



Cherry Juice

Newsletter of the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club

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Swap-N-Shop Successful

Story on Page 4



#1082

President's Corner



Changing of the Guard

We're off to a new start! Hang-on, this is going to be great!

After many years as the club's president, it was time for some new blood to lead the club into the future.

Happily, Jim Marco, was interested in running for president and was elected at our last club meeting. Congratulations Jim, you have a great club to lead. I've heard that there are already plans being made as the club moves forward.

Jim has great leadership and technical skills that will bring innovation and energy to the club. Hang on, this is going to be great.

So, what is Ernie going to be doing now that he's retired? Well, I'll be helping Hope give amateur radio exams and maybe doing some teaching for folks that want to join our wonderful hobby.

As you know, I'm mainly an HF guy so DXing and contesting are my main operating activities. With both Bovet and Crozet on the air, both of which I need for my DX totals I will be busy hunting for these rare entities.

So, thank you all for being such great club members these past few years. It has been my pleasure to work with you. It has been fun!

73,

Ernie, K8RCT

CARC President, Retired!--



Hello and welcome. My name is Jim Marco and my call is WB2LHP. I am the new President of the Cherryland ARC. Many may not know me and I'm sure I haven't met all of you, but I do know one thing. We all share a passion for this hobby we call Amateur Radio. I read with great interest and concern the results of the recent survey by the club. I found that there are many things the club does well, some we don't and some not at all. It made me think about how things could be improved and how Amateur Radio can remain relevant in this modern world where there are so many things competing for our time, energy and money. Most importantly, I want this club to be a fun and educational experience for all. To achieve this goal, the club leadership has taken the recent survey to heart and is doing a top to bottom review of our organization.

We want to establish and define our mission and make sure we are serving the best interests of our members. We are developing new initiatives and programs targeted at those new to the hobby. Teaching, testing, licensing and mentoring will be front and center with opportunities for every member to participate.

Of course, we will continue to maintain and develop our cornerstone social activities, including the annual Swap-N-Shop, Field Day, Summer Picnic, Foxhunt and Christmas Party.

Please join us for our next regular meeting on February 28 for a special "Meet the Board" presentation. It will be an opportunity to meet the 2023 elected officers and learn about their background and function in the club. I know I'm looking forward to meeting and seeing you all.

73

Jim WB2LHP

CARC President

Meet the 2023 Leadership Team at the February Club Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 28 - 7:00 PM at New Approaches Center - 5123 North Royal Drive, Traverse City

President



Jim Marco
WB2LHP

Vice President



Mike Vandermey, KD8REH

Board Member



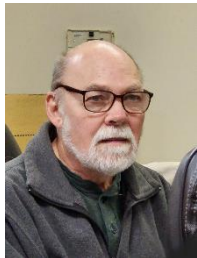
Drake Habich, N8DMH

Treasurer



Ward Kuhn, N8WK

Board Member



Mark Kristof, KC8ZAP

Board Member



Scott Pyles, WX1J

Cherry Juice Editor

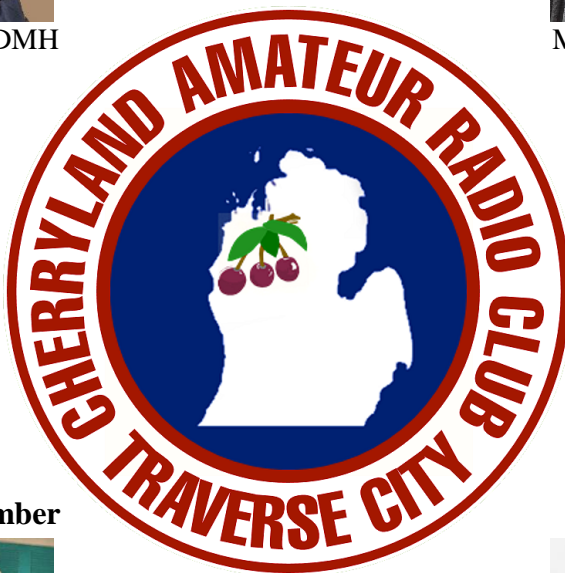


Joe Erlewein, N8CN

Secretary



Hope Francisco, AA8SN





49th Annual Swap-N-Shop Success!

As CARC volunteers finished putting away the last table in the basement of St Francis High, the spirits were mixed. Only eight hours earlier, they had just put the tables and chairs in place. So naturally there were sore muscles, tired volunteers and a sense of pride and elation that this 49th annual Swap & Shop was the best in many years.

