



The BAARCer



September 2010

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

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Club Call: WØUJ

BAARC PICNIC GROUP AND FOX HUNTERS—AT LUM PARK AUG. 28

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

OFFICERS

President:

Charles Lane **W5CCL**

Vice President + WWW

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Steven Mott **NØCRM**

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Ron Finger **KØGOP**

Treasurer:

Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

Director-At-Large:

Roger Williams **WØWUG**

Trustee + BAARCer

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**



Shown from left to right top row: Lyle KØLFV, Ron KØGOP, Skee WØDCY. Second row toward front: Doug KDØERE, Terry KIØFW, Al WØRC, Shirley KØDCW, Charles W5CCL, Kathy KD5EGN. Front row: Lyle KØLR, Kathie KØTHY, Dylan KDØLFE, John WØWY, Brook K4RXR. Lyle KØLFV helped organize the event and provided this photo. Terry KIØFW again expertly conducted a challenging fox hunt using both mini and maxi foxes—also, a geocache/medallion hunt.

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— Events Calendar —

Sat., Sept. 4 Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd
Sat., Sept 11 Tour of Cuyuna (BIKE RIDE) –Volunteers needed: Lyle KØLFV is the coordinator.
Sat., Sept 11 Rush City Hamfest
Sat., Sept. 18 Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd
Sun., Sept. 26 Carlton County RACES Fallfest
Thurs., Sept. 30 @ 4 and 7—Reg. Brd. Mtg. + Membership Mtg + Program.
Sat., Oct. 2 Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd.
Sat. Oct. 16, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd
 For more details on these and other events, check into the Sunday night net and also refer to the Website on BAARC Calendar of Events.

President: Charles Lane W5CCL
Treasurer: Doug Bergsnev KDØERE
Secretary: Ron Finger KØGOP
Emergency Communications Director: John Luce WØWY
Past President: Al Doree WØRC
Past President: Lyle Amundson KØLFV



During the annual BAARC Picnic, President Charles W5CCL opened an impromptu board meeting at 12:10 PM with 6 board members in attendance. A motion to accept the published minutes for July was approved. The Treasurer’s Report was then presented by Doug KDØERE and approved.

Digital & Emergency Communications: John WØWY and Al WØRC discussed the need for volunteer control operators to participate in the Central MN Hospital Net held at 1PM on the first Wednesday of each month. Operators are needed to staff the following locations: Crow Wing County Emergency Operations Center, Crow Wing County Health Services, St. Joseph’s Medical Center, and Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby. Following the meeting, Charles W5CCL volunteered to staff the CRMC, and Ron KØGOP volunteered to staff the CWCHS site.

John WØWY reported that he will have another option to present to the Club at the September meeting regarding the magnetic signs used during Club service events. He will also provide a unit cost for consideration and any members that may wish to order their own along with the Club order, may do so at that time.

Shirley KØDCW will also have some callsign patches to show the Club, that she purchased from a vendor at our recent Hamfest. The patches are machine embroidered on a fabric background that matches the BAARC safety vests and can be sewn on for easy operator identification.

Upcoming Events: Lyle KØLFV is looking for volunteer operators to participate in the *Tour of Cuyuna Country Bicycle Tour Event* on Saturday, September 11th. Specific event information will be forthcoming by email and on the regular *Sunday Night Net*.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

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The Youngest and Most Senior BAARC Members Appear at the Same Event:

At the last breakfast, we had an unusual gathering—one that does not happen often: We were, of course, honored with **George KCØBH** present. George will soon reach the milestone of 90 along with more than 40+ years in ham radio. With him is **Dylan KDØLFE**, our youngest member, now 11, but was licensed at age 10. George recalled the many events he participated in over those years—many in our area and others in the Twin Cities and around the state—floods, tornadoes, disaster drills, races, and many other Club events for the BAARC. For his great volunteer work he deserves our thanks. Fritz recalled when George was one of the oldest doing yearly brushing at the Gull Lake repeater site. At that time KCØBH did more at his age than the younger bucks. Clearly, George is a good example for others to follow. Thanks, George, for your many contributions to the hobby. May God continue to bless you and your family.



BAARC Annual Foxhunt 8-28-2010—from Terry KIØFW, Foxhunt Organizer

Thanks to all for participating in our fox transmitter hunt in the Brainerd vicinity, and geocache/medallion hunt at Lum Park (Brainerd). The weather was perfect, and approximately 9 hams participated in the transmitter hunt (for the 5-watt transmitter and for the mini 1-watt fox transmitter).

Again, the team of Lyle KØLR and Kathie KØTHY were the first to find BOTH fox transmitters.

The team of John WØWY and Brook K4RXXR placed second . . . and they also were able to find both transmitters.

The transmitters were concealed at the Historic Poor Farm on land south of Brainerd near Highway 25. Several medallion/geocaches were hidden at Lum Park, and approximately 15 hams and other family members, searched for these objects (using GPS coordinates). As with the fox transmitters, I think my attempts at concealment and camouflage may have been a bit too much to be fair, but a number of the searchers were able to find them despite that.

I do hope you all had fun. And it's a great exercise for emergency preparedness.

