**

### DX and the Paper Chase

If you're a golfer or a duffer, you'll know what I mean when I say it's that last great golf shot that keeps you coming back for more. When you hit one down the center of the fairway 250 yards, you can't wait to get back on the course next week. It's much the same with DX—whether you hook up with an old friend or work a new one. You can't wait until tomorrow to repeat that good experience. A lot of operators have broadened their horizons by using different modes such as RTTY or PSK to connect with that next DX. I chose CW because it's exciting and it's a challenge. I'm always looking for the next good CW contact because the last one was so satisfying. This past month has been a mixed bag of up-and-down band conditions as the solar cycle continues to be weak. Regardless of all that, there was lots and lots of good DX available. Openings into Europe have been good as well as good openings into Asia. One evening I was working JA's on the 17-meter band well after dark here—early morning the next day in Japan. Also there were several good openings to Australia and New Zealand also late in the evening here. Several days ago most of the DX I was enjoying was without the use of my amplifier—that's how good conditions were. The next day conditions were awful. You never know until you give it a try. There were also good openings on the magic band (6-meters) for a couple of days. By the way, there's an exciting project going on here at my QTH: I'm assembling a new vertical antenna that will give me 9-band capabilities including the magic band and 30 meters for CW. The new vertical is a Hy-Gain AV 680 and when completed, will be installed 8'-0" above grade on a 2" steel pipe. I should be on the air with it in October. That's all from Huntersville for this month as summer is on the wane. Remember, sit down at your station and call CQ, someone somewhere is going to answer you for an exciting QSO. So long for now, 73 es gud DX from Bob/WØZPE

**Fox Hunt Results from Saturday—8-24-13.** First, our thanks to Terry KIØFW (pictured below) for again conducting it and providing the information and photo of the "fox" and its pursuit. The object of the search/hunt is pictured in the ammo box below. The first-place finishers of the 2013 BAARC Fox Hunt were the team of John **WØWY** and Roger **WØWUG**. The transmitter was hidden and started at 10 AM, and John and Roger discovered it at 11:40 AM. Its location was on Riverside Drive on Ahrens Hill in Brainerd. Congratulations to the successful hunters!!!! Again our thanks to Lyle KØLFV for organizing the hunt and picnic.



**Ron KØGOP gave a demonstration using the newly acquired coax connector kit. Ron appears to be the local expert at this. As hams know, putting on connectors correctly and effectively is no easy task. Few of us are good at it and even fewer of us like to do it. It looked easy when we watched Ron .**



**Two more visitors came west from Aitkin: On the left is Jeff KBØRMB with Terry WØTRJ. Both informed us about the little known repeater to the east that covers a dead spot for those traveling in that direction: The repeater has an output on 146.805 and two inputs -/+ : WØTRJ 146.205 and the plus one KBØRMB on 147.405. Give them a try. Fortunately we have no shortage of repeaters in the area, so it seems.**



At the picnic table and in the shade are Marilyn Amundson (YL of Lyle) seated next to her. On the right is Lyle KØLFV, of course, one of the Club's regulars and the chief organizer of the Picnic. Our thanks to him for all this.

On the right are Roger WØWUG and John WØWY, two long-time members and officers of the BAARC. John is the VP and Roger a past Director and Technical Troubleshooter for us. Incidentally, they were the first finders of the FOX, according to Fox Hunt organizer Terry KIØFW.



Also enjoying the day were Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE, and Club's Treasurer. With him are grandson Dylan, the youngest ham member of the BAARC. Dylan has the call sign KDØLFE. Dylan brought his friend Gabe Gibson (with cap). Gabe is interested in ham radio also. Surely the two are also thinking about the upcoming school year. HI!

**Annual Event 8-25-13—CLUB MEMBERS HELP WITH TRIATHLON** “We really appreciate the communications support you folks give us every year,” said Race Director Kevin Dens, “and it would be difficult for us without your service – thanks to all your members.” BAARC members, again this year as they have since the race’ inception in 2003, provided public safety and race logistics communications that have been helpful in making this worthwhile community event successful. On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, at Whipple Beach in Baxter, some 236 registered participants swam ½- mile, rode their bikes over a 17-mile course, and then ran 3.9 miles through a Baxter neighborhood to the finish line. This year’s winner in a time of 1 hour and 19 minutes was David Lewis of Nevis, MN. Right behind him was a local favorite and previous winner Casey Miller at 1 hour 20 minutes. Radio operators working the race were: Terry KIØFW, who “shadowed” the race officials at the start/finish line and kept them informed as to progress details; at intersections and corners were Orcy WØQT, Roger WØWUG, Lyle KØLFV, Dave KBØSCT, and Al WØRC. Net Control and rover duties were handled by John WØWY. The weather cooperated even with temperatures in the high 80’s and humidity not far behind. Only one medical emergency was reported. A big thanks to our members who turned out for this event – and as they know – it was a fair amount of work that produced very satisfying results for all the participants, the Baxter Kiwanis Club, and the 17 other community sponsoring organizations.—**John Luce, WØWY, Event Chair**



**Pictured above l-r: Lyle KØLFV, Terry KIØFW, John WØWY, Roger WØWUG, and Dave KBØSCT. On the bottom picture is John, Event Chair, passed out T-shirts to the Club participants—Orcy WØQT getting one of the event T-shirts here. A big thanks to Lyle KØLFV for providing the photos . Participating but not pictured is Al WØRC.**

**Welcome some New BAARC Members:** **Craig J. Anderson**, known as **CJ**. We gave some print to him first after the April Hamfest. He had just completed his Extra and had retrieved his dad's old call sign—**WØWUH**. CJ lives in Pequot Lakes.

