

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

May 2011

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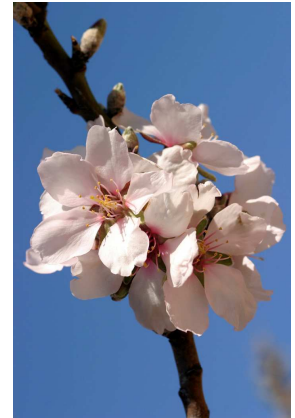


**Presidents
Message
(Not available at
the time of print)**

Minutes For April 7,2011

By Joe,
Guests Brian Coe and Randy Bono
WD8NCZ
Audit-Fine
Secretarys Report-approved
Treasurers Report-approved
Repeater Committee- talk to Fritz
Old Discussion Items
Hacker Space-visited Washington D.C,get
organized

Emergency Vests-
\$15.95 zip
pocket,reasonable
Club Pins-
discussed
IRA Link System-
Tom not here
Future Club
Projects-Crossroads
Academy ,Gregary



Teacher training for teachers
May 5,2011-next meeting
April 30,2011 Club Breakfast

New Stuff-Agenda

- 1.Emergency Management
- 2.Field Day-Committee,may happen June 25
- 3.Girls Run on Website ,guessing May 6,11
- 4.Resturants discussed-third week in May
- 5.There was a suggestion- officer term
extended

Program-Phil
Talked about getting new
members like Ham In A Day-get in touch by
phone or e-mail

Announcements:

Sat, April 30, 9:00am – 10:30am at Sharon's restaurant in Rogers Heights. Talk-in on the 146.740 Big Rapids 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

Thu, May 5, 7pm – 9pm 435 N. Michigan Ave, Big Rapids, Mi 49307 Next BRAARC club meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids. Presentation Topic:

Sat, May 14, 9am – 10am
http://kc8yyp.angelfire.com See website for information: request pre-registration 7 days in advance for testing. Call 989-400-1385; M-F; 9A to 5P. Testing in Canadian Lakes. See website for details, maps and contact points. Thanks N8ERV VEC

Sat, May 21, 11am – 1pm Fox Hunt
Fairman Community Pool, Big Rapids, Mi 49307 ([map](#))
Join us at the Pool to find that silly fox! Again the Montreal Fox will be transmitting away in its hidden location. The hidden transmitter hunting will be on foot and within easy walking distance. The fox will automatically start transmitting at 11:00am for your finding pleasure. Bring your direction finding equipment if you have it or just join us for the fun! About noon we will have a picnic lunch at the shelter in front of the pool - please bring a dish to pass. Everyone is welcome. Contact KD8DIB for more info.

Exact date TBA
Club Annual dinner. About mid-May. Locations are currently being investigated. Details should be available at the next club meeting on May 5.

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Fox Hunting Fun is Radio Direction Finding

Can't go to Dayton Hamvention this year? Don't sit at home moping in self-pity or sulky unhappiness, join us for the annual "I'm Not a Dayton Fox Hunt." Can you find the hidden transmitter?

This year we will again attempt to use the famous "Montreal Fox" automatic transmitter. Look for us on 146.565 at 11:00 AM on Saturday, May 21. The general area for the hunt will be the Big Rapids Community Pool. The pre-hunt briefing will be at 10:45AM in the pool parking lot with the hunt starting at 11:00AM.

Not up to the hunt, then join us at the Big Rapids pool shelter for a picnic lunch at noon and hear all of the hunting tales. Please bring a dish to pass.

Check the website for a map if needed.

See you there!
Mike, KD8DIB

BRAARC Repeater Operations

The following information will highlight the basic operation of the repeater's various functions available to repeater users. These functions are accessed through the use of DTMF signals generated on air by the repeater user (you). Functions will be grouped by the repeater they are available on. The DTMF code will be expressed as follows: [400] means press the four key and the zero key twice on your radio's DTMF keypad. Please remember to announce your intentions with the repeater and your call sign.

BRAARC 2 Meter Repeater Functions

Time of Day Request

- Key up, enter [400] and unkey.

Key Pad Test

- Key up, enter [375X] and unkey. The repeater will read back the X key. Any number or key pad letters can be entered, including the star and pound. Note: the [D] can not be tested.

Weather Alert Operation

- Key up, enter [1752] and unkey. This will place the repeater in Weather Alert mode used for Skywarn nets.
- Exit weather alert by keying up, entering [1751] and unkeying.

Autopatch Operation – open to local calls

- Key up, [*XXXXXXX] and unkey. The repeater will announce the number XXX-XXXX and dial.
- Key up, [*911] and unkey. This will dial Newago County 911.
- Key up, [911] and unkey. This will dial Meceola Central Dispatch.
- Key up, [#] and unkey to end your call.

BRAARC 440 Repeater Functions

Time of Day Request

- Key up, enter [400] and unkey.

Key Pad Test

- Key up, enter [375X] and unkey. The repeater will read back the "X" key. Any number or key pad letters can be entered, including the star and pound. Note: the [D] can not be tested.

Radio Check

- Key up, enter [725*] and unkey. The repeater will state "start test now." Key up and record a seven second voice message. Unkey and the repeater will play back your recording.

