



The BAARCer



February 2014

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+
 Crosby 146.700 MHz+
 Tone 127.3
 Crosby 444.925 MHz +
<http://brainerdham.org>

OFFICERS

President + WWW

Editor:

Steve Mott **NØCRM**

Vice President:

Lyle Amundson **KØLFV**

Secretary:

Ron Finger **KØGOP**

Treasurer:

Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

Director-at-Large:

John Luce **WØWY**

Trustee + BAARCer

Editor: Fritz Bertelt
WØKO

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STEVE MOTT, NØCRM, BAARC PRESIDENT, PRESENTING THE LATEST ON SCANNER, GPS, SDR EQUIPMT. —1-23-14



Since many of the public service channels on vhf and uhf are no longer available on our conventional radios, new digital technology is available, according to Steve. Plus the ease of programming may be more convenient also. However, the cost may be more than what we have been used to spending on these kinds of radios. Some models mentioned include the Uniden Home Patrol, (\$500+/-),

which, when you enter a ZIP code, can provide you with the public service frequencies in that area. The signals may take some getting used to, but as the local law enforcement people say, the intelligibility and usefulness of the new technology will become apparent with time and practice. Thanks, Steve, for a well researched and presented program. Since the public service vhf and uhf communication no longer uses the analog-era technology, those who want to follow these services will have to update their gear—just to keep up. Many possibilities as to costs: He suggests doing Internet searches.

— Events Calendar —

- Sat., Feb. 1, Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.**
- Sat., Feb. 8, Mid- MN 150 Dog Sled Race**—volunteer vhf ham ops. needed—contact Al and Shirley Doree <w0rc@arrl.net> They are the coordinators.
- Sat., Feb. 15, Club Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.**
- Sat., Feb. 15, St. Cloud Hamfest—info on w0sv website**
- Tues., Feb. 18, Ham Licensing Classes Begin—see p. 3—details**
- Thurs., Feb. 20, Club Meeting: Board @ 4 and Membership @ 7 @ Fire Hall.**
 Program on FMS Balloon Launch involving BAARC.

Listen for Activity Updates on our Sunday Night Nets
 Encourage New Membership: Dues (see p. 7) are still only \$20/year—a bargain for all you get. E-mail Doug for info: djbdesk@gmail.com

Thursday-January 23, 2014 - 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes

Brainerd Public Library Meeting Room

President: Steve Mott, NØCRM
Vice President: Lyle Amundson, KØLFV
Treasurer: Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE
Secretary: Ron Finger, KØGOP

Past Presidents: Charles Lane, W5CCL; Al Doree WØRC
Director At Large: John Luce, WØWY
Repeater Trustee: Fritz Bertelt, WØKO
Emergency Communications Director: John Luce, WØWY

Attendees: Steve NØCRM, John WØWY, Doug KDØERE, Ron KØGOP, Al WØRC, Shirley KØDCW, Lyle KØLFV, John W3MQD, and Dave KBØSCT.

Secretary's Report: December Meeting Minutes were published in the January 2014 BAARCer; no corrections were noted. The website was updated for the Mid-MN 150 Dog Sled Race. 1 new Club member acknowledged: Robert KDØAU, and roster updated to 38 paid 2014 members. Renewals are expected to bring the paid membership back up to December 2013 levels. **Motion to accept:** John WØWY, **Second** Lyle KØLFV, **Passed.**

Treasurer's Report: Report submitted showing all month's account transactions and balances to date. The treasurer invited our insurance agent, Jake Brandt, to the board meeting to discuss Club liability coverage. Mr. Brandt will return at the February 20th Board meeting with further information on several issues. **Motion to accept:** John WØWY, **Second** Al WØRC, **Passed.**

Membership Meeting Program: Program Calendar topics were discussed. It was decided that a hands-on program on technical skills will be planned for the February meeting. **Meeting date changes:** February meeting program "FMS High Altitude Balloon Club" moved to 20th at Fire Station. May Spring Dinner Program: "Amsterdam Island DXpedition" by Ralph Fedor KØIR moved to May 22. June meeting moved to 19th: "Field Day Prep". April 24th meeting program: "Recent Trips to Japan" by Steve Mott, NØCRM. March 27th SKYWARN meeting, Doug AAØAW possible speaker.