2010 Brainerd-Baxter Triathlon—Report by David KCØTGT, BAARC Coordinator

Again this year all the participants had fun and there were no negative incidents to mar the event. From the information I got, some 480 athletes did the tri-event. Participants from the BAARC were Charles W5CCL, Wynn KA3DQÑ, Terry KIØFW, and yours truly. Our efforts were appreciated by the officials, and I personally thank the Club members for volunteering their time for this community activity and public service event. 73—David KCØTGT.

The BAARC Breakfast Gang—not all of them, of course—but a great representation of the membership who showed up on Sat., Sept. 4, 2010, at the Northwind Grille. Shown from left to right (seated) are **Skee WØDCY, George KCØBH, Fritz WØKO, Doug KDØERE, Dylan KDØLFE (Doug's grandson)**. Standing left to right are **Ron KØGOP, Charles W5CCL, and Alan AAØAS**. We all had a good time reminiscing with George, who will be 90 soon. Topics ranged from past Club members, activities, drills, and many service activities. The photo taken by **George's son-in-law Karl**, who was kind to drive him that day. All enjoyed the morning with George and Karl and hope to do it again next season. After all, we have more to discuss and problems to solve.



Amateur Radio “Fox Hunting” is a lot of fun—but it’s more than just that. Fox Hunting provides an opportunity for the amateur to experiment with equipment and field techniques in RDF that may be called on someday to assist authorities in locating plane crash sites, lost or injured sportsmen, or even for natural disaster rescue and relief operations.—de **Ron KØGOP**



Greetings Minnesota Amateurs:

I'm sending this message to you as a request for you to get involved with a piece of legislation making its way through the US Senate.

S 1536 specifically is this:

“Avoiding Life-Endangering and Reckless Texting by Drivers Act of 2009 or the ALERT Drivers Act - Requires the Secretary of Transportation to withhold 25% of a state's apportionment of certain federal-aid highway program funds for the fiscal year if the state has not enacted or is not enforcing a law that: (1) prohibits, except in an emergency, an operator of a motor vehicle from writing, sending, or reading a text message using a hand-held mobile telephone (excluding as voice-activated device); and (2) requires, upon conviction of a violation of such prohibition, the imposition of certain minimum penalties.”

What I am encouraging you to do is to write Senator Klobuchar and ask her to support an amendment, which exempts Amateur Radio from this bill. This is vital to our ability to operate mobile for everything from pleasure to emergency communications. Most of us have some ham gear in our vehicles, and we need to ensure that we can continue to use it when we desire. Currently the bill is in committee, and that is where the changes can be made.

The ARRL has a special section for Government Relations on its web site that can provide you with additional information on legislation that you encourage your Senators or Congressman to support.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-legislative-action-program>

Below you will find an example letter (which you can modify if you wish) that you can send to Senator Klobuchar requesting her support for the amendment. You are requested to send letters c/o Chwat's office (ARRL's representative in Washington DC) by fax, U.S. mail, or as attachments to e-mails, for in-person delivery by Chwat's staff.

The relevant information is:

* As a signed attachment to an email to arrl@chwatco.com

* As a signed fax to 703-684-7594

* As a regular letter to:

Chwat & Co.
625 Slaters Lane
Suite 103
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope you will join me
73.**

**Kent Olson, KAØLDG,
Vice Director, Dakota Division**

P.S. Editor's Note—A letter to Sen. Franken and to Rep. Oberstar (or whoever your representative is) might also help, as Kent suggests.

MS 2010 TRAM Ride: A Letter of Thanks was received 8-21-10 by the BAARC. The group thanked us for the use of the repeater, which they considered” a valuable asset to the safe and efficient conduct of the ride.” They were consistently praising the reliability and coverage of the repeaters on their path. Amateur radio is their primary means of safety communications and was a big factor in the zero-accident ride. They provided the following details to give us an insight as to the importance of the communications and logistics. Over 880 riders participated, 650 volunteers assisted, three trucks were used to move riders’ luggage every day, and four vans with trailers were also used to pick up and transport riders with difficulties along the routes. Additionally, thousands of gallons of water and thousands of snacks were provided at many different rest stops. Again, they recognized that “coordinating all of this with the inevitable on-the-fly changes would have been impossible without the use of the **WØUJ** repeater and the others along the route. Our ability to manage our crises without the repeater shows its potential in a real crisis.” At the end of the letter, they say they would like to have us join them for next year’s ride. It was signed by **Will Ziegenhagen**.

