



# The BAARCer



August 2015

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 rptr)  
 145.130 MHz- Echo Link  
 Node number 233515  
 443.925 MHz + 110.9 Hz  
**Packet:** 145.670 MHz  
 MNBRD, BRDBBS  
 144.390 WØUJ APRS  
**Crosslake** 147.030  
 MHz+  
**Crosby** 146.700 MHz-  
 Tone 141.3  
**Crosby** 444.925 MHz +  
<http://brainerdham.org>  
**2015 OFFICERS**

**Pres. + Web Editor:**  
 Steve Mott      **NØCRM**

**Vice President:**  
 Lyle Amundson **KØLFV**

**Secretary:**  
 Ron Finger      **KØGOP**

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**Director-at-Large:**  
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**Trustee + BAARCer  
 Editor:**  
 Fritz Bertelt      **WØKO**

**Index  
of the BAARCer**

Minutes—KØGOP	2
DX Report—WØZPE	3
Club News/Updates ARRL	4
July 12th Storm Report from WØWY	5
KEØAFZ's program With Pix —continued.	6
FCC' s latest on Vanity Calls	7
Last Word—Updates Sunday Night Net	8

**Michael Ruen, KEØAFZ, Energetic Hardware Engineer and Graduate of UND, Grand Forks, presented an excellent program on dongles at the July meeting. Yes, these devices allow you to expand your computer usage and have an SDR—for about \$26.—just by connecting it to your laptop and adding a small antenna. Then you can listen to public service frequencies all over the world—and more. You can even track aircraft. Michael, who is employed by Landis Gyr, impressed BAARC members with his knowledge and uses of these devices. Thanks for an informative program, Michael.**



**The dongle extends from his laptop's side. He presented the information via an overhead projection as well. *If you want to learn more about software-defined radios (SDRs) with dongles: Start with <<http://www.rtl-sdr.com/rtl-sdr-quick-start-guide/>>***

**— Events Calendar —**

**Sat., Aug. 1, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille—Brd.**  
**Sat., Aug. 15, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille —Brd.**  
**Note: Technology Group Mtg after the BRKFST—to be held at Brd. Lib.**  
**IMPORTANT NOTE: No Regular Monthly BAARC Mtg. in August**  
**Sat., Aug. 22. Annual BAARC Fox Hunt and Picnic @ Lum Park @ 9. Want to be the fox? Contact Terry KIØFW**  
**Sat., Aug. 29—Free BAARC Tailgate Hamfest at Crow Wing County Fairgrounds.—9-1 p.m. SPREAD THE WORD IN YOUR QSOs.**  
**Sun., Aug. 30—Annual Lakes Country Triathlon—in Baxter—operators needed**

**Join/Rejoin— \$20 Dues yet for 2015?—Please get your check in to  
 Doug KDØERE.**

**Thursday-July 30, 2015 - 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes****Brainerd Fire Station**

**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:** Al Doree, WØRC  
**Repeater Trustee:** Fritz Bertelt, WØKO  
**Emergency Communications Director:** John Luce, WØWY

**Attendees:** Steve NØCRM, Lyle KØLFV, Ron KØGOP, Al WØRC, Shirley KØDCW, John WØWY, Roger WØWUG, and Dan KDØWOG.

**Secretary's Report:** May Meeting Minutes were published in the July 2015 BAARcer; no corrections were noted. The website and Google Calendar were updated. Membership roster shows 60 paid members, including a new application.

**Motion to accept:** Lyle KØLFV, **Second** Al WØRC, **Passed.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report submitted showing all month's account transactions and balances to date. Al submitted a bill for \$173.81 for a 1-year renewal to Logmein.com. Lyle presented a check for \$90 for recent Club sales and donations.

**Motion to accept:** Ron KØGOP, **Second** Al WØRC, **Passed.**

**Membership Meeting Program:** Steve NØCRM reviewed recent and future Club programs and events. Future Club programs include: **September 25. Civil Air Patrol SAREVAL Communications** by Ron KØGOP. The **Holiday meeting dates** will be November 19 and December 17.

