



Cherry Juice

Newsletter of the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club

VOLUME ISSUE
48 1
January, 2021

CARC Board Looks to 2021

How the CARC board views the coming year.

With 2020 now in the rear-view mirror, where do we want to go in 2021? How can we get there? .

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Affiliated Club #1082

Read the Board's aspirations for 2021 and more inside. You are invited to chime-in too!

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Ernie Abel, K8RCT
President, Cherryland ARC

2021...

a new hope!

As you know, the SATERN group has erected a new 50' aluminum tower. We don't have any antennas for it yet but I think we can get some installed pretty quickly.

New ham training and reactivating some of the hams we haven't heard on the air will be a priority for CARC in 2021. I know the club is committed to training new hams. We also were planning on a project to reach out to approximately 450 Technician class and inactive hams in our area.

Scott, WX1J, has been holding some hands-on-training for new hams and we your need to help expand that project.

Of course we want to see everyone back at Field Day in 2021. We did hold an in-person Field Day this past year but many folks chose to stay home because of the virus. The same situation was true for our annual picnic.

So, throw away that old calendar and start planning on what you would like to participate in this year.

And have a Happier New Year!

73,

Ernie, K8RCT



Glen Johnson, K8SGZ
Vice-President, Cherryland ARC

WHY HELP OTHERS?

We see hospital staff, police, fire, and other people in our community helping others every day. Each day people go into work where there is a chance of injury, getting sick, or the remote possibility of dying. People not involved in this effort reason that it is their "job" and they get paid for their work. But really, is any job worth your health or your life? For those of us who volunteer, sometimes you get a lot of aggravation from those we are trying to help. So why help others?

The Starfish Story – After a storm, a man is walking down a beach and sees a boy throwing starfish washed up on the beach back into the ocean. The man asks the child, "What are you doing?" The child replies that each starfish will die in the sun.

Continued on Page 3

Outlook for the New Year (continued)

Johnson - Continued from Page 2

The man tells the boy that the beach is miles long and that his efforts cannot matter to the thousands of starfish. The boy picks up a starfish and throws it back in the ocean and says, "It matters to this one."

In the worst of times, it seems like small acts of kindness do not matter. On the contrary, it is my belief that seeing beyond ourselves and seeing that we are part of a community is extremely important. Having pride in what you do and being part of a team that has a "Do the right thing" attitude can become a powerful force against negativity and apathy. No matter how small or large the effort, I wish that all of you take pride in that we "fight the good fight."

To the Munson Healthcare staff, Northern Michigan first responders, and our own Munson Emergency Communications/TBARG team members, I just simply want to say, "Thank You." What you do matters.

Glen Johnson, K8SGZ

Munson Emergency
Communications

Traverse Bay Area Radio Group

Vice President, Cherryland ARC



Hope Francisco, AA8SN
Secretary, VE Leader

One of the more important activities that the Cherryland ARC provides is regular VE testing. Our regular schedule includes four test sessions held every quarter – February, May, August, and November. Because of the Covid restrictions in 2020, we were one of very few clubs to hold in-person test sessions which brought an increase in the numbers of applicants coming to our sessions. In 2020 we held five sessions with 37 applicants earning either an initial license or an upgrade to an existing license. In 2021 we plan to continue as we have done in the past offering quarterly tests or more if the need arises.

Due to the restrictions, the locations may vary. Thanks to Glen, W8SGZ we will be able to hold the next test session February 6 at New Approaches Center. He asks that we follow proper Covid procedures as required.

Test sessions will be registered with ARRL for those looking for information. The locations for the remaining tests in 2021 are as yet undetermined, but the dates have been posted later in this newsletter and on the website.

An important note for any applicant for an initial license—

All new applicants in 2021 must register in the FCC CORES system (<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/user>) and obtain an FRN number before the test session. This must be done at least a week prior to the date of the test as there is a delay in the initial registering/setting up of a password and signing up for the FRN number. In the past an applicant could simply give their social security number at the test session and the FCC would then issue them their FRN number for future use. This will no longer be the case.

