



The BAARCeR



March 2008

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

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Club Call: WØUJ

Brainerd Repeaters:
 53.110 MHz- 123.0 Hz
 147.225 MHz +
 145.130 MHz- Echo Link
 Node number 233515
 443.925 MHz + 110.9 Hz
 Packet: 145.670 MHz
 BBS MNBRD, WØUJ
 Club DX Cluster:
 147.525 MHz BRDDX
 144.390 WØUJ-5 APRS
 Crosslake 147.030 MHz+
<http://brainerdham.org>

President:

Lyle Amundson KØLFV

Vice President:

Steven Mott KCØYTE

Secretary:

Darrell Schneider ABØVP

Treasurer:

John Myers W3MQD

Director At Large:

John Luce WØJGY

Repeater Trustee:

Fritz Bertelt WØKO

BAARCeR & WWW Editor

Mark Persons WØMH

Severe Weather Spotting



Carol Christenson, KCØMAK, Warning Coordination Officer from the Duluth office of the NWS (National Weather Service), and Doug Nelson AAØAW were the presenters at the February 28th BAARC Membership Meeting. They explained how Ham nets input storm observations to the NWS to gain a better understanding of severe weather, so the public can be appropriately informed thus saving lives. More photos and information on the <http://brainerdham.org> Web site. Skywarn training will be held in Brainerd on April 16th.

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— Events Calendar —

- Saturday, March 1** 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Informal breakfast meeting at the Northwind Grille.
- Sunday, March 2** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+MHz.
- Wednesday, March 5** 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Monthly siren and civil emergency test.
- Sunday, March 9** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+MHz.
- Saturday, March 15** 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Informal breakfast meeting at Northwind Grille.
- Saturday, March 15** **National Weather Service meeting in Duluth, MN.** Contact **John Luce**
- Saturday, March 15** 9:00 AM **Amateur Radio Equipment Auction in Eau Claire, WI**
- Sunday, March 16** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+MHz.
- Saturday, March 22** 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM **Hamfest in Faribault, MN.**
- Thursday, March 27** 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM BAARC Executive Board meets.
- Thursday, March 27** 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM **Club Membership Meeting.**
- Sunday, March 23** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+ MHz.
- Saturday, March 29** 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM **Mid-Winter Madness Hamfest** in Buffalo, MN.
- Sunday, March 30** 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM Sunday Night Net on 147.225+ MHz.

February 28, 2008 - 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes – Brainerd Public Library

The meeting was opened by President Lyle KØLFV while in attendance were Treasurer John W3MQD with Vi, Coordinator of Public, Digital, and Emergency Services AI WØRC, Advisor-at-Large Shirley KØDCW, Director-at-Large John WØJGY, Web site Producer & Parliamentarian Mark WØMH, Multi-Project Director Terry KIØFW, Repeater & Technical Consultant Roger WØWUG, Special Projects Coordinator Jim WØJDS, and Secretary Darrell ABØVP. Vice-President Steve KCØYTE called in to report that he would not be able to attend the Board Meeting due to attendance to an emergency.

The Report of the January Meeting, as published in the BAARCer, was accepted as written. Treasurer John W3MQD reported on the results of an audit of the 2007 financial records that found the books to be in good order. Following John W3MQD's presentation of the January 31st Financial Report, John WØJGY moved approval of the Financial Report that after a second by AI WØRC was unanimously approved.

AI WØRC, with comments by John WØJGY, reported on the month's extensive activities in public service coordination and digital & emergency communications. A discussion of the possibilities of member extraordinary expense reimbursement for BAARC projects concluded with President Lyle KØLFV assembling a committee to study the impact of such policies on BAARC's 501(C3) status, other IRS issues, and BAARC finances.