Over 200 participants attended the Swap and their sentiments were loud and clear, they loved the event; good things for sale, good friends to meet, some for the first time.

Thanks to good weather, sunny skies, 25 – 40 temperatures, no snow and reduced covid concerns, this Swap was very strong.

Thirty two vendors expressed that this was an unusually good sales event. One could see items carried out the door to the waiting cars of new owners.



Preparation for this year's swap began in earnest at the board meeting in early October. Confirming the venue, which we highly appreciate with St. Francis that we could use the Gym again.

We prepared flyer's, mailings, social media and tickets, signs and started rounding up volunteer's to set up and tear down the tables and floor covering.

We want to thank specifically these volunteers who made it all happen.

Joe Erlewein, N8CN – overall manager of the Swap and responsible for table sales.

Ward Kuhn, N8WK, for coordinating with St. Francis to secure the venue and manning the welcome table all morning, then picking up tables.

The group of hams who came together to get the flyer mailing out.

John, KE8VNA, Jim N8CXX, Ernie, K8RCT, Kevin KE8SBW and his son, Eric, Mark, KC8ZAP, and others.

Ernie, K8RCT, who procured 16 door prizes and Robert K8RAK, who gave them all away at the Swap.

Everyone also owes a special Thank You! To the Weaver family, who provided coffee, juice, pop, donuts and hot-dogs.

Lisa, KC8EXD, Steve, KB8RDI, and Alyssa Weaver. Paul, KB8UYM and Nancy, KC8VEH Smith from Jenison rounded out a very effective team.



Janet, Lisa and Alyssa

They all worked hard, had some fun, and enjoyed the larger than usual crowd. Thank you Lisa, Alyssa, Steve and all who helped you help us.

Steve also went above and way beyond helping schlep the tables and chairs down the hall and into storage. – Thanks Steve!

Swap-N-Shop

And a special thank you to St. Francis for making their Gym open to this event. And to these volunteers who set-up and put away tables and chairs.

Ernie	Abel	K8RCT
Pete	Van Den Berge	K8WQK
Nicholas	Hirs	KD8SIY
James	Thoreson	KE8BHO
Don	Shikoski	KI8KR
Jim	Wilcox	N8TCZ
Bill	Sarwas	W8MND

Additionally, we wish to acknowledge and thank the vendors who purchased a table, brought their treasures and hopefully walked away with less than you brought, and a nice thick wallet on your drive home. Thank you again - we hope to see you next year.



Jon, KC9ON, 3rd Planet and John KE8VNA

Thanks to 3rd Planet Solar (KC9ON.com) for providing a door prize, won by Kate Easlick, just after receiving news that she passed her license exam.

Photo by: Stephen Smith, WA8LMF



Karen, KB8AKC, Les, W8MSP representing ARRL

Thanks to Les Butler, W8MSP, ARRL Michigan Section Manager, his wife Karen Butler, KB8AKC and Tom Bosscher, K8TB, ARRL Michigan Assistant Manager, for attending the Swap and entering into such in-depth, conversations, and DXCC card checks. PS, the Biscoff cookies were a big hit too.

The Cherryland Amateur Radio Club 49th Annual Swap & Shop was sanctioned by the ARRL. Having ARRL staff exhibiting and being involved was a big benefit to the Club, it's members and attendees. Not only did the ARRL provide expert information, but they also provided Gift Cards as door prizes which allows winners to purchase ARRL books, apparel or other items in their store.



Chuck, N8NXP visits with Tom, K8TB

Visit arrrl.com for support, resources, news and more.



Swap-N-Shop



Galaxy S22 Ultra

EMERGENCY

Vinny, KG8WF Finding a bargain



Galaxy S22 Ultra

Joe, N8CN purchasing an essential.