Upcoming Events: The **26th Annual Mid-MN 150 Sled Dog Race** has been scheduled for Saturday, February 8 between Outing and Remer, with Al WØRC agreeing to co-chair. The **SKYWARN informational meeting** will be held 10 AM, March 8th, at Midway Town Hall, Duluth. The **Brainerd Hamfest** will be held on April 19th, with **HAM Classes** starting weekly on Tuesday February 18th 6:30-9 PM and finish prior to April 19 **Hamfest VE Testing**. Interested students should contact instructors John WØWY or Al WØRC as soon as possible for class book orders. Help is always needed for 1 PM Friday setup and Saturday tear-down.

Digital & Emergency Communications: The **Club Repeater Committee** and **Communications Trailer Committee** will begin meeting soon. Al WØRC reported on his work with eleven **Forestview Middle School** students on preparations for launching 2 high-altitude balloons with payloads and RF tracking devices. We are looking forward to a February 20th student/teacher presentation on their progress that includes student CAD work and parts fabrication using a 3D printer.

Old / New Business: Al WØRC is receiving weekly updates from SMSgt Sprick regarding ANG/AFR removal of the Club tower and antennas at the former BHS-South Campus Club and a second tower at another site in Baxter. The response for the spring tower training project was favorably received, and the Club is awaiting final approval. Lyle KØLFV updated the Club laptop in use by our treasurer for now and will consider options for its eventual replacement.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:27 PM.

Thursday-January 23, 2014 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes

Brainerd Public Library Meeting Room

Attendees: The President opened the brief Club membership business meeting at 7:00 PM with 21 members and guests present.

Information supplemental to Board Meeting Minutes: The business meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM and followed by a program on the "New P25 Trunking Scanners" by Steve NØCRM.

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

DX and the Paper Chase

The last week of December and the first three weeks of January were very interesting on the HF bands to say the least. First out of the gate I worked straight key night (SKN) as it's popularly known as and...it's a big deal in the CW community. I made three CW contacts using my straight key—all of them stateside and much fun. Living in the upper Midwest in wintertime is a challenge, but having a hobby as a radio operator has made it much easier. The colder the weather, the more time I spend on HF and the more DX chasing is done to wile the hours away. DX was plentiful even though band conditions were challenging. Good DX was in every direction, mostly in the morning hours. During the morning hours, Europe was king. Also there were several good openings to ZL and VK land along with JA's in the early evening hours. There was an opening on 10-meters the 1st week of January (sporadic), but if you were lucky enough to take advantage of the opening, there was a lot of worldwide DX waiting out there. CW is becoming more and more of an operating mode for me, especially in the morning into Europe. Operating CW anytime is an adrenalin high for me. What took me so long to discover this wonderful mode of communicating?! W1AW is celebrating 100 years with operators in every one of the 50 states for the entire year of 2014 on CW and phone. I have a goal to operate every state on CW and if possible, phone too during the celebration. The DXpedition to the Island of Amsterdam (FT5ZM) will be making landfall in the next few days. This is a rare DXCC entity and is number 5 on the most wanted list. I'll be haunting the bands as soon as they are QRV. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy New Year filled with good DX from our QTH to your QTH. That's all from Huntersville for now, but remember to sit at your radio and call CQ because someone somewhere is listening for your call. Don't disappoint any ham. You might even want to make those calls with CW. So long for now, 73 es gud DX from **Bob/WØZPE**. *Editor's Note: FT5ZM—Amsterdam Island is on the air as you read this. Some in the BAARC have already made the much sought-after contact.*

Ham Radio Licensing Classes start this month—February: Details—

The classes start on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 P.M. They are weekly and run until 9:00 P.M. Meeting once a week for 8 to 9 sessions at the Brainerd Fire Hall, the classes will end with a possible review session before the Test Session on Saturday, April 19, conducted at our annual hamfest at the Armory.

