

THE CHERRY JUICE

Newsletter of the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club

Forward Waves

VE Exams

8/8/2015 – Traverse City, MI

10:00am (ARRL VEC)

Location: Immaculate Conception
Elementary School, 218 Vine St.,
Traverse City, MI 49684

Contact: Hope Francisco,

hopeaa8sn@juno.com,

231.941.7262

Walk-Ins Allowed

Hamfests

8/1/2015 — UP Hamfest 2015

Bay de Noc Community College
2001 North Lincoln Road
Escanaba, MI 49829

Website: <http://www.dcars.org>

Sponsor: Delta County Amateur
Radio Society

Talk-In: 147.150+ (PL 100.0)

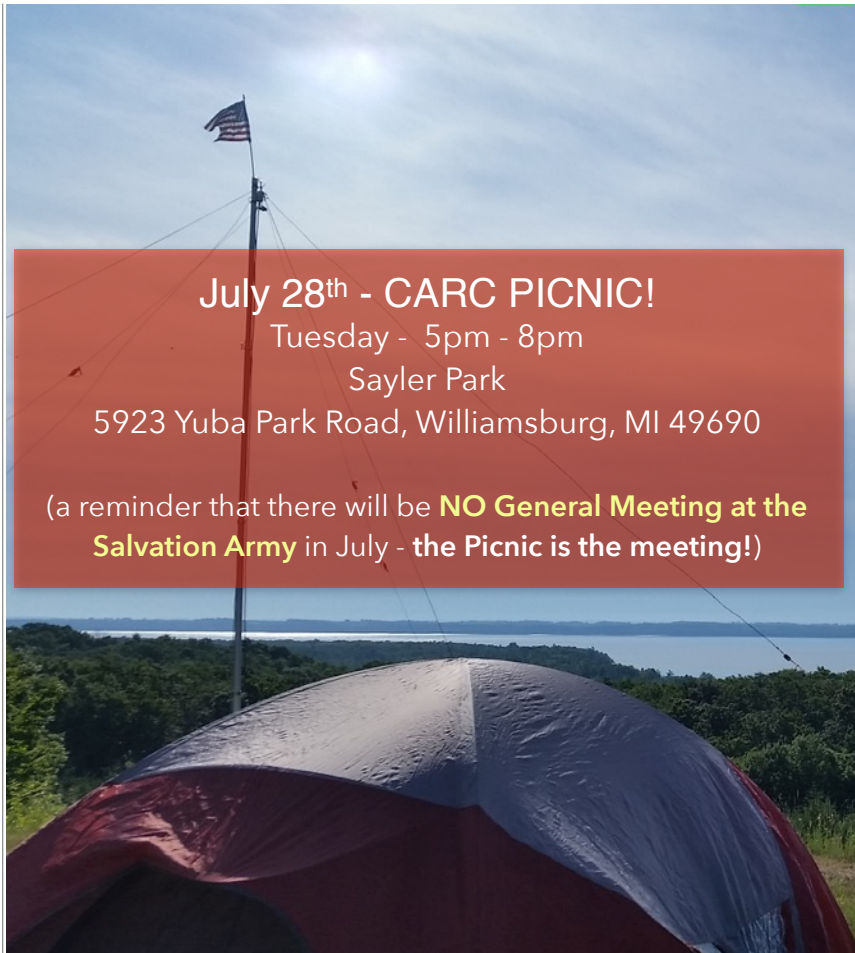
Public Contact:

John Anderson , WD8RTH
5736 Main Street PO Box 295
Wells, MI 49894
Phone: 906-399-4490
Email: wd8rth@dcars.org

Reflected Waves - Meter Broken!

The Reflected Waves section is currently broken. The author editor has had some issues with the newsletter software lately and the recovery process has been long, and is still in progress. While he regrets that there has been a lapse in publishing, rest assured that the August edition of the Cherry Juice will roll-up the reflected waves from April through August 1995 and 2006 to address the gap. Apologies for the lapse in official communiqué!

Joe, N8CN - CJ Editor



July 28th - CARC PICNIC!