Tom, WB8WIV, Shopping



Tom, WB8WIV & Brook, N8OCX



Glen, K8SGZ, TBARG Table



*Robert, K8RAK
Announcing yet
another Door
Prize*



*Bea Clements, of Gaylord, MI Receiving her Baofeng
Professional Transceiver, the grand prize drawing..*

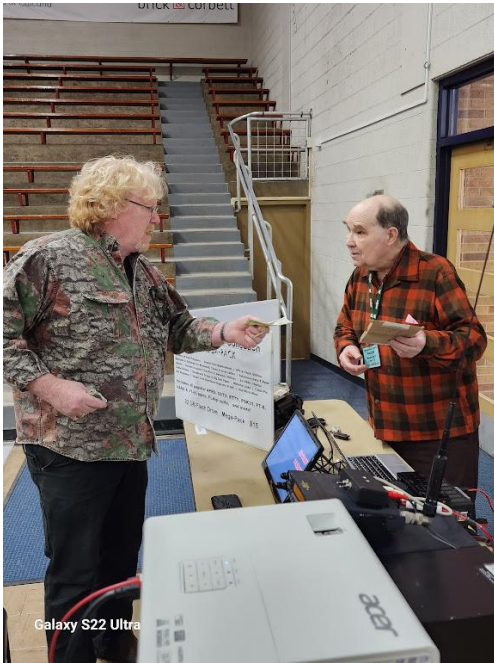
Thank you to the following who provided door prizes

- ***American Radio Relay League,***
- ***DX-Engineering***
- ***KC9ON.com – Third Planet Solar.***
- ***HF Wire Antennas – for G7RV door prize.***

Swap-N-Shop



The VE Exam saw eleven hams pass their license tests. The VE Team was Hope, AA8SN, Ernie, K8RCT, Mark, KC8ZAP, Ken, W8QKP and Dave, N8PU.



Neal, K8NCH purchased a CD of ham software from Stephen, WA8LMF.



District 7 Emergency Communications Team gathered for together for a rare opportunity to meet face-to-face.

Hope, AA8SN handing a new certificate of completion to Andrew Schrader, Now the wait begins for his first Call sign.

Congratulations to all who passed or tried.

All in all, the preparation paid off for this 49th Annual Swap-n-Shop. And now, the process begins to prepare for 2024 and the Half-Century, 50th Annual Swap-n-Shop. If you saw something you liked, or something you think we could do better, take a moment and send a comment by email to email@cherrylandarc.com. We would appreciate the ideas and we'd like to invite you to join the volunteer list for next year.

Thanks everyone.

See you next year.



Question asked related to our “participation” in Winter Field Day.

“Since I made a contact, guessing I qualify, so here’s my story.”

By Jim N8TCZ

I purchased my first HF radio about three months ago. With the much appreciated help and advice of several CARC club members I’ve been trying to get my arms around the basics of how to operate the radio as well as researching various antenna options. Being restricted by HOA rules/regs, I have been experimenting with a portable Buddistick antenna temporarily placed out on the back deck. Trying it for the first time we were clearly receiving multiple stations on both 10 and 20 meters but were unsuccessful in establishing a contact, most likely due to my slow newbie hesitancy in responding to the CQ’s. After multiple attempts to contact a DX station operating out of Rotterdam to no avail, I saved the call sign and freq for future reference. On a positive note, the performance and portability of the Buddistick antenna was encouraging and I felt like I had an acceptable work-around answer to my HOA antenna issues, at least for now.

A couple weeks later I was ready to try again. It was snowing that day so setting up the antenna and keeping the coil and coax connections dry was the first challenge but that was solved with a grocery bag and roll of tape. Second challenge was negotiating with my bride the need to lay 75’ of coax across the family room, kitchen and dining room floor leaving door to the deck opened slightly during a snowstorm (resolved amicably with promise of dinner at fav Asian restaurant).

I turned on my 7300, opened QRZ on the computer and started searching for contacts. The Buddistick was previously set for 20 m so I started there. All stations were marginal/static at best so decided to try 10m where I had heard the DX/ Rotterdam station. That meant removing the cover over the coil and due to the snow, exposing it to moisture, so I decided to leave it alone. Switching to 10 m, I hit the antenna TUNER button on the radio and dialed in the frequency where he was transmitting previously. Hearing nothing I continued to search 10 m and heard multiple stations referring to Winter Field Day.

Wasn’t sure if my not being out in the field made a difference so was hesitant to respond. Listening to one station make several contacts, I heard him ask each one if they were out in the field participating in WFD or inside so I realized he was just logging as many contacts as possible so I decided to give it a try. After looking up his call sign K8DF on QRZ and seeing he was located in West Virginia, I hit the PTT button, gave my call sign and after several try made the contact. Assuming that he would be in a hurry to just log the contact and sign off, I kept it short but did tell him that this was my very 1st HF contact since getting my license and that I appreciated his taking my call. Hearing that, he did take the time to welcome me to the hobby of ham radio and wish me well. I followed that up by logging his call sign as my initial HF contact. That made my day.

