



The BAARCeR



March 2012

For Anyone Interested in Amateur Radio

Page 1 of 8

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 + WWW

Editor:

Steve Mott **NØCRM**

Vice President:

John Luce **WØWY**

Secretary:

Ron Finger **KØGOP**

Treasurer:

Doug Bergsnev **KDØERE**

Director-at-Large:

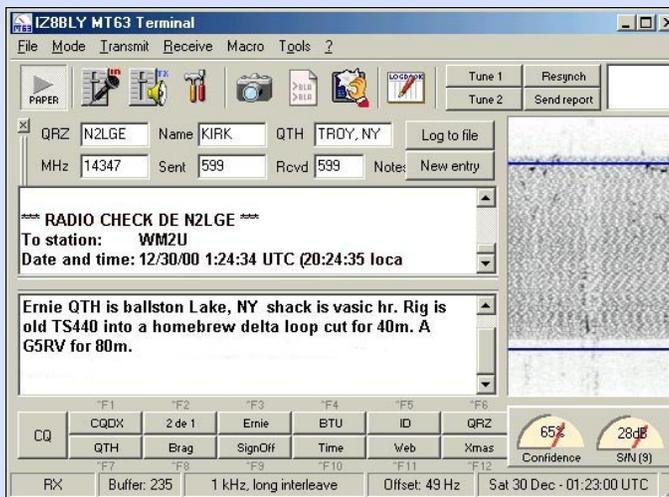
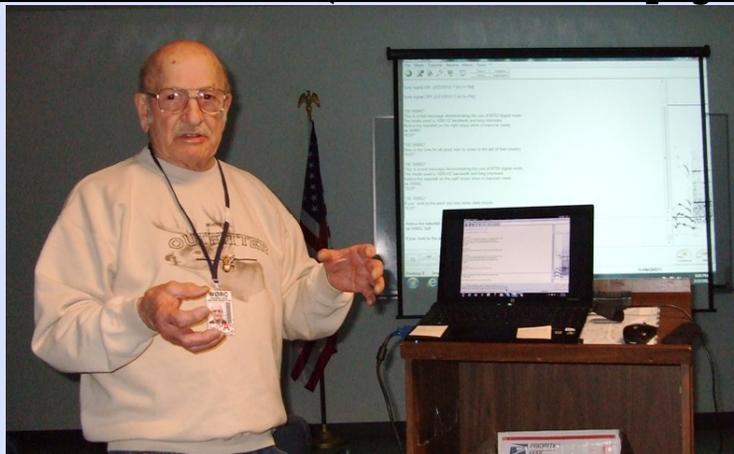
Lyle Amundson **KØLFV**

Trustee + BAARCeR

Editor:

Fritz Bertelt **WØKO**

ALWØRC's 2-23-12 Presentation on MT-63 and Digital Communications. (See more info on page 6)



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— Events Calendar —

Sat., Mar. 3, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd.
Sat., Mar. 3, Mid-MN Annual Dogsled Race —It is a GO!!!!!! Help Needed.
Sat., Mar. 17, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brainerd.
Sat., March 31, Mid-Winter Madness in Buffalo
BAARC HAMFEST—BRAINERD—Sat., April 14, @ Brd.
 Armory: Help Needed—Talk it up on the air.
To Help at All Events: Contact NØCRM or WØWY, or Other Officers—Check the Nets and Respond to E-mails.
Please send in your 2012 Dues—still only \$20—see p.7
Listen for Activity Updates on our Sunday Night Nets

Thursday February 23, 2012 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes Brainerd Police Station

President: Steve Mott, NØCRM
Vice President: John Luce, WØWY
Treasurer: Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE
Secretary: Ron Finger, KØGOP
Director At Large: Lyle Amundson, KØLFV

Past Presidents: Charles Lane, W5CCL; Al Doree, WØRC
Community & Special Events Director: TBD
Director At Large: Lyle Amundson, KØLFV
Emergency Communications Director: John Luce, WØWY
Repeater Trustee: Fritz Bertelt, WØKO

Attendees: Steve NØCRM, John WØWY, Doug KDØERE, Lyle KØLFV, Al WØRC, Shirley KØDCW, Roger WØWUG

The President opened the meeting at 4:00 PM with 7 members in attendance. A roster of 59 active members was reported, with 2 more applications received over the past month. Lyle KØLFV made a request to be copied with any new members email addresses for emailing using the Club database. The January 2012 minutes were approved as published in the [BAARCer](#). The Treasurer's Report was given, discussed, and approved by Lyle KØLFV and Al WØRC.