Feel free to contact me with any questions and/or signing up for a test session.

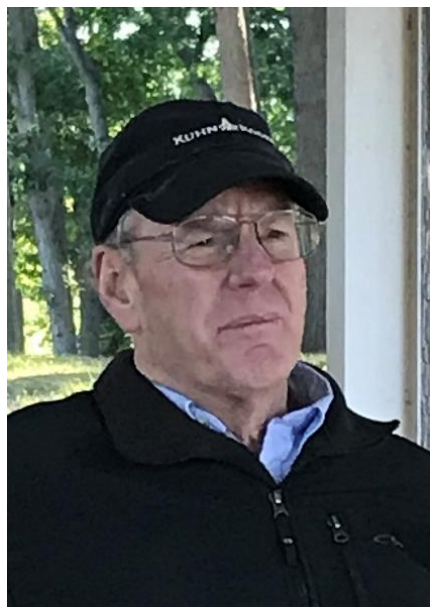
Hope Francisco AA8SN
231-218-0622 (cell)
aa8sn@arrl.net

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While 2020 had its challenges for the Club, I would like to inform everyone that the club is financially healthy and with continued good guidance, will be able to withstand the sure to be challenges of 2021. Our membership is stable and even though we will not be able to benefit from a Hamfest in February, the club is on solid ground and able to continue to provide services and activities as we have for the past decades.

Best wishes to everyone in 2021.

Ward, N8WK



Ward Kuhn, N8WK
Treasurer

What are your aspirations for 2021. How do you see the club's opportunities and targets?

Send your thoughts to us at cherrylandarc@gmail.com



Joe Schnaidt, KC8RLU
Communicating Secretary, Station Manager

As I look into 2021 I am hopeful on two levels; personal enjoyment of Ham radio and how that can translate into my work with the club.

First, I plan to increase "getting on the air", and participating in more club activities. I want to spend more energy working on projects, whether they be fixing or building something fun. I look forward to contesting and DXing more. For example, Field Day and the Michigan QSO Party are 2 of my favorites.

Second, I hope that my radio activity can be used to help mentor new operators. Without them, amateur radio will, no doubt, vanish before our eyes.

At a broader perspective, when I look back at this past year and how one global event can fragment and divide us as operators, it is the whole world of amateur radio, I've found, that actually brings us together, despite the doom and gloom. I hope that my activeness can help motivate others to follow suit and not stay dormant awaiting what will happen next."

-73s de Joe KC8RLU

I believe that Cherryland ARC is more active than a lot of clubs, and we have a core of members who are committed to helping the community through service to organizations needing communication, and supporting emergency communication programs including TBARG ARES/RACES, SKYWARN and SATERN.



Scott Pyles, WX1J
Board Member

As well, we volunteer to help Cherryland ARC members through on-air nets, on-line and in-person project meetings or bringing new hams into the hobby through VE Exams and Workshops. (see page 10)

I would like to see CARC being known as a welcoming, open environment actively encouraging hams, non-hams, and SWL's into the club activities. Every person has experience and an interest they can share. CARC should be a key resource to further those interests.

Best wishes for a marvelous New Year – Scott, WX1J

CHERRYLAND ARC

RINGS THAT BELL

A cold west wind blew new snow across the unplowed parking lot at Oleson's Market on North Long Lake Road on December 14. While the temperature was in the low double digits, the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club member's hearts were warmed by the steady flow of shoppers who one, by one, filled the red kettle.

Thanks to volunteers who took shifts to fill the CARC commitment to staff the kettle.

Bill Rossbach, WR8NY, Scott Pyles, WX1J, Chris Blouch, KE8OUM, Ward Kuhn, N8WK, Pete Van Den Berge, K8WQK, Randy Wood, KE8JWB and President Ernie Abel, K8RCT who took the last two shifts.

Ernie reports that the end of the day, the kettle was over flowing.

Additional contributions were made by members who donated on the CARC Donation page of the Salvation Army website. Thank you to all who contributed. Salvation Army fills a large void in our community and we support them in their efforts.



