

# Tri County Repeater Association

Volume 8, Issue 5

November 2004

## October Meeting

October 5th, 2004

**Paul Brooten – KB9TYC**

The October meeting of the Tri County Repeater Association was held October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at Ruby's Roadhouse in Bloomer.

Members present were N9XMU, W9RAY, AB9EJ, KB9TYC, KC9FEE, and KC9EXW. Guests present were K9YLI.

AB9EJ advised at the August meeting the club had a balance of \$1256.51. Expenses since then were \$25.00 to the Ice Age Center, \$100.00 to Walt, and \$38.49 to KB9TYC. Our club has a current balance of \$1093.02.

N9XMU advised that he would be willing to host the Annual Christmas Party at his residence once again this year. It was decided by the members present that the club will purchase a \$150.00 gift certificate as a grand prize for the Christmas Party. AB9EJ will be purchasing the gift certificate through the vendor of his choice.

*Continued on page 2*

## Christmas Party and Election of Officers

November 26th, 2004

**Paul Brooten – KB9TYC**

The annual Christmas Party and election of officers will be held on December 7th at N9XMU's residence in Chippewa Falls. The address is 12568 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. If you don't know where it is and need help getting there give a call on the 145.470 repeater and someone should be able to help you out. This will begin at 6:00 p.m. and everyone is to bring a dish to pass. There will be a grand prize drawing of \$150.00.

You must be present to win. If you are interested in being an officer for 2005 and will not be at the meeting please let KB9TYC know so you can be on the ballot. If you don't want to be voted in to be an officer for 2005 please show up to defend yourself.

Also it is getting to be that time of year to pay your yearly membership dues. They can be paid at the meeting or mailed to:

Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ  
23701 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Cadott, WI 54727

Have a safe holiday season!  
KB9TYC❖

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1**    October Meeting
- 1**    Christmas Party & Election of Officers
- 2**    Upcoming Events
- 2**    September Code Corner Answer
- 2**    Ham Radio Delivers the Toys
- 3**    'Twas The Night Before Christmas
- 5**    Membership Roster

## 2004 TCRA Officers

President:        Dale McGraw – N9XMU  
Vice President: Ray Johnson – W9RAY  
Secretary:       Paul Brooten – KB9TYC  
Treasurer:       Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

<http://www.tcra.org>

Election of officers will also be taking place at the Christmas Party. If you are interested in being an officer please let KB9TYC know so you can be put on the ballot if you are not there.

73,

KB9TYC❖

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TRI COUNTY REPEATER ASSOCIATION DECEMBER MEETING

PLACE: N9XMU'S RESIDENCE

DATE: DECEMBER 7TH, 2004.

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

### VE TESTING

PLACE: GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – EAU CLAIRE

DATE: JANUARY 15TH, 2004.

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

CONTACT JONATHAN CASE AT (715) 834-1540 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## September Code Corner Answer

**Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ**

Code Corner # 8 – CW: Sometimes the only choice

When WA6INJ's jeep went over a cliff in a February snowstorm, he was able to call for help using his mobile rig. This worked well at first, but as the search for him continued, he became unable to speak. The nearly frozen man managed to tap out Morse code signals with his microphone push-to-talk button. That was all his rescuers had to work with to locate him. Morse code saved this ham's life❖



## Ham Radio Delivers the Toys

**ARRL**

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 1, 2004--With time still to spare and with the help of key "relay" service by local radio amateurs the ARRL holiday toy drive has collected truckloads of toys--1650 and counting. The project, which is folding into the United Way's White Doves Holiday Project, aims to brighten the holidays for children displaced or left homeless by the hurricanes that ravaged Florida earlier this year.

"The toy drive has snowballed and taken on a life of its own," says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, who spearheaded the ham radio effort. "Hundreds of groups, clubs and individuals have responded with such energy and cheer that it already is a great holiday season. People just kept going past Thanksgiving and provided more help for the kids than initially imagined for such a simple enterprise." Pitts says the effort generated a lot of goodwill for the Amateur Radio community as well.

Boxes full of toys from radio amateurs nationwide have been pouring in to the United Way of Martin County office in Stuart, Florida. As of November 23, more than 190 clubs, groups and individuals had contributed either toys or checks. Cash donations total nearly \$5000, and even more toys and contributions continue arriving daily. White Doves volunteers are doing an inventory on the toys this week. Two buildings at the Martin County Fairgrounds are serving as the "White Doves Warehouse." A grand opening is set for December 2 (5:30-7 PM). The free, public event will feature refreshments, holiday songs and Santa Claus.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) members have helped transport toys from the United Way office to the fairgrounds. There, volunteers will sort the toys for distribution to needy families on December 20 and 21.

Continued on page 3

*Continued from page 2*

"We continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of the ham radio operators," said Carol Hodnett, director of the United Way Volunteer & Community Resource Center, which coordinates the White Doves Holiday Project. "We cannot thank ARRL and its members enough for choosing to support White Doves and the children it serves."

Bill and Nancy Deacon, KD4HST and KD4HSS, are not only ham radio operators but longtime White Doves Holiday Project volunteers and, this year, hurricane victims as well. The Deacons will help to sort toys and assist families on distribution days. Bill Deacon also will hand out turkeys and hams (the White Doves Project also has collected some 20,000 pounds of food). The Deacons' house was flooded during the storms, and they have been living in a FEMA-provided mobile home while repairs are made.

Entering its 16th year, the White Doves Holiday Project has helped thousands of families with the staples for a holiday meal and toys for their children. The project expects to serve about 2000 Central Florida families this year.❖

## **'Twas the Night Before Christmas**

Twas the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HT's to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.

It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before --

*Continued on page 4*

Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

©1996 Gary Pearce KN4AQ  
Permission granted for any print  
or electronic reproduction

