



# The BAARCer



July 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

**BAARC Members Enjoying the 2012 FD Event at Fairgrounds**



Some of the Sat. participants in front of the Club trailer (l-r) back row: Skee WØDCY, Steve WØTNT, Terry KIØFW, Dave KBØSCT, Fred WØJGY, Lyle KØLFV, John WØWY; front row (l-r) Chris KDØLFA, Ron KØGOP. The event had to be moved because of 5-10 inch rains in the area the previous week had washed out roads at the Cuyuna site. Members not shown here: Roger WØWUG, Steve NØCRM, & Fritz WØKO. See other photos on other pages. (Photo by WØKO)

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**— Events Calendar —**

**Sat., July 7, Club Brkfst.** @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.  
**Sat., July 21, Club Brkfst.** @ 9 @ Northwind Grille in Brd.  
**Thurs., July 26, Club Mtgs:** Board @ 4 and Regular Membership Mtg. @ 7  
 Tentative Program on Fox Hunting  
**Sat., Aug. 18, Annual Picnic & Fox Hunt (No Regular Monthly Mtg)** To be held at Lum Park. Terry KIØFW, Fox Hunt Chair. Details to follow.

**Listen for Activity Updates on our Sunday Night Nets**

**Encourage New Membership: Dues are still only \$20/year—a bargain for all you get. E-mail Doug for info: [djbdesk@gmail.com](mailto:djbdesk@gmail.com)**

## Thursday-June 28, 2012 – 4:00 PM - BAARC Board Meeting Minutes Brainerd Fire 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, Ron KØGOP, and Lyle KØLFV.

The President opened the meeting at 4:17 PM with 5 members in attendance. The May 2012 Minutes were approved as published in the BAARCer, motion and seconded by Doug KDØERE and Steve NØCRM. The Treasurer's Report was given, discussed, and approved by John WØWY and Ron KØGOP. Doug received additional checks to add to the treasury from equipment sales by Lyle KØLFV.

**Upcoming Events:** The **BAARC Summer Picnic and Foxhunt** was scheduled for Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup> at Lum Park, Brainerd. Other details to follow with Terry KIØFW as Fox Hunt Chairman. Lyle KØLFV will attempt to have perennial Fox Hunt winners Lyle KØLR and KØTHY present a **program on hunting tips** for the July 26<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. Their use of Yagi antennas, and especially, signal attenuators have made them hard to beat at the annual event.

**Digital & Emergency Communications:** The board discussed and approved spending \$4100 to purchase a VHF antenna, hard line, and labor for a Club presence on the new communications tower in Crosby. This investment will provide for extended VHF/UHF radio coverage over the eastern side of the Brainerd Lakes area. Future linking with other Club repeaters will greatly enhance the Club's coverage for SKYWARN, as well as community events like the **Mid-MN 150 Dog Sled Race** and **Cuyuna Bike Tour**. The board thanked John WØWY for his considerable efforts in this and other projects to maintain and improve Club communications systems.

Following a motion and second by Ron KØGOP and Lyle KØLFV, the board meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

## Thursday-June 28, 2012 - 7:00 PM - BAARC Membership Meeting Minutes Brainerd Fire Station

The President opened the Club membership business meeting at 7:03 PM with 13 members and guests present. The May 2012 minutes were approved as printed in the June BAARCer by Fritz WØKO and John WØWY. The Treasurer's Report was presented, approved and seconded by Tom KCØNGJ and Lyle KØLFV. Lyle received a round of applause in appreciation for his tireless efforts in the securing and selling of donated equipment for the Club. Upcoming events and old and new business were discussed, along with a report on digital and emergency communications. John WØWY outlined many details of the new Club opportunities with the Crosby tower project.

