



# The BAARCer



February 2016

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 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>

**2016 OFFICERS**

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

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

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

**Treasurer:**  
 Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

**Director-at-Large:**  
 Al Doree **WØRC**

**Trustee + BAARCer Editor:**  
 Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

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**Forestview High Altitude Balloon launch team ready for another super launch in 2016—tentatively Feb 12th**



These four student spokespeople for the STEM class presented their preparations to us. They are (l-r) **Ben, Aleah, Oliver, and Alyson**. All are incredibly bright and handled questions well from our members. Designing practically everything and communicating it, these future leaders and their other team members are expertly taught by teachers **Jim Reed and Corey Olson**. For more information, the local paper recently had a big spread on their upcoming event. Readers can also go to the Forestview website and also follow the launch on home computers. Needless to say, these young people are so fortunate to have this kind of technical instruction at the middle-school level. We BAARC members were also given an education listening to them. Al Doree, WØRC, and Shirley, KØDCW, have in the past provided technical support for the HAB events.

**— Events Calendar —**

**Sat., Feb. 6, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille—Brd.**

**ICE FISHING EVENT also on Feb. 6th.**

**Sat., Feb. 13—Mid MN 150 Dogsled Race—ops needed**

**Sat., Feb. 13—St. Cloud Hamfest**

**Sat., Feb. 20, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille —Brd.**

**Note: Technology Group Mtg. after this BRKFFST—to be held at Library in Brd.—More Details Later.**

**Thurs., Feb. 25- Regular Monthly Board & BAARC membership Mtgs. @ 4 and 7 P.M. @ Brd. Fire Hall.—Program —WØWUG on tuning cavities.**

**Please Pay Your 2016 Dues**

**Join/Rejoin—Still only \$20 Dues/ Year—see p. 4—Please get your check in to Doug KDØERE.**

**Thursday-January 28, 2016 - 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, Doug KDØERE, Ron KØGOP, Al WØRC, John WØWY, Shirley KØDCW, Dave KØISZ, Roger WØWUG and Mitch ADØHJ.

**Secretary's Report:** Membership roster shows 66 paid members for 2016. Members are encouraged to renew for 2016 at the same low \$20 rate. The Club website was updated for January including the January BAARcer and a new link to the Repeater Reporting database on the Club Google site. Other activities included updating Gmail contact list and 2016 Hamfest documents. **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. Several new 2016 membership renewals were received. Also reported were 10 students signed up for the Ham License classes beginning in February. **Motion to accept:** John WØWY, **Second** Lyle KØLFV, **Passed.**

**Membership Meeting Program:** President Steve NØCRM reviewed recent and future Club programs and events. Future Club programs include: **Theory & Tuning of Cavity Filters** by Roger WØWUG – Feb 25, **SKYWARN Updates for the 2016 SVR-WX season** by John WØWY – Mar 31, and **G5RV Antenna Design** by Pat WØOPW – Apr 28.

**Upcoming Events:** Dates were announced for the **Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza:** February 6, 2016 (NEW date), **Forestview HAB Class Launch:** February 12, 2016, **Mid-MN 150 Sled Dog Race:** February 13th, 2016, **Brainerd HamFest:** April 16, 2016, and **Brainerd Jaycees Run for the Lakes Marathon:** April 30, 2016.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** John WØWY said the new Brainerd FD Chief and system has been very open to continuing our good relationship, including hosting of a 2m VHF station, and use of the training room for Club meetings. A similar good relationship is reported with the Brainerd high-rise authorities and our use of the rooftop antenna/repeater site.

A TX CTCSS tone of 110.9Hz will soon be added to the 147.225MHz repeater in Crosby to better separate the analog and digital user modes. Roger WØWUG suggested tuning the new cavity in his upcoming presentation for replacement in the older existing cavities at the 147.030 Crosslake repeater. The old cavities can then be retuned for use with one of the extra new Fusion repeaters at a future site (TBA).

**New Business:** The following Club positions were approved by the Board:

Repeater Trustee – Fritz WØKO

Director of Emergency Communications – John WØWY

Community and Special Events Coordinator – TJ KØTEG (pending acceptance)

Past BAARC President – Charles W5CCL

**Motion to accept:** Steve NØCRM, **Second** Ron KØGOP, **Passed.**

Lyle KØLFV suggested taking advantage of the few remaining days for the Yaesu Rebate Program to replace the Club Icom IC-746 HF transceiver with a Yaesu FT-991. **Motion to accept:** Lyle KØLFV, **Second** Steve NØCRM, **Passed.**

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

**Thursday-January 28, 2016 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes****Brainerd Fire Station**

The business meeting was held over until after the evening program by the Forestview High Altitude Balloon Class. Four class members and teachers Jim Reed and Cory Olson gave an informative presentation on their progress towards their planned 12 Feb launch date.

