

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

January 2005

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Visit the ARRL's web site at:
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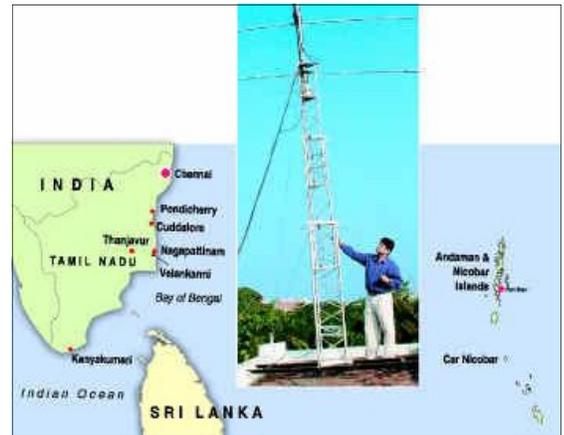
Hams Lend A Helping Hand

From The Hindu, December 30, 2004

When four amateur radio operators headed to the Andaman and Nicobar islands a few weeks ago, armed with only basic equipment, backpacks and sun blocks, they had no idea that their fun hobby would soon become the islands' only lifeline.

"They went because it's a 'high value' country for hams (amateur radio operators) since you need special permission from the Government to operate there," says Gopal Madhavan, an avid ham and one of the members of the governing council of the Amateur Radio Society of India. "The last time a ham operated in the Andamans was about 25 years ago."

The team, which came from across India, left Chennai on December 3 on their 'DXpedition' (basically ham slang for an expedition to any foreign country). "They met here for a cup of tea before they left... There was a great amount of enthusiasm," says Gopal, carefully tuning his buzzing radio, alive with their voices crackling all the way from the islands. "They went to Port Blair, set up the equipment — all DXpeditions carry radios and dismantled anten-



nas, which can be set up later with guy ropes — and contacted about 35,000 hams across the world."

Then, the earthquake began, followed by tidal waves, which swept over the small islands.

"They were actually in operation when the tremors began. Bharthi, the team leader, was talking to

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Mich-A-Con ARC January 11th Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 6:30 PM.

Secretary Report:

The minutes of the December 14th meeting were waived because they appear in the newsletter and on the club's web site.

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tom, W8JWN. As of this meeting we have \$174.27 in checking, \$2,085.22 in the savings account, \$1363.08 in the repeater account and \$26.00 petty cash. \$140 received tonight in 2005 dues will be deposited in the checking account. The billing

address for SBC, We Energies and The Miller Agency was changed to 812 West B Street Iron Mountain (Tom's address.) New checks were ordered bearing Tom's address.

Repeater Report:

No problems to report.

Old Business:

ATT was dropped as the long distance carrier for the autopatch. SBC will be our local and long distance carrier. The local call plan was changed to 50 calls per month. There is no monthly charge for long distance and calls will be charged at 10

(Continued on page 8)

Words from the President

Some random thoughts before I embark on my six weeks of educational assessment testing for the Nation's Report Card. My travels will take me as far west as Ashland, WI and as far north as Calumet, MI. These are great places to be in the month of February!!!

With all of the discussion lately concerning Packet and nodes and such, I tried to work some HF packet last week. No success! I couldn't even see words on the screen. In my opinion, the configuration for Packet is more difficult than PSK31 and RTTY. I tried using a sound card program; possibly, a TNC would be easier. I don't think I want to make that purchase at this time. It would probably gather dust after a few weeks. It would go the route of my EchoLink setup.

I subscribe to many ham radio reflectors on the Net. One of them is TowerTalk. This is an excellent forum for antenna and tower information. However, many of the subscribers run a subject into the ground (pun intended). The latest is proper grounding techniques. The perfect Single Point Ground for equipment, tower, antennas, Telco, etc. would probably cost hundreds of dollars and require most of us to move our entrance panel and cable entrance to a common wall. I think that Lee has another subject for his column with SPG.

In March I will be traveling to Belize to operate in the ARRL DX Contest. This will be a pleasant change from the weather we've been getting this past week. I will be operating with two fellows from the NEWDXA. We will be on all bands and modes during our stay from March 2-9. My call will be V31TR.