Bill Rossbach, WR8NY



Salvation Army also supports CARC by providing our radio and meeting rooms, a tower and more. The Club provides hams and equipment to staff the SATERN Emergency Communication node in Traverse City.

Thank everyone who contributed to the club's efforts in 2020.

Chris Blouch, KE8OUM



MESH Net Sets Check-in Record in 2020



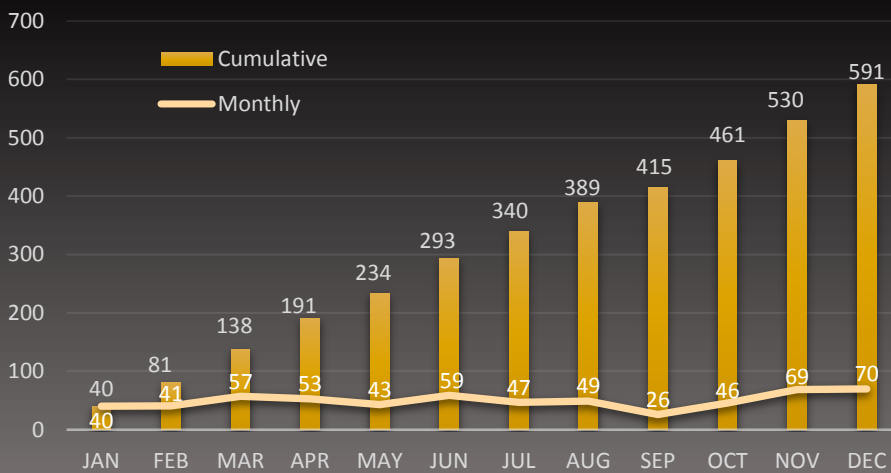
Every Monday 8:00 pm on W8TCM repeater, Traverse City

2020 was quite a year for all of us in so many ways- But for Toby Way, KC8VSU and the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club's Monday Evening Social Hour (MESH) net – it was a record breaking year of net check-ins. With total monthly check-ins in November and December up ~57% over January and February of this year. Annual total was, *(drum-roll please. . .)* **591 check-ins in 2020.**

Check-ins are from the broad Grand Traverse Area, including Cadillac, Lake City, Sutton's Bay, Kewadin, Elk Rapids, Gaylord, Kalkaska. Echolink provides a pathway for Livonia MI, Alaska, Austin Texas, North Carolina, Florida and occasionally other locations by local travelers.

The MESH net is lively, active and a fun evening. Particularly friendly to new hams, visitors to the area and those just a little shy to get on the air. Come join Toby, KC8VSU and the group on Monday nights 8:00 right after TBARG, on 146.86 Repeater TC.

2020 MESH NET CHECK-INS



This is a very strong performance by CARC hams who check in each week. Thank you for your participation. **Joe Novak, W8TVT** remembers when he ran the net. The net would run sometimes an hour or more with two rounds of discussion before going into Overtime. Some longer winded hams were awarded *The Purple Crystal*. We still have recent recipients of that award as well. The Purple Crystal award is given to the one who talks past the repeater's three minute timer, thus shutting down the repeater. After a while, the repeater re-sets, but the winner continues to receives a lot of good natured joking.