Tuesday - 5pm - 8pm

Sayler Park

5923 Yuba Park Road, Williamsburg, MI 49690

(a reminder that there will be **NO General Meeting at the Salvation Army** in July - the Picnic is the meeting!)

T-Shirts Available!

Want a club T-shirt? This is your chance! We are now taking orders.

See the order form online at www.CherrylandARC.com or send the following information to:

Joe Novak, W8TVT
(jjnovakw8tvt@gmail.com):
Name, Callsign, Size, and Email

The T-shirts will be a 50/50 blend, gray shirt with a 3.5" club logo in red, on the left side of the shirt.

Sorry, at this time an image is not available, but the logo (in red only) will be similar to the logo on the club business card above.

The costs are:

sizes S thru XL: \$12
2XL: \$14 3XL: \$15
4XL: \$16 5XL: \$17

CARC Annual Picnic and Trunk Sales: Tuesday, July 28 5pm, Saylor Park

At last summer has finally come to Northern Michigan! I think we were the last place in the US to finally thaw out! One of the fun events for us in the Cherryland ARC is the annual summer picnic. This is held on the third Tuesday evening in July. For this year that means we are meeting on July 28th at Saylor Park (North of Acme).

We usually start arriving around 5:00 PM and get the grills going. Food is ready around 6:30 or 7:00 PM. As in the past, please bring a dish to share along with your table setting and beverage of choice.

The club will provide the hot dogs and whatever else we can grill. We also also bring the condiments.

Note that this would normally be a club meeting night so there is no regular club meeting this month. Come on over to the picnic instead!

I hope to see you there (with the family).

73,

Ernie, K8RCT

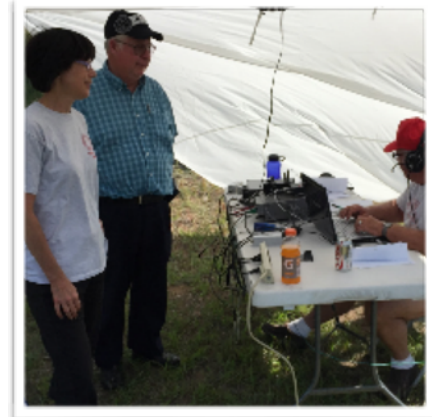


Field Day 2015

Joe Novak, W8TVT

Wow, what a weekend for a Field Day event! Great weather, great attendance, great conversation, and Great Food. Couldn't ask for anything better.....but then, perhaps better band conditions.

It all started out on Friday when Ward N8WK brought out the equipment trailer. He set up his tent and antenna for the 20-meter station. He was supervised by Joe K8DT. In the mean time Hope AA8SN & Ernie K8RCT were preparing an area for the CW station. Chris KD8MTT had already set up his trailer with overnight accommodations. Dave KJ4KFJ had brought out the trailer and helped him out with assistance from Russ K8RUS and Andrew KD8TXU. Glen K8SGZ had established the food service area. He had some assistance from Joe W8TVT & Janet N8RRR. Glen also set up a tent for sleeping and the 40-meter station.



Joe N8CN brought out the club generators. He and others made sure they were in good working order. They ran all weekend without any problems. Joe later set up a sun shelter for his van where he set up a "service area" and the GOTA Station. Overnighers included Glen K8SGZ, Chris KD8MTT, Russ K8RUS and Joe N8CN.

Saturday included many visitors and helpers for the event. About noon I counted 17 people in the area. Visitors included Michal Pensinger and Stan Steed who hope to get their license soon. Jim KD8QPC brought them out to see amateur radio in action. David KE8BDT, Jim KE8BHO and Micha came to visit. Jonah KC8KXF, Bill W8FFG, Jason W1WOW and John KE8BHN also put in an appearance. And then there was Bill K8WSN and John W8LQZ. John will be retiring this month from his Dental practice. Hopefully we will be seeing more of him at club activities.



[Field Day 2015, Continued from P. 1]

Frank WD8IIR, also paid us a visit. Frank is the one who introduced the CARC to the Kiessel Family some years ago. Through his efforts the Kiessels offered us the use of their property for our field day activities. I asked Frank when we started using their property for field day. After discussion with the Kiessels they thought it all started about 1992, a long time ago. Our thanks to Frank and especially to the Kiessels for their hospitality.