Well, that's it for now. Stay warm!

February Club Activities

Tnn (Tuesday night net) on the 1st, 15th and 22nd at 6:30 PM on the 2-meter repeater. Dennis, KD8AIT, has been doing the honors of Net Control since September 28th. Please join us on 146.85 at the appointed time.

Amateur Radio license exams will be held at the Dickinson County Library in Iron Mountain on Saturday, February 5th. See page 9 for details.

Club meeting on Tuesday the 8th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway Michigan. The meeting room is upstairs next to the Sanctuary.

Saturday Morning Breakfast, 9:00 AM on the 19th at the Holiday Kitchen in Iron Mountain. Breakfast's have been changed to the 3rd Saturday of the month to avoid holiday weekends.

Hiawatha ARC Swap & Shop

Negaunee Township Hall
42 County Road M-35
February 5, 2005 - 10 AM to 3 PM (Eastern)
Admission: \$4, Tables: \$6
Contact: Bob Serfas, N8PKN
Phone: (906)225-6773
email: n8pkn@aol.com

Contests

Northern New York
QSO Party
0000-2359 Feb 5

Vermont QSO Party
1100 Feb 5-1700 Feb 6

Minnesota QSO Party
1400-2359 Feb 5

Delaware QSO Party
1700 Feb 5-0500 Feb 6 &
1300 Feb 6-0100 Feb 8

New Hampshire QSO Party
0000-2400 Feb 6

North American Sprint (SSB)
0000-0400 Feb 6

Louisiana QSO Party
1500 Feb 12-0300 Feb 13

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
0000 Feb 12-2400 Feb 13

North American Sprint (CW)
0000-0400 Feb 13

ARRL International DX Contest
(CW)
0000 Feb 19-2400 Feb 20

Mississippi QSO Party
1500 Feb 26-0300 Feb 27

North Carolina QSO Party
1700 Feb 27-0300 Feb 28

Contest dates are UTC
see the ARRL web site
Feb Contests or February QST
for more information and for a
complete listing of contests:
<http://www.arrrl.org/contests/>

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for February 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Net	2	3	4	5 Exams
6	7	8 Meeting	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Net	16	17	18	19 Breakfast
20	21	22 Net	23	24	25	26
27	28					

License Study Materials Available from the ARRL:

Technician Class:

Now You're Talking - 5th edition - Order No. 8810 \$19.95

ARRL's Tech Q&A - 3rd edition - Order No. 8829 \$12.95

ARRL Technician Class Video Course - 4th ed. DVD Course No. 9116 VHS Course No. 8837 \$149 each + \$12 s&h

General Class:

ARRL General Class License Manual - 5th ed. Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9205 \$16.95

ARRL's General Q&A Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9213 \$12.95

ARRL General Class Video Course Order No. 8349 \$149 + \$12 s&h

Your Introduction to Morse Code - Pass 5 wpm test Cassettes No. 8322 Audio CD No. 8314 \$14.95 each

Ham University - Complete Edition - Learn Morse code with this easy to use software. Includes a written exam quiz generator with all three question pools. CD-ROM for Win95-XP Order No. 8735 \$39.95

Phone: 1-888-277-5289
or

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/>

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/8330/>

<http://hamuniversity.com>

Hams Lend A Helping Hand

(Continued from page 1)

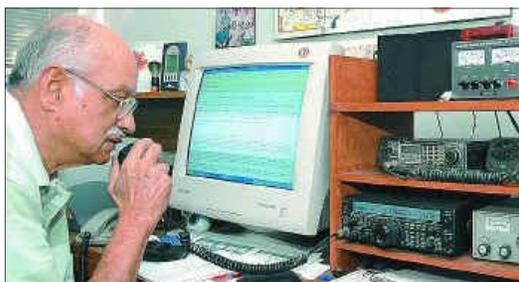
an Australian on the radio. He says her voice suddenly rose by a few octaves and she yelled 'tremor'. Then, her radio went dead."

The islands were devastated by the quake and crashing waves. Phones died, the electricity went out and life in Andaman and Nicobar came to a stunned halt. On the airwaves too, there was a loud silence, as hams across the world held their breath, wondering whether the team had survived. However, about two hours later, unbelievably, they were back on the air.

