



# The BAARCer



October 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 + WWW**

**Editor:**

Steven Mott **KCØYTE**

**Secretary:**

Darrell Schneider **ABØVP**

**Treasurer:**

John Myers **W3MQD**

**Director-At-Large:**

John Luce **WØWY**

**Trustee + BAARCer**

**Editor:**

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**



**Members Enjoyed a Visit With Our Arkansas Members, Formerly of Staples:** Seated at the left is Jim KØTXT with YL Sharon KBØSQX beside him. Chatting with both is Steve WØTNT of Baxter. Jim and Sharon are doing well and enjoyed their visit to their favorite state. KØJO and Kay were kind in housing them in MN.

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— **Events Calendar** —

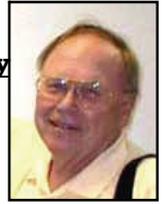
**NET ON 147.225 EVERY SUNDAY EVENING @ 8 p.m.**  
**Thurs., Oct. 16, Repeater Planning Mtg @ 3 p.m. in Library, Brd.**  
**Sat., Oct. 18, Club Breakfast @ Northwind Grille—Brd. @ 9**  
**Thurs., Oct 30, 4 P.M. BARRC Board Meeting at the Library in Brd.**  
**Thurs., Oct. 28, 7 P.M. Regularly Monthly Club Mtg @ 7 @ Brd. Fire Hall**  
**Fri., Oct 31, —Annual Club Goblin Watch in Brd. and Surrounding Communities—More details on Sun. Net Later**  
**Sat., Nov. 1, Club Breakfast @ Northwind Grille—Brd. @ 9**

**OUR SINCEREST CONDOLENCES** to Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE, on the recent loss of his dear brother. A card to him at 15912 Olsen Lane, Brd, MN 56401 is great.



## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

### September 25, 2008—4:00 PM BAARC Board Meeting Minutes—Small Mtg Rm.Brd. Library



The meeting was opened by President Lyle KØLFV while in attendance were Treasurer John W3MQD, Coordinator of Public, Digital and Emergency Services Al WØRC, Advisor Roger WØWUG, Special Projects Leader Terry KIØFW, Director-at-Large John WØWY, and Secretary Darrell ABØVP.

The Report of the August Meeting as published in the BAARCer was accepted as written. Treasurer John W3MQD led a discussion of the Financial Report including Budgeting dated 8/31/2008. Al

WØRC moved to approve the Financial Reports; the motion was unanimously approved following a second by Terry KIØFW.

Al WØRC reported on the month's extensive activities in Public Service Coordination and Digital & Emergency Communications with a Hospital Meeting scheduled for October 1st. John WØWY will lead a project to cleanup the Gull Lake radio shack site.

The meeting was adjourned about 5:00 pm. following a motion by Al WØRC that was seconded by John WØWY.

The next Board Meeting will be on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm @ the Library Small Meeting Room.

### September 25, 2008 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes – Brainerd Fire Station

President Lyle KØLFV opened the meeting with about twenty Hams and guests in attendance. Sharon KBØSQX and Jim KØTXT, long-time BAARC members, were special guests at the meeting visiting from their present home in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas.

The August Membership Meeting Minutes as published in the BAARCer were accepted as written. Treasurer John W3MQD presented a Year to Date Budget Report and Financial Report dated August 31, 2008.

Jim WØYA moved to approve the financial reports that were unanimously approved following a second by Curt NØCRM.

Terry KIØFW and President Lyle KØLFV are working on plans for a Fox Hunt in October probably following a Saturday Breakfast.

Volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee to come up with another “killer” slate of BAARC Officers for 2009 – Please be advised, however, that the golden parachute program has been put on hold.

The next BAARC Repeater Planning Meeting will be on Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm @ the Brainerd Library Small Meeting Room with the Mobile (portable) Repeater on the agenda with other items. All members are welcome to participate.

President Lyle KØLFV again came up with great prizes for the drawing.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm following a motion by Jim KØTXT seconded by Steve WØTNT.

The next Membership Meeting will be on October 30, 7:00 pm @ the Brainerd Fire Station.

Both sets of Minutes respectfully submitted, *Darrell ABØVP*, Secretary

**Some more pictures from the gathering on September 25, 2008, at the Regular Membership Meeting:** Some of the members present at the meeting—top picture .



Below—John W3MQD, Al WØRC, and Jim WØYA enjoying the treats. Photos by WØKO.





**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. **In addition, the Club endorses and honors the Radio Amateur's Code : The radio amateur is considerate, loyal, progressive, friendly, balanced, and patriotic.** 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>

**What are Long-Delayed Echoes (LDE's)?** An article by Bob Shrader, W6BNB, caught my eye. It was published in the October 2004 issue of CQ (pages 36-40). The first article was in the June 2004 issue and brought quite a few responses.