Following the business meeting and break, Lyle, John and Ron gave presentations on recent Club participation in the **2012 Dayton Hamvention**, **Central MN Healthcare System's Exercise: "Operation Gone With The Wind"**, and **2012 ARRL Field Day**.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

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

## DX and the Paper Chase

Years ago when I was Tech+, Glen Johnson (WØGJ) gave a talk to the Club about his adventures in Bhutan, both as a volunteer orthopedic surgeon and Ham radio operator. Glen is a world-class DXer and radio operator. He's on the ARRL Honor Roll, and I wanted to work Bhutan while Glen was there. I soon realized that the propagation from that part of the world to the upper Midwest for the most part was iffy at best. As the years went by, I wasn't able to work Glen while he was in Bhutan, nor was I able to work other operators that were QRV from time to time. All this changed earlier this month when the DXpedition (A5A) was QRV, and the propagation gods were favoring the Midwest. Finally I was able to work Bhutan. The operators were great and so were the humongous pileups. I started early one morning and 3 hours later I made the log for A5A. It took a lot of patience, but in the end it put a smile on my face and a new country in my log. Ham radio is a wonderful hobby: there is something for everyone. For this operator there is only one thing that I focus on and that's DXing. This was my focus when I passed my first exam and this is why I worked so hard to get my CW exam passed. DX is my passion: its my commitment to myself and to my hobby. Sometimes I wonder what else it takes to be a DXer. Well, it takes a lot of aluminum, some good propagation, some power helps—and most importantly, it takes a huge amount of patience. I like to think that I'm part of the community of worldwide DXers, and that's a good bunch of folks to be associated with. That's about all for now but. 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**.

**Field Day Preparations Started a Week Before:** Fritz WØKO sent out the press releases to area newspapers, radio stations, and one television station. Then the Club communications trailer was readied by John WØWY, Terry KIØFW, and Lyle KØLFV. They checked out the generators and cleaned up everything; was in fine shape. There are plenty of coax cables to do the antennas Lyle has in mind. He said we'll not be using the beam on the tower-trailer as he has other antennas planned. Also, Lyle has loaded our logging program and a networking program on John's laptop for Steve NØCRM and John to use in his trailer. Lyle, Ron KØGOP, and Dave KCØTGT will be working on the networking part this week to see if that will make operating/logging more accurate (we should be able to see each other's logs) and it will be fun. Lyle will be working with Ron to get the networking/logging program to work better. John volunteered to bring the Club's trailer up to the site late Friday afternoon (6/22) as Lyle will be there to help him and he (LFV) will be staying Friday night. Steve WØTNT notified Jim KCØWME, who is the Park's Conservation Officer of our activities too. John will send an email, as he has in years past, to Scott Heide at the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Dispatch Center, advising him of our operation. Hopefully we will get some extra patrols. What with the increase in mountain biking activity there (which is a good thing for the community and the State's park system) the increased "traffic" could be bad for us. (Perhaps a new site for next year?) As always, Lyle sent out more information just before the start of Field Day to all our members. Of course, all look forward to operating again this year. Fred, John's son WØJGY, and Steve NØCRM will ham it up. It should be fun. We can control/plan for almost anything, but the WX has to be dealt with as it comes. P.S.—Then we changed location—all OK anyway.—(Info provided by John WØWY & Lyle KØLFV)

**Governor's Proclamation for Field Day :** Governor Mark Dayton has issued a proclamation for Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Days to be June 23 and 24, 2012. Our special thanks to Mike Sigelman, KØBUD, our ARRL-MN Section Public Information Coordinator for his work in getting this proclamation from the governor's office. You can see the complete document by going to [www.mn-section.org](http://www.mn-section.org).

More on FD and BAARC's activities on Pages 4, 5, and 6.

**Field Day Site Moved to County Fairgrounds: Reason—WX Problems:** After lots of discussion among the leaders and participants in the yearly FD event and after receiving a phone call from the DNR early Wednesday morning that the road to the CCSRA Overlook had washed out, it became a mad scramble to try to line up an alternate site.

Nevertheless, Field Day Weekend Schedule went as follows: it started with a breakfast on Saturday morning at the Northwind Grille. A full day of operation took place Saturday starting at 1 p.m. The equipment and antennas had all been checked out previously. Generators were humming quietly. Saturday evening a potluck supper was enjoyed to which the hams brought something to share, if they wished.