Chuck W8SGR came to visit and also advise with station set up. Paul K8HIB and his son Chris came out that afternoon. Chris demonstrated his expertise in operating his "drone helicopter". He was flying the helicopter all over the field day area. Other visitors included Mike KC8CLR and Sandy, Harry KB8RIV.

Ward N8WK and Joe K8DT operated the 20-meter station. Ward reported 351 contacts. The CW station was operated by Hope AA8SN, Ernie K8RCT, Art KB8MKQ and others. They reported 101 contacts. Joe KC8RLU was on 40 meters with about 80 contacts. Mike KD8REH brought out the TBARG "barge" and operated on 80/15 meters.



He was assisted by Josh KD8YXU, Kent W8ZRT and Mark KC8ZAP. They reported about 60 contacts. Again, I operated the solar station on 52/52. With the help of a high vertical antenna put up by Chris KD8MTT, I was able to have 13 contacts on Saturday. Then on Sunday using a j-pole antenna I had 6 more contacts. Joe N8CN ran the GOTA or "Get on the Air" station showing newcomers how amateur radio works. He had about 6 new contacts.

Glen K8SGZ provided meals on Saturday. He had a grill there on Friday night for everyone to cook their own meal. Popcorn was provided with an open fire to keep warm. Saturday Glen provided three excellent meals. Breakfast included hash browns, eggs, sausage, fruit and coffee. For lunch he had corn beef cabbage, potatoes and carrots, pop and coffee.

The club sponsored the evening meal which included London broiled steaks, asparagus, corn on the cob and pop & coffee. 18 people showed up for this event. It was great food and a lot of effort was put into these meals. Thanks Glen!

The special people for any event like this are those who are able to schedule their time to help with "clean up" activities. They included Dave K8WPE, Russ K8RUS, Josh KD8YXU, Chris KD8MTT, Hope AA8SN, Ward N8WK, Ernie K8RCT, Joe N8CN, Joe KC8RLU, Dave KJ4KFJ, and Joe W8TVT. Our special thanks for their time and efforts!

We started taking things down and cleaning up a little early and were done by 2:30PM. Dave KJ4KFJ took Matt's trailer back. Ward N8WK loaded the trailer with the generators. Joe N8CN had the trailer with the band boxes, antenna's and other supplies. These were all returned to the the Don Parker farm for storage.

I hope I have made mention of all those who attended and participated in this years field day. There were a lot of people to keep track of! Plans are already being made for next year.

Glen K8SGZ has about 75 photos of the weekend activities on the club website. There is also a video showing the view of the field day area from Chris's drone. Check it out at cherrylandarc.com.

de Joe W8TVT

FCC Eliminating Vanity Call Sign Fee

from the ARRL Letter, May 28, 2015

The FCC is dropping 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 elimination.

Prez Sez: Field Day 2015 Report

Ernie Abel, K8RCT

The weather was wonderful, the view spectacular and the bands were open (pretty much), and the 2015 CARC Field Day was underway. What a wonderful sight to see! When I arrived on Saturday morning and looked across the field, there were tents, trailers, cars everywhere. I've been coming to Field Day for several years and I have never seen so many people or so much activity before. I knew this was going to be a special Field Day for us!

One of the highlights for me was seeing so many people that I had not seen at Field Day before. Not everyone wanted to operate but they were there to support the effort. Old acquaintances were renewed and new friend made this weekend.



Then there was Glen Johnson's wonderful corned beef and cabbage lunch on Saturday and London Broil dinner on Saturday evening. Ah, a full stomach did slow down the contact rate for a while but we soon recovered and were back on the air.



[Prez Sez: Field Day Report, Continued from P. 1]

As always, there were a few equipment glitches to be worked out (hey, where is my ground wire?) but that was the point of Field Day. We saw what worked and what didn't work we fixed right there in the field.

Many thanks to all who came to Field Day whether you actually got on the air, helped with the equipment, food preparation or just had a chance to see what was happening. It was my pleasure to see you all out in the field.

Hey, let's do it again NEXT year!

