

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

November 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CROP WALK

On Sun, October 2nd, club members participated in the annual Crop Walk serving as emergency communicators and check point tallies of walkers. We had a lot of volunteers and we served a very useful function to organizers of the event. Thanks to Tom Behler for serving as net control, and also congratulations to him for organizing another successful community-oriented activity for the club.

CELEBRITY SERVER

In 2010, we got over \$128 in tips, and \$61.50 for a 10% split on the revenue generated during the two and one-half hours we helped the professional serving staff. The total amount we raised for the last year was over \$190.

On October 18th, we held our annual Celebrity Server at Crankers and already we beat last year's tips total – we got over \$140. This is even with conducting the fund raiser for 30 minutes less than last year. It will be another

week before I know how much we will get from the revenue sharing.

My thanks to all those who helped serve and clean-up during those two hours: Dan Astleford & his wife; Bill Stankey and his wife; Gregory Woolen; and, Jeff Sell. Since Don (WA4FRJ) was not there, I was the substitute photographer. Everyone who worked did so with enthusiasm, but Dan (WA8AEN) was exceptional in performing his role as a Celebrity Server. Dan was a real trooper and pitched in and worked very hard the whole evening, and I heard he is considering a new career in food service.

Look for pictures in this newsletter!

ARES/RACES

Tom Behler, Mecosta County EC-RO is still updating the ARES and RACES list. Please let him know if you would like to participate in either of these two groups. Please consider participating in one or both of these emergency communications response groups.

WORK ALL PREFIXES CONTEST

During the month of October, the "Worked All Prefixes" contest was happening throughout the month. Bring your contact log to the November meeting. Prizes will be awarded to

Report On Another Successful Crop Walk from Tom Behler: KB8TYJ

On Sunday: October 2, a number of BRAARC club members continued our tradition of conducting a communications net for the Mecosta County Area Crop Walk, which is held every fall. The purpose of the walk is to raise funds to combat the problem of hunger in our area. Our net ran for almost 3 hours on the club's 440 repeater, and the combined help of all involved hams made serving as net control for the event a real pleasure for me.

I want to thank my XYL, Sue, KC8IFP, for assisting me at St. Paul's Parish, where Net Control was located. I also want to thank Don Macconnel (WA4FRJ) for being there and ever-vigilant during the net. Don had wanted so badly to be with us, serving at his usual fourth and Baldwin location, but his recent knee surgery prevented him from doing so. Despite his disappointment in not being able to join us, he did what he could to help, and provided a welcome bit of humor a number of times during the event.

I also want to thank the following operators, who set up their stations at strategic locations along the route. They not only provided the needed communications for the event, but they also provided a great deal of routine assistance to the walkers :

George Rouman—W8OWN

Bill Stankey—N8MZB

Gary Atteberry—WB8WIA

Jens Rick—KC8OIV

Joe Aldrich—KD8KPS

Mike McKay—KD8DIB

Patricia McKay—KD8GGD

Calvin McKay—KD8KQC

Dan Tuuri—W8GRR

Jim Woolen—K4UIH

Gregory Woolen—KD8NRO

These hams were quite noticeable in their vehicles and emergency vests, and provided ongoing counts of the walkers as they passed by their designated station locations. They also were available for possible emergency assistance to anyone who needed it. Once again this year, Mike McKay's role as bicycle mobile sweep proved to be extremely valuable. Because he was able to easily traverse the entire route, he could help us keep track of the tail-enders. Knowing the location of the tail enders, and who they were, greatly reduced the chance that we would miss final participants who either lagged behind the main crowd, or who decided to deviate slightly from the designated route.

In all, approximately 165 walkers took part in the event. This was the largest number of participants ever! What made the day extra special was that a significant number of the participants were representing a variety of Ferris State University Registered Student Organizations, and this trend had not been nearly as noticeable in previous years.

The walkers covered all age groups, from small children to elderly adults. The usual handful of babies in strollers, and family dogs, also made an appearance, taking advantage of an absolutely gorgeous mid Michigan Fall Sunday afternoon.

As always, our group was complimented frequently on our skill in handling the communications, and our presence was sincerely appreciated by all those in attendance. Thanks to everyone for a job well done!

THE CROP WALK CREW
Way to go guys and gals.



Does Tom, KB8TYJ, appear to have taken on a glow doing this job???

Celebrity Server at Crankers.
Looks like the club was well represented and did an excellent job.



Listening intently makes
for perfect service.

Hmmmmmm? Giving
instruction or relaxing??





Now this is intense dedication!! Or that coffee pot is really heavy.



Must be a serious discussion – or maybe a plot of some sort.



OJT (On the Job Training) going on here.

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