



The BAARCer



June 2015

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) r

145.130 MHz- Echo Link

Node number 233515

443.925 MHz + 110.9 Hz

Packet: 145.670 MHz

MNBRD, BRDBBS

144.390 WØUJ APRS

Crosslake 147.030

MHz+

Crosby 146.700 MHz-

Tone 141.3

Crosby 444.925 MHz +

<http://brainerdham.org>

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Ralph Fedor, KØIR, presenter at the Dinner on May 28, 2015.

Program was on the very successful DXpedition to Navassa Island in February.



Shown with KØIR are four BAARC members who worked the record-breaking team of 15 operators: l-r: Stan K3JKW, Fritz WØKO, Ralph (veteran DXpedition leader), Al WØRC, and Dan KØTI. Known by the K1N call sign, Ralph and his team made over 140K QSOs using almost all modes and on all bands. The cost: \$350K, funded by many DX foundations, radio clubs, individuals, and the 15 participants. The BAARC was a sponsoring Club. Photo by KØTEG

— Events Calendar —

- Sat., June 6, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille—Brd.**
- Sat., June 6, Tour of the Lakes Bicycle Ride—Fairgrounds :** Details on our Net
- Sat., June 20, Club Breakfast @ 9 @ Northwind Grille—Brd.**
- Technology Group Mtg after the BRKFST—to be held at Brd. Lib.**
- Thurs., June 25, BAARC Board & Membership Mtg @ Fire Station @ 4 & 7.**
- Sat., June 27-28th (Sun). BAARC's ARRL Field Day Event @ Fairgrounds.**
- Sat., Aug. 29—Free BAARC Tailgate Hamfest at Crow Wing County Fairgrounds.**

Paid your \$20 Dues yet for 2015?—Please get your check in to Doug.

UPDATES ON SUNDAY NIGHT NETS—ALWAYS!

DX and the Paper Chase

I've had a full plate the past couple of months with medical issues and the like. My energy level was unrecognizable, so HF radio wasn't front and center as it usually is. The good news is that I'm on the road to recovery. There will be one more radiation treatment plus some additional doctor stuff, and I can say that I punted one through the uprights. Thanks for your thoughts and prayers. The 70th anniversary of the end of WWII was widely participated in by lots of European countries using special calls both on phone and on CW. This was a superb opportunity to get ATNO (all time new ones) as they came out of the woodwork. I copied European countries that I'd not heard in years. Band conditions at that time were fairly good making it easy to work Europe. Since then, 17 meters has suffered the blahs and 12 meters became my band of choice the past couple of days. As for the paper chase, a couple of QSL cards arrived in my mailbox putting yours truly at 305 confirmed and counting. My immediate plans are to get back on HF for a couple of hours each day, and I know that this will lift my sprits. Remember to sit down at your station and call CQ because others somewhere are listening for your call, so don't disappoint them. So long from Huntersville for now. Best 73 es gud DX from **Bob/WØZPE**.

Radio Call Saves SOTA Climber Following Fall ---from ARRL 5-28-15

A Littleton, Colorado, radio amateur and mountaineer was happy to have his hand-held transceiver along on May 17 after he slipped and fell from an icy ledge in Berthoud Pass while snowshoeing. Summits On The Air ([SOTA](#)) enthusiast Brad Byland, WA6MM, said he's been climbing and mountaineering for many years now and never before came this [close](#) to "a possible life-ending disaster." "I'm doing fine," Byland told ARRL this week. "I didn't get hurt...only bad wind and sunburn on my face! My daughter says my geeky hobby — [ham](#) radio — saved me from my dangerous hobby — climbing and mountaineering!"

Navassa —K1N—2015 —edited info from their website

It was over too soon considering that it took 15 years to gain permission, plan, and execute the DXpedition.

The DX world is very complimentary of our results. 140,000 QSOs and over 30,000 uniques. This is especially impressive when you consider that we had only 14 active operators, 7 HF radios, 5 small amplifiers and only 4 small beams. Many of our QSOs were made barefoot and with dipoles hanging very high on the lighthouse on Navassa. This is what we called a MVC (Minimum Viable Configuration) necessitated by the use of helicopters for primary transport.

