



# The BAARCer



April 2010

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

**OFFICERS**

**President:**

Charles Lane **W5CCL**

**Vice President + WWW**

**Editor:**

Steven Mott **KCØYTE**

**Secretary:**

Ron Finger **KØGOP**

**Treasurer:**

Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

**Director-At-Large:**

Roger Williams **WØWUG**

**Trustee + BAARCer**

**Editor:**

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**



**Al WØRC** again shared his technical skills and knowledge by demonstrating APRS with Amateur Radio to BAARC members. Simple additions to hand-held transceivers can accomplish APRS functions giving location, direction, and even speed. With plentiful handouts and computer-generated slides, he illustrated one of the newest facets of amateur radio for at home, mobile and/or portable use. Thanks, Al, for another informative presentation. Now even more will try it.

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— **Events Calendar** —

- April 3, (Sat.) Club Breakfast @ Northwind Grille in Brd. @ 9**
  - April 13, (Tues.) VE Testing @ 6 PM, Fire Hall-cost: \$15 by check. (p. 4)**
  - April 17, (Sat.) Club Breakfast @ Northwind Grille in Brd. @ 9**
  - April 17, (Sat) Fargo Hamfest**
  - April 17 (Sat.) MN Repeater Council (Outstate Mtg.) Brd. Fire Hall @ 10**
  - April 24 (Sat.) Annual Brd Jaycees Run-for-the-Lakes Marathon—Nisswa**
  - April 29, Thurs. Club Mtg @ Brd Fire Hall @ 7: (Board meets 4-5 PM).**  
 Program by KSØJ and N1UW, MN ARRL Officials.
  - May 1, (Sat) Duluth-Superior Hamfest**
  - May 27, (Thurs) Annual Club Dinner-Meeting, Nisswa Legion--Alan Cibuzar (Spkr) KDØCJL. Jim WØJDS, chair—Details on Page 3**
- MAKE YOUR RESERVATION(S) NOW WITH JIM WØJDS**

## Thursday, March 25, 2010 - 5:30 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes

### Brainerd Fire Station

**President:** Charles Lane W5CCL

**Vice President:** Steve Mott KCØYTE

**Secretary:** Ron Finger KØGOP

**Treasurer:** Doug Bergsnev KDØERE

**Director-At-Large:** Roger Williams WØWUG

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

**Emergency Communications Director:** John Luce WØWY

**Community & Special Events Co-Director:** Dave Fournier KCØTGT

**Past President:** Al Doree WØRC

**Past President:** Lyle Amundson KØLFV

President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting with 10 board members in attendance. A motion to accept the published minutes for February was approved. The Treasurer's Report was then presented by Doug KDØERE and approved following a motion by John WØWY and second by Lyle KØLFV. The Treasurer reported a current membership of 49. Also discussed and approved was a \$200 limit Club debit card and payment for 2 bills for Ham Class materials. Doug also referred any future Club (Treasurer-related) email correspondence to his new Treasurer email address:

[baarctreasurer@charter.net](mailto:baarctreasurer@charter.net)

**Upcoming Events:** Charles W5CCL welcomed David KCØTGT, as the newly appointed **Co-Director of Community & Special Events** for the Club. Dave will be working with Club volunteers to co-chair future events and is seeking mentoring from past chairmen of those events in developing a "book" for each Club event. These books will outline the typical procedures, contacts, and equipment needs for each Club event, and will be available in the Club comm trailer for field use. John WØWY reported that Alan Cibuzar of A.W. Research Laboratories, a Club member, and our guest speaker for the **BAARC Spring Dinner** on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> will be giving a presentation on the effects of area lakes pollution. Social time will begin at 5:30 PM, with dinner and a program following. Lyle KØLFV will send an email reminder six weeks prior to the event.

**Upcoming Events:** **The MN Repeater Council Annual Meeting** will be held at the Brainerd Fire Station on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Fritz WØKO will be on hand to address any needed assistance for that group.

**New Business:** Several options for future Board Meeting times were discussed. It was decided that future monthly Board Meetings will revert to being held at 4 PM on the day of the regular Club Membership Meeting.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.

