



The BAARCeR



December 2016

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

Page 1 of 8

Club Call Sign: WØUJ

BAARC REPEATERS
53.110 MHz- 123.0 Hz

Main Repeater in Crosby
147.225 MHz+ Crosby
Tone 110.9 Tx only

~~~~~  
146.700 MHz-  
Tone 141.3 Hz

~~~~~  
145.130 MHz- Echo
Link-Node Nr. 233515
AllStar Node 42508

~~~~~  
147.030 MHz+ Crosslake

~~~~~  
443.925 MHz Gull Lake+
Tone 110.9 Hz

~~~~~  
444.925 MHz Crosby

~~~~~  
Packet: 145.010 MHz
MNBRD, BRDBBS
144.390 MHz WØUJ
APRS I-Gate Node

~~~~~  
**Officers for the Year**  
are listed by name  
and title on Page 2—  
top of the Minutes —  
each month.

## Congratulations, New Officers & Directors for 2017



**Pictured l-r back row: TJ Graves (KØTEG) Community & Special Events Director; Mitch Ahrenstorff (ADØHJ) Repeater Trustee; Lyle Amundson (KØLFV) Director-at-Large. Front row l-r: John Luce (WØWY) Vice President; Steve Mott (NØCRM) President; Doug Bergsnev (WØDWB) Treasurer; Ron Finger (KØGOP) Secretary.**

*Photo—NØCRM*

### **Index of the BAARCeR**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Minutes—KØGOP                  | 2 |
| WØZPE DX Column<br>And more    | 3 |
| SK—KØTO                        | 4 |
| 2017 Dues Form-                | 5 |
| ARRL/Ham Radio<br>News         | 6 |
| ARRL—General Ham<br>Radio News | 7 |
| Last Word—Updates              | 8 |

### — Events Calendar —

**Sat., Dec. 3, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille—Brd.**

**Sat., Dec. 15, BAARC Monthly Mtg & Christmas Party with Potluck @ 7 P.M. @ Fire Hall in Brd.**

**Sat., Dec. 17, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille—Brd.**

++++  
**Join/Rejoin—Still only \$20Dues/ Year—Please get your check in to  
Doug Bergsnev—WØDWB, BAARC TREASURER  
15912 Olsen Lane, Brainerd, MN 56401**

++++  
**Happy Holidays. Be safe in your travels. Enjoy  
the season.**

## Thursday-November 17, 2016 - 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes

### Brainerd Fire Station

**President:** Steve Mott, NØCRM

**Vice President:** Lyle Amundson, KØLFV

**Treasurer:** Doug Bergsnev WØDWB

**Secretary:** Ron Finger, KØGOP

**Past Presidents:** Charles Lane, W5CCL; Al Doree, WØRC

**Director-at-Large:** Al Doree, WØRC

**Repeater Trustee:** Fritz Bertelt, WØKO

**Director of Emergency Communications:** John Luce, WØWY

**Community & Special Events Coordinator:** TJ Graves, KØTEG

**Attendees:** Steve NØCRM, Ron KØGOP, Al WØRC, John WØWY, Lyle KØLFV, Shirley KØDCW, Mitch ADØHJ, Dave KØISZ and Nick KØNJR.

The President opened the Board Meeting at 4:00 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** Membership roster shows 90 paid members for November 2016. The October BAARCer was published to the website. Other activities included updating of the Club roster and Gmail contact list.

**Motion to accept:** John WØWY, **Second** Al WØRC, **Passed.**

**Treasurer's Report:** In his absence, the Treasurer forwarded his report summary to the Vice President for the board.

**Membership Meeting Program:** The President reviewed recent and future Club programs and events. The December membership meeting will be held a week early due to the Christmas holiday. John WØWY confirmed the December 15 meeting date with the Fire Department secretary.

**Upcoming Events:** **BAARC Christmas party and snack potluck** on Thursday, December 15. **Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza** on January 28 with February 18 backup date. **Mid-Minnesota 150 Dog Sled Race** on February 11. **Minnesota QSO Party Special Event Station** on February 4.

**Old Business:** John WØWY has received written permission to locate a Club 20' x 8' storage container within the Brainerd Fire Station fenced area. This will be used to house the many items in the Club inventory currently located at several members' homes and out-buildings. **Motion to select and purchase at a cost not to exceed \$2000, a Club storage unit including delivery and placement:** Lyle KØLFV, **Second** John WØWY, **Passed.** Lyle reported the CC-DX antenna is now in place at the Brainerd High-Rise remote base site. The traps need to be raised higher. John and Al reported we are waiting for responses on the Gull Lake site relocation and Granite City HT programming projects.

**New Business: Repeater Committee planning meeting** will be held at the Northland Arboretum, Saturday November 19, 1000-1200. Nick KØNJR and Mitch ADØHJ presented the new Club website that they and Dave KEØIUZ have been refining over the prior weeks. The board was very impressed with the updated look and feel of the site, and elected to go live on January 1, 2017. **Motion to go live on 1/1/2017:** Nick KØNJR, **Second** Mitch ADØHJ, **Passed.** Mitch will investigate the new hosting requirements with our current Crosslake Communications host.

The board accepted with regret, **Fritz WØKO's resignation of Club duties as BAARCer Editor, and Repeater Trustee.