"Every other form of communication was down. They were the only link from the Andamans to the mainland for several hours after the disaster," says Gopal, adding that the tsunamis had engulfed the island, paralysing all machinery and communication systems. The ham radio however, which was operating from a tower, was in working order, although the team did have to scavenge for batteries to get it operating again since it had been running on electricity.

In the tradition of hams, the team stayed on to help, the DXpedition was converted into an emergency network and hams from across the world, especially India, swung into action. Two more people headed to the islands to support the emergency network, and with help from the Indian Army, which is providing the hams with food, camping and batteries, the station on Port Blair continues to operate, while another station has been set up at Car Nicobar, which has been practically obliterated by the catastrophe.

Pics: by K.V. Srinivasan



Rising to the occasion: Gopal Madhavan

Hams have time and again proved useful in situations like this where communication lines are down and emergency services have their hands full. "The police have to concentrate on law and order at this point, while the Army and emergency services have specific roles to play.

Roles they cannot really deviate from because they have so much work to do," says Gopal.

He says they are often called upon by the Government to lend a helping hand since they are a mobile, usually well-connected, civilian group. Hams can set up radio stations even from their cars, travel around affected areas, identify people who need help and radio the police or hospitals. They can also mobilise men and materials since they have a vast network of millions of people from all walks of life, which covers the world. Port Blair, for instance, has just asked for 12 doctors so the hams are calling hospitals for help. "And while we co-ordinate from here, the ham control station in Delhi is talking to the Government to see if they can spare doctors," says Gopal.

Right now the main concern of the Andaman team is to find missing people. "We are getting calls from all over the world from people who are worried about friends and relatives," says Gopal. The teams in the islands field these calls, ask where the missing person was last seen and send people out to look for them. "However, with disasters like this, it is extremely difficult to find people since the tendency is to flee. What we can say is... well... if someone's dead and the body's been found," says Gopal. "We then radio back the news so that relatives are informed. (pause) That's been happening a lot."

Meanwhile, in Tamil Nadu, although the State Government has said they have the situation under control, hams from across South India are being mobilised anyway, to help in whatever ways they can. They have established stations in Vellankani, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari, Pondicherry and Thanjavur and have also set up control stations in the bigger cities, like Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Delhi. Gopal mans the Chennai station. His role is to co-ordinate rescue efforts and help transfer information, since most of the emergency ham stations work on batteries to save power and use long wire antennas, generally tied to a tree, and are hence relatively feeble. "Mobilising people has taken a while," says Gopal, "We have to find people with diesel cars because petrol vehicles don't work in water. We need people who drive Scorpios or Mahindra jeeps so they can travel with all the ham equipment and supplies."

In Sri Lanka too, the hams have moved to the
(Continued on page 6)

Wave of Destruction, Wave of Salvation

by Rama Lakshmi

Special to The Washington Post

Sunday, January 2, 2005

Ham Radio Operator on a Chance Visit to a Remote Indian Island Becomes a Lifeline

PORT BLAIR, India -- About one month ago, Bharathi Prasad and her team of six young ham radio operators landed in this remote island capital with a hobbyist's dream: Set up a station and establish a new world record for global ham radio contacts. In the world of ham slang, it was called a "Dxpedition."

"It is a big honor to come to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and operate. There is no ham activity here because it is considered a very sensitive area by the Indian government," said Prasad, a 46-year-old mother of two from New Delhi.

In fact, the last ham activity in these scattered islands in the Bay of Bengal, 900 miles east of the Indian mainland, occurred in 1987, when Prasad set up a station in Port Blair and made 15,500 calls. "I had always wanted to come back and break that record," she said.

This time, Prasad set up an antenna in her hotel and turned Room 501 into a radio station. She made more than 1,000 contacts every day and said she operated "almost all day and all night, with just three hours of sleep."

In the early hours of Dec. 26, while the other hotel guests were fast asleep, Prasad's room was crackling with the usual squawks and beeps. At 6:29 a.m., she felt the first tremors of an earthquake. The tables in her room started shaking violently. She jumped up and shouted, "Tremors!" into her microphone. Then the radio went dead. She ran out and alerted the hotel staff and other guests.