## Thursday, March 25, 2010 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes

### Brainerd Fire Station

President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with twenty-seven Hams and guests in attendance. A motion to accept the published minutes for February as approved, was made by John W3MQD, seconded by Shirley KØDCW, and passed. The Treasurer's Report was then presented by Doug KDØERE and approved following a motion by John WØWY and second by Alan KDØCJL.

**Upcoming Events:** Al WØRC posted a volunteer sign-up sheet for the **Brainerd Jaycee's "Run for the Lakes Marathon"** on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. John WØWY introduced Alan Cibuzar of A.W. Research Laboratories, as guest speaker for the **BAARC Spring Dinner** on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Alan KDØCJL has titled his presentation: **"Remote Sensing Of Polluted Aquatic Environments."** A request was again forwarded from event chairman, Jim Shubert WØJDS, that members are requested to email him with their reservations ASAP.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** Roger Williams WØWUG displayed the newly "laser-trimmed" crystals for the new Ski Gull Club repeater site installation. He has been working on the hardware update at the Club station area at BHS, culminating in a new, higher altitude, Club repeater site, later this year.

**Old Business:** The acquisition and customizing of new Club Event Volunteer vests was discussed. Ron KØGOP reported on available vest styles and costs. What seems to be the best vest for the money was found at the local Baxter Wal-Mart. Several printing options and costs furnished by Minnesota-T's, a local custom T-shirt maker, were considered and voted on. It was decided that the information on the back of the vest would be printed as "RADIO COMMUNICATIONS," with the word "RADIO" at a larger size. Centered above this, in a contrasting color, would be the call sign of the operator. On the right-breast area would be the Club patch location, with space for a name tag on the opposite, left-side pocket. It was determined the best way to proceed would be for all interested Club members to select for fit, purchase their own vests, and bring to them to the April Membership meeting for printing. A motion for approval to proceed with the vest customizing was made by Fritz WØKO, seconded by Dave KCØTGT, and passed. Another motion to purchase 10 extra (non-personalized) vests for the Club trailer was made by Al WØRC, seconded by John W3MQD, and passed.

Charles W5CCL reported on a March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with the **Boy Scouts of America--Pine Tree District**. At that meeting Charles and Ron KØGOP spoke briefly with the leadership attendees about ways that the Club can encourage the next generation of Hams and Club members through "Radio Merit Badge" help and participate with them in the international event, **Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)**. It appears there is an interest from the Scouts in both these activities, and BSA Merit Badge Counselor Information forms were available for those Club members interested in volunteering. We also expect to see a number of scouts visit the Club Field Day site on the June 25-27<sup>th</sup> weekend. **(Also see p.3)**

**New Business:** Emergency Communications Director, John WØWY attended the annual **SKYWARN Planning meeting** at the NWS bureau in Duluth on March 13<sup>th</sup> with Steve KCØYTE, and Ron KØGOP. The date for local SKYWARN training will be held on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Crosslake Community Center, and Thursday, April 22, at the Crow Wing Cty. Land Services Bldg. in Brainerd. Further detailed information on these **SKYWARN classes and upcoming drills** will be published in the April **BAARCer**. John discussed the details of the Duluth meeting, at which 28 spotters and E Comm Directors from Northern MN and WI counties were present. Steve distributed new copies of a SKYWARN operating protocol for volunteer spotters, which he reformatted for quick, easy access to pertinent severe weather observation information in the field. Ron explained a large radio-coverage map for the WRØG repeater. Because of its wide northern coverage, this repeater is proposed for use in coordinating SKYWARN reporting between the Crow Wing and Cass County coverage areas. An informal 8:30 PM net to test this proposed repeater use is currently being held following our regular Sunday night net. The WRØG repeater operates on 145.430 MHz (-), with a 127.3 Hz tone.

