



The BAARCer



October 2011

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

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Club Call Sign: WØUJ

BAARC REPEATERS

53.110 MHz- 123.0 Hz
 147.225 MHz + (main rpt)
 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

Editor:

Steven Mott **NØCRM**

Secretary:

Ron Finger **KØGOP**

Treasurer:

Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

Director-at-Large:

Lyle Amundson **KØLFV**

Trustee + BAARCer

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

Program Subject at the September 29, 2011, Club Meeting.



Our thanks to Lyle KØLFV for acquiring the DVD and thereby helping present an interesting/informative program relating to the annual Field Day, which many members of our Club have experienced in the past. Interestingly, the W3AO Group makes a historic effort every year on a grand scale. Look for a short write-up on this program/event on page 4.

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— **Events Calendar** —

- Sat., Oct. 1, BAARC Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd.**
- Sat., Oct. 15, BAARC Brkfst. @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd.**
- Thurs., Oct. 27, BAARC Brd. & Membership Mtgs @ 4 & 7 @ FireHall.**
- Mon., Oct. 31, Goblin Watch/Patrol —KØGOP, WØTNT, & WØWY (organizers)—event usually runs 6-9 p.m. More Details on Sun. Nets.**
- Thurs., Nov. 17, BAARC Board & Membership Mtgs. @ 4 & 7 @ Library.**
- Thurs., Dec. 15, CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER MTG. & SOCIAL @ Fire Hall @ 7.**

Dues Info and Election Details Coming in the November BAARCer

CHECK THE SUNDAY NIGHT NETS FOR ANY UPDATES/CORRECTIONS

Thursday, September 29, 2011 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes**Brainerd Fire Station****President:** Charles Lane, W5CCL**Treasurer:** Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE**Secretary:** Ron Finger, KØGOP**Past President:** Al Doree, WØRC**Past President:** Lyle Amundson, KØLFV**E-Communications Director:** John Luce, WØWY

Club President Charles W5CCL opened the meeting at 4:10 PM with 6 board members and 1 member in attendance. There were no prior minutes due to the BAARC Picnic & Fox Hunt replacing the August Board and Membership meeting. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Doug KDØERE and approved. The Treasurer was given authority to proceed with the changeover to a new insurance provider for the Club policies. This will result in substantial savings for the Club. Lyle KØLFV presented a check to the treasurer for the sale of donated Club items.

Upcoming Events: John WØWY and Ron KØGOP will co-chair the **Goblin Watch** on Monday, October 31st. Al WØRC and Shirley KØDCW reported that the next **Brainerd Hamfest** marks their twelfth time to serve as chairmen. Following the 2012 Hamfest date, they would like to turn over that post for others to fill. The board thanked them for their many years of excellent service at that job, and will seek a committee or individuals to chair future events. Also discussed was the possibility of moving our **Hamfest** date to the month of April, now that Fargo has changed their April event date to September. It was felt that our attendance might be better with a spring date.

Digital & Emergency Communications: Al reported the temporary loss of the LSAC UHF link due to copper thieves at Tamarac and a tower upgrade at Proctor. John WØWY discussed progress on the ARMER system switchover in the spring.

Old Business: To avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday, the November Membership Meeting will be moved to the 17th at the Brainerd Public Library meeting room. The Board Meeting location will be determined at a later date. Likewise, the December meetings will be moved to the 15th to accommodate the Christmas holiday, with location remaining at the Brainerd Fire Station. Al reported on a very successful VE testing session held on Saturday, September 17th at Camp Ripley. Fifteen members of the various armed services tested with 13 new Technician licenses and 1 General license granted. VE Testers included Al WØRC, John WØWY, and Charles W5CCL.

New Business: Al WØRC and John WØWY discussed the possibility of again teaching a winter Ham Class. The class schedule and ending test date could coincide with the possibility of an earlier Club Hamfest in April.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Thursday, September 29, 2011 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes**Brainerd Fire Station**

The President opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with 20 members and guests present. With another renewal just received, the Secretary reported a Club membership of 60. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Doug KDØERE, and approved.

