



# THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club      traverse city, mi

May 2011

## Coming Club Events

### May 24th Club Meeting

This month there are a variety of things on tap for May. Ernie **K8RCT** will have into on the Hospital Drill, Harry **KB8RIV** will have information on the Diginet and Dave **N8CN** and Joe **N8OUZ** hope to have some video from the Dayton Hamvention. As always Don **N8QX** will bring us up to date on club activities. Where: The lower level cafeteria in the Governmental Center on Boardman near the intersection of Boardman and Eighth. 7 p.m. Cookies and coffee available.

### 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.

Club Officers  
President  
Don N8QX

Vice President  
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy  
Russ K8RUS

Corresponding Secy  
Dave K8WPE

Treasurer  
Ward N8WK

Directors

Ann KA8YJ

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



ARRL Affiliated Club  
#1082

## Forward Waves

### VE EXAMS:

**Hudsonville, MI.** Saturday, June 4, 2011.  
IRA Good Old Days Hamfest. Exams 9-10:30 am. Contact: Don at 616 532-7769 or visit website: [ira-hamfest@w8ira.org](mailto:ira-hamfest@w8ira.org).

**Newberry, MI.** Saturday, June 11, 2011.  
Luce ARS Hamfest. Pentland Twp Hall. Located on M-28, one mile east of M-117. 9 am. Contact: Dave Hopper KA8K at 906 586-3928 or [hopper@michigan.gov](mailto:hopper@michigan.gov)

### HAMFESTS:

**Saturday, June 4, 2011** Good Old Days W8IRA/r Hamfest. Hudsonville Fairgrounds. Hudsonville, MI. 8 am til 2 pm. VE exams, camping, Friday night dinner. TI: 147.160 (94.8 PL) Contact: Don at 616 532-7769 after 4 pm. Web: [ira-hamfest@w8ira.org](mailto:ira-hamfest@w8ira.org)

**Saturday, June 11, 2011.** Newberry, MI. Luce ARS. Pentland Twp Hall. On M-28, one mile east of M-117. 9 am until noon. TI: 146.61. Tower Electronics on-site. Contact: Dave KA8K at 906 586-3928 or [hopper@michigan.gov](mailto:hopper@michigan.gov) Web Site: [www.w8nby.com](http://www.w8nby.com)

## Reflected Waves

### May 1991

The May program was presented by Jeff **NR8Y**. Jeff gave an extremely interesting presentation on the use of the extra-corporeal blood circulation during open heart surgery. The club technical committee voted to replace the finals on the 86 repeater and install cavity pass filters. This equipment is already owned by the club.

### May 2001

The May program was presented by Ward **N8WK** and Roger **N8KV** and was a practical presentation of HF propagation. Joe **W8TVT** gave a presentation on the upcoming HBOII (Ham Bike Outing 2) which will take place Aug 3,4 and 5. We will be biking the Manistique area. In addition, several members talked about their adventures at the Dayton Hamvention. Planning for next month's Field Day was completed.

## TBAREG: THE ABEL REPORT

Greetings again Tbargers,

As you know by now, we are participating in a District 7 hospital emergency exercise on May 18th. We will be opening up the Munson EOC and also the County EOC. We need your assistance. The exercise will last from about 9:00 AM to mid-afternoon. Lunch will be provided at the County EOC. We need operators at both Munson and the County EOC. The Barge will be parked at the County EOC to provide communications. HF, packet, VHF voice and Dstar operators are needed. Please email me if you can participate in this exercise.

Thanks! and 73

Ernie, **K8RCT**

Grand Traverse- EC

## TBAREG CONTINUED: THE APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> HOSPITAL EXERCISE

At 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2011, ham radio operators began to gather in the cafeteria At Munson Hospital. Following a brief breakfast the group took the "D" elevator to the top floor of Munson and then trudged up the stairs to the penthouse. The group immediately started setting up the radio equipment, installing antennas, and getting organized for the 10:00 a.m. kick-off of the exercise.

At 10 a.m. we announced the start of the exercise on the 146.86 repeater and began testing various modes and frequencies to attempt contact with other participating hospitals in NW Michigan. We were assisted in this test with the hams from Benzie County (the BARF bunch) and the CCE EmComm group from up north.

Operators from TBARG/CARC were: Mike **W8VPC**, Russ **K8RUS**, Joe **N8OUZ**, Brad **K8QPO**, Chuck **W8SGR**, Hope **AA8SN**, Ernie **K8RCT**, Bob **WA8ABL**, Gwen **K8GWN** and Joe **K8DT**.

