



The BAARCeR



May 2009

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

Page 1 of 8

Club Call: WØUJ

BAARC 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 MNRD, WØUJ
 144.390 WØUJ-5 APRS
 Crosslake 147.030 MHz+
<http://brainerdham.org>

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Index

ARRL Bits & Pieces	2
DXpedition WØGJ + Report—WØZPE	3
MARATHON 2009 pix	4
Hamfest—Brainerd July 18, 2009 Flyer	5
Write-ups Marathon by Al and Steve	6
Upcoming Events	7
Last Minute News Sunday Night Net	8

K5D—Desecheo DXpedition Presentation, April 30, 2009, in Nisswa. Three DXers shown who were among the many.



Shown left to right: Dr. Glenn Johnson (WØGJ)—World-Class DXer + Presenter with Bob (WØZPE) Senior DXer Extraordinaire (middle) & Al (WØRC) BAARC Pres. + Veteran DXer . (Photo WØKO)

— Events Calendar —

- Sat., May 9, MN Repeater Council Spring Mtg. in Mankato**
- Sat., May 16, Club Brkfst. @ Northwind Grille, Brd. @ 9**
- Thurs., May 28, Board meets @ 4 Membership @ 7 in Brd. Fire Hall**
- Sat., June 6, Annual Bike Tour —more details later and on net**
- Sat., June 6, Club Brkfst. @ Northwind Grille, Brd. @ 9**
- Sat., June 20, Club Brkfst. @ Northwind Grille, Brd. @ 9**
- Sat., Sun., June 27 + 28—Annual ARRL and BAARC Field Day—more details later in June BAARCeR**

HAMFEST JULY 18--SATURDAY—BRAINERD
TALK IT UP IN YOUR QSOs.

ARRL News and Updates

Amateurs in North Dakota and Minnesota provided communications support to various served agencies when the Red River overflowed in late March and early April

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/06/10752/?nc=1>>.

SOLAR UPDATE:

Tad "He smiles upon their sunny faces" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The data at the end of last week's bulletin showed daily sunspot numbers from April 16-22 as six zeros, then 11. In fact, every day was at zero until April 21, when it was 11; it moved again to zero the next day, April 22. We had just as many zero sunspot days -- and only one day with a sunspot -- but we saw the sunspot on Tuesday, April 21, not April 22. We had two additional days with a sunspot this week, Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30. The sunspot number was 15 and 12, respectively, on those days. But this was another old Solar Cycle 23 sunspot, and it appeared near the western limb. By today, it may have either faded away completely or rotated out of view, May 1. The data at the bottom of our bulletin shows seven days, Thursday through Wednesday for the reporting week, so the sunspot number of 12 for Thursday will appear in next week's data. Sunspot numbers for April 23-29 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 15 with a mean of 2.1. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.6, 69.7, 69.4, 69.2, 67.7, 68.8 and 69.5 with a mean of 69.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 4, 5, 4, 2 and 3 with a mean of 3.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 5, 2, 3, 3, 2 and 3 with a mean of 2.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Clare's "May" <<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/may-2/>>.

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On Morse:

Google surprised amateurs worldwide on April 27th by posting "Google" in Morse code to note the birthday of [Samuel Morse](#), born in 1791. Even though the dot-dash version of the code was initially conceived by his assistant, Vail, it was Morse that persevered and created the telegraph system. And if your call sign seems heavy lately, George K5TR contributes a [Web-based bathroom scale](#) to find out your Morse Mass. Marvelous !

Web Site of the Week—With so many Internet-savvy prospective hams, it just makes sense to provide guidance to becoming a ham in a form they know and enjoy. For example, this "[How To Become a Ham Radio Operator](#)" wiki spotted by Glenn K6NA on the Wired Web site. It's simple at the moment, but I'm sure it will grow as more material is added.