Digital & Emergency Communications: Al reported on the status of the LSAC UHF system. John reported on the upcoming spring communications switchover to the 800 MHz ARMER system. Crow Wing County will join several other MN counties in utilizing this new and improved emergency service/public service system. It is hoped that the Club might receive some surplus 800 MHz equipment in order to interact with local public service agencies in the event of a communications emergency.

Upcoming Events: The need for future chairs for the **Brainerd Hamfest** following Al & Shirley's 12 years of service was presented to the Club. Ron KØGOP, John WØWY, and Steve WØTNT will be looking for volunteers for the **Goblin Watch** event on Halloween night: Monday, October 31st. Several mobile operators will be needed to assist Crow Wing County area law enforcement in patrolling various community areas. Members will coordinate with net control at the CWC Law Enforcement dispatch area. As always, operators are only to report activity as requested, never intervene directly. Event activity usually runs from 6 to 9 PM.

Old/New Business: Reports were given on the Club website, WØUJ remote station project, and Camp Ripley VE testing. (see Board Meeting minutes). The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

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

DX and the Paper Chase

Propagation...it is what it is. I'm certainly not a student of this mysterious function that affects the Amateur bands, but I guess one might call me a victim. Usually you'll find me on 17 meters, but this month (so far) the band seems to open late in the afternoon and even into the early evening. In addition, it's so noisy that I just gave up and went to 10,12 and 15 meters. That is where I am experiencing the best openings of Solar Cycle 24, and it includes worldwide DX for all 3 bands. This is the most fun since the top of Cycle 23, and it actually reminds me how much fun the top of 23 really was. My big disappointment was not being to work East Timor (4W6A) because there is no propagation to most of North America from that region. However, I have not given up yet as the DXpedition will be QRV until the 26th of September and you can bet I'll be haunting the bands and listening for their signals. This is one I need, so there will be no giving up—not yet anyway. I worked a member of the UAE royal family on 12 meters with the call of A61LL and what an interesting fellow he is. He was educated here in the US and even learned to fly a chopper. This was a good QSO as most DXers like to chew the rag on these seldom open bands. I'm typing this on my new laptop computer with Windows 7 operating system and, of course, wireless. What a blast these new computers are! There are more bells and whistles on this machine than there are on my FT-950. Well, our household is preparing for winter as is everyone else, and I'm looking forward to some good DXing along with working some "new ones" as there begins to be a light at the end of the tunnel for my DXCC 300 endorsement. That's about it from my shack to yours for this month. Remember to sit down at your station and call CQ because someone somewhere is listening for your call...don't disappoint any caller. So long from Huntersville for now. **73 and good DX from Bob/WØZPE.**

Thanks from Habitat for Humanity:

The BAARC received a thank-you letter from Habitat for Humanity--MN (Mpls. Office), signed by Jan Plimpton (Executive Director) and Jenni Ebert (Special Programs Manager). They thanked the Club for the use of our repeater for the communications they needed to run a safe and successful "Habitat 500 Bike Ride" during the week of July 10-16. They went on to say that "it was great to be able to partner with ham radio operators in such a worthwhile manner..." Furthermore, they liked the good coverage of the repeater as they passed through our area. Most noteworthy—they raised some \$302,000 and much public awareness. The ladies said, "We couldn't have done it without you."

LAST BIG FIELD DAY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Here's the deal. The call sign **W3AO** has appeared in almost every Field Day log since 1999, when the group began an unbroken run at the top of the **QST** Top 10 box. Members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club and Columbia (MD) Amateur Radio Association assemble an awesome operation, with phone, CW, and digital in all bands, satellite, VHF/UHF and all the bonus points a group can rack up. Their entry class is usually in the low to mid 20's. With top contest operators behind the controls, year after year their score is head and shoulders above everyone else.