The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

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



**BAARC's**  
**Annual Dinner-Meeting**  
**You and your Guests are Cordially Invited**

**When:** May 27, 2010 (Thursday)

**Where:** Nisswa American Legion Club  
5807 Main St., Nisswa, MN 56468

**Times:** Socialization – **5:30 - 6:00 PM**

Buffet Dinner – **6:00 PM** (Beef and Chicken Buffet with all Trimmings, Dessert,  
Beverage, Tax, Tip all included for \$15/person)

Program – **7:00 PM**

BAARC Member Alan Cibuzar, KDØCJL, on the topic:

**“Remote Sensing of Polluted Aquatic Environments“**

**Alan is President of AW Research Laboratories Inc (Brainerd).**

**In addition, he is a pilot and an environmental laboratory consultant specializing in remote sensing services and aerial photography.**

**Please have a check made out to BAARC and pay at the time of the dinner. But if you cancel after May 20, you are committed to pay the BAARC for the meal(s).**

**Cost: \$15/person**

**What to do Now:** Please, ASAP, provide Jim with the name(s) of those attending:

Jim Shubert – WØJDS

8271 Hidden Creek Ct.

Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

**Call him to Reserve @ 218-543-5041 or e-mail him at <jamyshu@usklink.net>**

As always, for more information check the Sunday Night Net.

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**Our Thanks to Jim WØJDS for the Dinner Coordination and to John WØWY for the Program Arrangements.**

**DX and the Paper Chase**

The month of February and the DX it's producing is a gift that keeps on giving. For any of you recent upgrades to *General* or *Extra*, now is the time to work for your DXCC credits. I've been working at least 10-12 DXCC countries and entities every day. The activity on all of the bands is picking up daily with Europe booming in the morning hours, and it's easy to work them barefoot. Yesterday evening I was working DX well after sundown, and this tells me that Cycle 24 is alive and well. One terrific outcome of these good band conditions is the unique countries back on the air after being silent (at least to North America) during the long solar minimum. I was able to work the principality of Monaco for a new one last week along with an operator in Sudan. I have worked Sudan before, but unfortunately I was unable to get confirmation. The new operator I worked in Sudan QSL's to his home call in Slovenia, and this time I should receive my confirmation. I would urge any of you new Hams to take advantage of the available DX in order to participate in the prestigious award program of DXCC. The ARRL website has all of the information and rules governing the DX Century Club Award. I almost forgot to mention two countries that were on the air last week: I worked India and Sri Lanka on the same morning. It doesn't get any better. That's about it from the world of DX for now, but remember: sit down at your station and call CQ because someone somewhere is listening for your call. Don't disappoint him or her! So long from Huntersville, 73, and good DX from **Bob/WØZPE**.

**Ham Licensing Classes Underway: One Group is Shown Below With Instructors**



**BAARC 2010 Licensing Class**

Pictured here at the Brainerd Fire Hall during the early session are the two expert, experienced, and successful instructors **Al Doree, WØRC**, on the left with **John Luce, WØWY**, on the right in front of the whiteboard. Their attentive class members from the March 16, 2010, session are giving their undivided attention so they can successfully pass the FCC exam at end of the session. From all indications, they comprise an intelligent group of friendly people who will soon join our the of amateur radio operators.

The **Test Session** for all three license classes will be held on **April 13 (Tuesday)** at the Brainerd Fire Hall starting promptly at **6 P.M.** Have a check ready made out to ARRL VEC for **\$15**. Bring pens and pencils. You should provide **two forms of ID** to verify name and address listed on the FCC form. Some variations are possible for minors. For example, adults often show a MN license and a utility bill.