But with that one word, she had alerted the world of radio hams, too.

Within a few hours, the extent of the damage was clear to everyone in Port Blair. But the tsunami had knocked out the power supply and telephone service of the entire archipelago of 500 islands, leaving the capital virtually cut off from the rest of India.

Undaunted, Prasad set up a temporary station on the hotel lawn with the help of a generator -- and put the city back on the ham radio map.

"I contacted Indian hams in other states and told them about what had happened. The whole world of radio hams were looking for us, because they had not heard from us after the tremors," she said later. "But I also knew this was going to be a big disaster. I immediately abandoned my expedition and told all radio operators to stop disturbing me. I was only on emergency communication from then on."

While news of the death and devastation caused by the tsunami in other parts of India was quickly transmitted around the world, the fate of the Andamans and Nicobars was slow to unfold.

Prasad kept broadcasting information about the situation to anyone who could hear her radio. Over and over, she repeated that there was no power, no water, no phone lines.

On Monday morning, she marched into the district commissioner's office and offered her services. "What is a ham?" he asked her. After she explained, he let her set up a radio station in his office, and a second one on Car Nicobar, the island hit hardest.

For the next two days, as the government grappled with the collapsed communication infrastructure, Prasad's ham call sign, VU2RBI, was the only link for thousands of Indians who were worried about their friends and families in the islands. She also became the hub for relief communications among officials.

"Survivors in Car Nicobar were communicating with their relatives in Port Blair through us," she said. When the phone lines were restored on Tuesday, Prasad's team in Car Nicobar radioed information about survivors to her team in Port Blair, whose members then called anxious relatives on the mainland to tell them that their loved ones were alive and well.

Prasad also helped 15 foreign tourists, including several from the United States, send news to their families. Offers of relief aid poured in from around the world through her radio, and she directed them to government officials. She also arranged for volunteer doctors to be sent from other Indian states.

Now she has become so popular in the islands, and in the ham world, that she said she has been affectionately nicknamed the "Teresa of the Bay of Bengal."

When the earthquake occurred, Prasad's worried husband called her from New Delhi and asked her to return home immediately.

"He reminded me that I have two children to look after back home," she said, laughing. "I told him that as a ham radio operator, I have a duty in times of disaster."

Under India's strict communications laws, a ham cannot leave home with his or her radio without going through an elaborate bureaucratic process to obtain permission from various ministries.

Prasad said that after her first expedition to Port Blair, she spent 17 years begging and badgering officials before she was allowed to return.

Now she hopes her work in the aftermath of the tsunami will ease the path for other hams in India.

"She looked like a simple housewife when she checked in," recalled Ravi Singh, the hotel manager in Port Blair. "But now I marvel at the courage she has shown."

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Amateur Radio Praised as Lifeline in South Asia

Taken from The ARRL Letter - January 7, 2005

As the tsunami relief and recovery effort continues in South Asia, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has joined those paying tribute to Amateur Radio's ongoing emergency communication role. Director and Executive Vice Chairman S. Suri, VU2MY, of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), noted January 5 that the PM "was all praise for hams in India and the entire world who helped us in this hour of need." Suri said the administrator of hard-hit Car Nicobar Island has asked NIAR to keep on duty Rama Mohan, VU2MYH, and five other radio amateurs who have been providing communication with the island since shortly after the December 26 disaster.

"The district administration chief of Car Nicobar Island spoke to me this morning to say even now it is only the ham communication that is aiding them for relief and rehabilitation measures," Suri said in an e-mail to Jay Wilson, W0AIR, of the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) and shared with ARRL. Mohan, who had received DERA training in the US, was part of NIAR's VU4NRO/VU4RBI DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. When the earthquake and tsunami struck the region, DXpedition team leader Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, promptly shifted the operation to handle emergency traffic and health-and-welfare inquiries between the island and the Indian mainland. More than 20 Indian radio amateurs are said to be involved in providing emergency communication support in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Ironically, until the recent NIAR DXpedition the Indian government did not allow Amateur Radio operation from the islands. It's since cleared the way for all Indian hams to operate from VU4.