In 2003 and 2004, though, they were listed in 51A and 50A. Stations they worked had a hard time believing the report they were receiving. Was it real? Was it made up? How does a Field Day operation accomplish 50 or more transmitters? And why has it never been done after 2004?

The Last *BIG* Field Day documents the W3AO **2004** operation from their site just outside Baltimore, MD. The DVD covers it all, and shows you just how this huge station was assembled and operated. In true Field Day style, not everything went according to plan. But once again W3AO triumphed!

And yes, we'll show how they reached the 50+ transmitter total, and why nobody's done it since, and probably no one will.

This video runs 41 minutes, just about right to use for any club meeting program. No matter what size your club's Field Day effort, you'll find this program entertaining and enlightening.

Note: Even though the Brainerd Club's annual participation is not this spectacular, on the local level for our group our type of small-scale hamfest is just as enjoyable. (Info from the ARRL relayed by Lyle KØLFV)

CYCLE 24 PROPAGATION INFO FROM K7RA-ARRL

Currently the latest forecast - which is actually from Thursday, September 29 - from NOAA/USAF has solar flux at 140 for September 30 through October 3, then 135, 130, 135 and 140 on October 4-7, then 145 on October 8-10 and 140 on October 11-17.

Predicted planetary A index is 12 and 10 on September 30 through October 1, then 5 on October 2-7, then 8, 15, 12 and 8 on October 8-11, and 5 on October 12-21.

Editor's Note: Be patient. DX is out there. WØZPE works it. You can too. It can change from day to day. Bad one day—then good the next. Generally, the higher the solar flux, the better the propagation. The best A and K indices are low numbers.

Perfect Weather Greeted Bikers – Ham Operators

Perfect weather was on hand for the 8th Annual Tour of Cuyuna Bicycle Ride which took place Saturday, September 10, 2011. BAARC operators appreciated the cool morning (57-degrees) and warm (85-degrees) and sunny afternoon too.

Tour start/finish this year was at Rutgers Bay Lake Lodge. Net Control operated from there as well. Operators were Ron KØGOP and Doug KDØERE, using John WØWY's Field Day trailer. Voice communications was through the 147.360 NØBZZ repeater located north of the city of Cuyuna, which gave flawless mobile and portable coverage over the 30- and 60-mile courses. APRS was tested but was not used as there was only a very limited need for it.

Both Jenny and Brad Smith, ride organizers, thanked BAARC operators again for all the help they provided in keeping track of the riders, supplies, and relocations of supplies at the rest stops. And best of all, they noted there were no emergencies and no major repairs needed either.

Thanks to the following operators who put in some long hours helping out. Rest Stops: Alan AAØAS; Jim WØJDS, and his friend Bill; Wynn KA3DQN; and Dave KCØTGT; Rovers: Dave KCØTGT and Chris KDØLFA. SAG wagon operator: John WØWY. A special thanks to Shirley KØDCW and Al WØRC for showing up and helping with set-up. (Due to a low number of riders, 68, some operators were able to retire early.)

Also a special thanks to event co-chair Lyle KØLFV for all of his planning efforts, and to Ron KØGOP for the many hours it took him to produce a great, easy-to-read, map of the tour routes.

73's
John, WØWY
Event Co-Chair

Worlradio Magazine is available online: Lyle KØLFV has been a long-time reader of this **free** publication. It has lots of interesting articles and useful ads as well. As you recall, we used to get it sent to us free, but in recent years it has become available via this URL: <http://worlradiomagazine.com> Thanks for this reminder, Lyle.

+ ARRL Briefs White House Staff on Amateur Radio's Capabilities During Emergencies

On September 12, at the invitation of [White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS](#), the ARRL briefed several members of the National Security Staff on the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service to communicate in emergencies. "The White House is looking for ways that the great work of Amateur Radio operators can continue to support emergencies in the future with particular attention to increased use and dependency on Internet-based technologies," Schmidt said. The ARRL presentation, conducted by Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC -- along with President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ -- focused on Amateur Radio's current and evolving capabilities to provide Internet messaging connectivity.



