



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club      traverse city, mi

January 2012

## Coming Club Events

### January 24th Club Meeting

This months meeting will feature a video, our annual elections and a discussion of the club repeater system and what is needed in the way of upgrades. Where: The Governmental Center Lower Level Cafeteria located at Boardman and Eighth Street. 7 pm. Coffee and cookies and plenty of time for socializing after the video.

### Tuesday Project Nights

Where: At the club station in the lower level of the Salvation Army Building located at the NE corner of Barlow and Boone. 7 p.m. Every Tuesday except the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month which is reserved for the regular club meeting.

## Forward Waves

### VE EXAMS:

**Sault Sainte Marie**, Saturday, January 28, 2012. Eastern UP ARC. 11:00 AM. Walk-ins OK. Faith Lutheran Church, 1600 Park St. SS Marie. Contact: Dave (906) 440-4605.

**Traverse City, MI**. Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. At the Swap-n-Shop. 10 am. Immaculate Conception Elementary School. Walk-ins OK. Contact: Hope AA8SN 231 941-7262 or [hopeaa8sn@juno.com](mailto:hopeaa8sn@juno.com)

### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**. Negaunee, MI. HARA Swap-n-Shop. Hiawatha Amateur Radio Assoc. Negaunee Twp Hall, 42 Highway M-35. 8 am. TI: 147.27 (PL 100) Contact: John N8RSE (906) 228-9417 or [carczar52@gmail.com](mailto:carczar52@gmail.com)

**Saturday, February 11, 2012**. Traverse City, MI. Cherryland ARC Swap-n-Shop Immaculate Conception Elementary School. 218 Vine St. 8 am til noon. TI: 146.86 (PL 100). Contact: Joe W8TVT at (231) 947-8555 or [jjnovak@charter.net](mailto:jjnovak@charter.net)

## Reflected Waves

### January 1992

The January election resulted in the following slate of officers: President Chuck **W8SGR**, Vice President Barry **K18W**, Recording Secy Art **N8HKQ**, Corresponding Secy Holly **KB8ALS** and Treasurer George **NZ8H**. The directors are Rob **N8LDQ**, Joe **W8TVT**, and Paul **K8HIB**. Newsletter editor is Elbert **W8SY**. Joe **W8TVT** presented a repeater card listing the local frequencies. The card is suitable for carrying in the car or wallet.

### January 2003

The HOY award for 2002 was presented to Jon Doneth at **KC8CW** at the annual Christmas Party. Elected officers for 2003 are: President Hope **A8SN**, Vice President Chuck **W8SGR**, Recording Secy Gloria **N8KXJ**, Corresponding Secy Bill **W8PIT** and Treasurer Ward **N8WK**. The Directors are: Jon **N8UL**, George N **KB8YPL** and Norm **N8STS**. Cherry Juice Editor is Dave **N8CN**.

Club Officers  
President  
Don N8QX

Vice President  
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy  
Russ K8RUS

Corresponding Secy  
Dave K8WPE

Treasurer  
Ward N8WK

Directors

Ann KA8AYJ

Chuck W8SGR

Mike W8VPC

Cherry Juice Editor  
Dave N8CN

CLUB NETS

MESH NET  
8 pm Monday  
146.86 MHZ

SMASH NET  
9 am Sunday  
3.935 MHZ

TBARG EmComm Net  
9 pm Monday  
146.86



ARRL Affiliated Club  
#1082

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year, the weather was nearly perfect for the annual CARC Christmas party making travel easy for all who attended. Though the crowd was a little smaller than usual, a good time was had by all. Once again, Ernie **K8RCT** provided the entertainment with a medley of Christmas Carols on his bagpipes. The eagerly awaited Ham of the Year award was presented to Mike **W8VPC** for his contributions of time and talent to both the CARC and TBAREG. Last years winner Ernie **K8RCT** presented the award with an entertaining speech and slide show. Traveling from East Jordan was Pastor Ralph **AB8BN** and his wife Karen. The Christmas party is always a good time to enjoy food and fellowship with CARC members and spouses. I hope you will make room in your calender for next year.

## CLUB DUES

Treasurer Ward **N8WK** sent out dues reminders with the Swap-n-Shop flyer. Club dues are very import this year as we have some major expenses coming up this year. Thanks to a successful swap (revenue enhancement) and budget cutting (eliminating the snail mail Cherry Juice) our dues remain unchanged and the greatest bargain in NW Michigan at \$12.00 per year. Additional family members are only \$2.00. We no longer require a \$12.00 autopatch fee but encourage a voluntary repeater fund donation to pay for future equipment repairs and tower climbs.