The following hospitals and EOC's were eventually in communications with Munson during the exercise: Paul Oliver-Frankfort, Northern Michigan Hospital-Petosky, Cheboygan Memorial Hospital, Otsego Memorial Hospital, Benzie County EOC and Cheboygan County EOC. Several modes and frequencies were tested during the exercise. Modes included VHF FM voice, VHF Digital Dstar, VHF packet and HF.

Successful communications were established between all the participating groups but the best method varied between counties. For example, Dstar worked well in communicating to the counties north of Grand Traverse while VHF voice and packet worked best to Paul Oliver and the Benzie EOC.

The exercise identified several areas where improvements and repairs needed to be made. At Munson we never did get a working high frequency antenna installed so we could not communicate using that mode. The CCE group discovered that their Dstar repeaters all worked but did not link to each other as expected. The Benzie group discovered that their HF radio had low power output. Despite these problems we had many successes:

Communications were established with all participating entities.

Dstar worked well to the north and northwest using the CCE Dstar repeaters.

Dstar worked well to the west using the Benzie Dstar repeater.

Packet worked well to Benzie EOC and Paul Oliver Hospital.

VHF voice worked well to Benzie County.

The best success from my perspective was the co-operation that was generously given by all the ham radio EmComm groups in NW Michigan and the staff at Munson Hospital. Many, many hours were donated by all the groups both during the event and in preparation for the exercise.

Lessons learned:

Regular exercises are important in order to test equipment, new technologies, and processes.

Keep good and open communications with our partnering EmComm groups.

Test your gear!!

Install your equipment before the exercise

We need to train more operators in the use of digital communications: Dstar and packet.

We need to keep better records and logs: this is a recurring issue.

We need to keep the hospital administration advised of our operations.

This was a very successful exercise because it met the major goals. The primary goal was to test our NW Michigan EmComm system. We certainly were able to do that, sometimes with a few surprises! We also met another important goal and that was to establish a working relationship with the other NW Michigan EmComm groups.

73 de Ernie **K8RCT**, Grand Traverse EC

## MI SECTION SUMMER FAMILY OUTING

Greetings fellow Amateurs,

The Michigan Section would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the 13th annual "ARRL Michigan Section Summer Family Outing" is just a short 10 weeks away and the schedule of events, activities, and forums are coming together nicely. This year's event looks like it will top the fun and entertainment of past events.

**NOW** is the time to begin planning your family Summer vacation, and what better place to go than camping amongst your fellow Hams in a beautiful private park all to ourselves, enjoying nature, the out of doors, with group activities, campfires, and contests.

There is something for everybody, Hams and non-Hams alike! Activities and forums are spread over TWO days to make your weekend that much more fun-filled and enjoyable. Pick and choose to attend whatever is to your liking!

To find more information about this fun event, go to the URL listed below. We recommend it become a permanent link on your clubs website for easy reference by your members.

### ARRL Michigan Section Summer Family Outing

WEBSITE: <http://www.sectionouting.info>

WHEN: Thursday July 7th thru Sunday July 10th, 2011

WHERE: WOODLANDS CONFERENCE CENTER AND CAMPGROUNDS  
318 S. Sage Lake Road, Hale, MI 48739 (17 miles east of West Branch)

COST: Free to attend!

Campsites (improved and unimproved) as well as beds in the Bunkhouse have a nominal charge (see the webpage for details). Motels and Bed-and-Breakfasts are available in West Branch just a short drive away. Meals are Pot-Luck but a main course will be provided. Donations are accepted to help cover costs.

**WHAT:** The Michigan Summer Outing is a 4-day fun-filled event hosted by your ARRL Michigan Section Staff and paid for totally from donations, involving fun events for the whole family! Camping, Rving, Canoeing, Horseshoes, Volleyball, Softball, Boating, Swimming facilities are available all day every day of the outing for your pleasure.

There will be games, campfires, and sing-a-longs for all to enjoy. There will also be informative seminars on Friday and Saturday for any who wish to participate. Womens, kids, and non-Ham activities are planned, so there is something for the whole family!

Take some time off, meet the Section Staff, talk about ham radio and have a good family time at this event. Attire is casual of course and so is everyone's attitude!

**REGISTRATION:** See the website, but pre-registration is NOT necessary, so don't let that stop you from attending. Just show up and we will take good care of you and we trust you will have a fun time :)

**FLYER:** A one-page flyer (PDF) is available on the website. Consider downloading and printing a dozen or two copies to hand out at your next few club meetings, ARES/RACES/ARPSC training sessions, or at any Swap-n-Shops in your area. And don't forget to talk it up on your local Net! Help get the word out! We hope to have you join us!