Our two very experienced and successful instructors (John Luce—WØWY and Al Doree—WØRC) need to have you contact them ASAP so they can prepare. They have to order enough texts for those going for the Technician, General, and/or Extra exams. Please contact them using their e-mail addresses: **w0wy@arri.net** and **w0rc@arri.net**. They can also respond to any questions you may have about the classes, the three license types, etc. You will have to pay for the text (at the beginning) and exam fee on the April 19th. The instruction is **free**— provided by John and Al as a public service to the community.

HAM NEWS

Subject: Tokyo Hy-Power Files for Bankruptcy —12/27/2013—*Thanks to John W3MQD for relaying this item.*

Tokyo Hy-Power, a manufacturer of Amateur Radio amplifiers, antenna tuners, and other equipment, is in bankruptcy, and its plant, in Saitama Prefecture near Tokyo, has been shuttered. Telephones at the company no longer are being answered, and its Japanese website has been taken down, although the company's US website remains working. Company CEO/President Nobuki Wakabayashi, JA1DJW, founded Tokyo Hy-Power Labs in 1975. He blamed "the recent depression in the industrial RF power products area [which] has led to the very difficult financial position."

Tokyo Hy-Power's early products were HF antenna couplers, although within a couple of years it began manufacturing amplifiers for the Amateur Radio market, including solid-state mobile amplifiers. Among its early products was the HL-4000 linear amplifier, which the company claimed was "the first real HF band high-power linear of its kind in Japan." It has been manufacturing RF products for the industrial market since 1984.

The company also once marketed the HT-750, a portable, low-power SSB/CW transceiver for 40, 15, and 6 meters in a hand-held transceiver form factor. At Dayton Hamvention® 2013, the company displayed a prototype of the XT-751, an advanced model it hoped to develop, covering 40 through 6 meters and with an internal antenna tuner. Among its latest products were solid-state HF amplifiers, as well as amplifiers for 6 and 2 meters.

Dakota Division Summary for 2013—from Greg KØGW, Dakota Division Director

As we head into 2014, I'd like to share a few observations on ham radio, particularly in the Dakota Division.

The Dakota Division included 15,000 amateurs at the end of 2012, compared to 14,200 just 4 years earlier. That number keeps going up each year, and it's a good sign. The average age of hams in the U.S.

is actually going down(!), and that's a very good sign. There are over 2600 Dakota-Division ARRL members using the ARRL.org web site, and a good number have opted to receive messages like this. We're becoming a little more connected, and that is good.

We are increasing the number of hamfests in the Division each year.

While some of the old, big ones are gone, there are also a number of new ones, or existing ones that have now also become League-affiliated.

The Minnesota Section has an all-time high number of affiliated clubs (47), and North and South Dakota are also seeing great club participation.

As the Division Director, I proposed and chair the Logbook of the World Study Committee (LSC). The work is being done by members of the committee and by the Technical Advisory Committee, but there have been real changes since we began the LSC less than a year ago. Logbook has been a "victim of its own success," and our job throughout 2014 will be to return it to a sound footing so that it can be used for more awards and more operating events. The Board of Directors has so far approved our recommended special expenditures to help get us there.

I've heard positive comments from many hams who feel this is already making a difference.

2014 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of ARRL. There are a number of celebratory events planned, including the Centennial Convention in Hartford, CT, in July 2014—check it out at www.ARRL2014.org. There is a year-long Centennial QSO Party, in which every member counts for points. W1AW will be operated portable from each of the 50 states—twice each. What a way to work WAS! See more info at www.arrrl.org/centennial

The challenge to all of us these days is "doing more with less."