In the disaster's immediate aftermath, Suri said, Mohan and other DXpedition team members risked their lives to alert the chief of administration on Andaman Island, since tsunami waves later overran the road they'd traveled. NIAR staff member Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, was providing emergency communication remote Hurbay Island.

Now back on the Indian mainland, Bharathi Prasad has reported that the VU4NRO/VU4RBI logs are safe and at NIAR headquarters, and QSLing will commence once the emergency operation concludes. DXer Charly Harpole, K4VUD/HS0ZCW, now in Bangkok, Thailand, told The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> that QSL cards already are showing up at NIAR.

Harpole, who was visiting the DXpedition in Port Blair on Andaman Island when the earthquake and tsunami hit, has since been helping to handle emergency traffic from Thailand, where his wife's family lives. "I have been listening to the traffic from VU4 back to the India mainland, and by now it is

smooth as silk with lots of Health & Welfare and some government messages running almost constantly," he said in an e-mail made available by QRZ DX <http://www.dxpub.com/> Editor Carl Smith, N4AA. Harpole advised amateurs worldwide to avoid the primary emergency traffic frequency of 14.190 MHz.

In Thailand, Harpole reports, hams have been using mostly 2 meters for their emergency traffic "and doing a huge job." He said he's heard very little from Bangladesh, and nothing from Sumatra and Burma (Myanmar). The earthquake's epicenter was some 100 miles off Sumatra, a part of Indonesia.

Just three days after the calamitous tsunami, Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL) President Victor Goonetilleke, 4S7VK, declared that "uncomplicated short wave" radio had saved lives.

"Ham radio played an important part and will continue to do so," he said in an e-mail relayed to ARRL. Goonetilleke said Sri Lanka's prime minister had no contact with the outside world until Amateur Radio operators stepped in. "Our control center was inside the prime minister's official house in his operational room," he recounted. "[This] will show how they valued our services."

Horey Majumdar, VU2HFR, in Calcutta, said improvisation was "the name of the game" in the emergency's aftermath. "Hams had to switch to good old CW and switch frequencies from 14.190 and 14.160 MHz to 7.090 MHz," he said. Majumdar noted that hams from all over "have been checking into the VU emergency nets and extending their fullest cooperation in the truest spirit of Amateur Radio."

According to the latest estimate, more than 150,000 people died as a result of the tsunami, about one-third of them children.

Although the US does not have third-party traffic agreements with any of the countries affected by the disaster, international emergency and disaster relief communications are permitted unless otherwise provided. While FCC Part 97 has not yet been updated to reflect revisions to third-party traffic rules at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, FCC staff has told ARRL that if the government agencies responsible for the Amateur Service in affected countries do not object to their amateur stations receiving messages from US amateur stations on behalf of third parties, the US has no objection to its amateur stations transmitting international communications in support of the disaster.

Additional information on Amateur Radio and the tsunami disaster is on the ARRL Web site.

Hams Lend A Helping Hand

(Continued from page 3)

East Coast, which has been devastated. Since there are very few hams there, hams from India are now being mobilised to travel to the island. Meanwhile, the radio waves have been inundated by people calling in to offer help. "Hams worldwide are getting involved. The Canadian hams are in the process of sending blankets, bed sheets and cooking utensils," says Gopal, "Everybody's offering aid. Everybody wants to help."

Disaster management

In Gujarat, for 10 days after the 2001 earthquake, hams were the only people who could communicate effectively. A number of them drove straight to Gujarat when they heard about the tragedy, using car batteries to power their radios so they could call for help whenever they found victims or unclaimed bodies.

Every time there's a cyclone, an air crash or disasters in open fields where communication is difficult, hams are called upon for help since their mobile radio systems always work. Often, one ham is stationed at the district collector's office, just so he can talk to the authorities.

Over the years, many hams have lost their lives when serving during disasters. Deepa, a young lady who went to Gujarat to help out, picked up a disease there and died. More recently, a Sri Lankan ham, who was in Iraq on a peace keeping mission as part of the UN group for communications, was shot dead.

Hamstrung

Although hams have helped the government a number of times in emergency situations, red tapism is slowly choking amateur radio as a hobby. The laws, which were laid down in the days of the British Raj, are apparently "ridiculously outdated" today. For instance, according to the law, a ham can't leave home with his radio. Hence, ironically, every time they head out to help with disaster management, they're actually breaking the law.