** Fritz also coordinated the Sunday Night Net NCS operators and was the Club's "Chairman of Cheer," sending cards to members and families over the years. The Board appointed Mitch as the new Repeater Trustee; **Motion:** Al WØRC, **Second** Ron KØGOP, **Passed.** Mitch also agreed to serve as Sunday Night Net Coordinator. A discussion was held on moving the BAARCer to an online-only format in conjunction with the new website. Legacy volumes for prior years will also be transferred and available on the Club site. The Board will seek members interested in assisting with photography and content for this new BAARCer format. Ron KØGOP volunteered to act as Photo Editor, retouching and prepping any images as needed for publication.

The election of 2017 Club officers was reviewed and scheduled for the 7 PM meeting. In an email to the board, the President relayed a request by a local Crosby Ham that has just returned to the area and seeking help in setting up his antennas. TJ KØTEG responded with an offer to help, as did other members at the Board meeting.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

## Thursday-November 17, 2016 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes

### Brainerd Fire Station

The President opened the Club membership business meeting at 7:00 PM with 34 members and guests present.

Treasurer's report submitted showing all month's account transactions and balances to date. The **election of 2017 officers** was held, with the Secretary casting a unanimous ballot for the Club. Ron KØGOP presented a **Station Grounding System** prepared for Civil Air Patrol Communications. Mitch ADØHJ and Nick KØNJR presented the **new Club website** to the membership, developed along with the Website Planning Committee over the last year.

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

## DX and the Paper Chase

I've been writing this column for about 5 years and have enjoyed it immensely. During that 5 year period I worked DX and chased the paper (QSL cards) diligently until my goal of working and confirming at least 300 countries and entities was realized. My goal was reached this year with 10 countries to spare. I'm in the ARRL DXCC at 310 confirmed. As I look back from the beginning, 19 years have past since receiving my first DX QSL card. Now I'd like to shift gears and share my experiences in operating HF. Some of you old timers already know the ins and outs of operating skills. Some of the new Hams may not, so there's where my focus will be. Sunspot Cycle 24 was more or less a bust as compared to the sunspot cycles preceding it. There are still 2+ years left in the present cycle and it's not pretty. Operating HF during this 'minimum' will be challenging to say the least, and DX a bit more difficult. Hope to see you next month and don't give up on DX--Best 73 from Bob/WØZPE

---

### OPERATING TIP —*from the ARRL Contest Update*

#### Winning QSOs and Influencing the Casual Operator

Always be enthusiastic when calling CQ. Make people want to work you. The most important time to be your most solicitous is just about the time you just want to be done, the slow times, or on the second day of the contest. When the rate is low or decreasing, you want to get non-serious or non-contesters to answer your CQ. Those Qs can really make a difference in your score. If you sound bored, your CQ will be less appealing. Try this: Smile while calling CQ, and when making the contact. People will [hear it in your voice](#).

## **ARRL Honorary Vice President, Director Emeritus Tod Olson, KØTO (SK)**

ARRL Honorary Vice President and Director Emeritus Tod Olson, KØTO (ex-WØIYP), of Minnesota and Idaho, died on November 12 after battling cancer for several years. An ARRL Life Member, he was 83.

He began his volunteer service to ARRL in 1974 as the Minnesota Section Communications Manager. He became Dakota Division Vice Director in 1976, and then Director in 1982. In 1986, the ARRL Board of Directors elected him as ARRL Vice President of International Affairs, a post he held until 1990. He again served as Dakota Division Director from 1994 until 1999. The ARRL Board of Directors named him an ARRL Director Emeritus in 2000 and an ARRL Honorary Vice President in 2003.

Olson held a BS from the University of Minnesota, and an MPH from the University of Michigan. He belonged to the Minnesota Wireless Association and the Eagle Rock Amateur Radio Club. An active contester, he was inducted last May into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. Earlier this year, he entered hospice care.—Message from the ARRL.

***Editor's Note—many years ago Tod made presentations to the BAARC. He was a good promoter of the hobby and of the ARRL. Interestingly, he was also a former mayor of Long Lake, MN.***

## **The Origins of Silicon Valley: Roots in Ham Radio” Video Now Available**

11/22/2016