Radio Moscow not dead as recently reported. Apparently Putin has combined it with VOR—Voice of Russia network. Earlier reports of its demise last month were premature. Old timers in Ham Radio and many Short-Wave Listeners will remember listening to Radio Moscow in the middle of the 40-meter phone band. This was during the Cold War, when we had our Voice of America and Radio Free Europe competing with it. It always had a booming signal and their announcers spoke with nearly perfect American English accents. On a personal note, your editor recalls speaking to college exchange students who lived in East Germany during the Cold War saying they enjoyed listening to VOA, not only to learn English, but to also hear American jazz music. For years the VOA would broadcast programs in "special English." It was spoken slower, very clearly, and with simpler vocabulary. However, they were always cautious. The STAZI (state police) could accidentally find their radios with the dials on Western stations (like BBC) rather than the approved Communist ones. So before retiring for the night, they would routinely set the dial on Radio Moscow and not get into trouble. (From ARRL and personal experiences—WØKO)

2014 JAYCEES ICE FISHING EXTRAVAGANZA:

The Brainerd Amateur Radio Club had nine operators working communications for the Brainerd J.C.s Ice Fishing Extravaganza on Saturday, January 25, 2014. The very cold temperature was -12F degrees and the wind was gusting at 15 MPH. The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department let us use their Communications Trailer to set up and operate our net control station. We used BAARC's 147.225 repeater to get our people picked up and on the ice; we used 146.58 simplex on the ice and the ARMER system when necessary to contact law enforcement. Thank you goes to Kevin KAØWJC, our radio support for the security Boss; to Doug KDØERE, covering the North Quarter Boss; to Steve WØTNT, covering the South Quarter Boss; to Terry KIØFW, reporting from the First Aid Tent; to Ron KØGOP, covering the Bus Stop Boss; to Alan AAØAS and Shirley KØDCW, both operating Net Control; to Al WØRC, our "on ice" ATV pulling a sled, and radio operator transporting our members to and from their assigned positions; and to John WØWY, for his coordination with the Crow Wing County Sheriffs Department to allow us to use their communications trailer, for his assistance in picking up operators and bringing them to the lake, and for his help in setting up the radios in the trailer. Everyone did an outstanding job at their assigned positions and there were no major incidents.

Al WØRC & Shirley KØDCW
Co-coordinators

According to the Brainerd Dispatch, Art Karsky of Nisswa pulled in a 4.73 lb. walleye in the last few minutes of the contest to win a GMC Truck. KARE said well over 10,000 fisher people braved the elements to help raise money for local charities—mostly for Camp Confidence. Photo shows (l) Clint Meyer, Chief of Security for the Jaycees with Al Doree of the BAARC on the right. By the way, Al and Shirley Doree were Co-coordinators.



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More Info and Follow-up to Steve NØCRM program presentation on "New Generation P25 Scanners"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGMXG8e70-M>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsfeIC-8B2s> <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsfeIC-8B2s>>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fow9IOCuv0k> <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fow9IOCuv0k>>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPs8GBrimrU> <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPs8GBrimrU>>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKqiq2Y43Wg> <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKqiq2Y43Wg>>

TNX to Steve and Ron KØGOP for relaying these. These are a few websites to peruse.

Digital Amateur Radio Club (DARC) now also ARRL Affiliated: This group to the south of us has been busy organizing and building its network. Some of them are also members of our BAARC. Our thanks to Rick NØBJN of Little Falls, its Public Information Officer (PIO), for sending us the photos and info. The event pictured took place on January 4, 2014.



L-R: Frank N1UW (ARRL), Rick NØBJN and Skip KSØJ (ARRL) at the formal presentation.



L-R: Standing—Frank N1UW, Skip KSØJ, Rick NØBJN, Tom KDØMOM, Shannon NØANC, and Larry NØRND, Seated L-R: Tom WØWTK, Dave KGØCV, and Jan KDØRAV. In addition, the DARC has a Club call sign: KDØYLG. Congratulations, DARC Members. Congratulations, Digi-Club Members.



Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Dues Year January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014



(One Application for Each Person)

Name: (First, MI, Last-print) _____ 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 / Student Member \$10

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

Membership Dues \$ _____

Voluntary Contribution (Tax Deductible) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to:
BAARC. The Club is a non-profit 501c3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.
Send to:
Doug Bergsnev,
KDØERE
BAARC Treasurer
15912 Olsen Road
Brainerd, MN 56401

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Disclosure: Information provided here will not be sold/given to any other organization without the permission of the members.

Check our club's Website for other Information and Newsletters.
Regular Updates on the Sunday Night Nets on 147.225 @ 8 P.M.
www.brainerdham.org