I followed that up a few days later with my first DX QSO with IK5SRF in Livorno, Italy.

Making progress and having fun!!

73

Jim Wilcox / N8TCZ



Enter Query by Call Sign • Search Database News Forums Store Swapmeet Resources Contact Subscribe N8TCZ

K8DF
Harold G. Jobe
Central West Virginia Wireless
Association
PO BOX 4021
Clarksburg, WV 26302
USA

Email: Use mouse to view.
Page managed by N8LBJ Lookups: 13731

Biography Detail Logbook Log a NEW contact with K8DF...

We are a club that is located in Harrison County, WV. We are a club that is 70+ strong, with very active members. We do POTA and Field Day every year. Currently in the process of uploading all logs to LOTW so check your LOTW account to see if your contact has been confirmed.

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INDUSTRIES

Winter Field Day



Down South

Bev and I have been coming to Florida for the last five years and since Tom, KE8CVM, also spends winters here in St. Augustine we both have become members of SAARS, the St. Augustine Amateur Radio Society. This year they held Winter Field Day at Faver-Dykes State Park (POTA KFF-1866) about 10 miles south of St. Augustine.

It was a beautiful location, rather rustic, with camping, picnic areas, real toilets, and lots of trees to place antennas in. We had about 20 hams show up and four stations were set up. John, K3GO, had fun using his pneumatic antenna launcher to get many wires up in the trees.

Mike, KO4PDI, set up his PackTenna end fed and his Buddipole dipole up on his 18 ft mast. There was also an assortment of verticals and off center fed dipoles.

Three stations were on SSB and one on CW, Danny, KB8W. He hails from the UP but weather has driven him south for the winter. He tantalized us with his home made side swiper key

Rick Hatton, KK4GGL, and his rescued dachshund added color and great stories to our coffee sessions.



All stations used portable gear with either QRP exciters and amplifiers or larger portable rigs but the power was 50 watts or more.

Weather was breezy but comfortable and sunny. Sure beats Michigan Winter Field Day hands down!

Tom and I helped set up but had other obligations that day so had to leave after a lunch of dogs, brats, and burgers on the grill. I don't have the final score, but all had a great time setting up, eating, swapping stories and enjoying the day.

If you get down this way look up the SAARS group on their website and contact them for a cup of coffee and eyeball QSO. They are a friendly bunch. <https://saars.club/>

See you when it warms up a bit.

Winter Field Day Down South

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Dave, K8WPE also included these photos of the Winter Field Day operation in Florida.



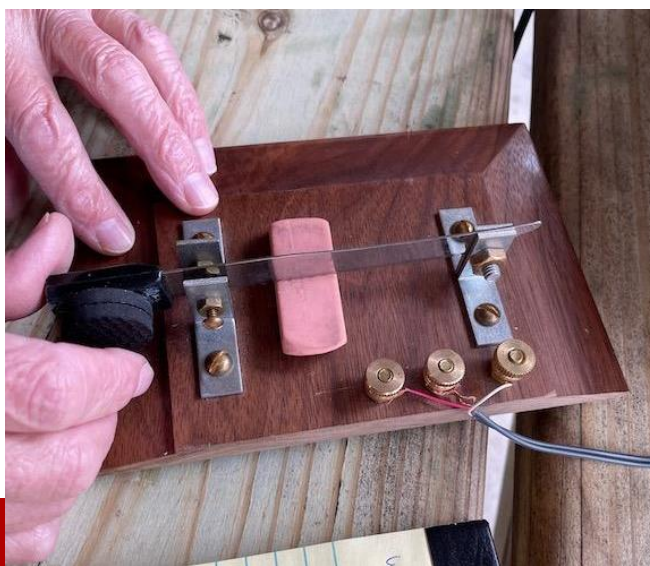
New Design Pneumatic Canon



Pneumatic Canon and Ammo



Danny, KB8W, in the blue jacket
Also made the Home-brew Side Swiper.