On site they monitored 147.225 for talk-in and if there would be any threatening WX conditions. Fritz WØKO was monitoring the Airport Automated WX system and NOAA out of Leader. Luckily, no bad WX/Lightning developed. The HF bands appeared to have lots of FD enthusiasts enjoying the days of operating. On-site communications used the ECOM Repeater 444.925 + (no tone). Some 2 mtr. simplex frequencies were used also. The **BAARC Field Operations took place from Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 PM through Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> 12:00 Noon.** Then at 12:00 Noon, the teardown of antennas and equipment had to take place.

**Many thanks to the following:**

John WØWY, who was contacting people from the Brainerd Fairgrounds and Ski Gull and received approval this morning for the Fairgrounds property; to Al WØRC, who was looking at a site in the Pillsbury State Forest; to Roger WØWUG, who was getting approval to use the Merrifield Marathons Snowmobile Club property; and to Dave KCØTGT, who was trying to get approval for a couple of sites in the Ironton area. Again, with all of this effort we did finally find a location that worked very well for our operations. Luckily the *Brainerd Dispatch* printed an update in the Friday's edition noting our change of venue. Again, many thanks for all of your efforts in securing a site for our 2012 FD activities.

— Lyle KØLFV—BAARC Chief FD Organizer



**Part of Friday's Set-Up Crew:** Pictured (l-r) Skee WØDCY, Fred WØJGY, Dave KBØSCT, white-shirted antenna designer Terry KIØFW, and Ron KØGOP. Photo by Lyle KØLFV (Antenna is unusual, but a working model designed by Terry KIØFW). See more of the antennas on another page. Thanks to Lyle KØLFV this photo.

**Results of the Event:** It was reported that the Fairgrounds site was nearly ideal—running water, toilets, close to town, almost no mosquitoes—and great WX. Ron KØGOP said the networking (WiFi) they hoped to use, did not materialize completely as the various operating positions were too far apart. Still, a lot was learned. Lyle KØLFV added that 37 digital (PSK31) and 151 phone (SB) contacts were made for a total of 188. Nearly all the States were worked. We had 21 Licensed Hams show up for our FD weekend and 4 non hams/visitors for a total of 25. Also newspaper coverage spread the word and Lakeland Public TV interviewed John WØWY at the field Day site.

**FD 2012 and Participants at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds:**

Going clockwise starting on the right: Fred WØJGY with his dad John WØWY operating from their communications trailer; Skee WØDCY using his solar-powered unit in his fold-down camper. Bottom on the right in the Club trailer is Chief Operator Lyle KØLFV getting assistance from Tom KCØNGJ. The antennas you see at the bottom silhouetted were taken by Steve NØCRM. Ron KØGOP is in his neatly arranged military-style communications trailer complete with antennas, etc. Immediately below is Jim KCØWME on left with Steve WØTNT in Steve's trailer using his outstanding K2 rig. It is clear that all had a fun time.

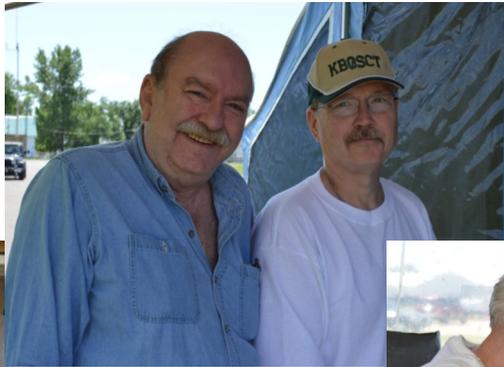


**Top 5 photos by Fritz WØKO**



**These three photos on the bottom by Steve NØCRM.**

**Others having fun also:**  
**r) is visitor C.J. KDØRRS**  
**On the left is Chris**  
**with Steve\_WØTNT.**  
**KIØFW operating from**



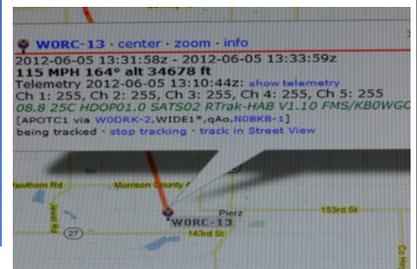
**Shown in top photo (l-**  
**with Dave KBØSCT.**  
**KDØLFA operating**  
**On the right is Terry**  
**his camper.**