AI WØRC reported on initial considerations for the BAARC Hamfest scheduled for July 12th at the Brainerd Armory. We will have an additional room for conducting VE exams and for offering a technical seminar by Mark WØMH to help draw more attendees for the event. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM following a motion by Mark WØMH. Respectfully submitted, **Darrell ABØVP**, Secretary

February 28, 2008 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes – Brainerd High School

President Lyle KØLFV opened the meeting held in the Community Meeting Room of the Brainerd High School with twenty-five Hams and guests in attendance. Also present were the Skywarn program presenters from NOAA KØNWS. They were Carol Christenson, KCØMAK, assisted by Technical Director Doug Nelson, AAØAW. Due to weather-related bad road conditions, the Skywarn program was presented at 7 PM to allow our presenters an earlier trip back to Duluth. There was discussion, led by John WØJGY, relative to the more formal system of protocols being developed by BAARC for SKYWARN and other areas of BAARC service.

After 8 PM at the beginning of the business meeting, the Minutes of the January Membership Meeting, as published in the BAARCer, were accepted as written. The January 31st Financial Report presented by John W3MQD was unanimously approved following a motion by AI WØRC that was seconded by Wynn KA3DQN. AI WØRC, with comments by John WØJGY, reported on the month's extensive activities in public service coordination and digital & emergency communications. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM following a motion by Dick WØECJ.

It is the observation of your faithful scribe that this is a critical time for BAARC. We have seen a need for enhanced emergency services to which we have responded very positively with more formal organization, additional personal effort by members, and enhanced resources including the well-equipped Communications Trailer and the member's upgrading of their own personal equipment. At the same time BAARC is meeting these public needs, we are experiencing limitations in the availability of public resources in return, as exemplified by the difficulty experienced by our President Lyle KØLFV in locating meeting places for the above reported meetings despite the fact that he has had long-term commitments for our more normal meeting venues. We are also noticing the cost impact of the enhanced level of service on our financial reports that remain very solid. Respectfully submitted, **Darrell ABØVP**, Secretary



Mission Statement: The Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club is comprised of about 85 licensed Amateur Radio Operators who meet monthly to exchange ideas, improve radio skills, organize activities that are of service to the area, promote development of Amateur Radio, and join together in the mutual interest in Ham Radio. The BAARCer newsletter is provided to club members for information and entertainment as a non-profit service. The material is supplied "as is" and without warranty. Permission is granted to copy and distribute any information published here provided the source is credited.

Because space is limited in the BAARCer newsletter, you will often find more photos and more details for club news stories on the BAARC website at: <http://brainerdham.org>

Dennis Mack, WØZRO, passed away at age 65. Until his retirement he lived in Brainerd. For many years he helped me with the BAARCer, especially with scanning the W5YI Report that we would incorporate into the bulletin. He did an outstanding job working with students and staff in his many years at the Central Lakes College in the Library Computer area. Certainly he was a loyal employee and a hard worker. I appreciated his help in the early years here when he could always solve some computer glitch I could not. Dennis had many interests: computers, writing, photography, and Amateur Radio. Some of his creative writing was published locally. I recall his passing the FCC test and getting the call sign of WØZRO. Truly, he was happy with the achievement and he got to use the hobby here. Our condolences to his family. Dennis will surely be missed. de *Fritz WØKO*

Five years ago in the BAARCer: Lyle KØLR gave a talk to the club on LowFER (Low Frequency Experimental Radio) operation in the 160 to 190 KHz range. Contacts of over 1000 miles have been reported using less than a watt of power.

At breakfast on Saturday, February 2nd: Jim WØIRE, Fritz WØKO, Skee WØDCY, Paula WØHA, and Mark WØMH. The group discussed APRS on VHF and full-break-in keying on HF.

Spotted at the St. Cloud Hamfest on Saturday, February 16th: Lyle KØLFV, Lyle's wife Marilyn, Jim WØIRE, Wynn KA3DQN, John KØJO, Steve WØTNT, Lyle KØLR, Al WØRC, Art NØTNJ, Paula WØHA, and Mark WØMH.

