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Visit the ARRL's web site at: http://www.arrl.org

ARRL Michigan Section Digital Radio Group

I was recently made aware of the ARRL Michigan Section Digital Radio Group through an exchange of email with the U.P.'s 8th District Representative, Skip Kwasneski, KA8IXC. Skip had learned from George Thurner, W8FWG, that I had created a diagram of the Central U.P.'s packet system and asked me if I would share it so he could include the information in a packet map of the U.P that he was creating for the group's website. The following information was gleaned from the website and is presented here to inform our members of this ongoing project to form a reliable state-wide digital radio network for the handling of communications for the public service agencies and citizens of Michigan.

For more information, please contact our representative, Skip Kwasneski, KA8IXC:

Email: ka8ixc@arrl.net or Phone: (906)387-3898

The group's website can be found at: http://www.mi-drg.org/

K8DDB

The ARRL Michigan Section Digital Radio Group (DRG) was created in an effort to coordinate the creation of a dependable Packet Radio network across the entire state of Michigan primarily for the purpose of emergency communications. The Digital Radio Group consists of a number of Michigan Section ARRL Staff along with two representatives from each of 7 state districts and meets at least four times annually to discuss technical issues, develop network topologies, and resolve any problems in the deployment of a fexible and reconfigurable digital network that can be depended upon in times of emergency.

The networks being deployed consist of a mixture of both old and new technologies using both the AX.25 and TCP/IP protocols. By using whatever technologies are available to us assures that each *district* can deploy the technology that works best for their particular needs. What works best in one part of the state may not be the right solution for another. Our ultimate goal is to *move bits from*(Continued on page 3)

Mich-A-Con ARC January 10th Meeting Minutes

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

Secretary Report:

The minutes of the December 13th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Dennis, KD8AIT. As of this meeting we have \$103.66 in checking, \$1,795.22 in the savings account, \$1,369.89 (\$.66 interest) in the repeater account and \$25.63 petty cash. Transactions: WE Energies \$7.25, SBC \$34.45.

Repeater Report:

Lee, N8LT, and Bob, KC8TWG, have installed a base and mounting bracket for the temporary 30 foot repeater tower provided by Terry, KB9ZER. The tower sections have been taken to the Pine Mountain repeater site and an antenna raising party will be held this Thursday at 2:00 PM to transfer the 146.850 MHz repeater antenna from the 20 foot mast to the tower.

ARES:

The time of the ARES net has been changed to 6:30 PM on Thursdays.

(Continued on page 8)

Words from the President

One of the interesting things about DXing is receiving the QSL cards from around the world. I have saved many of the envelopes from various countries just incase someone in my family, or in the area, would like the stamps. Although not as popular as in the past, many hams send their cards through various bureaus to save postage, I still receive quite a few cards through the mail.

If anyone reading this is a collector, or knows someone who is a collector, contact me and I will give you the stamps that I have saved. I'm sure that a few other members of the club have stamps to offer.

Amateur Radio Class

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club is conducting a class for anyone interested in learning about Amateur Radio. Instruction will prepare individuals to pass the Technician Class Amateur Radio Exam. The class will meet one night per week for 8 to 10 weeks, beginning on Tuesday, January 24 at the Dickinson County Library at 6:00 PM. There is no charge for the class, but students will have to provide their own course book and class materials (the book "Now You're Talking", can be purchased from Amateur Electronic Supply for \$19.95, phone (800) 558-0411) Nine students are presently enrolled, but there is room for more. For more information please call 563-8913 or email meyersb@up.net.



Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for February 2006

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

February Contests

(All dates and times are UTC)

Straight Key Century Club 0000 to 2359 Feb 1

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000 Feb 11 to 2400 Feb 12

ARRL International DX Contest 0000 Feb 18 to 2400 Feb 19

February Club Activities

License Exams will be administered on the 4th at 9:30 AM CT at the Dickinson County Library.

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:30 PM Central Time every Thursday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz.)

Please join us for the Tuesday Night Net on the 7th, 21st and 28th at 6:30 PM on the 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz) Dennis, K8SWX, is our Net Control Operator.

Monthly meeting on Tuesday the 14th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street in Norway. The meeting room is upstairs next to the sanctuary.

Saturday Morning Breakfast, 9:00 AM on the 18th at the Holiday Kitchen in Iron Mountain, on US-2 across from Econo Foods.