**Attendees:** The President opened the Club membership business meeting at 8:00 PM with 33 members and guests present. Besides the aforementioned Board items, demonstrations were given on using the new Echolink and streaming audio repeater/web setups. Participants included Al WØRC, Mitch ADØHJ, and Michael KEØAFZ.

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

## DX and the Paper Chase

The worldwide DX community is busy chasing Palmyra Atoll (K5P), South Sandwich Island (VP8STI) and South Georgia Island (VP8SGI). The latter activates on February 1st. All three of these entities are rare as they are only activated every 10 years or so. Yours truly worked Palmyra on two bands, 20-meters CW and 17-meters phone. I'm still chasing VP8STI and hope to have them as the band conditions improve. All three of these entities are sought for ATNO and all three are on the most wanted list for DXCC. My hat is doffed to the operators on Palmyra Atoll—they're doing a terrific job for the worldwide DX community working huge pileups and band conditions that have been dicey. At the same time I don't want to overlook the available DX such as Ethiopia (ET) and a gaggle of other good ones out there that are DXCC entities—lots of them. There are several good resources on the Internet that spot available DX, and this is a good time to start for those of you who are new to the hobby and have a desire to work countries around the world. Thanks for stopping by and it's a wrap for the month from my QTH in Huntersville. Remember, activate your station and call CQ because there's someone somewhere listening for your call. Best 73 es gud DX from Bob/WØZPE.

**Editor's Note: DXSummit.fi is one great website for tracking the DX out there. By the way, South Georgia Island is QRV until February 9th. Using the call sign VP8SGI, they are a big group and active on all bands and modes 160-10.**



# Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Dues Year January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016

(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

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

Select 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)

## **Free Ham Radio Licensing Classes Start —There is still time to join.**

The classes start on **Tues., Feb. 23rd**) and meet at the Brainerd Public Library. The classes will **meet every Tuesday thereafter**. A possible review session before the Test Session may be included. The test is Saturday, **April 16**, conducted at the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club's annual Hamfest at the Armory. The cost of the current text is \$25 and payable at the first meeting.

The two very experienced and successful instructors are Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE, and Al Doree, WØRC. Both hold the Amateur Extra Class License. They have to order enough texts for those going for the Technician, General, and/or Extra licenses. Please contact them ASAP using their e-mail addresses: **djbdesk@gmail.com** and **wØrc@arrl.net**. They can also respond to any questions you may have about the classes, the three license types, etc. On **April 16<sup>th</sup>** you will have to pay a \$15 ARRL fee for the FCC test. Of course, beyond the text, the instruction is free—provided by the BAARC as a public service to the community.

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### **Congrats to two of our ARRL leaders:**

**Greg Widin, KØGW, formerly our Dakota Division Director, has just been elected 1st Vice President of the League. Replacing him in the Dakota Division as Director is Kent Olson, KAØLDG. Thanks to both Greg and Kent for important work for our hobby—alongside the many other volunteering officers in the Dakota Division in the MN, SD, and ND sections. For updated Division information, go to <http://www.arrldakota.org/>**

### **Pictured here from left to right are Brainerd School District's two dedicated and brightest teachers:**

**Cory Olson and Jim Reed.**

**They deserve a lot of the credit for the success of the HAB programs. Using some clever connections with American industry, they acquire advice and “freebies” that District 181 could never afford on its own. In return, company experts get practical data “from the field.”**



Photos pages 1 & 5—Fritz WØKO

## **ARRL Again Complains to FCC about Illegal Marketing of Electronic Lighting Ballasts**

The ARRL has again complained to the FCC to allege illegal marketing of electronic RF lighting ballasts, operating under Part 18 of the Commission's rules, on the part of two major retailers. Letters went out in late December to the FCC Enforcement Bureau and its Office of Engineering and Technology, claiming Part 18 marketing regulations violations by Lowe's and by Walmart stores. At issue is the sale of non-consumer RF lighting ballasts to consumers who, in several instances, were told by store personnel that it was okay to install these in a residential setting. In addition, non-consumer and residential-class ballasts are being intermixed in store displays with inadequate signage to direct consumers to the correct choice. Both letters asked the FCC to investigate and commence enforcement proceedings with respect to the two stores' marketing and retail sale of RF lighting devices in the US.

"ARRL purports to show that the [retailer] is...marketing and selling to consumers (by retail sale) non-consumer Part 18 RF lighting devices which are *not* intended for residential deployment, to consumers who have specifically noted their intention to deploy the devices in residential applications," ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said in similar complaint letters to the Commission. Part 18 emissions limits for consumer devices are far lower than those allowed for non-consumer devices.



A commercial lighting ballast, sold to a consumer for residential deployment.

"ARRL has received numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of significant noise in the medium (MF) and high frequency (HF) bands between 1.8 MHz and 30 MHz from 'grow lights' and other Part 15 and part 18 RF lighting devices," Imlay continued. "These devices are easily capable of emitting RF noise sufficient to preclude Amateur Radio MF and HF communications (and, as well, AM broadcast station reception) throughout entire communities."