Now—what are LDE's? Many of us have experienced the extremely short echoes—like when we copy the tail end of our own transmission (CW) as it comes back after perhaps bouncing around the globe. These delays are very few milliseconds long—enough for the ham to know it was his own signal coming back. It sounds like some kind of April Fool's story, but it is not. In fact, hams have been recording and documenting these anomalies for some time. For instance, one ham (KG8ES) had heard his own CW QSO several days later on the same 80-meter frequency. It was verified by a tape his brother had made of the original QSO. The ham also had not changed frequency and not made any intervening QSO's.

Another ham (W7LO) had mentioned that the government reported it had captured (received again—not rebroadcast) portions of Edward R. Murrow's newscasts from WWII some 8 or 10 years after they were sent by radio. Apparently the signals were still bouncing around in space--on the same frequency as originally sent.

Other amateur radio operators shared their experiences as well. The LDE's can last from seconds to minutes to even longer---hours, days or years. What have you heard?---de WØKO.



**Update on KØJO from his wife Kay: Editors Note—Recently WØRC/KØDCW informed us that John had a tumor on top of his spine. Thanks, Al and Shirley, for relaying the info to the BAARC. The surgery went well. So as of 10-12-08**

**Kay relayed the following information via the Dorees.** *John is in good spirits and is handling the changes well. It will be 6 weeks from the surgery before he can start chemo/ radiation. They will use radiation on two spots and then an oral chemo for the rest. He will use the oncology Dept. in Brainerd. The oncologist in Mpls had interviewed for a job in Brainerd under the head of that dept., so he was more than willing to send John there. For the spine, we will use Dr. Yelle in Wadena as a watchdog and he will consult with Dr. Transfeldt at Abbott. Dr. T. knows Dr. Yelle, and that helped with that situation. Today is running...I need a handicapped permit because he can only manage short distances on his crutches and he won't ever go without the crutches again.* **Additional Editor's Note: Please keep John, Kay, and their family in prayer. Those wishing to send a card can mail it to John Oehlenschlager, 26699 271st Ave., Verndale, MN 56481**



## DX and the PAPER CHASE

In my July column I reported that I had worked Amman, Jordan, without any hope of receiving a QSL card from the operator. I sent mine off with 2 IRC's because the postage for Jordan is not available. Less than 5 weeks later, his QSL card arrived! Never give up—if you're in a huge pileup on a good DX, stick with it until your contact is made. Never give up on the QSL card either; you can't get to the finish line until you've left the starting line. Over 16 months ago I worked a mainland Chinese station BA4ALC/5 on AS-138, for you IOTA chasers. Last week I sent him an e-mail that I had not received his card. He shot an e-mail right back telling me that I was in his log but, unfortunately my card never arrived. I arranged for additional PR China postage to resend my card to China. In the meantime, 2 days later, an e-mail arrived telling me that he had found my QSL card and his was on the way. Never give up! He also informed me that he plans to visit Minnesota next year, and he would like to get together. Tell me this hobby isn't great! Meanwhile, the month of September was full of surprises with sporadic DX openings into Europe and Southeast Asia on both 20 and 17 meters. My experiences with 40 meters continue to amaze me with DX openings in the wee hours of the morning, and all of this on a vertical antenna. I've mentioned that my 40-meter antenna is a GAP Titan DX vertical that is ground mounted 8'-0" above grade without any radials and what a performer this antenna is! I have grown quite fond of 40 meters even though we're still lacking sunspots; this band continues to be viable and dependable. My big disappointment for the month of September is the sparse to almost no activity on 17 meters. The DX window into Europe on the band was the one bright spot. Never give up; the sunspots for Cycle 24 are (hopefully) around the corner. So long from Huntersville.

73 for now and good DX de Bob WØZPE

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WØRC is one of our high-technology experts and is really up on the latest. At the last meeting he was asked about APRS—and he gave a quick explanation. But others wanted it spelled out more for future reference, so Al was kind enough to provide the write-up you see below. A few more members of the Club are now using this technology. Some even tracked WØWY westward.

## USING APRS — A QUICK LESSON ON findU.com—from Al WØRC

These days there is a lot of activity on APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System). Many amateur clubs and individuals put up APRS digipeaters known as APRS nodes. These stations hear and retransmit other fixed and mobile APRS stations.

More and more amateurs are putting APRS stations in their vehicles, which consists of nothing more than a 2-meter radio with a built-in TNC or an outboard TNC and a GPS satellite receiver connected to the radio. Most GPS receivers will put out position data in the NMEA 0183 (National Marine Electronics Association) format that the TNC's can decode. The station is then set up to transmit a position beacon every few minutes. These signals are then picked up by a local APRS node and retransmitted to other nodes.

If one of these nodes happens to be an I-gate, then the position information is now on the Internet.

These stations can then be tracked on the Internet by using an Internet site called findU.com.

All you have to do is type in [www.findU.com](http://www.findU.com) in your internet browser and scroll down to the list of URL's and click on the first one that is <http://www.wulfden.org/APRSQuery.shtml> or put this URL in your favorites list and click on it.

