

BWARC NEWS



146.895- (CTCSS 100) | 146.730- (CTCSS 100) | 146.655- (CTCSS 151.4) | 146.865- (CTCSS 151.4) | 444.250 +(CTCSS151.4)
Maple Hill Gunflint Lake Grand Portage Sawbill Trail Grand Marais

Winter-Spring 2010

Welcome to the latest edition of the BWARC newsletter! We would love to hear from you. Please send comments or ideas for articles to Jayne Johnson, NØUYQ, email: jaynef@blackspruce.com. Information about BWARC, as well as this newsletter, is available at our website: <http://www.boreal.org/bwarc>.

Repeater Update

So far so good is the party line on our system. All machines are on line with Portage having been set up with a temporary (read “low”!) antenna and all seem to be functioning just fine – guess we better work on ‘em!. The UHF repeater in town (444.250) had an encode issue, but that has been resolved with an external tone board and should be operational by the time this is published.

In our last column, we mentioned that we had lost our UHF feed from the Gunflint machine due to an ice storm. That was replaced and all is fine there, too.

During the recent communications outage, the St. Louis County EOC was able to get in to our system via the Sawbill machine and they were full quieting. Given that we know that the Lake County EOC in Two Harbors can get in with full quieting also, that gives us pretty good coverage to other communities in the event of an incident.

New Tower for County CCART Station

The tower for CCART’s County fixed station at the SRU (Search and Rescue) Hall behind the Law



Rick Johnson (KBØBDN) and Steve DuChien (KCØZCN) hard at work on the new tower.

Enforcement Center was installed in October. The station there is now fully operational, and tested weekly by a CCART member. Thanks to Rick Johnson (KBØBDN), Pat Scully (NØWSI), Jerry Sivets (KCØZCO), Steve DuChien (KCØZCN), and Dave Palmer (WØPRW) for all the hard work and dedication.



CCART Corner

On January 26th, the entire North Shore experienced a communications outage due to a fiber issue in Duluth. Many of you jumped and assisted with the incident. Kudos to ALL of those that helped out during the outage. We received a note of thanks from Sheriff Mark Falk for our actions, with special mention of our covering the needs of the hospital. Again, thanks to all of you that served, and those that waited on standby to serve, for your dedication.

Beargrease has come and gone with CCART providing it's usual support. That, too, occurred without any major issues. Spring is our busy season when it comes to event details and your support is always needed. Please look at the dates below, check your calendars, and let me know your availability. The dates are:

Saturday, March 13th – Mush For A Cure
Sunday, May 2nd – Ham Run Half Marathon
Saturday, May 15th – Superior Hiking Trail Spring Race

The last one to keep in mind is the annual Gunflint Trail Fire Evacuation Training, for which we handle the communications supporting the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department. That date has been set for Tuesday evening, May 25th.

Reminder that CCART nets are held every Sunday evening at 19:00. They are open nets; if you are in the area on Sunday evening, check-in and say "hello".

Thanks again everyone for your hard work and dedication and, most of all, be safe out there!

Skywarn Training To Be Held Friday, April 23rd

As in past years, Skywarn Training will be held as part of the Cook County Emergency Services Conference in April. The session will be Friday evening, April 23rd, at 19:00. This session will be open to the public. A reminder for those interested in CCART, that Skywarn Training is a requirement for CCART membership. Even if you've already attended the training, it's a good refresher for everyone.

CCART Members Provide Emergency Communications with Phone Outage

As mentioned in CCART Corner, CCART members jumped into action when phone, including 911 service, cell service and most internet access, was cut off for the day and well into the night on January 26th. Ham radio operators helped provide communications for the North Shore Hospital and for county emergency services.

CCART handled their responsibilities with admirable and appreciated professionalism. It was gratifying to see our training pay off — every one knew where to go and what to do!



Pat Scully (NØWSI) with a multitude of radios, controlling Cook County's sub-net when communications with the outside world through conventional means were lost.

The Landing at Devil Track



CCART / BWARC at Beargrease 2010

This year, BWARC and CCART members provided communications support for Beargrease at Trail Center, The Landing at Devil Track, and Beaver Bay check-points, as well as the mid-distance finish at Tofte and even a few road crossings! Everyone did a great job, had a lot of fun, and their support was truly appreciated by the mushers, handlers, and other Beargrease folks!

Above: Steve DuChien (KCØZCN), Dave Palmer (WØPRW), Joe Coghlan (VE3TBX), Mark Delameter (N8SXN). Mark and his son, Trevor (KCØZVO), also worked at Beaver Bay check-point the previous day. Pat Scully (NØWSI), not pictured here, also did yeoman's duty at The Landing

Trail Center at Poplar Lake



Right: Randy Gottfred (VA3OJ) did extra duty at Trail Center, along with (not pictured): Dan Riddle (ACØLF), Steve Olson (KDØDON), Jayne Johnson (NØUYQ), and Jacob Simons (KDØIYN).

More Pictures from Beargrease 2010!



Left: Pat Scully (NØWSI) covers the mid-distance finish from an ice shack at Tofte, before catching a few zzzzzzz's so he can head over to The Landing at Devil Track.

Friends came from Thunder Bay to help!

Right: Randy Gottfred (VA3OJ) with Dave Palmer (WØPRW).
Below: Joe Coughlan (VE3TBX).



Note: Joe came down as a visitor to see what the Beargrease was all about. He had such a good time (or is a glutton for punishment) that he volunteered to come back to work the Mush For a Cure fun run in March!

And Some Bonus Pictures from the Beargrease!



Left: Kay Sivets (KDØDOP) warms up from handling the Two Island road crossing.



Right: Pat Scully (NØWSI) at The Landing.



Left: Jacob Simons (KDØIYN) - who says he can't have his picture taken with his eyes open - at Trail Center, waiting for the first team to leave so he can head out to County 92 to relay road crossing information. Joe Coughlan (VE3TBX) is seated next to Jacob.

Join BWARC!
2010 Annual Dues Due in March!

BWARC's fiscal year begins on April 1st. Yearly dues for BWARC are \$15.00 for an individual, or \$25.00 for a family membership. Please remit your 2010 dues to: Jayne Johnson, 52 Black Spruce Trail, Grand Marais, MN 55604-2179.

BWARC provides an excellent opportunity for those interested in radio or communications to engage in public service and just plain have fun. In Cook County, ham radio provides a communication safety net for those in remote areas where conventional communications are absent and cell phones simply don't work. Hams also help in reporting everyday emergencies to the authorities and keep in touch with friends or visitors in the area through amateur radio.

We are always seeking new members. If you know of a ham in the area that is not involved in the club, please encourage them to attend one of our club meetings!

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

I prefer to receive the BWARC News via email. (Please check this box.)

Any comments? _____

The Boundary Waters Amateur Radio Club

Meets the last Wednesday of the month

At the Grand Marais Community Center at NOON