Jay Nugent **WB8TKL**

Michigan Section Summer Family Outing Event Co-ordinator

**Editors Note:** This sounds like a fun event. If any of you attend this year, how about a write-up for the Cherry Juice or better yet some photos and or videos that you could present at a Club meeting. This sounds like an event that needs more PR and more attendance. **N8CN**

## ARS W8OKN: UNPLUGGED

The weather has a huge impact on my ham radio hobby. Artists don't care about the weather, as they sit in their studio painting away. Engineers only care if they may lose power, preventing them from making changes to their CAD design. Losing power means possibly losing their design, if they don't save their work often. It affects golfers, but they golf outside and should expect it. But for we hams, who often "ham" inside, it's the weather outside that affects so much of what we do and you wouldn't necessarily expect that with a hobby that is usually conducted indoors. But the weather affects us and in more than one way.

Having been on the air for a few seasons now, I'm starting to see a pattern. If I were a brighter dude, I probably would have noticed all of this when I was only 17 years old. But I missed it.

And what did I miss? Well, I'm starting to notice that we get a lot of lightening storms in May and June. And now that I've noticed this, perhaps it's time to do something about it. But that's just it. What do I do about the weather? Complaining hasn't helped much, and given the fact that I'm only semi-insane, I need to change my behavior and try to deal with it another way. My repeat patterns of whining haven't had much of an impact on the ever-changing weather patterns of northern Michigan. So, my conclusion is, I must change, and not the weather.

First, during these two months, I'm going to leave my antennas unplugged. I plug the antennas in when I operate, and I'll unplug them when I walk away. There's really no reason to keep them plugged in! It's going to rain and we will get lightening. Every time I leave them plugged in, I inevitably wake up in the middle of the night, run downstairs and unplug the stupid things. Then 45 minutes later, when I've lost that much sleep, I wonder why I'm never able to think ahead and I wonder why I can't get back to sleep.

Then there's the time when I'm down state, visiting relatives in Grand Rapids, and I realize that my antennas are plugged in and there's a storm rolling through Traverse City. "What's wrong with me?", I say. "Why did I leave my antennas plugged in?" Don't you know it? People, lightening travels quickly and takes the path of least resistance. And, as we all know, it wins and we lose, when it so chooses. Just like "mother nature", whoever that is, she wins and we don't. Lightening is powerful, like 100 million volts by some estimates, so it's likely going to zap just about anything in its path it decides to zap. Sorta reminds me of that old joke. Where does an elephant step? Where ever it wants! When and where does lightening strike? Well...

Seems to me that an 8 gauge ground wire is a good thing, to help to reduce the likelihood of being zapped. But in reality, are you serious? Really? I'm all for taking all the precautions to keep your system grounded, for sure. I'm in favor of being incredibly careful. In fact, I'm going to be so careful, I'm going to unplug my antennas, all the time, every time, and especially this time of year.

We ground for safety, lightening protection and we ground for RF protection or suppression. These are all very good reasons to learn about proper grounding and we should know the why and the how. All my equipment is grounded for RF protection, and I not only have a good radial system, and a good ground rod set up, but for me, I plan to disconnect my antennas when we're in the months of May and June (maybe even July and August).

It's just an extra precaution. For some reason, I'm of the opinion that lightening is pretty darn powerful and I'm not ready to take on that challenge. At my age, I know when to back off and let the bigger guy win the fight. It'll save me a few headaches. Besides, I'm sick and tired of running down stairs, into to the shack at 3 am, when I hear the thunder roll in.

Sean **W8OKN** [w8okn@arrl.net](mailto:w8okn@arrl.net)

## HAM NATION PREMIERES MAY 24

Amateur Radio's Mr. Audio, Bob Heil, **K9EID**, will be hosting a new weekly HD video webcast about our hobby titled Ham Nation. According to Bob, each week Ham Nation will feature interesting guests as they discuss the many fascinating aspects of the hobby.

The shows premiere on May 24th will have famed rock guitarist Joe Walsh, **WB6ACU**, and broadcast facility designer Dave Jennings, **WJ6W**, as Bob's special guests. Jennings is one of the hosts of the Amplitude Modulation International net that meets every Wednesday on 3870 kHz.