Upcoming Events: John WØWY reported on a successful **2012 Jaycee Ice Fishing Extravaganza** event on February 11th. There was a good Club turnout in spite of the cold, with very little radio traffic. Discussed was the possibility of helping the Jaycees program their rental FRS radios next year. The **Mid-MN 150 Dog Sled Race** has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 3rd. Due to the changed date, several members have been unable to fill the event chairmanship. Operators are still needed to fill the many positions for this event, with the sled course running between Remer and Outing. Al WØRC reported on the **Forestview Middle School Balloon Project** scheduled for March 3rd, with a backup date the following week. Al received thanks for attending EVERY meeting that the group had. Forestview teacher Jim Reed sent out a detailed plan, addressed media, and thanked various groups and people for their involvement. Last week's flight predictions were Mille Lacs County, and another recent one was Cumberland, Wisconsin. Jim will know 72 hours before the launch if the callsign will be WØRC-13 or KBØWGO-13, either of which can be tracked on aprs.fi.

Old/New Business: John WØWY discussed the monthly Membership Meeting program schedule and invited suggestions from the group. Upcoming programs include a review on emergency communications procedures prior to the summer weather season. A tentative monthly schedule was completed through August. John also gave an ARMER radio status update. The Club is still in need of a Community & Special Events Director; discussed were position responsibilities and requirements including good communications skills and active Club member for interfacing with a variety of community and professional groups and individuals. Also discussed was a future Board-Level planning session to address the year's activities, vision, resources, and goals. This session will help determine which events and activities are appropriate for Club involvement, and for subsequent posting on the website Google Calendar and email notifications.

Thursday February 23, 2012 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes Brainerd Police Station

The President opened the meeting with 14 members and guests present. The January 2012 Minutes were approved as printed in the February [BAARCer](#). The Treasurer's Report was presented, approved, and seconded.

Digital & Emergency Communications: John WØWY briefly discussed the ARMER project and the training course that first responders and firefighters must take in order to operate the new radios.

Upcoming Events: Discussed was the success of the **2012 Jaycee Ice Fishing Extravaganza**. The group talked about the possibility of the **Mid-MN 150 Dog Sled Race** and that we may need to pull the event together with a small group of people and possibly without the communications trailer. Also discussed was the **Forestview Middle School Balloon Project** and the possible upcoming launch dates. (see Board Meeting minutes).

Old/New Business: Al WØRC and John WØWY discussed their HAM radio classes with an enrollment of 17 students.

--Respectfully submitted by **Ron KØGOP**, Secretary; My thanks to Doug KDØERE and Steve NØCRM for their notes.

DX and the Paper Chase

Right out of the chute I would like to extend my thanks to BAARC for inviting me to share my passion for DXing and operating the HF bands. If my enthusiasm was able to rub off, it was an hour well spent with you. It was nice to see old friends and meet new ones. Thanks again. As for DX, well, these are the best of times and the worst of times (I borrowed that statement) as we navigate the rough waters of Cycle 24. On the other hand, the minimum of Cycle 23 that lasted for 3 years makes the present cycle seem like its gold plated. Band conditions were up and down, but they produced some interesting DX worldwide. This operator worked a couple of new ones and the paper chase has been initiated to receive the QSL confirmations. There was some red hot DX out there that I had already worked in the past but getting a chance to work some of those far away places again was just too good to allow them to get away. My new ones included TN2T, C21NA, and an old friend popped up on the DX spots, Pitcairn Island. That's one I worked again. There's so much history in Pitcairn that involved *HMS Bounty* and her rebellious crew, some of who have decedents still living on the Island. A milestone occurred for me this month: I've been honing my CW skills and for the first time ever I made a DX contact with (ZK2C) on 12-meters CW—talk about an adrenalin rush! The next morning I rushed to the ZK2C website to check their online logbook. I'm in the log for my CW contact. I waited until my 84th year to make use of this marvelous mode. Also, 40 meters continues to produce some good DX in the wee hours, and I wanted to add before closing: operating barefoot was the thing to do this month when the propagation was good. Remember, sit down at your radio and call CQ because someone somewhere is listening for your call. You might want to try CW! So long from Huntersville for now. **73 and good DX from Bob/WØZPE.**

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Bob on now working CW and racking up even more countries for his DXCC. He proves that it is all possible even though this sunspot cycle has apparently the longest lull in sunspot numbers/flux between the former Cycle 23 and the current one. —WØKO.