**Larry Beckner**, a new Tech, hails from Motley. His call sign is **KDØVJJ**.

**Matthew Schoenecker**, another new Tech, is from Brainerd. His call sign is **KDØVWF**.

**Kyle Christensen** is from Little Falls and his call sign is **KDØWEQ**. He works at Costco.

**Rick Vinje** is also from Little Falls and is in the MN National Guard. His call sign is **KDØVLR**. Rick has been tackling some electronic work on a couple of our radios.

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### **Tom Christian, VP6TC/VR6TC-SK**

Tom Christian, VP6RC/VR6TC, a long-time radio amateur who became known as "the Voice of Pitcairn," died July 7 on the tiny South Pacific Island that was his lifelong home. He was 78 and a descendent (great-great-great grandson) of Fletcher Christian of "Mutiny on the *Bounty*" fame. In 2009 he was diagnosed with possible Alzheimer's disease. According to his wife Betty, VP6YL/VR6YL, his health "deteriorated all too quickly," and the last few months were, in her words, "cruel ones to watch such a strong, vibrant man reduced to where he was not really aware of his surroundings." According to the *New York Times* he was the voice of Pitcairn and with this death the population is now 51. Tom was first licensed in 1957. Over the years, he and Betty kept in routine radio contact with their ham radio friends overseas as well as with two of their daughters who are hams. He was buried July 8 in the cemetery on Pitcairn. **(BAARC Editor's Note: Tom made many QSO's with stateside hams—WØKO/KØMAH and KØUSJ, at least two among the BAARC members. Fritz recalls that years ago there was a feature about Pitcairn, Tom, and the Seventh Day Adventist community on the island in *National Geographic*. Details here also taken from the ARRL Letter, and info from Bob KØUSJ).**

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### **Note from Greg KØGW, ARRL Dakota Division Director:**

On Wednesday, 31 July, I was privileged to present the ARRL President's Award to **Michael Sigelman, KØBUD**. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said this in her letter to Mike: "This award is presented to ARRL members who have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio, and whose support of individual programs and/or goals has been above and beyond the normal efforts of ARRL members. It is presented only to those whose truly outstanding efforts have benefited ARRL and/or Amateur Radio operators in the state, the region, or the nation."

The award was presented following the Twin Cities FM Club's summer picnic. Many people attended in order to honor Mike, including three former Dakota Division Directors--Jay Bellows, KØQB, Tod Olson, KØTO, and Howard Mark, K3HM. Numerous other prominent members of the Twin Cities ham radio community were also present, too many to list here.

The citation on the award reads as follows: "**For decades of service as an ARRL volunteer, club president, hamfest founder and organizer, and irrepressible ambassador and promoter of Amateur Radio in the finest traditions of the Founding President of the ARRL, Hiram Percy Maxim.**" **Congrats, Mike—also from the Brainerd Club.**

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**NEW Vanity Call Sign Fee:** The new FCC regulatory fee of \$16.10 to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign went into effect Friday, August 23, when the new regulatory fee schedule will appear in the Federal Register. Earlier this year the FCC had proposed upping the vanity call sign fee from its former \$15 to \$15.20, but in the Report and Order in MD Docket 13-140, released August 12, the Commission offered no explanation for the higher fee.

**SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS**

9/01/13	Joe	KBØVYJ
9/08/13	CJ	WØWUH
9/15/13	Doug	KDØERE
9/22/13	Tom	KDØMOM
9/29/13	Fritz	WØKO
10/6/13	Rick	KBØWWJ
10/13/13	No	
10/20/13	volunteers	
10/27/13	"	

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.**

**Bertha-Hewitt Net Monday Evenings @ 8:30 on 147.120 + (no tone).**

**Another Repeater to Check out:** Terry WØTRJ and Jeff KBØRMB of the Aitkin area want BAARC members to know that there is coverage to the east in the so-called dead spots from their frequency combinations: The repeater has an output on 146.805 and two inputs: WØTRJ 146.205 on the minus side and the plus one KBØRMB on 147.405.

**WX Service and Local Officials had compliments for BAARC Skywarn Net.**

Even though the Echolink system did not work into the NWS Duluth (not BAAARC's fault), our team locally did a fantastic job 8-26-13 (Monday's storm). **John Luce, WØWY** (our Emergency Coordinator) and John Bowen, **KDØCIZ** (County Official) reported that the communication worked well alerting officials and locals who monitor. Involved were the following: **KBØSCT; KCØYXD; WØWUG; KDØERE; KØNRI; WØRC; KØIF; WDØHXR; KCØTGT, and Net Control John WØWY.** Carol Christenson, **KCØMAK**, of NOAA (NWS) had high regards for the BAARC & Crow Wing County group and appreciated the information fed into their system. Bowen, Luce and Christensen noted again that past training really helped and all agreed that **we still need improved radar coverage.**

**United We Stand**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
Address Correction Requested

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