## Annual Skywarn Communications Readiness Mtg-Duluth—Report by WØWY and KCØYTE—Photos by John WØWY.

On Saturday, March 13th, the Annual SKYWARN Communications Readiness Meeting was held at the Duluth office of the National Weather Service. Three members attended representing BAARC were Steve KCØYTE, Ron KØGOP and John WØWY. In all, 28 hams attended representing Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Carlton, and Pine counties in Minnesota, and Douglas, Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer counties in Wisconsin (see photo). This is the area served by NWS Duluth (KØNWS). Communication protocol information was shared by Senior Forecaster/Severe Weather Meteorologist Carol Christenson, KCØMAK, who lead discussions pertaining to the type of weather information spotters should report and how, and to whom, it should be reported. John presented information to the group on how the Outing VHF repeater could be used to coordinate weather information moving from the Southern Cass and Crow Wing county areas going to the N.E., with the Itasca (County) club in Grand Rapids. This information was communicated through the use of a very detailed and colorful coverage map made by Ron from information supplied by the station owner, Roger WRØG. The Itasca club was represented by Chuck Corwin, WDØFKQ, who thought the idea made good sense and should be tested at 8:30 PM on Sunday evenings after each radio club's respective nets. After the conclusion of the meeting both Ron and Steve received a tour of the Weather Bureau. Carol showed them many of the tools the forecasters use in predicting the weather and demonstrated the NOAA radio station control point (see photo). The NWS told us that our reports to the NWS from all the Hams really confirm to the personnel at the NWS what they are seeing on their Radar and computer screens, and is greatly appreciated.

**Minnesota Skywarn Training Classes can be found here. <https://apps.weather.gov/outreach/MN.php>**

**Crosslake Training is 4-15-2010, 5:30 PM at the Community Center.**

**Brainerd Training is 4-22-2010, 6:00 PM at the CW County Land Services Bldg.**

There will be a **Simplex Test held on Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and will be on 146.560.** This will be run out of Mora and any and all operators are encouraged to check in to see if they can communicate. This is simply a test in the case of repeaters not working. The Kanabec group ran this test last year and was able to communicate all the way to Chanhasseen. Give it a try.

The NWS will have a drill on 4-22-2010 and will activate at 1:00 PM and the warning will go out at 1:45 PM and the stand down will go out at 2:00 PM.



Area County Hams Attending NWS Mtg.



Carol KCØMAK with Steve and Ron getting a demonstration of what the WX Service sees.

**Note: WRØG Repeater : 145.430 (-) Tone 127.3**

**Lyle KØLFV, our BAARC Hamfest Ambassador, Requests Help:**

As you know, in the past Lyle, Al and others have been handing out BAARC Hamfest info sheets at hamfests in the surrounding area. The plan is to have a table to hand them out from, but he can not do this alone. So if you are planning on attending any of the listed hamfests out of town, let Lyle know so that you could distribute the flyers. Also talk it up our annual Brainerd Hamfest on the nets and in your QSOs. Here is the List of other upcoming hamfests.

- Apr 17 Red River Radio Amateurs Hamfest @ Fargo, ND**
- May 14-16 Dayton Hamvention @ Dayton, OH (The Big One)**
- Jun 05 TwinsLan Tailgate Swapfest—3M Center @ St Paul, MN**
- Jul 24 Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club Hamfest—same place @ Brd.**
- Jul 24 Magic Repeater Yard Sale in St Paul**
- Sep 11 Rush City Radio Rendezvous @ Rush City, MN**
- Sep 26 Carlton County RACES Fallfest @ Lost Isle (near Duluth)**



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**Our Thanks to Lyle and Helpers for the big effort to get the word out about our Hamfest.**

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**Other Timely Information**

**SKYWARN Training Classes and Drill Scheduled:** Steve Mott and John Luce indicated at the meeting in March that both **Brainerd and Crosslake** will have sessions. In **Brainerd** it will be on **Thursday, April 22, at 6 P.M.** in the Crow Wing Co. Land Services Bldg. On that same day in the early afternoon, there will be a **WX-related Drill**. So monitor our 147.225 repeater and check in when asked to. There are also plans to test the LSAC system (along with the WRØG repeater) —all for the purpose of having good communication with the WX Service in Duluth in the event of a real WX event. In **Crosslake** it will be earlier in the month, on **Thursday, April 15, at 5:30 P.M.** in the Community Center. **See page 5 for more SKYWARN and WX drill info.** (As always, updates available on the Sunday Evening Nets).

**Automated 24-hr WX** info sent from Brainerd Crow Wing County Regional Airport is available on 126.775 MHz and the NWS broadcasts from Leader are heard on 162.550 MHz. Try it if you are close to it.

**CLUB VESTS:** See the Minutes on pp. 2-3 for more details. Please purchase you vest and bring it to the April Meeting. Fritz got his at the local Wal-Mart—largest size available at that time was XL. On the Net someone suggested that other Wal-Marts may have a bigger selection of the yellow vests. Some were \$15—others \$11.