The ARRL Centennial National Convention presentation, “The Origins of Silicon Valley: Roots in Ham Radio,” by Paul Wesling, KM6LH, has been edited into a [video](#) and is now available on YouTube.

“It tells of the interesting events in the maritime port of San Francisco at the turn of the 20th century, as early radio was being developed, and follows the hams who designed new devices and equipment to address steamship traffic plying the Pacific Ocean,” Wesling said. “Their efforts to break the east coast monopoly on tubes and to extend radio into the microwaves as the country approached World War II form the basis for what became Silicon Valley.”

Wesling said the presentation traces early vacuum tube development and other contributions by Bay Area amateurs, “and the continuing spirit of hobbyists and collaborators that fuel today’s high-tech mecca.” The presentation runs about 1 hour.

A graduate of Stanford University, Wesling, a IEEE/CPMT Society Distinguished Lecturer, retired from Hewlett Packard in 2001, and then served for 10 years as Communications Director for the IEEE’s San Francisco Bay Area Council.



# Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Dues Year January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017

(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

The Official Club Newsletter, The BAARCer is available each month online at [www.brainerdham.org/baarcer](http://www.brainerdham.org/baarcer)

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](mailto:djbdesk@gmail.com)

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

Voluntary Contribution (Tax Deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to BAARC. The Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Thus contributions are tax deductible.

Mail to:  
**Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club Treasurer—Doug Bergsnev, W0DWB**  
**15912 Olsen Lane**  
**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.

Please mail one form, along with dues (check/money order) for each person.

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

## **Rule Making Petition to FCC Calls for Vanity Call Sign Rule**

### **Changes**—From the *ARRL Letter*

The FCC is inviting comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-1775](#)) from a Nevada radio amateur that seeks changes to the rules governing the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Program. Christopher LaRue, W4ADL, of North Las Vegas, is proposing that any licensee obtaining a vanity call sign be required to keep it for the full license term. LaRue contends in his petition that excessive and frequent vanity call sign filings are hampering the ability of other qualified licensees to obtain vanity call signs in one of the more desirable 1 × 2 or 2 × 1 formats. LaRue said that since the FCC dropped the fee to file for a vanity call sign, some applicants are taking advantage by regularly obtaining new call signs, thereby keeping them out of circulation.

"Some are changing call signs almost monthly, just to keep the newer code-free Extra class operators from obtaining a shorter call sign," he said in his petition. "I even saw an older operator that said he does it all the time and has not even owned a radio in over 6 years. When I looked him up, he has had 16 different [call signs] in 18 months."

LaRue said his proposed minor rule change would require any licensee applying for and obtaining an Amateur Radio vanity call sign "be required to keep it for the duration of the license, which is currently 10 years."

He said this would "alleviate a lot of the stress on the ULS system and manpower requirements" at the FCC. "It will also keep inactive amateurs from changing call signs regularly, thereby tying up call signs for 2 years after dismissal of said call."

Interested parties may comment using the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)). Comments are due within 30 days of the October 26 posting date

## **New Russian Over-the-Horizon Radars Set for 2017 Startup**

According to media accounts, more long-range, new over-the-horizon (OTH) radars that can identify aerial and sea targets hundreds of miles away are scheduled to begin operation next year in the Russian Arctic. It's doubtful, however, that the news heralds the return of interference on the level of that generated by the so-called "Russian Woodpecker" OTH radar, which plagued Amateur Radio HF bands in the 1970s and 1980s.

Over the past couple of years, OTH radars, *sans* woodpecker, have become increasingly commonplace intruders on Amateur Radio bands, according to the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 ([IARU R1](#)) Monitoring System ([IARUMS](#)), which has noted OTH radars in Russia, China, Cyprus, Iran, and Turkey. The Russian systems-intelligence "Konteyner RLS" OTH radar, transmitting from the Nizhny Novgorod region, is frequently spotted on 20 meters. While no woodpecker, it transmits a broad, frequency-modulated CW signal at 50 sweeps per second with a bandwidth of 80 kHz or greater, accompanied by signal splatter, IARUMS Coordinator Wolfgang Hadel, DK2OM, reported recently.