However, last month, the Home Department and Ministry of Communication had a meeting in Delhi with the Amateur Radio Society of India, which seemed to finally acknowledge the efficacy of ham radio. The society submitted a paper asking for changes and has been told that it's been studied and the "departments concerned are looking into the issues."

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DX Worked by Tom, W8JWN, using the Club Call

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

YBØECT

CONFIRMING QSO WITH KC8VC		DAY 22	MONTH April	YEAR 2004
UTC 1535	MHz 14	RST 599	2-WAY RTTY	QSL TNX

73's
PRI

QSL MANAGER:
K5ZE
A STAR QSL

ITU ZONE 54
CQ ZONE 28
GRID OL33jt

Conakry Guinea
3XY1L
Leonid "LEO" Kharchenko, UT1WL
DXCC and IOTA holder



MEMBER OF SPARAS CLUB

Special thanks to "7-DX-Club" team (UT7WZA).
"TONAR" company (UR5WBQ) for their support and help

TO RADIO **KC8VC**

DATE	UT	MHz	2-WAY	RS/T
24.10.2003	2143	14	SSB	59
2003	/	21	SSB	59
2003	/	/	SSB	/

TNX for QSO(s)
3side Leo

e-mail: uy5xe@ut1wpr.ampr.org
QSL VIA UY5XE

Members Invited To Help Club, KC8VC, Attain WAS and DXCC Awards

All club members are invited to use the club callsign to help the club attain WAS and DXCC. As club callsign trustee, I have been keeping a computer log of all KC8VC QSOs, so if you use the club call please notify me as soon as possible so I can enter it into the log. Please give information required for the log such as: station worked, date and time (UTC), frequency, RST sent and received, mode and power. Also give me a description of the equipment you were using.

Club QSL cards are available from me. Send me an email or give me a call and I will get them to you.

KC8VC WAS and DXCC Status can be accessed from a link on the Membership page of the club web site: <http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

K8DDB

2005 CLUB DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY

Club dues for 2005 are now due. If you are a current member, please consider renewing your membership for another year. If you are not a member, please consider joining the club.

The cost of operating our repeater and packet system have risen over the years, while dues have remained the same. For the last few years, we've had to dip into our savings account to pay the bills. A larger membership would help us make ends meet. If you enjoy the use of the repeater or packet system, please consider supporting them with your monetary contribution.

Please take the time now to complete the Membership Application/Renewal form on page 9 of the newsletter. Make your check payable to Mich-A-Con ARC and send it to Mike, K8DDB.

N8LT's WORKBENCH

This series, written by our resident expert on the technical side of things, focuses on technical topics that you, the reader, want him to write about. Lee wants your input. This is your chance to get those gnawing questions answered so that you can become more self-reliant when repairs are needed to your electronic gear.

What subjects would you like to see covered?

Please send your input to me and I will collate the responses and give them to Lee.

Send your input to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Mike Bray, K8DDB
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Buy-Sell-Trade

For Sale

HeathKit Electronic Keyer, Model HD-1410 W/ Manual—\$35.00

Drake Model MN-4 Antenna Matching Network, 200 Watts—\$125.00

CDE Ham II Rotors W/manual
1 unit complete with Box - \$200.00
1 unit No control Box - \$125.00

Kenwood TS-520 H.F. Transceiver
W/VFO-520: External VFO, W/SP-520: External Speaker, Desk Microphone, Mobil Cables—\$450.00

Kenwood TS-520 H.F. Transceiver
Needs finals changed, Extra Tubes included 6146 A's, Kenwood Desk Microphone W/manual—\$300.00