REPEATER UPDATE

Recently the Cherryland ARC Board and Repeater Technical Committee met to discuss the status of the club's two W8TCM repeaters - 146.86 and 442.50. In refining the goals and purposes of the club's repeaters, the following intentions were clarified:

- ❑ The 146.86 and 442.50 club repeaters should be solid, reliable, and failover-ready systems, meaning we have tested spare equipment and possibly sites, in case something happens.
- ❑ The Cherryland ARC should support the efforts of sister (but separate) organization Traverse Bay Amateur Radio Group (TBARG) and its efforts to provide usable and reliable interoperable communications channels throughout the region including District-7.

By Joe, N8CN

146.86 is now Analog-FM-Only

To these ends, it was decided that 146.86 would be reprogrammed back to Analog-Only mode. The Yaesu SystemFusion Digital mode has been disabled. Currently, if a station transmits Yaesu SystemFusion digital traffic into 146.86 it is “magically converted” to analog FM which is what everyone else on 86 will hear.

This decision was not made lightly, but it did take into account several key points: Digital traffic on 86 was not linked, but simply local, and was a scarce minority of the use case of the repeater. FM is predominantly the mode of choice. There have been conflicts while users are using Analog FM by Digital stations, and vice-versa. So in the interest of keeping a solid, reliable and available “FM Analog” quadrant-grade repeater, 146.86 has had its SystemFusion digital mode disabled.

We will soon be migrating away from the Yaesu repeater unit in use, as both the DR-1X and DR-2X that the club has used over the last decade have been “mostly-OK” but have had repeat issues mostly due to engineering design shortcomings. The new system will not suffer from these conditions.

146.86 is now only linked for nets and events

Also, the 86 repeater has recently been outfitted with a new Allstar controller which has allowed us to ad-hoc and permanently link the repeater to other area repeaters and networks, such as the Northern Michigan Linked Repeater Network. However, it was decided at the meeting that 86 would only temporarily be linked for nets and emergency events, and that a normal “persistent” link would not be maintained. This seems to be the “preferred” operating mode for such a wide-coverage system.

For those who wish to use a wide-area analog link system, I have heard rumor that there will be a new (non-CARC) repeater in the TC areas soon that will feature a permanent link to the [NLMRN](#) (*Northern Michigan Linked Repeater Network*) Allstar structure, and perhaps more.



442.50 is now DMR-only

The 442.50 repeater, once a mixed-mode repeater featuring Analog FM, Yaesu SystemFusion with a constant link to [West Michigan SystemFusion](#) group's [WM_CONNECT](#) room.

The new operating mode of the 442.50 repeater is **DMR Only** with no Analog FM or other digital modes.

Several key factors contributed to this decision - the need to support TBARG and its communication efforts was tantamount, and providing a way to access DMR District 7 Talkgroup 2416 without interference from other modes was the largest factor. The thought of interrupting an in-progress event communication because of another digital mode becoming active, or someone accidentally transmitting Analog FM presented a high risk.

The link to WM_CONNECT had constant issues and was a repeat maintenance task to keep operating properly, mostly due to the technical design of the Yaesu-proprietary linking protocols.

Also, there are now 3 other area repeaters that have a constant

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Repeater Update

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link to WM_CONNECT that most mobile stations within or near downtown TC can reach, so the network is not "unavailable" by any stretch. We will miss the link with our friends at WM_CONNECT and they have been great to work with.

We are hearing that there may be another "in-TC" repeater coming online soon which will be a part of that network again, so stay tuned for that news!

In addition to the TGIF permanent link to TG2416 for District 7, we also can carry all of the standard Brandmeister talkgroups on TS2, and are also a linked partner with the Mi5 StateWide and Event talkgroups. There is more detail on the DMR configuration of 442.5+ on the club website for those interested.

So there you have it - at the time of the writing of this article, that's what we know!

We realize this is a LOT to take in, and that you'll probably have some questions about how to set up your radios and such - never fear! We'll be hosting some meetings coming up with information about how to do just that - how best to program your radios in the easiest way to use, and in some cases we hope to be able to provide refreshed "files" you can upload to your radio that include pre-programmed channels for the repeaters you want to be able to use.