White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS (left) invited the ARRL to the White House to brief staff on the part that Amateur Radio plays in Emergencies. Standing with Schmidt outside the West Wing are (left to right) ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC,

ARRL Invites Members to Express Opinions in QST

Each month in *QST*, the ARRL devotes a page to print letters from its members. This is a chance for you to express your opinions -- good or bad -- on ham radio-related matters. Your opinion counts! Send your letters electronically to qst@arrl.org or via postal mail to Correspondence, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. You can also fax your letters to 860-594-0259. We read every letter received, but we can only publish a few each month. We reserve the right to edit your letter for clarity and to fit the available page space. Letters published in *QST* may also appear in other ARRL media. The ARRL assumes no responsibility for statements made by correspondents



Equipment for Sale: The following is for sale. The list is offered for sale by the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club and its members. **If you see something on the list that you are interested in, please contact me for additional information to include pricing. Thank you.** —Lyle, KØLFV <k0lfv "at" arrl.net>

- ICOM IC 746 PRO HF thru VHF All Mode Transceiver
- ICOM IC-706 MKIIG HF thru VHF All Mode Transceiver
- YAESU FT-1802 2M FM Transceiver
- YAESU FT-270R 2M FM Handheld
- J-38 Manual CW Key
- Cushcraft A-147-4 2M 4-Element Beam
- B & W BWD-90N Folded All Band Dipole
- HY Gain Explorer 14 3 Element Tri-Band Beam (NIB)
- Hy Gain QK-710 40M Add On Kit (NIB)
- Cushcraft A4S 4 Element Tri-Band Beam
- GSC Model 20PR 20 Amp 12 VDC Regulated Power Supply

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Echolink at Little Falls—An Invitation from Rick KBØWWJ

I want to invite you to use my Echolink. It's only been on the air for about a month now. I put it on the air to encourage more Ham Radio activity. Right now the antenna is up only 23'. I hope to get it up to 40' before winter comes back. It's also only running 20 watts because of its low height. Also, it has no tone at this time. Feel free to connect with it as often as you wish and join in our QSO's anytime. So far we only have a small group of users, but you're welcome to chat with us anytime on Echolink and 146.540.

73's from the KBØWWJ Link in Little Falls, MN

On Echolink : KBØWWJ-L on 146.540

Node : 616197

Questions? Contact Rick <madams634 "at" yahoo.com>

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

10/02/11	Fritz	WØKO
10/09/11	Joe	KBØVYJ
10/16/11	Bob	WØZPE
10/23/11	Becky	KDØHBH
10/30/11	Jeff	KDØHBI
11/06/11	Steve	WØTNT
11/13/11	Lyle	KØLR
11/20/11	Marcia	WØZMC
11/27/11	Bob	WØZPE

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

Thanks to our volunteer NCS shown above.

Remember: It's not necessary to do Simplex Net—it's all up to you.

HOSPITALIZED: Ed Antolik, KAØEXB. Ed is recovering in the St. Cloud Hospital from mini strokes a week earlier. Fritz called Ed on 10-3-11, and Ed reported doing well and is in good spirits. The facility is taking good care of him, and he expects to be in their in-patient rehabilitation unit for about a week. Also, Fritz sent a card of cheer to him on behalf of the Club members. Ed said he welcomes and appreciates the prayers for him and Evie, who is holding down the fort at home. By the time you read this, we all hope he will be back home.

AR Visitors to Mtg. Jim KØTXT and Sharon KBØSQX stopped by to visit and took care of some business while in the best State—MN—Hi!

Congratulations New Hams: On September 17, Al WØRC, John WØWY, and Charles W5CCL conducted another successful VE test session at Camp Ripley. Some 13 new Technicians and one General Class came out of it, all military personnel. TNX, our VE's, for this extra effort.

United We Stand



FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested

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c/o M. Fritz Bertelt WØKO
16167 Ahrens Hill Road
Brainerd, MN 56401