For sale: A Collins 20V3 1 KW Commercial AM Broadcast Transmitter in good working condition with four almost-new Eimac 4-400A tubes. Can probably be used up to 40 meters. I will not ship. You must pickup in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Mark WØMH 218-829-1326.

Tim KCØAXR from Rush City, MN, checked into the February 25th Sunday Night Net in Brainerd after learning about the BAARC via the Internet.

QRP-DX—A new experience for WØKO. Since acquiring a K2, I have been playing with both SSB and CW using a G5RV and running about 9 watts. My best contact was a bold CQ and having R1AND in Antartica answer me on the first call on 20--that was with the quad and using CW. One day I even checked into PICONET and was heard over most of the state on SSB. Since then I have worked France, even Ducie and other countries in this hemisphere. Of course, the most effective mode is CW. This reminds me of my novice days in 1957--but now the receiver is better. Skee--you have competition on QRP now!!!

The deadline for submission of articles and other information to the BAARCer is 8 AM on the Saturday following the last Thursday in the month. Send articles to [teki "at" mwpersons.com](mailto:teki@mwpersons.com)

Mid-Minnesota 150 Sled Dog Race—Remer to Outing and back to Remer



Shirley KØDCW was the Net Control Operator early in the morning operating from the Communications Trailer, located at the Village Inn in Outing. Curt NØCRM and Steve KCØYTE were mobile in-route to Outing when Shirley called out to them asking where they were. They returned the call indicating that they were in Breezy Point, MN, and on their way to Outing, MN. Upon arrival they found Al WØRC outside ensuring all things were in order in and around the trailer. John WØJGY was just finishing breakfast.

Curt and Steve were dispatched to checkpoint #2, which was the corner of Highways 57 & 20 (Checkpoint #1). Their job was to indicate a right turn and have the team travel on the north side of the road. They arrived to the checkpoint just in time as two teams came down the hill from the Soo Line Trail and traveled the road. Curt did not have time to move the vehicle and as both teams came careening around the corner, one of the sleds was within 18 inches of hitting the car. After they passed, a better position was obtained.

The next checkpoint in line was the Windy Lake Turn. Jim WØJDS and others were at this turn where the teams headed south to Windy Lake. As more teams made their way along the course, suddenly Jim indicated that a team had lost its handler and headed off without him. Net Control warned Steve WØTNT, who was positioned at the south end of Windy Lake, that a team was headed his way. Roger WØWUG called Net Control and suggested that we find out the command for Steve to try to stop the team. Net Control provided that command and as the team approached Steve, he used the command and the team slowed down. He voiced the command again and they slowed enough that he was able to jump on the sled and apply the brake. As another team came along, the handler helped Steve try to secure the team.

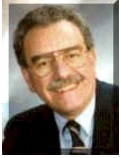
As the teams progressed past the south end of Windy Lake, the next checkpoint was the Pikus Road Turn, where the teams turned under the power line and started to head west from there. Roger WØWUG was stationed there. As the teams passed the checkpoints, each of the Ham Operators secured their checkpoints and returned to the communications trailer in Outing for lunch and additional assigned duties.

Teams started to come in to Outing around 11:30 AM. Here were some pro-class teams as they came across the finish line. As teams arrived and began to leave, John WØJGY was stationed on Sunset Hill and was replaced by John W3MQD. Darrell ABØVP manned the starting line. There was some question regarding if the mushers were on the correct trail and a small conference in the Communications Trailer indicated that they were probably on the correct route. The Ham Radio checkpoint was not fully accessible by vehicle and was monitored by Roger WØWUG.