Toby Way, KC8VSU, Net Control

Remembering Brian, N8TC

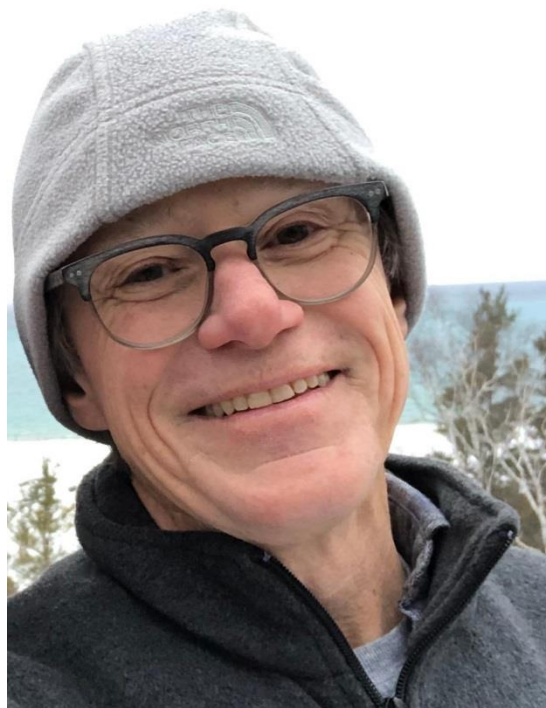
By Joe Erlewein, N8CN

With great sadness, I inform you of the passing of Brian "Cubbie" Cox, N8TC. Brian passed away unexpectedly on November 28, 2020. He was 68. Brian's family is planning services for a future date in 2021 and will communicate more information when available.

Brian had been a Cherryland ARC member for many years. Licensed as WA8QAF before 1989, he has had an active history with the club and Ham Radio in general. It was not long after Brian became a ham that he became one of the "more active" club members and found himself at the center of the action at major events.

Brian became super active with special event stations and "rare" activations such as the Light Houses On-The-Air events, and soon discovered his love for contesting. His preferred mode ended up being CW.

When I first met Brian in 1992, I was immediately warmed by his welcoming, smiling face and the sincere joy he reflected while doing things he enjoyed. As an awkward teen entering high school, I was amazed and amused by his goofy charm that he injected into the hobby. He was a notable contrast to the more "rigid and proper" club members at the time -- for that



Brian Cox, N8TC <SK>

matter, the majority of people in the "Amateur Radio" hobby overall.

I thought to myself: "He really enjoys this, and he lets others know it and invites them along, hoping they'll find the same joy he does." I wasn't ready for what I encountered later on at my first CARC Field Day. I had no idea what to expect. To say that Brian helped "write the book" on Cherryland ARC field days is not far off - he, along with Barry K8BK (then KI8W) and Rod N8QVR, produced a video of the 1993 Cherryland ARC Field Day. Brian's sense of humor and character are easily felt and enjoyed. [Link to Video:](#)

Out of nowhere, Brian casually reached up and began sending code. Not just a CQ -- He was replying to someone and sending an exchange. Brian did this while continuing the conversation with everyone in the room. When he finished, there came a burst of stations replying to K8XX (the callsign the club used that year, courtesy of Jack Lieshman). Brian watched whoever was logging (I forget!) start keying in calls to a computer and writing other callsigns down on the pad. The group *still* hadn't stopped their conversation. Brian reached up and began replying to some calls *like it*

wasn't even a big deal. While sending, during a lull in the discussion that STILL had not been interrupted, Brian mentioned to the logger, "Did you get that W6?". The logger penciled in a note. They went on with their light conversation while working a massive CW pile-up at Field Day like it was nothing special! I was genuinely amazed. The term "multitask" had a new meaning for me that day. CW came naturally to Brian, and I have never witnessed a smoother operator to this day. Morse Code just may have been Brian's first language!

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Scott (NM8R) recounted a similar event regarding Brian's skill as a CW operator. Scott moonlighted as an engineer for an AM radio station that the local high school had acquired from WKLT. It was on 1420 kilohertz. The antenna was a quarter wavelength at the bottom of 160. One winter, he invited Barry (K18W) and Brian to contest at the transmitter site, located in a swamp on Old M-66 south of Kalkaska. They bypassed the antenna matching network at the antenna base, and were driving it with Scott's TS-940 and a pair of 3-500Z's during the 160 contest. NM8R recollected they made about 500 contacts in 8 hours before calling it quits. The vertical was understandably noisy on receive, and they'd worked everything they could hear. Scott was working the pile-up drawn to the enormous signal the broadcast vertical created, while Brian and Barry were standing on the other side of the transmitter building chatting. Without a hitch amid the conversation between Barry and Brian, Brian pointed out the full calls of two other stations calling us. Scott said he always marveled at how Brian could multitask. It was like there was a separate channel in his brain that handled CW that didn't put any load on any other activity or effort.

