

BLACK RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order – Vice-President, Aaron Wiedbrauk KE8ZEX

Date: 02/10/2026

Time: 6:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Introduction Of Members

Meeting Location: VBISD Conference Center, Lawrence, MI

Members Present: 11 members present

Secretary's Report – Ed Alderman KI8Z was absent

- The January 2026 meeting minutes were mailed or emailed to members. There were no additions nor corrections. Motion by Jim, N8JVC to approve, Seconded by John, KD8NNQ. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report – Jim Cady, N8JVC

- Jim, N8JVC reported a 01/31/26 Checking Account Balance of \$3,351. Membership dues are or have come in, so the balance is fluid. There were expenditures for Post Office Box, Non-profit filing, and Wi-Fi hotspot for the repeater site. No questions nor comments. Motion by Dean, KE8TVR to approve. Seconded by Scott, K8JNO. Motion carried.

Technical Committee Report – Aaron Wiedbrauk, KE8ZEX

- Aaron, KE8ZEX reported on several items:
 - Battery charger/converter has been installed in the comms trailer.
 - Frank AD8BU has configured the wi-fi hotspot and router for the repeater site. Equipment was handed over to Scott K8JNO to install.
 - Scott K8JNO and Dennis KR8U are going to the repeater site on Friday to try to get ID and squelch tail working on UHF repeater.
 - We need to determine who is the “home base” for the current VPN installed on the Wires-X computer, so we can add the VPN to the VHF computer.

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN – Mike Greis KD8GTX (Absent)

- Mike provided the January ARES report via email
 - There were a total of 16 training/exercise sessions for a total of 60 hours.

Old Business

- As mentioned in prior meetings, the Michigan QSO Party is April 18, 2026. This contest runs from 12PM EDT to 11:59PM EDT. Jason, KE8VRW has suggested that we do a Multi-OP, Multi transmitter MiQP entry and a Club POTA activation at the same time. The Cornish State Game area south of Lawton has been scouted as a possible site. More information will be provided at future meetings.
- Dean KE8TVR provided some results from Winter Field Day 2026 on behalf of Anthony N8VOX, who was unable to attend. Several club members and guests braved single-digit temperatures to come and operate or observe. The deadline

for log submission is March 1, but here are some numbers:

- K8BRC is currently sitting at #23 of 78 entries submitted in class “2 Indoor”.
- The club made 215 phone contacts and 25 CW contacts.
- We had a multiplier of 16. One entry had 21, two had 19, three had 18, and two had 17. We worked hard to get at least three contacts on six different bands (multiplier of 6!), and finally did that on Sunday afternoon on 2 meter simplex. We did very well with what we had!
- Anthony N8VOX did a great job planning operations, antennas, and logging. He may have additional detail at a future meeting.

New Business

- Summer Field Day is coming up June 27-28, 2026. We need to get going on plans for location, antennas, logging, and so on.
- Frank AD8BU had a really useful presentation on “Windows 10 end-of-life”, and what that means to the casual computer user. Frank outlined the expense of upgrading to Windows 11, due to the almost certain need for new computer hardware. This affects the Club, and the computers that are in the comms trailer for logging. Scott K8JNO will look into some newer used computers. Thanks Frank!
- Frank is planning to present the second half of his presentation, “Linux as an alternative to Windows” next month.
- Aaron KE8ZEX distributed patches that have the club logo on them. Aaron donated the patches at no cost to the club. Thanks Aaron! If you were unable to attend, and would like a patch, let Aaron know.
- Aaron also brought up the topic of a welcome letter, that would be sent to new members, along with a patch. He has drafted the letter, and the Board likes the concept.
- Scott K8JNO had further comments on the portable 2 meter antenna that he brought to the January meeting. The club discussed possibly having a build-your-own session at a future meeting. Scott will distribute a material list.
- A brief discussion regarding outreach, VE testing, and perks for people who pass any tests administered at a Club session ensued. Lots of good ideas presented.
- Frank AD8BU announced the BARA chili-dog potluck and mini-swap to be held on February 19 at 7pm at Wightman, Pipestone Road, Benton Harbor. If you would like to attend, bring a dish to pass.
- Frank also reminded us that the LaPorte Cabin Fever Hamfest is on February 28 from 7AM to 1PM, at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds in LaPorte, Indiana.

Next Meeting

- **Monday, March 9**, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the VBISD Conference Center in Lawrence at 409 S. Paw Paw Street.

CLOSING The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.