HeathKit Model HN-3 "Cantenna" Dummy RF Load W/manual—\$30.00

HeathKit Model IM-18 Vacuum Tube Volt meter W/ Manual—\$20.00

HeathKit HM-120 RF power meter W/manual \$15.00

CushCraft JR. Boomer 2 Meter Yagi Beam , 214FB—\$75.00

Hickok Dynamic Mutual Conductance Tube Tester, Model 600A, W/ Manual—\$215.00

Regency VHF Monitor Radio Receiver W/ Service manual—\$10.00

386 Packard Bell Computer, Good for Packet W/ monitor, Keyboard, External 3 1/2" floppy drive.—\$20.00

Model 232 MBX PackRat 232- W/ Cables \$200.00

Bell & Howell Model 34 Oscilloscope \$10.00

Midland CB Radio converted to 10 meter QRP—\$20.00

Alinco 2 meter Radio for Packet W/manual \$50.00

B&W 5 position Coaxial Switch Model 590 \$15.00

Manual Key—\$15.00

Head Phones—\$5.00

Diamond X200A Dual Band 2 meter 440 Vertical Ant.—\$75.00

External Speakers @ \$7.00 each

Military Type Antenna, Type TD-1, 2@ \$30.00 each

Mobil Hump Mounts—\$5.00

CushCraft 3-Position Coaxial Switch—\$5.00

Tri-Comm Handy Packet W/manual Portable or 100v operation, W/Cables Zenith Data System Portable computer w/ Disk and some programs—\$210.00

Kenwood TH-231A, 2 meter Mobil Radios, 136-174 Frequency, May need new NiCads \$????

Roof top Tri-pods, 2@ \$10.00 each

Extra Rotors No control Boxes—\$5.00 each

UMAX Scanner, use with Windows 98 or before. Includes software and cable.—\$20.00

Bill Lukes, WB9SYG
408 Lane Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802
blukes@chartermi.net
(906)774-4381

For Sale

HONDA EM 650 Portable Generator w/manual AC 120V 60HZ Rated 550VA Max 650VA DC Voltage 12V Current 8.3 \$275.00 (just had it serviced prior to last field day, but was NOT used)

Randy, KB9ZES
kb9zes@yahoo.com
(906)774-7649

January 11th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

cents per minute. These changes result in a savings of approximately \$10 per month.

The cause of the higher energy bills at the Metropolitan packet site is due to a change in the cost per KWH of 7.6 cents in 2001 to 9 cents in 2004 and an increase in the Facilities Charge from \$3.60 to \$9.60 per month over the same period. Our monthly cost averaged \$14 in 2001 and \$21 in 2004.

The packet system will be moved to the Pine Mountain repeater site when the weather warms up. The move will save approximately \$252 in energy bills and will result in increased reliability of the system due to the availability of an emergency generator at the Pine Mountain site.

New EPROMs will have to be burned for the repeater and the packet system to change trustee callsigns.

A letter was sent to Pete Schlitt, Dickinson County Emergency Services, in response to his request for a prioritized list of club needs should a grant become available from Homeland Security in 2005.

A \$25.00 check has been sent to QSL.NET, the host of the club's web site.

Bill Lukes has been contacted about his triband beam. Bill will be paid \$50 when it is picked up prior to Field Day.

There was no interest in a club party.

No information has been received on the whereabouts of the club's tower.

New Business:

A proposed amendment to the club constitution concerning Repeater-Only-Membership was presented. Consensus was that the current wording would suffice. The intent of the proposed amendment was to offer occasional or seasonal users of the repeater a lower membership rate. It was agreed that the Repeater-Only-Membership rate will be set at \$10 per year.

It was requested that the following demonstrations be provided at some later date: Randy requested a demonstration of how to key up the autopatch on various radios. Mike requested a demonstration of packet and a tour of the packet

system after it is moved to Pine Mountain.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM

Submitted by: Mike Bray, K8DDB

Attendees:

Mike Bray, K8DDB (Secretary)
Skip Caswell, KE9L
Lee Michaud, N8LT
Tom Martin, W8JWN (President)
Dennis Beurjey, KD8AIT
Bob Uren, KC8TWG
Paul Hintz, WB8SZI & Carol
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES (guest)

Morse Requirement, License Restructuring Remain On FCC's Radar

The ARRL does not anticipate the FCC will offer up any proposals on the Morse requirement and further restructuring of the Amateur Radio licensing system until sometime in mid-2005, possibly sooner. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau continues to review thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making-including one from the ARRL.

The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse code requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system.

