

# MAARC Exciter

December 2008

**Christmas Dinner**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2008**  
**Bird's Smoke House—Daleville**  
**Arrive shortly before 6 p.m.**

## Welcome to December

Here are a few things to keep in mind as the month progresses to keep you busy with amateur radio and also around the community.

*ARRL 10M contest:* Dec. 13~14

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2359 UTC Sunday.

*Straight Key Night:* Jan. 1, 2009

0000 UTC to 2359 UTC

*Kids Day:* Jan. 3, 2009

*ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes:* Jan. 17~19, 2009 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0359 UTC Monday

*Yorktown Luminary Festival:* December 13

*Monroe Twp Conservation Club:*

December 14—Trap Shoot 1200~1600

*Kiwanis Christmas Tree Sale:* All month at MCHS Fieldhouse parking lot

*ME's Zoo House of Lights:* 1730 to 2230 Call 468-8559 to confirm dates.

This is only a partial list of things I found in a quick web search. Get out and enjoy all the events and take a HT with you in case you find something everyone might want to see or do.

## Christmas Dinner at Bird's

Once again, the MAARC Christmas Dinner/Holiday Party will be at Bird's Smoke House in Daleville.

Time and date are in the box above. By getting there shortly before closing, we will get full menu availability and still be able to have our time together after the facility closes to the public.

After doing toy collections for the past few years, members of the club are urged to **bring non-perishable food stuffs** to the dinner for distribution to food basket programs. Canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar and other such items are always needed for soup kitchens and holiday food baskets.

Bird's offers a wide menu of smoked meats and home-style side dishes as well as desserts. Regular menu pricing will be in effect for the dinner—but, you're gonna eat somewhere, might as well be with the members of MAARC!



## "Sticks" for Scholars

### An Editorial from KB9LEI

From my nearly a year as a substitute teacher, I have met a great bunch of young people and have tried to tell the amateur radio story when possible.

But, I may have stumbled onto a way we may be able to reach the kids on a continuing basis through their schoolwork and the cost will be minimal or nothing—flash drives, memory sticks or whatever you call them with the MAARC name and address on them.

With the number of projects these kids do on computers and move from school to home and back as well as classroom to library, they use flash drives for storage, but sadly, a lot of the kids don't have the devices.

I know I have at least three or four lying around and when I was in the electronics business, I used to get them all the time with presentations already loaded and stamped with some kind of ad on the body. I just passed them on to my employees or threw them away.

If we could look in the drawers or shelves around our computer desks, I'll bet there are some of those outgrown, out of date flash drives adding to the clutter. In addition, we could put out a public plea and get some of the ones in desks around the area. As a group, we could collect and distribute them to the schools and make school work just a little more convenient for some kids.

Gary Lee and I were discussing this idea the other night and think it would be a good project for the club. We could take the sticks, virus check them, label them as a gift from the Muncie ham community and work out something with the school system for temporary loan to the kids or something to get these

into the classrooms for the teachers to loan for projects.

These kids don't need huge drives, just enough for a few document files and some images for their PowerPoints®—64MB to 128MB would be plenty, but a few 512s or 1GB would not be discouraged.

Think about it and let's discuss it during our fellowship at the Christmas party and get it on the January meeting agenda.

Since we are going to have only the **briefest** of meetings at Bird's, we can discuss this in small groups or just sit around and try to brainstorm the best way to do this.

There have to be thousands of unused drives floating around the county, we just need a way to collect and place them where the kids can use them.

Give me your thoughts on this. Is it too idealistic or is it something we can start that may be able to gain legs as we firm up the plans? —Jim, KB9LEI

### **And Finally:**

*Merry Christmas*

**Happy Hanukah**

*Happy Kwanza*

*Happy Solstice*

*Happy New Year*

Or Whatever You're Celebrating