With Radio, Brian became active with other area groups, such as the Bay Area DXers (BADX). He assisted with efforts to get the area's first DX Cluster online and operate from one of the higher antenna locations near town. The system ran for more than 15 years, and the Bay Area DXers are an active and avid group to this day.

Brian became a mainstay at CARC Field Days to come and other CARC and radio events, particularly those outdoors. Brian's love for the North Country and being active outdoors ran deep. He was involved with several groups fostering outdoor activities, from hiking to biking to others, and made it a part of his lifestyle.

Around 2008, Brian did slow down on club activities - because he was working on getting his pilot's license! I recall a conversation he had with my Father (ex N8CN) about what got him into flying, how excited he was about it, and how his licensing process was progressing. Brian was always busy and challenging himself, and always - always - having fun doing it!

In the early afternoon of November 28, 2020, Brian was fat-tire biking deep in the Northern Michigan wilderness. Unfortunately, he suffered an unknown cardiac event, and despite valiant efforts to save his life, Brian passed away. Brian's life was cut short, and it isn't easy to understand why. We should all take some small measure of comfort in knowing that he passed doing something he loved, with people he loved, in a place he loved - the Northern Michigan Wilderness. Let us all remember the goofy charm, witty humor, and zest for life that Brian had. He will live on in our hearts and minds forever.

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Brian, N8TC and Brad Mellberg, W8QPO At Field Day 2005



Brian and daughter Caitlin



Brian Cox, N8TC



Joe Novak, W8TVT outside and John Doneth, KX8CW inside – at Field Day 2005



Brian and daughter Caitlin at Field Day 2005

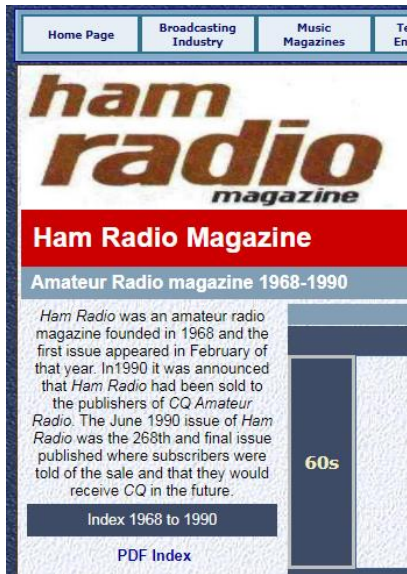


News you can use

Our Deep Roots in Radio

By Scott, WX1J

Dave, K8WPE wrote one morning with [this link](#). Ham Radio Magazine, All back-issues neatly organized and available on-line.



So, I clicked the link and spent hours reading ham radio from the 60's & 70's, dreaming all over again about the radios I had, and wanted. Great articles on antennas and everything ham. Give it a try.

It also sparked a memory of my six-year old self sitting in a chair in front of my Great-grandmother's floor, upright, radio, tuning shortwave radio stations from around the world. I was hooked early, still am. — AND THEN. . . Project Night 12-22-2020, **Jerry W8RQM** said - "Hey have any of you heard of [Radio.Garden.com](#)?"

We all said Uh, no. We looked It up on-line during the **Project Night on Dec 22** and everyone went super-sonic. This app is on Windows, Apple, and Android. It is a great internet radio access for SWL's at heart, like me, and anyone who wants to listen around the world, live.

Ok, I hear you, there are plenty of sites, Simple Radio, Tune-In, and others, but this is different. Just click the link, or Google it. You will be both amazed and intrigued.



App Screen for Radio. Garden.com

Just turn the Google Earth globe to any green-spot on the map.

Join me, while listening to Radio Deutechewelle, or HCJB, I close my eyes, and listen, it's still 1953, I'm still 6 years old and I'm still absolutely, spell-bound.



Ham Radio University Saturday Jan 9, 2021

Jerry, W8RQM also alerted us to [HamRadioUniversity.org](#) that is offering free on-line forums on Saturday January 9.