In addition to agreeing on other changes affecting Amateur Radio, World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), left the choice to require Morse proficiency for HF access up to individual countries, and several already have dropped Morse code as an examination requirement. That has not yet happened in the US.

Before the FCC adopts any changes in the Morse requirement and the license structure, it must complete its comment review, issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) reflecting its interpretation of consensus within the amateur community based on comments received and invite further comments on the NPRM. The FCC then will review those comments before issuing a Report and Order that spells out any final rules. The ARRL does not anticipate any changes in the Morse requirement or in other Amateur Radio licensing requirements before 2006, possibly later.

Club Apparel:

Our club apparel is supplied by:

Shirt Tails
408 S Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Phone: (906)774-3370
or
finleyd@up.net

Prices:

Jacket with liner \$45
(Tall add \$5, 2X or 3X add \$5,
to add your name or call sign
on the front is \$5)

T-Shirt - \$10
(2X or 3X add \$1)
Sweatshirt - \$16
(2X or 3X add \$2)

If you wish to have the club logo printed on an item of clothing that you have purchased elsewhere, there is charge of \$6.

Club patches are available from:

Tom Martin, W8JWN
812 West B Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

They are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3.00 each. If ordering by mail, please include a SASE along with your payment.



Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please remit dues to:
Mike Bray, K8DDB
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____

ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 _____ * Family \$30 _____ * Repeater-Only - \$10 _____**

If family membership, please list additional names and call signs:

* The dues for NEW members are prorated - you only pay for the remainder of the year! Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership or \$2.50 per month for a Family membership.

**If you are an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater-Only-Membership.

Exam Schedule

City: Iron Mountain
Location: Dickinson County Library
Room: Conference Room
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time
Contact: Mark Lewis, N8UKD
Telephone: (906) 774-6598

Exam Date: Feb 5, 2005
Exam Date: May 7, 2005
Exam Date: Aug 6, 2005
Exam Date: Nov 5, 2005

Examinees should bring 2 pencils, a pen for the official paperwork, the originals AND copies of any previous credit that you have earned (Certificates of Successful Completion or current license), 1 photo id (usually a driver's license) and 1 other id. (usually a birth certificate or SS card), a calculator if needed (make sure your memories are cleaned out), and the test fee (2005 fee is \$14).

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain.

Items for Mich-A-Con RF should be in the editor's hands by club meeting day (2nd Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition.

Our newsletter needs contributions from the membership to help keep the information presented each month new, interesting and fun to read. Please consider writing an article related to Amateur Radio to share with your fellow members. Send the article in plain text and attach any photos, etc., don't worry about format, that's the editor's job.

Send to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Repeaters

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	—
444.850 MHz	plus	100

Both repeaters have an auto patch with a toll restriction. The auto patch on the 2-meter repeater can be used with permission. The 440 auto patch is for club use only.

A club net is held on the 2-meter repeater every Tuesday at 6:30 PM except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

Mich-A-Con RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Michael F. Bray
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Mich-A-Con RF

Club Meetings

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

The URL for the Mich-A-Con ARC web site is:

<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

Previous editions of Mich-A-Con RF can be accessed by a link on the news page.

The ARRL DX Bulletin on the Upcoming Activities page is updated each Thursday and the contests section is updated on a monthly basis.

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Tom Martin, W8JWN
(906) 774-5463
tmartin@chartermi.net

Vice President:

Mike Boileau, N9NBN
(715) 251-3137
n9nbn@netnet.net

Secretary:

Mike Bray, K8DDB
(906) 563-7020
mikebray@chartermi.net

Treasurer (Pro Tem):

Tom Martin, W8JWN
Mike Bray, K8DDB
(Shared responsibility)

Reminders

The 2005 club dues are due in January. Please take the time now to complete the Membership Application/Renewal form on page 9 of the newsletter. Make your check payable to Mich-A-Con ARC and send it to Mike, K8DDB.

The monthly meeting for February is on TUESDAY the 8th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway, Michigan. (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)

Amateur Radio license exams will be given on February 5th at 9:30 AM (Central Time) in the Dickinson County Library in Iron Mountain. See page 9 for details.

The Hiawatha ARA will hold their Swap and Shop on February 5th. See page 2 for details.