**Upcoming Events:** The next Club events will be the **BAARC Fox Hunt and Picnic, Saturday August 22** at Lum Park, Brainerd, the **Free BAARC Tailgate Hamfest, Saturday August 29** at the CWC Fairgrounds, and **The Lakes Country Triathlon, Sunday August 30** at Whipple Beach, Baxter. John WØWY reports 8-10 operators are needed for the Triathlon.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** Dan KDØWOG addressed the Board regarding an **ARES Communications Exercise HF Net at Camp Ripley on August 4, 1PM-4PM.** "Vital Connections" is a United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) supported interagency functional exercise hosted by the Minnesota National Guard (MNNG). The overall goal of the exercise is improving communications interoperability between DoD, Federal, State, and local first responders. The exercise will provide a realistic, controlled environment to test, train, and collaborate on operable and interoperable communications. "Vital Connections" is part of a series of MNNG interagency exercises that will culminate with the **AUGUST 2015 "Vigilant Guard"** full scale exercise. More info is available at <http://www.minnesotaares.org/ares/>.

A recent Club project involved connecting the new 145.130 repeater antenna on the Brainerd high-rise site. Al WØRC, Lyle KØLFV, Ron KØGOP, and John WØWY installed new LMR-400 coax and connectors for both the **Fusion repeater and future Remote Base Station antenna.** Al reported the 147.030 Crosslake repeater is back on the air following antenna work. Coverage reports are being sought for both updated repeater installations.

John WØWY read the memorandum regarding the SKYWARN Net activity for the July 12 severe weather. John also read 2 letters sent to Jennifer Bergman at the HRA High Rise and John Bowen, CWC EOC, regarding the need for antenna space for BAARC emergency communications coverage.

**New Business:** BAARC member, Dan KDØWOG addressed the Board on behalf of the Little Falls **Digital Amateur Radio Club (DARC)** regarding a proposal to partner and split the \$20 per month **D-STAR (Icom)** cost for their repeater installation at the old south Brainerd 145.130 site. Several board members questioned the need for another digital VHF system with our new open-source Yaesu Fusion repeaters being integrated into the BAARC repeater network. The D-STAR repeater system requires the use of a D-STAR capable Icom radio. Concern was also expressed about other maintenance fees that could be forthcoming from the new south tower owners in the future. The Board decided to take the matter under advisement for now.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

**Thursday- July 30, 2015 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes****Brainerd Fire Station**

**Attendees:** The President opened the Club membership business meeting at 7:00 PM with 22 members and guests present.

**Information supplemental to Board Meeting Minutes:** Lyle KØLFV reported on recent Technology Group meetings that follow the 3rd week Club Breakfast Meetings. Michael KEØAFZ gave an excellent program on RTL Software Defined Radio.

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

## DX and the Paper Chase

Actually I almost gave up on the bands over the past 30 days. Between all the thunderstorms and terrible index numbers there were very slim pickings across the spectrum. Still, I kept in touch with the DX spots on the Internet for any DX openings when Laos (XW1) was spotted on 17 meters. Wow, that would be an ATNO for me (all time new one) if I was able to make the trip. The operator was Champ, and Champ is a good operator in all respects. I took the time to set up my radio, antenna, amplifier and set the frequency and split...he was listening up '5' and it was my plan to add Laos to my log no matter how long it took. Long can be just that, very long, so I kicked in my patience mode and went to work. It was an hour later when we connected and I was a happy camper. Champ uses Club Log as do I, so getting everything logged was a no brainer. The next day my call was in the XW1IC log. My QSL request went through the OQRS system. The thrill of DX is always there for me especially for an ATNO. A couple days later I was calling CQ when an answer came from N1HXA with a really good signal. The call sign belongs to Mike Traffie, the designer and originator of the HEXBEAM. We enjoyed a fantastic QSO and up until this point, I had no idea that Mike folded his tent, and Traffie Engineering was shut down for good. We didn't discuss the reasons but they are obvious: competitors' pricing was way too low for Mike to overcome. It's sad to see a company go out of business, but it's also good to see a couple of replacements come alive. Mike owns the trademark HEXBEAM and he won't be giving it up any time soon. There was hit-and-miss DX, so the month wasn't too bad at that. It's time to put a wrap on this and say so long from Huntersville. Don't forget to sit down at your radio and call CQ because someone somewhere is listening for your call. Best 73 es gud DX from **Bob/WØZPE**.

### **New Antenna Installation at Crosslake.**

It is the white antenna in the middle on the very top of the Crosslake Communications Tower—some 200 feet elevation. Let us know what coverage you get. Our thanks to John WØWY for the photo and information.