WORD TO THE WISE—90 Minutes - that's reported to be the length of a human's natural REM-sleep cycle. By arranging your sleep times to be about 90 minutes long, you'll wake up more refreshed than waking up part way through



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 of 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>

NOTES on Dr. Glenn Johnson's K5D Desecheo DXpedition deWØKO

BAARC members were fortunate to hear another excellent presentation on a superb DXpedition. WØGJ has put on several others for us in the past—Heard Island VKØIR in 1997 and his Bhutan trips. Glenn and his wife Vivien KL7YL attended the fine dinner served by the Niswaw Legion Club, thanks to the arrangements made by Jim WØJDS and Pres. Al WØRC and others. Desecheo is the small island some 14 miles from Puerto Rico that the US military used for target practice. The K5D team had to get permission from various entities to operate from there and put "another country" on the radio DXCC map. The effort of the team was recognized by many as first-class. Did you know that some 115,787 QSOs were made by the team of 15, splitting their efforts into three groups. Also it was not cheap, costing nearly \$116,000—that is nearly \$1/ QSO. Glenn said the team had many supporters from around the world. Glenn's presentation is always educational, informative, and humorous—all with power-point graphics and pictures with audio. The program appealed to the diehard DXers among us and also to the casual enthusiasts who learned about that unusual piece of geography owned by our country and what effort it takes to put on an operation like K5D. We also learned that he has quite a ham paradise in Bemidji. Interesting to note is the fact that the Johnsons have traveled widely and have many family members licensed. Glenn's dad is also a ham. What is next for Glenn? Watch for an upcoming DXpedition to another needed "country"—perhaps Navassa Island located just off Haiti. The BAARC thanks Glenn for coming to Niswaw for this talk.

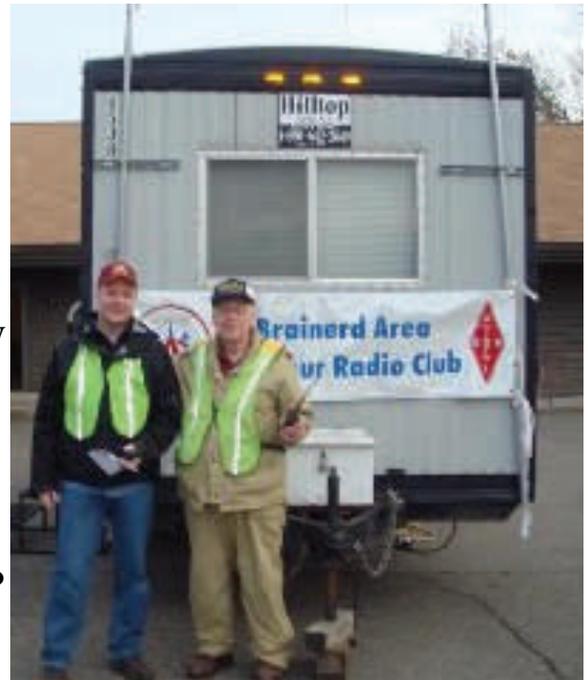
DX and the Paper Chase

As the club newsletter goes to press we're still in a solar minimum of over 600 days and counting. The average solar minimum is said to be 485 days. At any rate, there is plenty of good DX out there if you're willing to keep an ear to the bands and a watch of the DX spots. To prove the point...I've worked 6 new countries in the past several weeks including Mozambique (C91), Lord Howe Island (VK9), Mongolia (JT1), Western Sahara (SØ4) and Central Africa Republic (TLØ) and of course Desecheo (K5D). Even without sunspots there was enough propagation to work good DX. As the month of April winds down there is always hope that cycle 24 will kick in. I've been working quite a bit of 40-meters especially in the wee hours of the morning with success into both VK and ZL land. Recently I discovered that instead of watching TV after sundown that there was activity galore on '40' from Europe which was/is more exciting than the 'boob tube'. I'm operating 40-meters with a ground mounted vertical which is bringing in good DX from around the world. The high bands over the past week (04/10 to 04/20) have been noisy and without much good DX activity. There were several minimum openings during that time frame into Europe and Asia but it was sporadic. As usual, I avoid 20-meters unless I spot a DX station I would like to contact. It seems that '20' has become a haven for lids, kids and space cadets and I don't want to leave out the frequency cops. The pileups are unmanageable with rude operators and poor operating techniques. I don't mean to paint with a wide brush but...a few bad guys make it miserable for the good operators. Perhaps a lot of this sort of thing will go away when all the bands are open again. Don't forget to pick up that mic and call CQ...someone somewhere in the world is listening for your call. So long from Huntersville, 73 and good DX from Bob/WØZPE.