Ham Operators were dispatched back out to checkpoints for the return trip to Remer, MN. Roger WØWUG stayed at the Pikus Road checkpoint. Steve KCØYTE was dressed for the cold weather and stood outside the White Cabin at the south end of Windy Lake and helped teams onto the lake. Curt NØCRM was at the road where they came off the lake, and John WØJGY was at the corner off Highways 57 and 20, pointing the mushers north. John W3MQD was at Highway 133 and the Soo Line Trail. The finish line in Remer was manned by Roger and YL. The last team crossed the finish line in Remer at 5:04 PM. **Steve KCØYTE**

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While providing communications support for the **Mid-Minnesota 150 Sled Dog Race** on February 9th, Steve WOTNT learned first hand that a HAM has to be versatile. Located at a remote check point on the race route, Steve was notified that a dog team, minus its musher who had fallen off the sled, was still in the race and headed his way. Being advised that he would have to try to stop the team until the musher could catch up, and not being well versed in the sport of dog sledding, Steve asked one very important question - "What's the command for them to stop?" After advising him to try "WHOA," one of the race officials wished him good luck!



Soon after this exchange, Steve assumed a position in the middle of the trail and watched the fast-moving string of dogs approach his location. As they neared him and summoning up his most authoritative voice, he shouted "WHOA!" – and much to his surprise, the team slowed. A second command of "WHOA" brought them to a walk. His first attempt to grab for a dog harness failed, but he jumped on the sled and after another 100 yards into the woods, he was able to apply the sled brake to stop them.

However, his initiation into mushing wasn't over yet. Steve hastily tied the team to a tree from which the dogs soon loosened themselves and became tangled in the lines and harnesses. Help was on the way as a following team and driver arrived on the scene and helped to untangle things and get the run-a-way team secured. It wasn't long before a somewhat embarrassed, but very thankful, musher arrived on the scene to reclaim his team, and continue the race.

Steve had this comment about the incident: "I had no idea as to what I was going to do if WHOA! didn't work. That team might still be running down the trail." He modestly added that incidents such as these are what make working the public service events fun. de **John WØJGY** Editor' note: More photos and stories on the Web at <http://brainerdham.org>



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9th, at 2 AM. This is a good time to correct any small errors in your clocks. Listen to WWV on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, or 20 MHz.



Peter W. Dahl Company Sold. By now many of you know that the company bearing his name has been sold. Peter W. Dahl Co., has been purchased by Harbach Electronics, Jeff Weinberg, W8CQ, who will have MagCap Engineering continue producing the product line according to original designs and specifications.

What a shame to see Pete's health come to the point where he needed to sell his business. I've known him since we were both 12-years old. Over the years he has designed and built all types of special transformers, chokes, and such, for both amateur and professional broadcast radio markets. Many of us with Ameritron amplifiers, and others, have his transformers. I know Mark WØMH and Fritz WØKO have used his products over the years too.

Pete tested for his ham license about 6 months before I did. He is still active using his original call sign, KØBIT. My original call was KØEEM. (I tested just a week or two before Brian, KØEOU.) Pete and I had many "Ham adventures" together. I recall a couple that are amusing to think about now. In 1958, we decided to do our own Field Day and set up camp on Sugar Loaf Mountain above Winona, Minnesota. I took a picture of Pete tuning a 3-element 20-meter beam that we had on a 15-foot piece of pipe tied to my car's front bumper. Pete was standing on the roof of the car. I sent it in to *CQ Magazine* which used it on the front cover. Another time we decided to build a "beer can vertical antenna" by soldering together forty or so beer cans. (That was after we emptied the cans, of course.) I loved his station: National 180-D receiver, a Johnson Viking II transmitter, and a home-brew amplifier using a pair of 811-A tubes.

Pete and I went to the University of Minnesota. He graduated from IT in electrical engineering and went to work for Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids, IA. While in college, he worked part time for the Oscar Schott Company in the Seven Corners area of Minneapolis just across the Washington Avenue Bridge from the campus. Working there nights he learned a lot about specialty transformers from one of the only companies that made them at that time. This became his passion and his career.

