

BRANCH SIGNALS

FEBRUARY 2023

The Prez Sez...

We are just about halfway through winter and just had the latest snow storm that turned out to be pretty much as predicted by the NWS (for a change). It is a tough job to predict what a moving target is going to do, so I guess we have to cut them some slack.

We are currently in some pretty good propagation these days (it is about time....) and we are hearing reports of many of our club members working DX and having the time of their lives. Nothing says ham radio like good DX!

The BCARC Volunteer Exam team recently held an "on demand" test session where Lee, W3BGE earned his General class license. He has been roaming the bands and having a ball using his new privileges. Thanks to the VE team (AA8J, WV0SS, W9SR, and WB8R) for hosting the test session.

Our VE team is available and willing to set up an 'on demand' test session to provide opportunities for our friends and members to upgrade their licenses.

The program for the February meeting on Feb 14 is not yet finalized, so stay tuned. I suspect it may have something to do with the on-air gatherings that we call "nets". Our club is very active with on-air gatherings that are focused on a number of areas, such as general round table conversations, gatherings using specific modes such as DStar digital and even an attempt at a net using CW. Others focus on veterans and associated topics and some are just general conversations that discuss whatever comes to mind. These on-air gatherings are part of the 'glue' that holds our club together. And of course, there is always 'Breakfast @ Bob's' which really is just another net that just happens to be face to face with good food.

Our February meeting will be held at the Branch County Airport at 7:00 PM on Valentine's Day (Feb 14). Spread the word and bring a friend. Everyone, member or not, is welcome to join the fun.

73/See you there!

Larry, WB8R

BCARC President

Important Dates

February 4th- Siren Test

February 7th- Board Meeting

February 14th- Club meeting

January Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Larry Camp, our club President, at 7:03 pm on Tuesday January 8, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was then observed by the attendees.

The previous monthly Treasurers report was given by Ted Hadfield, KU8F for December 2022. A motion was made by Jim King to accept the report as given, seconded by Jim Voss- motion carried.

Two months of meeting minutes were posted, for November and December 2022, in the monthly newsletters. These reports are made by Ted Hadfield, KU8F. The minutes for each month were approved by the membership, after a motion by Jim King KK1NGJ, and a second by Pete Hughes, KE8UJV.

President Larry Camp then gave his annual report to the club, covering 2022. He began with our two FM repeaters, followed by our D-Star repeater. The antenna issue during our relocation to the new Jail was mentioned, along with reasons for replacing the antenna on the tower due to some issues with the first installation- causing a second purchase of an antenna. It was noted that the first antenna needs full testing, and then it will be decided to sell it or use it as a spare.

He noted the excellent coverage of our UHF repeater on the Spectrum tower and the lesser used VHF repeater (due to its lower antenna height) which has some difficulties with noise. The allowance by the Sheriff's office for a space for our repeater, and use of their tower, indicates an excellent relationship with our club.

We purchased a scanner and placed the output online with a public online program called Broadcastify. We are moving our equipment and antennas from the 911 center over to the Airport station, thanks to Joe Best and their directors. Larry thanked Lee Younkman W3BGE for his assisting with the scanner project and with the club website, with which he is doing a great job.

We sold and earned about \$1200.00 for the estate sale of (S.K.) John Russels (KE8OVU) radio equipment donated to our club.

The meeting came to a close at 7:45, by motion of Jim King KK1NGJ, and second by Ted Hadfield KU8F. The club enjoyed a time of refreshment and a 50/50 drawing afterward.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Lee, W3BGE on passing his General Exam in January!

He rather enjoys being addressed as General Lee at the moment, but it seems it won't last long. He is already studying for his Extra license, so everyone should enjoy it while it lasts since Extra Lee just doesn't quite have the same ring to it. Have fun on HF, Lee!