73,

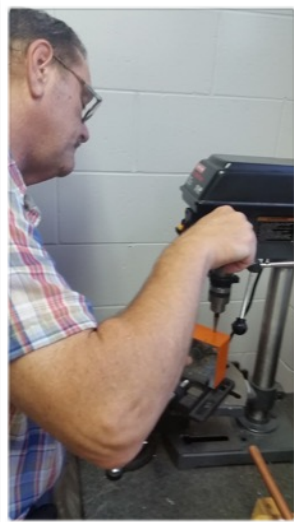
Ernie, K8RCT



CARC Project Nights in Full Swing at the Salvation Army “Shack”!

Joe Erlewein, N8CN

Project nights at the shack have been exciting and fun lately! Many new and long-time members (and some new to the hobby entirely!) have been attending project nights and participating in the activities.



Edgar KA8HYE operates the Drill Press to create the holes for the grounding points.

Most recently, the project was to build RF-Filtered Power Blocks. Using some very affordable components, the theory is that capacitors are added to shunt any AC that is greater than 100HZ or so directly to ground.

At Field Day this year, there were just three of these precious devices to be found. We had a need for more. Why? While these do help to eliminate “noise” that the generators can create, the other problem that they help resolve is a little more complex. The Field Day rules state that all stations at a particular site need to be within a certain proximity. While we always fall well within that guideline, the issue any “compressed” multi-transmitter site can face is RF from a nearby station interfering with another station, even if it’s not on the same frequency or band.

This problem is exacerbated by the way we power our stations - from the “Power Plant” (the area that we keep the generators at the Field Day site) we generally centrally locate them and run unshielded



runs of “romex” to each station in the field, in what becomes a large “star” pattern. Since these are unshielded, and just laying there, and they’re solid copper – they tend to make EXCELLENT receive antennas for all of the transmitters in the area. And because the lengths differ each year with position, layout, and direction, it’s difficult to predict what will happen.



This year at Field Day, we operated 4A (meaning we had a club station with up to 4 simultaneous stations running at any given time (VHF Solar and GOTA station not included). Really, this means that a “perfect storm” would be five stations transmitting while one is trying to receive a weak signal. This is a LOT of noise being generated locally. We typically use other methods to keep the noise levels down (proper grounding, baluns, chokes, and filters specific to band (CW is often the harshest offender), but this sometimes won’t stop the power mains from radiating as receive antennas and each station suffering from the noise on the line.

[Project Nights, Continued from P. 6]

So, these boxes become critical “key” components in helping to eliminate frequencies “above AC” on the power mains. The most expensive part of the project are the housings, and everything else is super affordable. Ernie K8RCT had the bright idea to paint the boxes orange as a designation of their properties (and to help keep track of them!).



President Ernie K8RCT inspecting the cover plates for optimal RF-filtering efficiency and proper design.

Aside from being an educational and interesting project that is sure to help the CARC Field Day initiatives for years to come, this was also a superb social event, and many people got a chance to catch up and discuss other topics, technical and otherwise.

Gratitude for Years of Service!

For years now, Don Parker WD8NRZ has been a silent but stoic and extremely generous donor of his time, energy, and storage space for the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club.

You see, each year, a few people begin randomly showing up at his residence just before field day to collect boxes of gear, metal bits and pieces, odds-and-ends, and a huge trailer with three or four generators on it. He is always ready, he's always eager to help, and we always find out that he's always tested the generators, changed their oil, tested the output, and often performs maintenance tasks on them or to the other gear out there as he sees is necessary – WOW!

If you haven't yet attended a project night (they are Tuesdays that are not regularly scheduled general meetings or board meetings!) please consider doing so! The calendar on the website (www.CherrylandARC.com) is up to date. Future projects will include



Supervisory Committee Chuck W8SGR and Edgar KA8HYE talk policies and procedures while supervising the workforce and scrutinizing the production rate.

making patch cables, simple antennas, and many, many other interesting things. If you have ideas for project nights, please contact Ernie K8RCT or Joe N8CN, and your idea just may become “The Next Great Project Night!”