We have many to thank. The USFWS for allowing our operation after 22 years off-the-air. The terrific team of USFWS officers and biologists who accompanied us and became part of our team. Our sponsors, both equipment and financial, our team of radio pilots, our helicopter crew of Danilo, Nelson and JC, the staff of Moxon's Beach Club, the staff at Ian Fleming Intl. Airport and our new friends, the Haitian fisherman at Navassa. When we departed, they received gifts from us of gasoline, clean water, clothing, food and other items. Hopefully, this will help them in their difficult and dangerous existence.

Lastly, we want to recognize and thank a group of 1543 DXers. These people heard and responded to our plea for financial support prior to our DXpedition. These special and generous people had their QSOs with K1N uploaded to LoTW (logbook of the world). This service was NOT a condition of their contribution, but comes as a completed surprise.

Thanks to you all for a memorable experience!

More Notes on KØIR's Program—it continues from page 1 and in addition to page 3 info
Navassa Island is of volcanic origin located in the Caribbean between Cuba and Haiti. It was claimed for the U.S. by Captain Duncan in 1856 and thus became a possession of our country. The value at the time was for phosphate mining. Over the years, lots of guano and bats occupied the island at the time. Now it is inhabited by rodents, lizards, and goats. A small group of struggling Haitian fishermen also find the island a temporary haven.

In 1896, due to harsh working conditions, the miners rebelled. Soon thereafter, the government saw more value in the island as a navigation point because of Panama Canal traffic. The lighthouse was kept going for many years until the Coast Guard opted for modern navigation techniques. 1996-1999 the light house service was discontinued—lucky for the DXpedition the building and lighthouse served as anchoring places for the wire antennas—and even Old Glory. For the operators, the 21-day event was a rugged camping experience, but all went well.

Since the US Fish and Wildlife Service was given control of the island, that governmental agency has been very restrictive and even obstructive, according to Ralph. Finally, after 13 years they got the permission. Jamaicans even helped get the approval.

Helicopters from the Dominican Republic had to be hired for the delivery of gear and men. This was an expensive operation in itself. Each trip could carry 1250-3000 pound loads and 3 hams to the island. Each flight took 2 hours. Food, water, gasoline, generators, radio gear, antennas, much hardware—all had to be hauled to the island and all had to be removed. Nothing could be left on the island. In getting the gear to the island, lots of improvisations were made, like a pulley-winch system of bringing heavy gear and persons from a boat to the island's top surface. The rugged rocky shoreline can easily wreck boats—and hurt men.

No air conditioning was available, so the team suffered some 117F days. Obviously the team was tough, disciplined, and comfortable with all members of the expedition. In fact, lots of practical experience and some had worked together before—helped the cause.

Did you know that because of the high transportation costs, water was nearly \$6/gal. The old cistern on the island did not have clean water. Here is a quick rundown of the gear: Honda generators worked well, K3 radios with the P3 panadapters, and KT 500 amps were used with great success. Of course, they had laptops for the operations—can you imagine doing paper logs for 140K contacts? Antennas used were dipoles, SteppIR yagis, and verticals.

Because nothing could be left behind on the island and because transportation costs were high, they team did themselves a favor by generously giving their unused MREs, hardware, etc to the very needy Haitians, Needless to say, they were very appreciative, according to Ralph, because their earnings with fishing were meager. See page 3 for more information from the website on this humanitarian contribution.

From the BAARC, we thank Ralph Fedor for providing us with another very educational, expertly presented program with slide show on one of the most fascinating aspects of our hobby that few of us can participate in directly—but ones we can experience vicariously when people like KØIR recreate them before our eyes and ears. —*My apologies to Ralph for the brevity here with these notes—Fritz WØKO*

FCC to Eliminate Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Regulatory Fee

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category. The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.— from **ARRL Bulletin May 26, 2015**

A Triangle of Respect

Having kicked around this radiosport contesting game for a long time, I have witnessed a lot of technological twists and turns toppling dearly-held assumptions and expectations. Techniques once thought crucial (Anybody remember how important it was to be able to hold a pencil and send code at the same time?) or extraordinary (sending and writing with different hands, for example) are completely unknown today. Hotly debated rules such as having to remove duplicate contacts from our paper logs or risk a penalty have been reversed and we are encouraged to log and report dupes! More change comes with every new contest season.