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Gull Lake Repeater Work: Al (WØRC) and I found a strange problem (we hope) on the .225: An intermittent squelch control potentiometer. After wiping the mouse poop and acorn shells out, we cleaned the "pot" with a contact cleaner solvent. While there I checked a couple other things on the machine. So far everything seems normal. ---Roger WØWUG

Thanks, Guys! The Club Members are grateful for your expert technical work provided on 2-22-12 to keep the BAARC's Main Repeater 147.225 running. Also see p. 8.



Photo of the installation with test equipment. Pix and write-up provided by Roger WØWUG.

The 22nd Annual BAARC Participation in the Icefishing Extravaganza Deemed a Success

The somewhat delayed 22nd Annual Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza happened on a bone-chilling Saturday February 11, 2012, and BAARC operators were there to help.

Event co-chair, Steve NØCRM, worked with Security Director Clint Meyer all day keeping tabs on an estimated 12,500 participants; Ron KØGOP worked with Transportation Director Jason Jay, helping the shuttle bus operation run smoothly; Chris KDØLFA monitored traffic at the BIR parking area and then worked with the North Jaycee quarter boss; Doug KDØERE watched the north parking/bus activity and was relief net control operator; Rick KDØLFC enjoyed the cold helping observe activity in the south quarter of the fishing area; Terry KIØFW worked his usual "beat" in the First Aid Tent; while Shirley KØDCW ran net control again this year—wonderfully well as in the past.

AI WØRC proved once again that "things always run smoother" when he's around fixin' and doin'. This year it was getting generators started in below-zero temps, hauling operators around the huge fishing contest site with a trailer behind his ATV, and delivering lunch—not withstanding his infectious and always cheerful attitude that kept everyone going in less-than- perfect conditions.

The Jaycees were thankful, once again, according to their incoming President Clint Meyer, who came by the trailer to thank BAARC in person for our service and that of "shadow" Steve NØCRM. Sgt. Scott Goddard of the Crow Wing Sheriff's office was also thankful for BAARC's service in handling several messages relating to health, welfare, and public safety. Also much appreciated was Terry's (medical) observation assistance in the First Aid area with a half-dozen individuals receiving attention there.

All in all, the many operational participants from the on-ice first responders to the security personnel to the folks handling the logistics of the shuttle bus operations, to the vendors and the incredible Jaycees themselves were great. This event reportedly generates over \$1 million in revenue for local businesses and generates over \$200,000 in gifts to local Brainerd area charities by the Jaycees.

Thanks to all who participated in this year's event and to the BAARC board/membership for supporting this very worthwhile Club and community activity.

John Luce, WØWY
Event Co-chair

P.S. Despite the delayed start date, some 8,000 anglers braved the elements to win **\$230,000** in prizes. The top one was for the Pickup Truck and won by a first-timer, from Foley who caught a 6.37 lb. walleye. **See page 5 for Photos of Some of Club Participants at this Event.**

NEW GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING 60 MTRS. The FCC regulations allow a boost in effective radiated power from 50 to 100 W, as well as the ability to use CW and certain digital modes. For the complete details, check the following ARRL URL. <<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-publishes-new-guidelines-for-60-meters>>

Photos of the February 11 Frosty Icefishing Extravaganza—provided by John WØWY, Co-chair. Thanks, BAARC Crew, for another great Event.



Al WØRC hauling Terry KIØFW to the First Aid Station on the Ice at the Fishing Event.

Shirley KØDCW and Doug KDØERE taking a brief break from NCS duties to have a warm lunch.



Helping his dad is Fred Luce, John WØWY's son. He is standing on the ladder mounting an antenna for the event.

Needless to say, our Club's trailer got quite a bit of use again.

See page 4 for WØWY's write-up.

Camp Wilderness Amateur Radio Club Repeater Up and Running

On Saturday, December 17, 2011, the KØNLC amateur radio repeater at Camp Wilderness went on the air. The first contact was between Bill Jones, NØCIC, and John Crandall, KCØWCG in Wadena, nearly 50 miles from Camp! This repeater will serve as a way to introduce scouts and adults at Camp to amateur radio, as well as be a backup communications system for the Camp in case of an emergency. It is located next to the Winter Trading Post, across the road from the Director's Cabin. A cabinet inside the WTP houses all of the repeater equipment. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project and helped make it a reality. For anyone who would like more information about the Camp Wilderness Amateur Radio Club, visit <http://www.qsl.net/k0nlc>.