73,
Joe N8CN

We've never asked him to, but Don goes above and beyond. He and his family have silently contributed to the success of the Cherryland ARC's Field Day initiatives, amongst other endeavors, for years. He's also put up with storing a bunch of the club's equipment for Field Day (and other odds and ends) for years and has never once asked for anything, or lodged a single complaint.

This year the CARC has sent Don and his family a special gift to say “Thank you! No, Really, THANK YOU!” for his years of help.

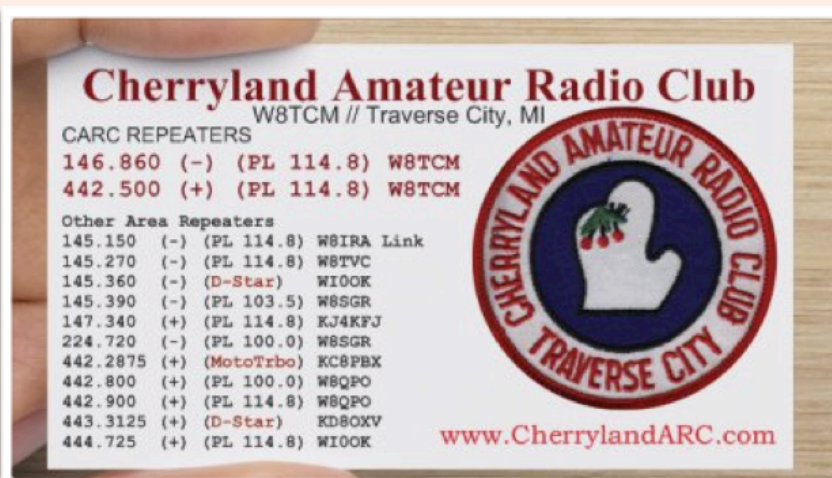
So – **Thank you Don** – and your family – for putting up with us!!

Cherryland Amateur Radio Club - Information

Business Cards Available!

CARC Business Cards are in! If you haven't yet gotten one (or several - hand them out to friends!) just come to one of our Tuesday Night meetings or other events. We recommend you keep a few of them on-hand, they're useful when telling people about area VHF/UHF repeaters, and will remind you of what nights are Board Meetings, General Meetings, and Project Nights. The time and address is also on the card.

Additionally, each card has a link to the CARC Website (<http://www.CherrylandARC.com>) and the club email address (CherrylandARC@gmail.com)



Club Repeaters

W8TCM/R

146.86- (PL 114.8)

W8ZTB Memorial Repeater

W8TCM/R

442.50- (PL 114.8)

W8NGH Memorial Repeater

Club Officers

President

Ernest Abel, K8RCT

Vice President

Joe Erlewein, N8CN

Secretary

Joe Schnaidt, KC8RLU

Treasurer

Ward Kuhn, N8WK

Directors

Chuck Mellberg, W8SGR

Mike Cleary, W8VPC

Dave Hanchett, KJ4KFJ

Cherry Juice Editor

Joe N8CN

Club Nets

MESH NET

Monday Evening Social Hour

Each Monday, 8pm

146.86- (PL 114.8)

SMASH NET

Sunday Morning Amateur Social Hour

Each Sunday, 9am

3.935 MHz

That's it for the July "Catch-Up" version of the Cherry Juice!

As always, if you have any suggestions or comments, I'm all ears!

joe@n8cn.org

73, Joe N8CN

<SK>



AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL WORKSHOP

Digital Voice Mode Primer:

+D-star +MotoTrbo +System Fusion

A review of the three modes, and discussion of
what might be the “best fit” for your use!

\$10 registration fee required which benefits the Salvation Army.

Lunch and Snacks will be Provided by the Salvation Army.

For information, email: CherrylandARC@gmail.com

Sign up online at: <http://bit.ly/carcdigital>



Salvation Army
1239 Barlow Street,
Traverse City MI 49686
Saturday, September 26, 10am-3pm

Speakers:

D-Star: Chuck Scott N8DNX and Chuck Brew N8NXP

System Fusion: Mike Flynn KC8GW

MotoTrbo: Joe Erlewein N8CN

www.CherrylandARC.com