Nisswa 2009 Marathon with numerous BAARC members participating. Photos by WØRC.



**On Left:
Shirley KØDCW
Jim WØJDS
On Right:**



**Chris NØSHR
Darrell ABØVP**



On Left: Doug KDØERE

A big thanks to all who participated.

More details on page 6.



Seen at the BAARC Dinner in Nisswa—our newest members: On the left is Rebecca (Becky) Sabyan (KDØHBH)—Crosby. With her on the right is Jeff Sundstrom (KDØHBI)—Staples. Both are Technician Class Licensees and can be heard on the repeater checking in on the Sunday evening net. Welcome to the Club and to ham radio, Becky & Jeff . (Photo—WØKO)



Brainerd Area Hamfest

Amateur Radio and Computer Equipment



ARRL Sanctioned

Saturday, July 18, 2009 9 AM to 2 PM

BRainerd NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY (in Southeast Brainerd)
1115 Wright Street, Brainerd, MN GPS N46-20.179 W94-11.543

Prizes / Food / Fun / Raffle
VE TESTING – 10:00 AM

Tickets at door \$5.00. Children under 12 free
Parking is free. All events and sales indoors
Tables \$10.00 each (Best to reserve in advance)

WØUJ Talk-in 147.225+ (no tone)
Chatter on 145.13- 110.9 Hz tone, 443.925+ 110.9 Hz, 53.110- 123.0 Hz

Need not be present to win the Grand Prize. You must be present to win hourly drawings.
Free on-street parking. Food, beverages, commercial vendors, & door prizes.
75% of items to be sold must be Hamfest/computer/electronics related.

Sponsor: **BRainerd AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.** <http://www.brainerdham.org>

Lodging: <http://explorebrainerdlakes.com> and <http://www.brainerd.com>

Directions: From the south, come into Brainerd on Business Highway 371. A few blocks after the Red Roof Inn, turn right on Wright Street. The Armory is about three blocks east on the left side. From the north, east, and west, go to the center of Brainerd and turn south on Highway 371 (also known as south 6th Street). Before the Red Roof Inn, turn left on Wright Street. Go about three blocks to the Armory, which is on the left side of the street.

_____ cut & mail _____

Table Reservations for the Brainerd Area Hamfest on Saturday, July 18, 2009

Admission ticket required for each person to enter the display area.

Table reservations do not include \$5.00 admission per person.

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Number of Tables _____ @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____

Number of Admission Tickets _____ @ \$5.00 each = \$ _____

Total amount submitted with this request \$ _____ No refunds

Electricity Requested _____ (Limited availability, first-come, first-served) Make check payable to:
BAARC Mail to: BAARC, 33247 East Shamaineau Drive, Motley, MN, 56466 or Lyle Amundson, 12972 Morningside Drive, Merrifield, MN, 56465. Provide SASE if you want tickets & table verification mailed. Otherwise, pick up at the side door.

A Message from our President AI WØRC on 2009 Marathon.

I would like to thank the following club members for helping out with the 2nd annual Brainerd Marathon for which the weather was much better this year than last year when we had a storm and 8 inches of snow:

Jim WØJDS and Shirley KØDCW for handling net control duties--Charles W5CCL, Roger WØWUG, Steve WØTNT, George WDØHXR, Lyle KØLFV, Wynn KA3DQN, and Chris NØSHR for manning the various MED tents around the route. Also appreciated were Darrell ABØVP and Doug KDØERE for providing communications in the two roving vans. I was at the finish line.