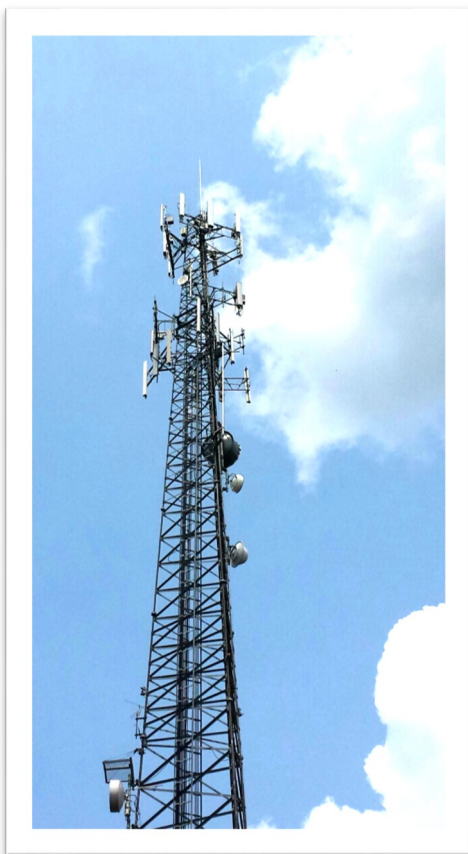
### **HAARP Facility Will Be Transferred to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks on August 11**

HAARP -- the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program -- will transfer from military into academic hands next month. After a swell of support last year from the scientific community and intervention by Alaska US Sen. Lisa Murkowski -- plus a lot of uncertainty before that -- the US Air Force delayed its plans to shutter the ultra-high power HAARP and demolish it. Now the University of Alaska-Fairbanks ([UAF](#)) has won a bid to assume ownership of the facility near Gakona. That will happen on August 11.—*from the ARRL*

### **FCC Proposes Fining Georgia Ham \$1000 for Failing to Identify**

The FCC has proposed fining a Georgia ham \$1000 for alleged failure to properly identify. David J. Tolassi, W4BHV, had been warned last August about not following the Commission's Part 97 ID rules. The FCC said his "deliberate disregard" of that warning warranted the proposed penalty.

"Mr Tolassi...has a history of failing to comply with the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC said in a July 22 *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ([NAL](#)). As the *NAL* recounted, agents from the FCC's Atlanta Office used direction-finding techniques to track the source of a signal on 14.313 MHz to Tolassi's residence in Ringgold, Georgia.—*from the ARRL*





### MEMORANDUM

Date: July 30, 2015  
 To: BAARC Board of Directors  
 From: John Luce, WØWY,  
 Director, Emergency Communications, (ARES, EC, Crow Wing County)  
 Cc: KDØCIZ; KØEMS; AAØAW  
 Subject: ARES, SKYWARN Activity; Summer Storm, July 12, 2015

For the Record: Club Participation in SKYWARN Severe Weather Warning Net

The following is information regarding the above-captioned subject and the participation of BAARC club members.

During the period of 1600 to 2100 hours on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, our area was under severe weather watches and warnings issued by the NOAA weather bureaus in Grand Forks, Chanhassen, and Duluth. The severe weather pattern was fast-moving and somewhat typical, moving from the SW to the NE. Club members monitored the SKYWARN net conducted by the Wadena ARC (on 147.120/147.330 MHz), KØEMS, from 1630 to 1730 hrs; and, when high winds and some rain became evident in southern Cass County and western Crow Wing County, a SKYWARN net was set-up on the Club's main repeater, 147.225 MHz, at 1740 hrs. Net control operators were WØWY and KØIFZ.

From 1740 hrs until about 2048, there were 57 separate severe weather reports called-in to the two net control operators from 21 participating stations. Many were running APRS. I can't stress enough the importance of having two net control operators as the reports came in fast. Getting them answered and passing along information to the weather bureau was difficult to say the least.

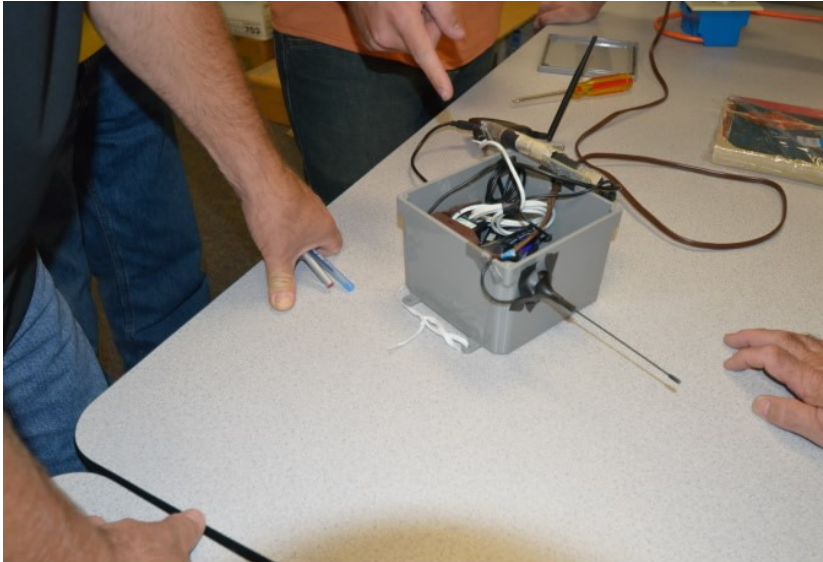
The following were the stations that participated and were entered into my log. (KØIFZ may have others.)