## **Two Arrested in Georgia for Planning to Attack HAARP Facility in Alaska**

Authorities in Georgia recently arrested two men who said they were planning to attack the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility near Gakona, Alaska. Michael Vickers, a detective with the Coffee County Sheriff's Office, [told Alaska Dispatch News](#) that the pair explained to authorities "that God told them to go and blow this machine up that kept souls, so souls could be released."

## **Maybe a Solar Minimum Can Be Too Deep for 160 Meters**

Propagation observer Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, recently offered some "[deep thoughts](#)" on the [Top Band Reflector](#). As he explained, while less geomagnetic field activity heading into winter bodes favorable 160-meter propagation, more galactic cosmic rays entering our atmosphere could become a factor .

"The Sun's magnetic field is weakening, probably to the lowest levels in our lifetimes," Luetzelschwab said. "With a weak solar magnetic field, more galactic cosmic rays will be able to get into Earth's atmosphere. We are now seeing unprecedented high neutron counts (neutrons are one of the byproducts of cosmic rays). Since galactic cosmic rays are mostly *very energetic* protons, they can get down to low atmospheric altitudes, causing collisional ionization in the D region and lower E region."

He said a cursory estimate using cosmic ray ionization rates confirms greater ionization in the lower atmosphere, and 160 meters is not too tolerant of more absorption.

"Many of us think that 'solar min is solar min is solar min,'" Luetzelschwab said in his post, "but maybe a solar minimum can be too deep for 160 meters." He said a good question to ask in the early 2020s may be, "How was 160 meters?" -- *Thanks to the ARRL Contest Update—via ARRL Letter*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Popular TV Show *HamRadioNow* Adds "EmComm Extra"**

The popular TV show/YouTube show/Podcast [HamRadioNow](#) is adding presentations on emergency and disaster response communications subjects. *HamRadioNow* is an online television show, webcast, podcast, and a [YouTube show](#) for and about Amateur Radio. The host is Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, a radio amateur and broadcaster for 50 years. The show is recorded, not live, and there's no set schedule. Viewers can watch the show at any time on the [Episode Pages](#) on its website, or on its YouTube Channel. Or listeners can download just the audio and listen on their phones with the [RSS feed](#). The format is primarily a talk show with a pair of hosts and a series of guests. Co-host is David Goldenberg, W0DHG, an Emergency Coordinator. (Pearce has an ARES/PIO background).

Goldenberg and Pearce have announced that they are planning to produce a show whenever an incident occurs that warrants discussion of lessons learned. "The goal is to provide an interesting, entertaining and useful look at emergency/disaster response activity in the context of Amateur Radio," said Pearce. "We do in-depth shows (usually an hour or more), and can go way beyond a cursory summary of an event or drill," he said. Spurring this new aspect of the show was Hurricane Matthew. "We did an off-the-cuff show as HamRadioNow Episode 270, then a more formal show (Episode 274) featuring Emergency Coordinators from Florida and South Carolina in the storm's aftermath," Pearce said. There have been emergency/disaster response themed shows before, collected and published on an "[EmComm Playlist](#)" on the YouTube Channel. -- *Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Cary, North Carolina, [HamRadioNow](#)—From ARRL Letter*

**SUNDAY NIGHT NCS OPS**

First Sunday of the month

Rick NØBJNs

Second Sunday of the month

Doug WØDWB

Third Sunday of the month

TJ KØTEG or  
Dave KCØTGT

Fourth Sunday of the month

Jay KAØDYN

NB: If there is a fifth Sunday, please  
someone take charge of the Net.

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



**All the Officers of the BAARC wish the  
members and their families a really BLESSED  
CHRISTMAS with good health and many, many  
more blessings as we move onto year 2017. We  
all hope the NEW YEAR will be a healthful and  
prosperous one for our families and this country.  
Above all, have a safe holiday journeys.**

**Note from Your Editor and Trustee: Thanks for  
all your help over the years. Please assist the  
officers, directors, trustee, and editor as much  
as possible. I will also help with any transition—  
if needed. TNX—Fritz WØKO**

**Want to be NCS in 2017?—contact Mitch  
ADØHJ.**

**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