Chris Nelson, race coordinator, had the race much better organized than it was last year, but weather was a big factor last year. The only known incident was a local resident who didn't like the music at the half-way point and start of the half marathon where Roger WØWUG was stationed.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable and fun day with nice weather. They provided bag lunches for all the volunteers and plenty to drink. All participants received a T-shirt and our participants were much appreciated by the race officials. Again, thanks for all the members who helped out this year.—AI WØRC

A Note from our Vice President:

I would like to thank all of you who participated in the Marathon and in preparation for it. You have represented the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club very proudly! I was within the repeater range for a period of time and what I heard sounded like a well run operation. I am sure your support of the Marathon was greatly appreciated. Shirley, I can certainly understand how difficult it can be at times with a lot of activity in the communications trailer.

Nevertheless, you did a great job in spite of that. Sometimes people in the trailer who have not been a Net Control Operator before may not understand the difficulty in filtering all the other noise when you are operating as Net Control. Again, you did a great job. —Steve KCØYTE

Recently Honored were two of our members: Lyle KØLFV (l) received a service plaque honoring 4 years as BAARC President. On the right is John WØWY receiving his appointment as Crow Wing County Emergency Coordinator (ARRL). Both presented by WØRC, President.



Lyle and John
Are two very
Hardworking
Officers and
Promoters
Of BARRC
Public Service
-Activities-
Both Deserving
Of the Recognition



(Photos
by
WØWY)

Jim and Sharon Duit KØTXT/KBØSQX sent this good advice and we think it would be worth sharing—even though you may have seen it before:

PUT YOUR CAR KEYS BESIDE YOUR BED AT NIGHT:

Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your parents, your doctor’s office, the check-out girl at the market, everyone you run across.

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this:

It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around... After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.... This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

P.S. I am sending this to everyone I know because I think it is fantastic. Would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. Share this.

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**A Group of Ham Friends Gathered Again:** Shown here from right to left are Shirley KØDCW of Motley, Kay Oehlenschlager of Sebeka, Jim KØTXT and Sharon KBØSQX--all the way from Arkansas to attend the Dinner-Meeting. (PhotoWØKO)



**SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS**

5/03/09 Jim KBØLYP  
 5/10/09 Linda KCØGVZ  
 5/17/09 Charles W5CCL  
 5/24/09 Richard NØHW  
 5/31/09 Alan AAØAS  
  
 6/07/09 Tom KØHHF  
 6/14/09 John KCØWCG  
 6/21/09 Bob WØZPE  
 6/28/09 Marcia WØZMC

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



BAARC, Inc.  
 Ham Radio at its best in the Lakes Area  
 Affiliated with the ARRL

Find us on the Web:  
<http://www.brainerdham.org>

**Have you checked the Club's Database?**

Does anything need to be corrected, is your dues up to date, are you getting the BAARCer OK either by Internet or snailmail? Let Fritz know, and he will try to get it straightened out by directing your concern to the proper person in the Club. We can't read minds—not yet anyway! Hi. Also, check the FCC Database on your license currency.

**MN Repeater Council Spring Meeting** is to be held in Mankato on May 9th at the Red Cross Building and is hosted by the Mankato Area Radio Club. If you would like to attend and represent the BAARC, let Fritz know in advance so he can authorize your proxy representation. Times are from 12:30 until business is done.

**Best Wishes to John KBØMNM and XYL**

**Karen** on their upcoming move to AZ. John tells us he has assumed a new position there—So good luck to them both and bon voyage.

**COMING IN NEXT MONTH'S BAARCer:**

**Field Day Info and updated Club Meeting Minutes. Also a brief report on The March of Dimes Event of 5-2-09 from Terry KIØFW.**

—**The Sunday Night Net is the Time to get Latest Information.**

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