## SWAP-N-SHOP IS NEARLY HERE!

I hope you've got your calendar marked for Saturday morning, February 11<sup>th</sup>. That's our annual swap and ONLY regular fund raiser. Once again we will be holding the swap at Immaculate Conception Elementary School in the gymnasium and cafeteria. We will have a pre-swap supper at the Elks Club on Friday night at 5:00 pm and go to the school afterwards to set-up the tables and kitchen. Help is always appreciated for set-up.

Saturday morning, Joe **W8TVT** will be there bright and early (around 7 am) for vendor set-up and the swap will open to the public at 8 am. We will hold the 50-50 Raffle at 10 am and all the door prizes will be award by 11:30. Take-down and clean-up will start as close to noon as possible and if we get lots of help for clean-up, we should be out of the gym by 1 pm. Contact Joe **W8TVT** if you can help and he will be able to tell you where your talents are needed. If you can't work, please attend as a good crowd is needed for financial success. If you can't attend, buy a ticket anyway and you'll be in the drawing for the major door prizes and you'll be helping the club. Contact Ward **N8WK** if you need an early ticket!

## CLUB TRAILER DECONSTRUCTION PARTY

Saturday morning, at the garage of Dave Hanchett **KJ4KFJ**, the CARC trailer was stripped of its recyclable metals. After several attempts by the Board to find a buyer and the refusal of various recyclers to accept the trailer for recycling until it was stripped of its wood, insulation, etc it was decided to de-construct the trailer and recycle whatever we could.

Assisting Dave in the gutting of the carcass were Ward **N8WK**, Joe **W8TVT**, Dave **K8WPE**, and Dave Hanchett's son Nick. Dave's wife grilled some burgers for the crew and Joe reported that Nick arrived just in time for lunch and gave a much needed boost of enthusiasm as the crew was beginning to tire after 2-3 hours of demolition. Dave **KJ4KFJ** took the salvaged metal and received 125.00 for the lot. He will also take the chassis of the trailer for re-cycling at a later date.



## FAMILIAR CALLS?

Received an e-mail from Joe **W8TVT** the other that he had forwarded from Mary Ann Stoner, **W8VWY**. Mary Ann is the secretary of the ARROW Communication Association radio club in Ann Arbor and she wanted to let Joe know that her club is sponsoring a Dayton chartered bus trip in may. She will be sending some flyers for display at out February swap.

I was immediately struck by Mary Anne's call, **W8VWY**. That's the former call of Mary Anne's dad, Marion Stoner (SK). Marion and his wife Beverley were long time CARC members and ran our VE program for many years. They administered all of my CW tests and all my other exams above the Technician Class. They also administered by son's Technician exam. Mary Anne reports that Beverley **K8ZJU** is doing just fine and active with VE program for the ARROW club. Due to antenna restrictions she is only active on 2 meters. She has a 75 meter antenna in the attic of her condo but the band has severe noise issues at her location. Nice to hear she is doing well and still active in ham radio.

## TBARG: THE RCT REPORT

Thanks to everyone who participated in December 3<sup>rd</sup> VHF simplex exercise! It was a huge success in that we met all the goals and even some of the hidden goals in the exercise. As you know, our main goal was to determine which areas in Grand Traverse County could be contacted on VHF simplex from Munson Hospital. However, there was another goal, getting everyone to check out their gear and program in the new PL tones for the repeaters. None of us wanted to be sitting in our car with a radio in one hand and the manual in another hand trying to program PL tones in a blizzard!

We had 12 hams show up for the event and we covered the entire county from the Old Mission Peninsula all the way down to Fife Lake. We set up five monitoring stations who's duty it was to monitor the transmission from the mobile units that were going to strategic locations in the county. Each mobile station would announce when they were at their assigned location and, when prompted, would transmit a 30 second broadcast on high power and then again on low power. Each monitoring station would record the signal strength for each transmission. Here is the list of monitoring stations, and the ham(s) that staffed the station:

Munson Hospital - Mike, W8VPC, Mike KD8REH,(net controls on .86 and .53), Ernie, K8RCT, observer

M-72 by TV station - Bob, WA8ABL

Monroe Center - Harry, KA8RIV

Old Mission Peninsula - Don, N8QX

Fife Lake - Chuck, W8SGR and Brad, W8QPO

In addition to the monitor station, we dispatched 5 mobile units that went to 21 strategic locations around the county. Each of the mobile units would be contacted in turn by net control (Munson) and make their high and low power transmissions. They would immediately move to the next location on their list while net control contacted the next mobile. This continued until all 21 locations had been visited. Mobile station dispatched during the exercise were:

Jon, N8UL

Steve, KB8RDI

Jim, K8OJP

Doc Dave, K8WPE

Ward, N8WK

In addition to the activity in Grand Traverse County, Benzie County ran a concurrent exercise with ours. The purpose of the concurrent exercise was to determine which area in Benzie County could communicate on VHF simplex with various areas of Grand Traverse County We know disaster don't stop at county line and that we can depend on the BARF group to coordinate with us during any disaster or disaster drill. This concurrent exercise showed that while Munson Hospital had a difficult time hearing most of the units in Benzie County, several of our monitoring station had good signal strength readings for Benzie. This was something we needed to determine in advance of any real situation. Many thanks to our good friends and collaborators in the BARF group!

Lessons learned:

1. Make sure your equipment works, PL tones programmed, batteries charged and antenna working
2. Old Mission Peninsula is a better location for the BARGE than M-72 by the windmill
3. The new antenna installation at Munson made a HUGE difference in being able to contact downtown Traverse City on simplex
4. During a wide-area exercise, each county should use a different simplex frequency. During this exercise we coordinated with Benzie County and we all used 146.52 just to see if we could make contact between our mobile units and Benzie County. We could in some cases but there was a lot of traffic that sort of clogged up the simplex frequency.
5. A little net discipline training would be good. This was my fault for not announcing that the 146.86 repeater was closed and that we were running a directed net.
6. We should have used tactical call instead of individual call signs. We all knew who "Munson" was but not everyone knew where "K8GTC" (Munson) was located.
7. Having 2 radios or a radio that can monitor two frequencies makes life a lot simpler than switching back and forth on one radio.
8. While this was primarily a Grand Traverse County and Benzie County exercise, we should include our bordering counties the next time we have an exercise like this one.

Thank you again TBARGers and BARFers (geez, that sounds bad)! I had fun and learned a lot. I hope you did too...

-73, Ernie **K8RCT**

Grand Traverse Co. EC

## WHITE PINE STAMPEDE

OK gang, here's the info on the 2012 White Pine Stampede. For the past several years a bunch of TBARG/CARC members have helped out at this event. The CCE ham radio guys have asked for our assistance again this year. It will be held on Feb 4th from 8 AM to approximately 2:30 PM. We meet in Mancelona about 7AM to get our assignments and dispatch to our assigned locations.

I'll be bringing the Barge up again this year...it's a nice warm operating position. We even have our own coffee pot!

Mike, **W8VPC** has been the TBARG ramrod for this so please let him know if you can assist!

-73, Ernie, **K8RCT**

## THE PURPOSE OF FIELD DAY: Part One

We debate this throughout the ham radio community. Some say the purpose is to improve our communication skills for emergency purposes during a national or global disaster. Yet others say that it's main purpose is to promote ham radio and it's ability to respond to disaster. And others say its strictly a contest, and the better each group does, the more points they rack up, thus making it clearly just a contest. So, what is Field Day? What's its purpose? Is the purpose all of the above?

Well, is it a contest where participants practice their emergency skills while promoting their abilities as skilled radio operators?

If this is the entire purpose, then this lays out the venue and establishes the baseline for all of us, if we all agree. And as we participate, together, we move towards achieving the goal of promoting our ability to respond to this fictitious, yet potential disaster.

So let's think it through.

If my goal is to practice my emergency skills, then I need set up shop in an area where I'd do this best, and in a real life scenario kind of situation. If I operate independently from the club, as an individual, how should I go about operating at field day at home? What would I set up as my practice scenario? If there's a disaster, what would it look like at my home? I need to imagine what it would be like to operate in an emergency situation and set up my station accordingly.

For example, I may not have electrical power. The antennas I do have around my home may have been destroyed, so I'd need to setup some temporary antennas, as if I had to start from scratch. My Field Day set up would be a practice run for me, as if the disaster already happened. I may consider having batteries ready to go. I may want to have a portable generator ready. As a radio operator, the country may be depending on me, solely, for communication assistance. That's how I need to be thinking. What's a realistic setup for Field Day?

Since this is a contest, at the same time, I'd want to do the very best that I can and setup the best system possible. And the more I prepare my station for an emergency setup, the more points I should get for the contest. And cutting corners? Absolutely not. The purpose is about preparation. It's not about winning the contest, entirely, but setting up a realistic situation and preparing for the worse. I better get extra points for having a station that resembles an emergency station!