You need to register on-line to attend the free forums that cover a wide variety of subjects.

The list of subjects and registration links are on their website [forums page](#). And you can view past Forums from years gone by.

DIY Solder-wick

Dave, K8WPE, also added today a helpful hint from [QRPLabs.groups.io](#) on making your own solder-wick.

"For those of us that make mistakes or need to, for some reason, replace a component, the best thing to use for removal is solder-wick..."

FREE Solder-wick. Can be made using coax braid and rosin. For those of us who are fortunate enough to live in the South (ie. the southern USA) we have plenty of FREE rosin. Pine Sap. Just put a small gash on the trunk, collect some sap, dilute it with a small amount of alcohol, then soak a length of braid in it and let it dry--- and wow solder-wick."

Credit [QRPLabs.groups.io](#).

Amateur Radio Workshops: Update and 2021 Plan



In the fall of 2020, CARC embarked on a project designed to ease the pathway for newly licensed hams, into the activity of on-air amateur radio operation. We called it **Amateur Radio Workshop**.

The first workshop was well attended, everyone got a chance to practice initiating, holding and ending a contact on the radio. Other nuances of operating, such as International Phonetic Alphabet, and why it's important, and programming a repeater into their radio. Joe, KC8RLU and Dave K8WPE volunteered to be there for support and handle one-on-one any questions. Their presence during the session was invaluable. Each of us have a set of experiences, and sometimes one way of explaining something is better done from a couple of angles. The post-workshop feedback was good and valuable. We learned and re-grouped for the second and third sessions.

Now we look forward to 2021 and making the Amateur Radio Workshop series club resource.

Following is an outline of the workshop concept for 2021. Search for a workshop or topic that may interest you to volunteer two hours once every other month to attend and share your experience.

You are invited to be that one voice that inspires a generation of new hams, or just helps one ham over a hump in the road to his/her future in ham radio.

What we learned from 2020, is that we will be more effective if we construct a pipeline of support for prospective, newly licensed hams, and all hams who wish to explore new territory, modes or operating styles. This provides a broad set of appeal for any ham wanting to take part in the workshops, and those who are able to share their experience, skill and encouragement to help others along the way.

The 2021 plan has three workshop styles

License Prep Workshop, provide an opportunity for people to ask questions that are stumping them, or to understand the ways they can remember the correct solution to a potential exam question. The plan is to have interested attendees register for Technician, General or Extra questions, so we can match them up with the right hams to discuss their areas of concern. This is not to teach you the answers to every test question, or to teach the course in an afternoon, but to be a resource for you to discuss topics that you studied, but just don't feel confident that you know or can remember the right answer.

New Ham Workshop, designed specifically for those who have just passed their test and are awaiting or have just received their Technician or first license. This is a chance to learn and practice the basics for their first time on the air, and getting the radio set-up, getting on the air, learning the important parts that will make that entry into amateur radio communication as stress free and successful as possible.

The Amateur Radio Workshop for all hams, designed to share, demonstrate, and discuss operating in specific areas of interest. Examples of this are the 2020 workshop "Work LEO Satellites with your hand-held", a hands on demo with live satellite passes held at Clinch Marina parking lot. In 2021 we want to have hams who are interested, to experience hands on demonstrations (live or virtually) on subjects as we will in the spring, see a live DEMO of 6 meter EME Moon-bounce QSOs. From the simple to the exotic, Hams helping hams experience things before they jump into set it all up for themselves.

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Amateur Radio Workshops

The graphic on the right → is a proposed schedule for 2021. The schedule dynamic is based on the VE-EXAMS planned by CARC VE Team, led by Hope, AA8SN.

Timing is on VE Schedule

The first VE Exam of 2021 will be on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM at:

New Approaches Center
5123 N Royal Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49684

If you plan to test on February 6, please contact Hope, AA8SN, at hopeaa8sn@gmail.com to confirm your space and to get a list of the new requirements before testing.

New requirements are that you must go to the FCC Website and obtain an FRN number. It must be associated with your email address. You will need three pieces of ID at the test time and the test is \$15.00.