A Visiting Ham also

He was Jim KC8UPT



**Balloon Launch 6-5-12 from Forestview Middle School:** The third of the series was launched and retrieved successfully, according to Dave **KBØWGO**. Apparently at 34K feet just west of Pierz, the radio unit stopped transmitting. But the balloon and payload kept climbing and came down near Clearlake, MN. The tracking vehicles were able to locate it and bring it back to the school where the data could be downloaded and analyzed. They believe it reached 104K feet because of photos taken with the camera aboard showing the curvature of the earth. Al **WØRC** and Shirley **KØDCW** again took part in the event, but not all of the 13 students could attend because of the summer break. Of course, teachers Corey Olson and Jim Reed were in charge. Pix on bottom right shows the last transmission west of Pierz. Thanks to John **WØWY** for info. (Photos this page—**WØKO**)



## 3M Swapfest Helps Club Through the Efforts of our Master Seller—Lyle KØLFV

Lyle attended the 3M Tailgate Swapfest in St. Paul on June 2 and was able to sell an additional \$538 of the Longville donated equipment. This now brings the total sales of the Longville donated equipment to \$1361. He said there were many more sellers than buyers at the Tailgate Swapfest. He was hoping to have more sales; however, not too many Hams were spending money. Nevertheless, still a super job, Lyle!!! Thanks for your continued effort on behalf of the BAARC. By the way, Lyle is our resident expert seller/trader of used but valuable equipment. He does his best to recycle ham gear for the Club.



## Tour-of-the-Lakes Bike Ride of 6-2-12

The Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club did communications for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual ride on Saturday, June 2, 2012. The weather was beautiful and we had over 1100 bike riders, very few problems, and no injuries.

Al WØRC was net control with help from Terry KIØFW and Charles W5CCL. The SAG wagon radio operators were John WØWY, Shirley KØDCW and Alan AAØAS; Doug KDØERE, Wynn KA3DQN, Jim WØJDS and Chris KDØLFA all covered the rest stops, and Roger WØWUG was our rover.

Thank you to all our operators. You all did a super job and we got lots of compliments from the race organizers as well as from the bicycle riders themselves.— de Shirley KØDCW

**SUNDAY NIGHT NET OPERATORS**

07/01/12	Joe	KBØVYJ
07/08/12	Dave	KDØNRI
07/15/12	Bob	WØZPE
07/22/12	Marcia	WØZMC
07/29/12	Rick	KBØWWJ
08/05/12	Fritz	WØKO
08/12/12		
08/19/12	Charles	W5CCL
08/26/12	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

*PLEASE???????*

**SIMPLEX NET IS OPTIONAL.**

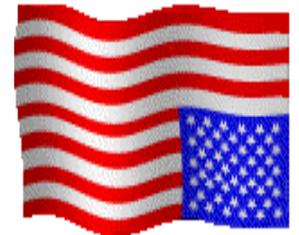
**Our thanks to all NCS Volunteers.**

**Paul KØLAV reports that the 147.090 repeater** is back on the air at a "new" site east in Cass County. They installed the "old" MICOR repeater from the fire tower site, and it still worked even after a year in storage. It needs a 123.0 Hz CTCSS access. QTH: 7 miles east of Jenkins, MN on Maple Hill. Ground elevation at site is 1520 ft AMSL and there is a 180 ft high tower on the hilltop. A 6 db gain commercial two-way antenna is located at the top, and it is 361 feet above average terrain. The repeater transmitter is currently 100 watts out with about 80 watts from the duplexer. Coverage reports needed: send them to Paul <[pemeott@comcast.net](mailto:pemeott@comcast.net)>

**D-Star enthusiast are invited join Rick KBØWWJ** and others on Friday evenings @ 2030. Rick is NCS and would like to remind new & old D-Star Reflector enthusiasts to join in. Contact: KBØWWJ-L Echolink Node 616197 or <[madams634@yahoo.com](mailto:madams634@yahoo.com)>

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**Happy Independence Day—July 4th!**  
**Let's Enjoy and Appreciate our Freedoms.**



**United We Stand**

**First Class Mail**  
Address Correction Requested

**Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club**  
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