DX and the Paper Chase

Out of the last 14 QSL requests I sent out, I received 13 confirmations...not too bad. I am a bit disappointed that the station I worked on Maldives (8Q) has not returned my request, but 13 out of 14 isn't too shabby. DXCC 300 is right over the horizon for me. Now to the important stuff: lets face it, the bands have been iffy the entire month of August. Does that mean there is no DX to chase? I think not. There's an old proverb that goes "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." I found out quite late one evening that snow falls in New Zealand after a ZL4 answered my CQ—and don't think that didn't get the old heart pumping. As usual I cruised the band with nothing heard but static before calling my CQ, landing in ZL-land with little effort at all. Up until today (August 23rd) sunspots are nonexistent, but that didn't stop me from joining in the fun of operating Europe with pretty darned good signals. A couple on nights ago, well after sundown, I answered a CQ on 17-meters from an Italian mobile station with superb signals both ways, and it was midnight in Western Europe. Propagation can be fickle, but I've learned one thing over the years: don't pay any attention to the Internet sites that give you the SFI and the indexes (A & K) because if you do, you'll be discouraged. I use the tried-and-true method of calling CQ, and that's something the sunspot gurus know little about. Up until an hour or so ago European stations were calling North America—and what fun that was! Working into JA-land around 8:00 PM Central time has brought some fun QSO's from Japanese stations, who I consider the best operators on the ham bands. Anyway, —what I'm saying is that there is always DX available somewhere in the world as long as you sit down at your station and call CQ because there's someone listening somewhere in the world for your signal, don't disappoint him or her! So long from Huntersville, 73 and good DX from **Bob/WØZPE**.

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Happy Labor Day to all who have toiled and who are still working. We owe much to you who have made this country great, no matter the nature of the work—all adds to the quality of life we enjoy today and in the years to come. **Big Thanks to you—belatedly!** We hope you enjoyed the Holiday that recognizes the value of your labor past and present.

BAARC Tower Activity in Crosby: The Rohn tower that was donated to the BAARC by the Crosby Library has now been taken down and removed from their property. A very special thanks to Tom **KØHHF**, Skee **WØDCY**, and Lyle **KØLFV** for their help in this project. Dave **KCØTGT** also deserves thanks for alerting us to the availability of the tower. This tower was purchased at our recent Hamfest by one of our members and has now been delivered to his home. Shown on the tower is the climbing expert—Tom. In the other picture is Skee at the left and Tom on the right at the base of the tower. These photos were taken by Lyle **KØLFV** from Monday's (8-16-10) activity. Thanks, Guys!



News: ARRL Amends *Petition to Deny* to Include 16 Additional Recon Scout Applications --08/18/2010

On August 16, ReconRobotics -- in response to the [ARRL's *Petition to Deny Applications*](#), filed with the FCC on August 4 -- filed an *Opposition to Petition to Deny* with the FCC, arguing that the ARRL's *Petition* is "frivolous." The ARRL's *Petition* asked the FCC to deny 68 pending Public Safety Pool license applications associated with the [ReconRobotics Video and Audio Surveillance System](#), specifically the Recon Scout device.

Calling the "frivolous" contention "somewhat amusing, given what the FCC had done three days earlier," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out that on August 13, the FCC returned the first application -- submitted by the City of Salina, Kansas. The Salina Police Department had asked the FCC for a waiver to operate the Recon Scout in the band 433-445 MHz. The FCC returned the waiver request to Salina, noting that the frequency band requested was not consistent with the waiver *Order* ([Docket 08-63/DA-291](#)) which requires that the first unit licensed to an eligible entity operate in the band 436-442 MHz. "We expect that the application will be corrected and resubmitted," Sumner said, "but it is encouraging to see that the FCC agrees with us that the applications -- this and all of the subsequent ones filed -- are defective in this respect."

The ARRL's *Petition* noted these and other incorrect technical parameters in each filed application, stemming from errors in the grant of equipment authorization for the ReconRobotics device, as well as inconsistencies between the applications and the FCC waiver grant for the device in Docket 08-63. Since the August 4 filing, the ARRL has noted another 16 applications have been filed with the FCC, requesting a waiver to be able to use the Recon Scout in the incorrect frequency band. On August 17 the ARRL amended its original *Petition to Deny Applications* to include these 16 additional applications.

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

09/05/10	Joe	KBØVYJ
09/12/10	Marcia	WØZMC
09/19/10	Fritz	WØKO
09/26/10	Bob	WØZPE
10/03/10	Charles	W5CCL
10/10/10	Lyle	KØLR
10/17/10	John	WØWY
10/24/10	Ron	KØGOP
10/31/10	Doug	KDØERE

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>

Our Sincerest Apologies go to George KCØBH for saying inadvertently in the July issue that he was a former member. We should have said "**long-time**" member. Please accept this editor's apologies. You are, of course, a current, generous, and valued member in good standing—covering many, many years.

OUR WEBSITE: By the way, we know the website needs updating, so do not rely on its accuracy at this time. This is all done by volunteers in their spare time, so please be patient. If in doubt about its content, check with an officer or ask on the Sunday Night Net.

A Big Thanks to Jim Ditty, KØLIO. Jim recently donated a really clean Heathkit SB200 HF amplifier to the Club. More details on this later after Lyle KØLFV checks it out.

Have Gear to Sell/Donate? Send a description to **Fritz** and he will list your item in the next **BAARCer**. Also, if you donate some item, we can give you a receipt for tax purposes. As you know, as a non-profit organization we can use donations in money or gear. In the past, hams have even given beyond their annual dues—which counts as a donation. Others have been generous by having the Club sell their unwanted gear. The extra money helps keep our repeaters updated. **Lyle KØLFV** is a good contact person if you have questions about donating to the Club or having the Club sell your gear.

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