73,

Joe, N8CN

Independent Repeater Association Announces Net Updates

MICHIGAN NOONTIME ROUNDUP NET - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 N

The net is a great way for Michigan hams to communicate with each other during the mid-day hours while mobile, or just looking for conversations with fellow hams. We always have an interesting topic or two for discussion, as well as an occasional trivia question. Any questions, contact Tom Behler (KB8TYJ) tombehler@gmail.com

IRA AFTER WORK/DINNER NET - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6 PM

This also is a social net with one or two topics of interest, plus occasional humorous and/or headscratching trivia questions. The net often takes some "different" twists with every net being unique, and is dedicated to promoting open discussion and questions. While everyone is welcome, newly-licensed hams and "third party" family members are especially encouraged to check in. Any questions, contact Rick Fyan (KE8IKT) KE8IKT@outlook.com

MICHIGAN VHF TRAFFIC NET (NTS) - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 PM

Please listen, check in, or even try your hand at passing NTS traffic! Net participants will be more than happy to serve as Elmers for anyone interested! Any questions, contact Bob Berger (K8RDN) K8RDN73@gmail.com

INSOMNIAC NET - Back to Wednesdays at 3 AM

Do you have trouble sleeping at night? Or, are you just a basic night owl? If so, we have just the net for you! It's the IRA Link System Insomniac Net! The net covers an amazing variety of topics, takes a round-robin format, and will run as long as needed. Bring your own beverage of choice and enjoy! Any questions, contact Steven Bishop (KD8MEY) scubabishop@yahoo.com

AFTER SCHOOL NET Monday at 5:30 PM

Are you elementary-school to college-aged? If so, this net is designed just for you! The net focuses on topics of interest to those in the younger age groups. The net controls are young people themselves. Both licensed and non-licensed hams are welcome, although any un-licensed ham will need to check in as "third party". Hams of any age are also welcome to check in and share their knowledge on the topics covered. Any questions, contact Wes Bustra (W8WJB) wbustraan@gmail.com

[Info & Frequencies click here.](#)

Tom Behler (KB8TYJ)
IRA Net Operations Director
tombehler@gmail.com

ALSO, DON'T FORGET ABOUT

- AMATEUR RADIO NEWS LINE, TUESDAY at 12 NOON
- AND ARRL NEWS, THURSDAY AT 12 NOON

2022-23 Great Lakes Div. ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Calendar

- ARRL Sanctioned Hamfests through March 2023:
- 2/11/23 - Cherryland, Traverse City, MI
 - 2/18/23 - Livonia Swap, Livonia, MI
 - 3/5/23 - Cave City Hamfest, Cave City, KY
 - 3/11-23 - MOVARC Hamfest, Bidwell, OH
 - 3/11/23 - Crossroads Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI
 - 3/19/23 - Toledo Mobile Radio Assn, Perrysburg, OH
 - 3/26/23 - USECA Hamfest, Troy, MI
 - 4/15/23 - Cuyahoga Falls, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
 - 4/22/23 - Tusco, Dover, OH
 - 4/22/23 - St Joseph, Centreville, MI
 - 4/30/23 - Athens, Athens, OH

Club Dues were due in Jan. Still not too late-

[Click the Application Form](#) to get a new form to renew your membership.

Thank you.

CARC Membership Application Form

Last Name: Nickname:

Callsign (if any):

Street State:

Email: Zip:

Phone:

Occupation: (if applicable)

ARRL Member?

Yes

No

Please complete the form above and mail along with your payment to:

Ward Kuhn, N8WK

P.O. Box 987

Traverse City, MI 49685

Membership Plans

Single Membership \$ 24.00

Family Membership \$ 26.00 *

Student Membership \$ 5.00

* All members live in the same household

Coming Highlights

February	
CARC Board Meeting	7-Feb
DMR D7 Auxcom Net	1,8,16,23
Annual Swap-n-Shop	11-Apr
Project Nights	15,21
CARC Club Meeting	28-Feb

March	
CARC Board Meeting	7-Mar
DMR D7 Auxcom Net	1,8,15,22,29
Project Nights	14,21
CARC Club Meeting	28-Mar

April	
CARC Board Meeting	4-Apr
DMR D7 Auxcom Net	5,12,19,26
Project Nights	11, 18
CARC Club Meeting	25-Apr

May	
CARC Board Meeting	2-May
DMR D7 Auxcom Net	3,10,17,24,31
VE Test Session	13-May
Project Nights	9,16,30
CARC Club Meeting	23-May

CHERRYLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President	Jim, WB2LHP	Board Member	Mark, KC8ZAP
Vice President	Mike, KD8REH	Board Member	Drake, N8DMH
Treasurer	Ward, N8WK	Board Member	Scott, WX1J
Secretary	Hope, AA8SN		
Cherry Juice Editor	Joe, N8CN		