Autopatch Operation – Please limit autopatch calls on this repeater to emergencies.

Here's a Heads Up

This is a true story that just happened to me. My MasterCard bill showed up and I perused the various items purchased over a month. Something looked strange and the bill was high. There were four items, all around \$500, purchased from the same vendor (Newegg) over a four week interval. I'll admit to being absent minded but sure didn't remember those purchases. A call to the MasterCard fraud office started an investigation. They got on the phone with Newegg with me listening. Sure enough they were purchases of cameras and lenses, not shipped to me.

It didn't take long for MasterCard to credit my account for the fraudulent purchases. All I had to do was sign and return their form letter saying that I didn't make the purchases. Somehow, probably from an on line purchase, my card number and expiration date were out there and being used. My old card was instantly shut down and a new one issued. An internet search on Newegg revealed that my problem was not unique to Newegg.

Not all fraudulent purchases are big ones but no matter what it sure pays to carefully check statements and challenge any strange items.

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Tech Corner

'Green' Light Bulbs Linked to Cancer

Friday, April 22, 2011 10:53 AM

By Martin Gould

Spiral energy-saving light bulbs could cause cancer, German scientists have found.

They say the compact fluorescent lamp bulbs should not be left on for long as they send poison into the atmosphere when switched on, according to a report in Britain's Daily Telegraph.

And in particular, the scientists warn, they should be kept away from people's heads due to an "electrical smog" of phenol, naphthalene, and styrene.

"For such carcinogenic substances it is important they are kept as far away as possible from the human environment," warned Peter Braun, who carried out research in Berlin.

Fellow researcher Andreas Kirchner added: "They should not be used in unventilated areas and definitely not in the proximity of the head."

Earlier this year an Israeli report suggested CFL bulbs could trigger breast cancer and there have been fears about the environmental damage they could cause if dumped in landfills.

Despite those worries — and the fact they can cost up to six times as much as traditional incandescent bulbs — the CFL bulbs are in wide use worldwide. They are said to cut energy costs significantly and have a much longer lifespan.

Congress passed a measure in 2007 to phase out incandescent bulbs

Submitted by Phil, KC8QOV

Safety Advice for Volunteers

April 12, 2011

By [Catherine Jones](#)

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National Volunteer Week (April 10 to 16, 2011) is set aside in Canada and the United States to recognize volunteers for their efforts. And there are a lot of volunteers to thank. In the US alone, an estimated 59 million people spend approximately 52 hours a year volunteering. Volunteer work is a growing activity for all generations. But it's not without its hazards. Since it's likely that many of your workers volunteer in their spare time, here are some tips to share with them on how to stay safe while giving to their communities.

What's the Danger?

According to a report prepared by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention between 1993 and 2002, approximately 500 people died from injuries sustained while volunteering.

Roughly half of those fatalities involved volunteer firefighters. But many deaths are related to activities that one would think are considerably less perilous than firefighting. For example, some volunteers died while picking up roadside litter; others were killed while engaging in repair work of homes and other facilities.

8 Ways to Stay Safe

Here are a few things you should do to keep yourself safe:

1. Know the Hazards

Every job has its hazards - even jobs you don't get paid to perform. Identify the hazards of any job to which you're assigned. For example, if you're volunteering to be a walking tour guide, find out if the tour includes an uncontrolled crosswalk or if sections of the path are prone to icy conditions. Even if you've volunteered for a seemingly harmless task, like working in a museum gift shop, ask the volunteer coordinator if shoplifting is a concern and, if so, what the proper procedures are for handling shoplifters.

2. Get Training

Get the training you need to carry out all job-related tasks. Make sure you receive proper training to operate any equipment your volunteer duties involve, such as power tools or industrial equipment like forklifts or motorized carts.

3. Get Orientation

Be sure to attend all orientations, meetings and training sessions. Often, these meetings will address safety matters.

4. Wear Protective Equipment

Wear the right gear for the volunteer job just the way you would at work. For example, if you're directing traffic at the County Fair, make sure you have a reflective vest and find out if hearing protection is needed.

5. Know Your Limits

Volunteer only for jobs you know you have the physical capabilities to perform. Don't be a hero. If you have a bad back, volunteering to lift heavy objects for the Food Bank isn't going to help you or your cause.

6. Trust Your Gut

Some people have an instinctive sense of danger. It's important to listen to your instincts. If you're about to deliver a meal to a home and something just doesn't feel right, don't do it. Or if you have a bad feeling about a visitor to the museum, contact the volunteer coordinator.

7. Be Prepared

Take a page from the Boy Scouts and be prepared for all eventualities. Know where to find the first aid kit and/or first aid attendant. If you're part of a traveling group, establish a meeting place in case you're separated.

8. Communicate

Report near misses and damaged equipment. If you almost trip over the extension cord of a projector, don't leave the risk to the next person. Let the volunteer coordinator know so that it can be taped down properly.

Conclusion

Volunteers are very special members of our communities. They're the driving force behind many religious, educational, social and festive events and organizations. When you decide to volunteer, you

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