Lastly, since I want the local community to be aware of my capabilities during this potential disaster, I want to set up shop in an area that gets attention. This is informative for them. It assures the community, and my neighbors, that I'm ready, preparing for the disaster, and it assures them that someone in the area will have communications ability when it potentially happens, whatever *it* is. I want publicity. I want local government to be aware that there are skilled radio operators who are prepared and ready. I want as many people as possible to know I'm here and ready. I want it because its good for the hobby, good for the hams throughout the world, if not at a national level, so that people appreciate what we're capable of. It's good all the way around, for everyone, especially for the people near me who may need communication assistance at some point in the future.

At the present time, it's possible that none of my neighbors know that I'm a ham radio operator. And if they have noticed the antennas, for all they know, I'm just a listener and not a talker. So, perhaps placing my station in an area that is out in the open, for all to see, is a great idea.

So, all this said, again what's the purpose of Field Day?

According to the ARRL, the purpose is "To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions."

At the same time, the ARRL makes reference to picking sites in which the media and public can be invited. And I quote, "This page is intended to show public Field Day sites that members of the public and media can visit. If you're going to be operating a private home station, don't add it to the map!" In other words, don't load up the ARRL map with a bunch of homes, since this would

be cumbersome for people to find the “public” Field Day sites. Or better said, and in simpler words, club stations need to be found easily, for promoting the purpose and hobby on Field Day.

In my view, the stated purpose of the Field Day statement from the ARRL is incomplete. They certainly make reference to using Field Day for promoting the event and the hobby. This reference supports my belief that Field Day is, to a great and good extent, about promoting the hobby’s ability to serve the community in the event of a disaster.

And, for those of you who still doubt this, here’s another quote regarding the use of the ARRL Field Day logo, Use this logo for your club’s newsletter or web site to promote your Field Day activities. However, the logo may not be reproduced on apparel or other commercial items.”

Clearly, there’s a multi-purpose reason for Field Day. Yes, it is about disaster preparation. Certainly. It’s also about promoting the event and the hobby, make no mistake. So the task before us is clear. We need to do both.

Field Day must be coordinated and done in a way in which it helps us all to improve our emergency communication skills and we should promote the hobby and its ability to handle disaster and emergency communication. Simple enough. Right?

The contest and the way in which operators are rewarded is enough to handle the skill development. Do well in the contest, and understand the rules, and you’re well on your way.

But what about the promotion and how do we do this? Well...

Stay tuned. Same time, same wavelength, same newsletter.

-Sean **W8OKN**

## HOLLYWOOD AND HAMS

According to previews, the plot of the movie *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island* -- set to be released February 10 -- hinges on Amateur Radio. The movie’s hero Sean Anderson (played by Josh Hutcherson) receives a coded distress signal that comes from a mysterious island where no island should exist. Sean decides to follow the signal with the unwilling assistance from his stepfather Hank (played by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson).

Sean explains to Hank why he wants to hunt down the signal: “A few nights ago, a radio signal got sent out from these coordinates. It could be the mysterious island that Jules Verne wrote about.”

Hank replies: “You think you’re gonna travel halfway around the world and meet up with some lunatic who’s messing around on a ham radio?”

“That’s not some lunatic,” Sean says. “That’s my grandfather.”

Other than this mention of “ham radio,” it is not yet known how Amateur Radio will be featured in the movie.

Together, Sean and Hank fly out to a tropical island to begin their quest. There, they meet up with Gabato (a helicopter pilot played by Luis Guzman) and his daughter Kailani (played by Vanessa Hudgens). The group sets out to find the island, where they find the island’s lone human inhabitant: Sean’s grandfather (played by Michael Caine). For a while, the five enjoy the wonders of the island -- the lost world of Atlantis -- but soon, seismic shockwaves begin destroying this rediscovered world. They must escape before the island is forced under the sea and its treasures are buried forever.

In the summer of 2011, two movies featured Amateur Radio: Mr Poppers Penguins and Super 8. While it was exciting to see ham radio on the big screen, there were inaccuracies in its portrayal, ranging from incorrect frequencies to the wrong equipment being used.

## HAMS ON TV

The new ABC sitcom, *Last Man Standing*, with Suttons Bay part-time resident Tim Allen, features ham radio. Tim’s character is a ham and the producer of the show is John Amodeo NN6JA who has been licensed for 40 years. John held license classes on the set this past fall and 7 staff members of the production earned their Technician license. Tim has not yet accepted NN6JA’s challenge but if you watch his show you will see ham gear on his desk. In future episodes, ham radio may become more prominent.

<SK>