**Have a For-Sale Item or a Want?** Send Fritz an e-mail with the details, and he will get it into the next **BAARCer**.

**24th Annual Mineland Clean-up:** Info from Steve WØTNT Wednesday, May 5, from 5-7 PM. Meet at the Pennington Boat Landing for bags and supplies. Directions: In Ironton turn north on County Rd 30 and follow signs to about 1/2 mile to boat landing. Here is the the best part—Free picnic at Crosby Memorial Park at 7 PM.

**Winter Field Day, Saturday, January 30, Pillsbury State Forest, off Beauty Lake Road. Another event there was named FYBO QRP Field Day Feb. 6, 2010.**

Steve WØTNT and Jim KCØWME had fun in two four-hour blocks of time, proving you can have fun in MN winters. They made some 6 QRP contacts with US and Canada in the first event and some 13 QSO's on the second, which Steve and Jim called their FYBO hamming (freeze-your-butt-off) experience. Fortunately and apparently they did not have to slap any mosquitoes during these outings. The transceivers used were an FT-897D and Elecraft K2 with a 20-meter 1/2 wave end-fed antenna from Par Electronics (Model ENDFEDZ EF-20). In addition, they used 40' telescoping fiberglass masts by Spiderpole and 24' telescoping painters' poles by Mr. Longarm. The K2 was powered by a 12v. 18Ah gel cell battery, while the Yaesu had internal batteries. Also a Daiwa CS 201 antenna switch was used.

**Below Top Left: Steve with yellow antenna mast. On right is Jim at his operating position. Bottom Left is Jim (notice the faint smoke from the fire pit—needed to prevent body freeze-ups). On the lower right their setting is visible with a portion of one curved antenna pole.**



**So while other MN hams were vacationing in warmer climates, these two showed that Minnesotans are indeed a cut above the rest—in the ham radio world at least. Furthermore, they showed that a MN winter and QRP can always be fun.**

*Our Thanks to Steve WØTNT for Photos and Text.*

**SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS**

|          |         |        |
|----------|---------|--------|
| 04/04/10 | Steve   | WØTNT  |
| 04/11/10 | Charles | W5CCL  |
| 04/18/10 | Becky   | KDØHBI |
| 04/25/10 | Jeff    | KDØHBH |
|          |         |        |
| 05/02/10 | John    | KCØWCG |
| 05/09/10 | John    | WØWY   |
| 05/16/10 | Dave    | KCØTGT |
| 05/23/10 | Doug    | KDØERE |
| 05/30/10 | Lyle    | KØLFV  |

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>

**FINAL COMMENTS:**

**Congratulations** to Steve Mott, our VP, on his recent promotion to Senior Project Manager at Landis+Gyr.

**Curt Mott, NØCRM**, is back home hamming after a stay in the hospital and recuperation. It's good to hear him back on the air. Curt thanked the Club for the card of cheer sent by the BAARC.

**Can you get the BAARCer** via our website? Let us know so the Club can save mailing/duplicating costs.

**Congrats to Dave Fournier (KCØTGT)** on being appointed by W5CCL, our BAARC President, to be Co-Director of Community and Special Events for the Club.

**Suggestion to Members:** Have you missed seeing some previous attendees? Invite them to attend mtgs. and brkfst.

**Testing the WRØG Repeater for Skywarn:** Check into it after the Sunday Net and for the Drills: 145.430 (-) Tone 127.3

**Pick out and purchase a Yellow Vest at Walmart**—bring it to the next meeting for printing info and costs.—de KØGOP

**April Mtg to Feature MN ARRL Officials' Presentation** on the latest issues at the League and the FCC.

**Boy Scouts' Merit Badge Projects** looking for mentors: Contact W5CCL if you can help.

**Need to Contact Treasurer?** Get Doug directly using this e-mail address <[baarctreasurer@charter.net](mailto:baarctreasurer@charter.net)> Plus, Doug says we have **51 paid-up** members as of now. Thanks to those members for getting their dues in.

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