Supporting both complaints were extensive and detailed reports by ARRL Laboratory EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG. The reports recount incidents of actual purchases of Part 18 RF lighting devices intended for commercial use to consumers who made clear to store personnel that they intended to use the devices at home. Gruber's reports include multiple photographs depicting in-store displays of the products in question and showing signage that does not adequately explain which devices may be sold to whom.

The ARRL has asked that stores remove all non-consumer devices from retail sale and marketing and to track and recall non-consumer devices already sold to consumers. From the [ARRL Letter](#)

## **Congressman Intercedes with FCC Chairman on Amateur Radio Interference Concerns**

New York Congressman Peter King has asked FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to put some Enforcement Bureau heat on those interfering with various radio communication services, including Amateur Radio, in the New York City Metropolitan Area. While visiting Capitol Hill recently to promote the [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#), ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, met with King, a Republican representing New York's 2nd District, to discuss the interference issue. King is among the original of the 118 cosponsors of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (H.R. 1301) in the US House.



**BAARC's Remote HF Training Session was held Saturday, January 23rd at the Library. Our thanks to TJ KØTEG for the photos and Lyle KØLFV for supplying the text information.**

The Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club Online HF Remote Station is now operational.

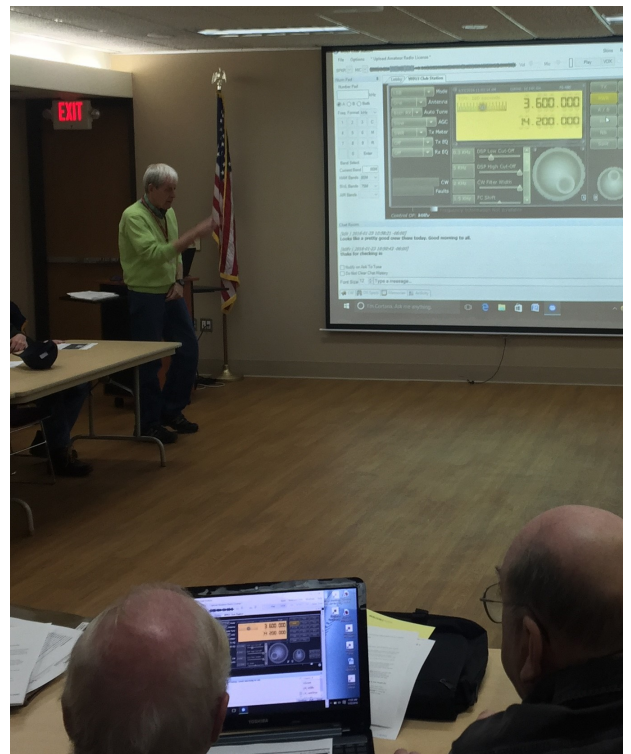
In preparation for using the BAARC Online Remote Station please go to RemoteHams.com and follow Steps 1 thru 3. Step 1 is to register for an account, Step 2 is to Download the RCForb Client Software and Step 3 is to login and if you would like select a remote station to listen to. Set up documentation and Operating Guidelines are also available on the RemoteHams Website.

At our training we will cover how our Remote Base is configured and some of the Rules and Operating Guidelines.

Our current Remote Base is a Kenwood TS-480SAT connected to a G5RV for 80M, 40M and 17M and when operating 20M, 15M or 10M the Transceiver is connected to a 3 Element Tri-Band Beam. Power output will be limited to 75W and modes will include SSB and are in the process of configuring the Remote for CW operations.

In addition, we have started a BAARC Remote Base Google Group which you can post your comments and or suggestions for improvements to our Remote HF Station. This can be found at:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#forum/baarcremote>



**The Tech Committee deserves a lot of credit and thanks: Al WØRC, Mitch ADØHJ, Michael KDØAFZ, and Lyle KØLFV. They have been very busy setting up the remote, testing the gear. There is more to come. Standby.**

**SUNDAY NIGHT NCS OPS**

02-07-16	Rick	NØBJN
02-14-16	Doug	KDØERE
02-21-16	TJ	KØTEG
02-28-16	Tim	KDØYLO
03-06-16	Rick	NØBJN
03-13-16	Doug	KDØERE
03-20-16	Dave	KCØTGT
03-27-16	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 sincerest condolences go out to Doug and Judy Bergsnev on the death of Judy's mother in early January. On behalf of the Club we have sent a card expressing our concern.\*\*\*\*\***

**A Speedy Recovery to John WØWY. John had knee surgery in St. Cloud recently and reported he is making great progress. The Club sent him a card with our best wishes for a continued recovery.\*\*\*\*\***

**Condolences to the Axt Family: Paul Axt, NØEQV, passed away in January at 91. Years ago he served as our Treasurer and held the Advanced Class license. A card has been sent. ~~~~~**

**Know of a Member who needs a card of cheers or etc?—please let Fritz know.**

**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