Ham Nation will air Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m. Eastern, 8 p.m. Central and 6 p.m. Pacific time on Leo Laporte's TWIT TV Internet network. To tune in, please take your web browser to [live.twit.tv](http://live.twit.tv) and join the fun. (K9EID)

TNX to *Amateur Radio Newsline*

## FCC CITES CELLPHONE AND GPS BLOCKERS

The FCC has issued an Official Citation to Internet retailer GadgetTown.com. This for allegedly marketing in the United States unauthorized radio frequency cell phone signal blockers and GPS signal jammers in violation of section 302(b) of the Communications Act, and section 2.803 of the Commission's rules.

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Cellular telephone and GPS jamming devices are illegal in the USA. and according to the Citation, its this law that lead to the Enforcement Bureau initiating an investigation of GadgetTown and its marketing of several unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States. These are identified as the Cigarette Case Cell Phone Signal Blocker, the Portable Cell Phone Signal Blocker, the 60 M Range Mountable Cell Phone Signal Blocker and the Portable Anti-Tracker GPS Signal Jammer Blocker.

The staff of the Bureau's Spectrum Enforcement Division observed that GadgetTown offered for sale the four signal jamming devices over the company's web site. On July 23, 2010, the Division issued a letter of inquiry to GadgetTown regarding those products.

The company responded to the letter on August 31, 2010 at which time it stated that it marketed the aforementioned signal jamming devices between July 1, 2010 and July 22, 2010, selling a total of 15 signal jamming devices to U.S. consumers during that period. In addition, GadgetTown identified the supplier and quantity of each device sold and explained that it did not manufacture any of the devices, but shipped the products directly from Shenzhen, China. Finally, GadgetTown stated that it was not aware of regulations prohibiting the import and sale of the signal jamming devices, and that since receiving notification from the Commission, it has taken steps to ensure that there will be no further prohibited items imported into the United States.

That was not good enough for the FCC. In the citation, the regulatory agency ordered that GadgetTown should take immediate steps to avoid any recurrence of this type of incident. It noted that jamming devices such as these pose significant risks to public safety and other radio communications services. It also warned GadgetTown that if after receipt of the Citation, the company violates the Communications Act or the agency's Rules by engaging in future sales of these devices that the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures.

TNX to *Amateur Radio Newsline*

## CURIOUS ABOUT WOUXON?

If you are curious about the Chinese Wouxon radios, you might check out the ICQ Podcast: Series Four, Episode Nine. Which contains a review of the Wouxon KG-UVK1P Dual Band HT. To download a copy of the podcast, visit: <http://www.icqpodcast.com>

## SOLAR FLUX DIPS

On Tuesday May 10, 2011 the daily solar flux index (SFI) fell below 100 (97.5) for the first time since March 22, 2011. During this month the daily sunspot count has been as high as 90 but the sunspot groups have for the most part been small, weak and magnetically simple.

Radiowave propagation continues good on 15 and 12 meters but has become a bit more sporadic on 10 meters. 6 meters is seeing more and more sporadic E (Es) openings as we enter the traditional northern hemisphere warm season pattern.

For now the sun has returned to it's quiet state as we experienced in early 2011 on back. Even as solar cycle 24 continues it's rise to a smoothed sunspot number (SSN) maximum of ~95 in December 2013, we will continue to see periods of abnormal sunspot production with groups small, weak and magnetically simple.

Several years ago all government, university and private entities were forecasting a very large solar cycle 24. As a now retired Solar & Space Plasma Physicist as well as a Meteorologist/Climatologist I was the only one forecasting a weak one. Unfortunately so far my forecast has been correct as I still believe the sun is headed for a Maunder type minimum in solar output and a continued cooling of earth's climate.

-73 & GUD DX, Thomas F. Giella, **NZ4O**

## DAYTON HAMVENTION

No one else called in their Flea Market Spaces since last month, so I'll just repeat the listing from last month. Stop in and visit with the following CARC members at the Hamvention: The largest CARC contingent will be a 12 person group consisting of Joe **W8TVT**, Ken **W8QKP**, Norm **N8STS**, Joe **KB8WZK**, Art **N8HKQ**, Tom **KE8KX**, John **WD8MQN**, Brian **KC8MJI** and friends. They will be occupying Flea Market Spaces Number **FE** 2662, 2663 and 2664. Dave **N8CN** and son Joe **N8OUZ** can be found in space number **FE** 2614. Look for the **I00K** flag (light blue) and you'll likely find Dave **W8TVC**, John **KF8KK**, Mike **N7LMJ**, Keith **WA8ZWJ** and several other I00K members. Their spaces are **FW** 3347, 3348 and 3349. Oh, in case you are wondering, the **FE** prefix is Flea Market East and the **FW** prefix is just as you have already guessed, Flea Market West.

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