Yet underlying all of this turmoil must be something common, something fundamental, which keeps contesting and the radiosport community vibrant and moving more or less in the same direction. So many different people and so many different techniques and so many different circumstances! Yet, in the finest traditions of Amateur Radio, we self-organize to conduct our competitions and celebrate our results year after year even in the face of relentless innovation and invention. What is that bedrock on which radiosport rests? Back when I was an impressionable high school student, our award-winning principal, Dr. Al Burr, managed to steer to success an institution composed of hundreds and hundreds of students, faculty of all backgrounds and interests, and an administrative staff charged with keeping the whole thing on the rails. Each year, during the first week of school, we got what was popularly referred to as "The Triangle Talk" during an all-hands-on-deck, school-wide assembly in which Dr. Burr covered what made West tick, and tick it did. Instead of a manual of do-and-don'ts, we had a SINGLE sheet of paper on which was written six principles of interaction for a triangle of students, teachers, and administration: All parties were expected to share and balance privileges, freedoms, and responsibilities; know the difference between desires and rights; take ownership of change; and above all, conduct our affairs in an atmosphere of mutual respect and dignity.

What Dr. Burr knew well (and what we were discovering as students) was that without respect, it didn't matter how many rules, regulations, processes, procedures, and penalties were applied. As he wrote me recently, the handbook approach results in an atmosphere of "Make rule, watch, catch, report, penalize. This paradigm pits two groups (teachers and administrators) against the other group (students). I believe that under those conditions it is impossible to ever establish a oneness of purpose."

In short, without respect you had nothing. And so it is in our radiosport community. Our triangle is a little different because we are all students, teachers, and administrators. Sometimes all at once! Thus, our triangle is one of respect:

Respect for others - paraphrasing the Golden Rule, "Operate as you would have others operate." Do not take unfair advantage on or off the air. Understand that every right you claim comes with the responsibility to use that right wisely and so that all benefit from your actions.

Respect for the game - you hear that phrase all the time from professional athletes, especially the ones being honored by their peers. Ask yourself, "Does my conduct on the air make radiosport better? Do I encourage others to participate in a positive way? Have I done my part to support and advance radiosport for the community?"

Respect for ourselves - it doesn't matter if you feel anonymous in front of your radio. You know if you cheated, whether you were caught or not. You know if you behaved well and reasonably. First and foremost, you have to earn respect from the person looking back at you in the bathroom mirror every morning. An entire encyclopedia of rules can't change that or do it for you.

Oneness of purpose - I like that phrase, don't you? Sometimes I say it as "knowing where the Good Arrow points" and I'm sure each reader has his or her own way of similar thinking. Our continued enjoyment of radiosport and Amateur Radio by their very nature depend on cooperation and, deeper, on the respect we all have for each other as amateurs sharing our special privilege and ability to experience the world in ways mysterious and unknown to others. I work on my triangle every day and I hope you do, too.

73, Ward NØAX——from the ARRL

Photos randomly selected from the Dinner event at the Nisswa Legion and Program. Our thanks to Jim Shubert, WØJDS, for making the yearly arrangements with the Nisswa Legion for the meal. The food was and always is delicious and reasonably priced. Big thanks also go to Treasurer Doug Bergsnev, KDØERE, for handling the finances again. All seemed to enjoy this get-together. Thanks too to Pres. Steve NØCRM and others for help with technical hook-ups.



SUNDAY NIGHT NCS OPS

06-07-15	Rick	NØBJN
06-14-15	Dave	KCØTGT
06-21-15	Tim	KDØYLO
06-28-15	Tim	KDØYLO
07-05-15	Rick	NØBJN
07-12-15	Dave	KCØTGT
07-19-15	Tim	KDØYLO
07-26-15	Tim	KDØYLO

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

Would you like to take a turn at NCS?

Re. Last Month's Issue--TNX to Lyle and Ron, your **BAARCer** editor was able to finish the project--though it was later than he desired. The problem was in Fritz' software/computer. Fortunately Lyle KØLFV came to his QTH and managed to get a copy on a flash drive. After Fritz delivered the flash drive in person to Ron. Our very able secretary copied it but had to do some manipulation to get it into acceptable PDF form for the BAARC web. Hopefully that won't happen with this June's copy. The software glitch of not letting Publisher be converted to PDF was later fixed by Lyle. Certainly, Fritz is very thankful for all the technical help received.

Congrats to TJ on a neat new Call Sign: He shortened it from KEØEGA to KØTEG. TJ is the newest licensed in the BAARC (he took his test at our April Hamfest). We hardly got used to his first one. Will he try to shorten it more when he gets an Extra class license?

There was no formal mtg. in May--Expect to see catch-up minutes from KØGOP next month.

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