There will be a line with an empty box called Location(s) or call(s) \_\_\_\_\_; just put in the call of the station you wish to track and if it has been heard by an I-gate station anywhere in the country, it will show up on a map of that area.

Most hams will use a dash number after their call sign such as WØRC-3.

When the station is located on the findU.com internet map, you then have options to zoom in or out or change to satellite or hybrid type maps. It's a lot of fun, give it a try.

Photo credit—ABØVP.

**MY HAM JOURNEY:** I suppose my journey started in 1970 at the time our home in Morro Bay, CA, was completed. We had a stunning view of the Pacific Ocean and, would you believe, an antenna on a tower across the road. Several days after moving in, the antenna owner introduced himself as any good neighbor would. The long and the short, he invited me to his Radio Shack (a separate building) filled with all sorts of glowing radios. In a short several minutes he was chatting with a station on the Island of Saipan, a station I would work many years later. Anyway, I was hooked but—operating a business, making a weekly payroll and sending kids to college was my immediate priority. In 1996 while living in Huntersville and retired, I sent an e-mail to the ARRL asking them how I could get started. Fast forward, I got my ticket on December 14, 1996, at the Wadena club meeting at the Wadena Public Library. One of the VE's was NØFW, one of the country's top DXers now living in Hamilton, OH. Pete was one of my Elmers in the beginning, and he encouraged me to both upgrade and get on HF and become a DXer. I passed my CW test on March 4, 2000, and on the way home on my HF mobile, I worked the Island of Dominica on 10 meters where my Tech Plus license had band privileges. I was immediately hooked. My passion for DX has never waned and I've never looked back. I continued to cherry pick the 10-meter band for DX and, of course, at that time, "10" was wide open to the world. I passed my General test in Brainerd on November 20, 2000. On April 23, 2003, I received my DXCC and went right to work for my DXCC 200 endorsement, which I received in 2006 along with WAS and WAC. My focus was and continues to be on communicating with any station who answers my CQ. I'm only 50 or so confirmations from my goal of DXCC 300. Like everyone else, I'm eagerly waiting for cycle 24 which will (hopefully) be the best ever. I want to get back on 10 and 12 meters because there is a lot of good DX out there to conquer. Needless to say, this is a great hobby and I'm not going to ruin it by some of the negatives out there—like Hollingsworth of the FCC stated: "Operate your station as if the entire world is listening, because they are." I don't like the lids, kids, and space cadets who clobber the bands and —the frequency cops are no better. This is a hobby, and we need to remind ourselves that when we turn on our radios, we need to be very courteous as the bands belong to everyone equally. Speaking of turning on our radios: what is the sense of having a license to communicate on the bands if we never push the button and call CQ? So long from Huntersville. 73 and good DX from Bob/WØZPE

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***Congratulations to John WØWY on joining the Consolidated Telecommunications Co. Board representing District 5. He will be responsible for representing the cooperative membership and for developing strategies, policies, and objectives for CTC. Of course, we know him from his long-term association with the BAARC. In addition, according to the Brainerd Dispatch, John is semi-retired and self-employed as a building design/contruction management consultant. Also he is involved in several civic groups, among them Rotary. Indeed, he is one busy fellow.***

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**Free Tower for Handicapped Ham—preferably:** One 65 ft. tower, presently erected, must be removed with a TV antenna on it. Located on Upper Hay Lake, Pequot Lakes. Contact Cindy Rieck, whose uncle was a ham. Other non-handicapped hams may apply. Her phone numbers are 218 568 8272 or work phone at 218 568 5666. *If you have questions, you may contact John W3MQD at 218-568-4533.*

**Sunday Night Net Control Operators:147.225 MHz+ Rptr. @ 8 PM**

10/19/08	Doug	KDØERE
10/26/08	Joe	KBØVYJ
11/02/08	Jim	WØJDS
11/09/08	Tom	KØHHF
11/16/08	John	KBØMNM
11/23/08	Al	KBØGWB
11/30/08	Fritz	WØKO

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>

More information on Club activities is available on the BAARC Web site at: <http://brainerdham.org> The web site is being modified with our new webmaster KCØYTE. ++++++

**Catch Up On Your Dues?** John W3MQD reports new members joining and others renewing. Our dues cycle is the calendar year. **Dues are still \$20/year.** We never turn down donations beyond the dues—and we are grateful for your help. The check should go to **John Myers, W3MQD, BAARC Treasurer, 34570 Beaver Trail, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472.** Also let John know of any changes in address and if receiving your BAARCer via the Internet on our web site is OK or via snail mail. Soon we will conduct our **Election of Officers** and send out formal requests to receive your dues for the 2009 year. So watch for a **ballot** and **dues notice** as part of the BAARCer.

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**Is one of our members hospitalized/ill?**—the Club will send out a card with the appropriate message. Let **Fritz WØKO** know with the info via e-mail <w0ko @ arrl.net>.

**IS YOUR FCC DATABASE UP TO DATE? Perhaps it is also time to renew your License!!?**

United We Stand



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Address Correction Requested

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Brainerd, MN 56401