Thanks,

Brandon Wehner —(KCØEAK)



Brandon, the President of the Club, tells us that the repeater is on 147.390 (+ offset and no tones required). Its location is at Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp, approximately 20 miles north of Park Rapids. Try it out !

Update from Brandon Wehner Regarding the NL Club (2-14-12)

“We have been discussing a new net on our repeater. We plan on having it on Monday nights at 7 PM. We haven't picked out a start date yet, but we want to have things up and running by summer, so that the scouts who come out to camp during the summer can assist with net control and get their hands on some of the equipment while they're at camp. More info will be available later.”

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Info from AI WØRC—(continued from page 1). Thanks to Lyle KØLFV for the photos on page 1.

MT-63 is a Forward Error Correcting (FEC) mode for use with your transceiver and computer's sound card. MT-63 seems to be the (unofficial) emerging sound-card mode of preference for MARS net traffic. It is considerably faster than AMTOR and clearly more reliable/error free, particularly under poor conditions. Region One did some rather extensive testing of this mode and has a presentation of the results on the national web page;

<www.navymars.org/national/sound%20cards/default.htm >

Some advantages include:

- **Hookup** is easy and inexpensive. (You can try MT-63 with no interface at all. [Click Here](#) to see how.)

- MT-63, especially at 2000Hz, is much faster than AMTOR or Pactor FEC.
- Works very well under low power and poor conditions.
- Very resistant to interference. (We can actually send MT-63 during a voice communication with solid copy of both the voice and MT-63 by the receiving stations.)
- Tuning is not critical. Within 100Hz seems to work fine.

IZ8BLY MT-63 Freeware : [IZ8BLY version 1.1](#) ; [IZ8BLY version 2.2](#)



Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Dues Year January 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012
(One Application for Each Person)



Name (First, MI, Last) _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____ License Class: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Additional Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Date of Application: _____ Circle One: New / Renewal

E-mail Address: _____ Member ARRL? Circle One: Y / N

I would like to receive the BAARcer via the Internet / US Mail (Circle One). (Internet saves Club money)

Circle One: \$20 Full Member / \$10 Additional Family Member / \$10 Student Member

Note: For first-time members, pay \$5 per quarter for the time remaining in the year you join. For information on a life membership, contact Doug, our treasurer: <baartreasurer@charter.net>

Membership Dues \$ _____

Voluntary Contribution \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to BAARC. The Club is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible. **Mail to Treasurer.**

Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club
Treasurer - Doug Bergsnev
KDØERE
15912 Olsen Lane
Brainerd, MN 56401

I hereby make this application and agree to abide by the Club By-Laws.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Disclosure: This information will not be sold or given to another organization without express permission of the BAARC members.

Please mail one form, along with dues (check/money order), for each person who wants to be a member.

Check our Club's Website for other Information and Newsletters.

Regular Updates on the Sunday Night Nets on 147.225

www.brainerdham.org

SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS

03/04/12	Doug	KDØERE
03/11/12	Joe	KBØVYJ
03/18/12	Steve	WØTNT
03/25/12	Marcia	WØZMC
04/01/12	Rick	KBØWWJ
04/08/12	Dave	KDØNRI
04/15/12	Joe	KBØVYJ
04/22/12	Doug	KDØERE
04/29/12	John	WØWY

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

Running the Simplex Net is Optional.

Thanks to all NC Stations for this weekly service. Please let Fritz know if you can volunteer.

Thanks again, Al WØRC: He did some more work on our Echolink system on Feb. 7—this time mainly diagnosing the problem and replacing the defective UPS unit with a new one. Now the CPU and wireless router are on the new UPS. It should now give many hours of uninterruptible operation. Again— TNX for your expert work, Al.

What Strange Luck!!! Dave KBØWGO bought a used rig, and he found it would not work on our .225. So he thought he had bought a bad unit. But it turns out he just happened to try it on one of the rare days the repeater was off the air for repairs.

Balloon Launch from Baxter's Forestview Middle

School: Watch the publicity about it in the Brd. paper and on TV—KSAX and KAWE. It is tentatively scheduled for March 24 with BAARC's—WØRC and NØCRM helping.

Brainerd Hamfest Info/URL: brainerdham.org Then click on the Brainerd Hamfest ad on the opening page of the website. Remember: Our Brainerd Hamfest is April 14. Talk it up, please.

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