Therefore, we will plan to have a **License Prep Workshop** in January, pending prospective licensee's interest and availability. If you are planning to test, and would like to attend a prep - workshop, please contact Scott at WX1J@arrl.net.

The first **New Ham Workshop** will follow the testing period, allowing for you to receive your license, or be close to it. On March 20. We will plan to have a sign-up registration facility on the Cherrylandarc.com web-site in coming weeks.

Any ham is welcome to attend, or help coach any workshop.

Contact: Scott, WX1J – wx1j@arrl.net – 248-495-3665

	License Prep	VE EXAM	New Ham Workshop	Workshop	SATURDAY
Jan	*			Planning & Organizational Period	
Feb		*		VE EXAM -	6
				VHF-UHF Digital MODES	13
Mar			*	New Ham Workshop	20
Apr	*			FT-8 Earth-Moon-Earth Workshop	17
May		*		VE EXAM -	8
			*	New Ham Workshop	15
Jun				HF Field Day overview & Prep	19
Jul	*			HF Digital Modes	17
Aug		*		VE EXAM -	7
			*	New Ham Workshop	28
Sep				LEO Satellite Workshop	18
Oct	*			HF Station Set-up	16
Nov		*		VE EXAM -	TBD
			*	New Ham Workshop	
Dec				No Sessions in December	

In column 2 above, the star indicates that a License Prep workshop will be planned during that month, pending number of registrations and license class interest.

Other workshops indicated for that month, are Workshops for All hams and anyone can join-in.

As we enter the 2021 year, in respect for everyone's safety, many of these workshops will be virtual on Zoom. Registration forms will be available on-line within the next week or two and will allow us all to plan in ways that meet your needs and assure the resources of the club that will be necessary to have the workshop.

To make sure you receive all communication on the workshop schedule as either an attendee or Elmer, please send an email to wx1j@arrl.net

These three workshops can make a huge difference in the number of active hams in the 10 county area, and just as importantly, they can provide the pathway from through the testing process, into the hobby learning curve and launch one or more hams into a lifetime of satisfaction, learning and the joy of experiencing Amateur Radio the way we all have.

Amateur Radio Workshop initiative builds the present and the future one ham at a time.



Call for Writers

Want to have your say, your design published, your experience out there? This is a good chance for you to write an article, or author a regular column in the **Cherry Juice** Newsletter that goes to over 200 subscribers and other clubs too.

You can submit your article to the Cherry Juice staff or contact us to discuss a quarterly, bi-monthly, or monthly column. This is the Club's Newsletter, written by and for the Cherryland ARC members and surrounding clubs as well.

We want to read what you have to say, send in photos of you at your station, your mobile set-up or your field operations.

We'll work with you to make your article stand out and be something you will point to with pride.

Contact: Scott, WX1J at wx1j@arrl.net or 248-495-3665



Club Dues are Due

Club Member dues are annual, and each membership begins on January first.

Please join or renew your membership today.

You may send your dues to:

Ward Kuhn N8WK
PO Box 987
Traverse City, MI 49685

CARC Membership Dues:

Individual \$24.00

Family in same house \$26.00

Student Discounted Rate: \$5.00

Coming Highlights

January 2021

Board Meeting	Jan 5
Project Night	Jan 12, 19
Club Meeting	Jan 26
Amateur Radio Workshop	
Planning session-	TBA

February 2021

Board Meeting	Feb 2
Roundtable Net	Feb 4
VE EXAM	Feb 6
1pm at New Horizon Center	
Project Nights	Feb 9, 16
Club Meeting	Feb 23
Amateur Radio Workshop	

CHERRYLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	Ernie K8RCT
Vice President	Glen K8SGZ
Treasurer	Ward N8WK
Recording Secretary	Hope AA8SN
Communicating Secretary	Joe KC8RLU
Cherry Juice Editor	Joe N8CN

Cherryland Amateur Radio Club
<http://cherrylandarc.com/>
 Traverse City, MI 49686