KCØYXD;	KØTEG;	KIØFW;	W3MQD;	KØIFZ;	KCØVYJ;
KEØAFZ;	WØWUG;	KØNRI;	KDØYLO;	WØRC;	KDØERE;
N4TGO;	KDØVJM;	KDØVJL;	KCØTGT;	KØSEH;	W5CCL;
WØKO;	WØJDS;	KØGOP;	WØWY		

The aftermath of the severe weather has been widely reported in the press both locally and statewide. Wonderfully there was no loss of life or serious injuries, and there were countless acts of kindness reported of neighbor-helping-neighbor in the clean-up and restoration of services. I'm sure each of the operators named above has their own story to tell of how the storm affected them.

In all, the SKYWARN radio protocols issued annually by the Club and approved annually by the weather bureau folks in Duluth, proved to be very effective in allowing for an orderly systematic collection of, and dissemination of, weather information.

More photos from Michael's presentation (continues from p. 1). Pix by WØKO



On the left is his homebrew Wi-Fi unit which he mounts outside his home. He says it gives him excellent coverage and flexibility.

As you can see, some of Thursday's attendees are admiring his creativity. Homebrewing has a long tradition in ham radio—reaching from the tube era to the modern digital age.



#### **Central MN ARES and MNNG Joint Drill**

**To:** Minnesota's Emergency Coordinators, District Emergency Coordinators, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators

**From:** Dan Anderson, KDØASX, Minnesota Section Emergency Coordinator

**RE:** Minnesota National Guard Vital Connections 2015 Exercise, Amateur HF Command Net Drill

**Date:** 4 AUG 2015

**Time:** 1300-1600 CST (1800-2100 UTC)

**HF Frequencies:** 75-meters, 40-meters, and 20-meters

**Purpose:** "Vital Connections" is a United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) supported interagency functional exercise hosted by the Minnesota National Guard (MNNG), to be held 3-6 AUG 2015. The MNNG's mission for "Vital Connections" is to conduct a communications-specific exercise to train and familiarize communication professionals on equipment, operating procedures and governance for building capabilities that deliver operable and interoperable communications in a variety of incidents. For more info <[minnesotaares.org](http://minnesotaares.org)> **Thanks to Dan KDØWOG for this info.**

## **ARLB023 Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September**

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

"Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category," the FCC said in its Report and Order, which appeared on July 21 in The Federal Register. "Once [it's] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments."

The FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term in 2014. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise collect from such regulatory fees "will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

**SUNDAY NIGHT NCS OPS**

08-02-15	Rick	NØBJN
08-09-15	Dave	KCØTGT
08-16-15	Fritz	WØKO
08-23-15	Tim	KDØYLO
08-30-15	Tim	KDØYLO
09-06-15	Rick	NØBJN
09-13-15	Dave	KCØTGT
09-20-15	Tim	KDØYLO
09-27-15	Tim	KDØYLO

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

**Would you like to take a turn at NCS?**

**Our apologies to Michael Ruen for misidentifying him in one of the pictures in the July BAARCer. His correct call sign is KEØAFZ.—Sorry, Michael.**

**Our thanks to Dave KØISZ and John WØWY: Dave started the net going on the night of the storm (12th), informing everyone. This went fine until he lost power in Baxter. John then continued reporting radar information and WX Service reports. Many of us checked in with handhelds, etc. WØKO reported a 19-hour power loss—not bad considering what this storm did in total to others in the greater Brainerd Lakes area. See p. 5.**

**Want to be able to make the Ø in your ham radio correspondence? Just hold the Alt key and then on the numerical keyboard type in 0216.**

**Have any Wants or For Sale? Free advertising here on a space-available basis for members—contact Fritz.**

**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