Pete's parents were always very supportive of him and his hobby. His dad was an engineer for Honeywell and his mother owned a very exclusive antique store on Nicollet Avenue in downtown Minneapolis. He has one sister Priscilla. (Wonder whatever happened to her? She was really beautiful.) The niche in the "electronics world" that Peter W. Dahl filled will sorely miss his personal touch – that can't be duplicated by a new owner. de **John WØJGY**

Don't Mumble: As hams, we learn to communicate. To be effective communicators, we need to be heard and understood. Speak clearly and distinctly. Proper microphone technique is part of this. Try different microphone positions and have other operators comment on how easily they can copy you. Yes, you know what you are saying, but others may not hear you clearly enough to get the full meaning of what you are saying. Commercial radio broadcast announcers "modulate" their voices for consistent level so they can be understood, even in noisy environments. You can too. It is good operating practice. de **Mark WØMH**

Two antennas met on a roof, fall in love, and get married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent. **Jim Barry WØIRE**



This year's Brainerd Area Hamfest has been set for Saturday, July 12th, at the Brainerd National Guard Armory on the south side of Brainerd. The hours will be 9 AM to 1 PM. New this year will be VE testing at 10 AM followed by a seminar on VSWR by Mark WØMH. Be sure to tell your friends.

Happy St. Patrick's Day from the call prefix EI

You can help the BAARC save money by getting your BAARCer via the Internet. It now costs us \$.04/side of paper, so when we send out an 8-page (printed on both sides of four pieces of paper) bulletin each month, that comes to \$.32 plus \$.41 postage. The complete cost is \$.73. For one year, that is \$8.76. Let Jim WØIRE know so he does not needlessly generate a label for the bulletins. His e-mail address is jim at bay-tech.com

Marconi transmitted the first wireless message across the English Channel on March 27, 1899.

Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Dues Year January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2008

Name (First, MI, Last) _____ Call Sign: _____

Street Address: _____ License Class: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Additional/Cell Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Date of application: _____ Check one: New application: ____ Renewal: ____

E-mail address: _____ Member ARRL? _____

I would like to receive the BAARC'er newsletter via the Internet _____ via the US mail _____

Check one: \$20 Full Membership ____ \$10 Additional Family Member ____ \$10 Student Member ____

Are you interested in being called to do emergency communications? Yes ____ No ____

Membership Dues: \$ _____

Voluntary Contribution: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to:
Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club
Treasurer - John Myers W3MQD
34570 Beaver Trail
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Make checks payable to BAARC Contributions are tax deductible. The club is a 501C3 non-profit organization.

**Sunday Night Net Control Operators
on the 147.225 MHz+ Repeater at 8 PM:**

3/02/08	Steve	KCØYTE
3/09/08	Lyle	KØLFV
3/16/08	Dave	KCØTGT
3/23/08	Skee	WØDCY
3/30/08	Terry	KIØFW
4/06/08	Lyle	KØLR
4/13/08	Mark	WØMH
4/20/08	Paula	WØHA
4/27/08	John	KØJO

Can't make the schedule? Find a substitute operator. BAARC Sunday Night Net Control Coordinator is Fritz WØKO. Contact him to volunteer.



BAARC, Inc.

Ham Radio at its best in the Lakes Area
Affiliated with the ARRL

Find us on the Web:

<http://www.brainerdham.org>

- - Upcoming Meetings & Activities - -

Saturday, March 15th, there will be a meeting at the National Weather Service office in Duluth, MN, for weather spotters. Contact John WØJGY if you want to share the ride and to travel to the meeting.

Thursday, March 27th, the BAARC Membership Meeting will be held in Room 800 at the Brainerd High School South Campus building. The meeting starts at 7 PM and there will be an 8 PM discussion about severe weather reporting and emergency operating protocols.

Skywarn training will be held in Brainerd on April 16th.

The **Brainerd Area Hamfest** will be **Saturday, July 12th**, at the Brainerd National Guard Armory 9 AM to 1 PM. Be sure to tell your friends.

More information on club activities is available on the BAARC Web site at: <http://brainerdham.org>

Amateur Radio is not a life-and-death situation. It's more important than that!!!

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