Club Operating Activity

All club members are invited to use the club callsign to help the club attain WAS and DXCC. If you use the club call, please give information required for the log such as: station worked, date and time (UTC), frequency, RST sent and received, mode and power to Mike, K8DDB. Also give a description of the equipment you were using.

mikebray@chartermi.net

VEC Testing at Iron River

The Iron Range Amateur Radio Club VEC makes exams available on a monthly basis on the 3rd Thursday of the month, prior to the start of their club meeting. Examinations must be arranged before hand. Exam time: 6:30 PM (Central), Place: Iron River Lutheran Church (on US-2 next to McDonalds), Contact: Dan Waters, AA9G, (906) 265-4240 dmwaters@ironriver.tv

ARRL Michigan Section Digital Radio Group

(Continued from page 1)

Point-A to Point-B by whatever means we can, including the use of the Internet where Terrestrial RF paths may not be available.

The **DRG** asks for input from as many sources as possible. So please contact your District Representative with your ideas, concerns, or offers of assistance, and come join us in the *Packet* (re)Revolution!

The following information was taken from a Power Point slide presentation:

Michigan Section Digital Radio Group Annual Report

presented January 7th, 2006 by Jay Nugent, WB8TKL wb8tkl@arrl.net

Areas we will cover:

- Organizational Milestones
- Technical Milestones
- Training & Presentations
- Problem areas and their Resolutions
- Goals for 2006
- Comparison of 2005 "Next Steps"

Organizational Milestones:

- "DRG" created and held its first meeting (March) 80+ items were on the agenda, most of which were covered. Elections were held for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Recording Secretary.
- Mailing list created (March) Now contains 32 members including all DEC's plus an "Archival" account www.MI-DRG.org website created (May).
- Formulated "Duties of the District Representatives" Defined the duties and responsibilities of the District Representatives.
- Added "Webalizer" statistics to the website to track hits and usage statistics (June) – We can now track what material is being viewed (and which isn't) and how often it is requested.
- Began an educational campaign regarding the eventual move away from a Flat-Topology toward a Multi-Layered network (Sept).
- Published Dr. Clarks' "The Trouble with Digipeaters" (Sept).
- Promoted inclusion of Packet in the October S.E.T. Documented that at least 6 Counties established connections with the State EOC BBS and were able to post Traffic and/or left messages.
- "Basic Packet" training group established (October).
- Published "Local Access Freqs by District" (October) A first attempt to migrate to a Multi-Layered networking model.
- Began "Michigan Digital Vision" discussion (Dec) To determine the goals of the group and set our direction for the future.
- EOC & Key Station data placed on website (Dec) Districts were asked to provide their data by the end of January.
- District network maps being collected onto the website (Dec) D2, D7West and D8East have already been posted. Maps are "skimpy" in their first cut, but are expected to improve in later revisions.
- Work progressing on an SQL Node Database (Dec) This will hold the raw data collected via the online Node Data Request

- Form, and will be queryable from a webpage interface by all users. Districts will be able to search and retrieve data to use in creating their own network maps and node tables.
- Simplified the method of requesting an IP Addresses in the AMPR.ORG domain (Nov) – This will be necessary as more MSYS, JNOS, X1J4 NetROM, and home stations begin using the TCP/IP protocol suite.
- WB8TKL took over as the Michigan AMPRnet IP Coordinator (Dec) – This should result in faster turnaround times when users request IP address space for their nodes, routers, and home stations. Request had been taking weeks to months to be processed. Requests should now be processed in one to two days. Domain Name Service (DNS) updates will be quicker as well.

Local Access Frequencies by District

- This proposal is a first attempt to move away from a single collision domain, and towards a network based on "Gateway" nodes. This positions us to more easily implement a "backbone" connecting the Gateway nodes.
- First published in October, a few stations are already appearing on the new frequencies:
- D7 has a JNOS node on 145.07 in Manistee
- D6 has a HamGate active on 147.58
- D2 will soon have a HamGate on 144.91

Technical Milestones:

- 34 "Registered" WL2K TelPac nodes 11 of these are online 7x24. The others are in various states of 'readiness'.
- 5 JNOS HamGates are operational now These are located in Fenton, Ypsilanti, Newport, Harrisville, and Grayling (nonrouting). These nodes provide a direct connection between distant parts of the State and help to lighten the load on the RF backbone by utilizing Internet 'tunnels' to connect them.
- 3 more JNOS HamGates will be online <1month Located in Monroe, Grand Rapids (DAPR), Grand Rapids (Red Cross).
 These nodes will provide 144.91 access in D2South and 147.58 access in D5. The Red Cross node will be on 145.76.
- 2 JNOS HamGates to be online Spring 2006 These are located in Pinkney/Hell and Empire. The Pinkney node will provide direct access on 145.76 into the SEOC, and the Empire node will provide 145.07 access into D7West and into their X1J4/NetROM network.
- ALL of the HamGates provide a distributed "Conferencing" system (similar to Instant Messager services) allowing anyone anywhere to 'chat' with ease.
- D6 put up its first node on 147.58 as part of its move towards the Multi-Layered Networking Plan (Nov).
- D2 is preparing to place it's first node on 144.91 within the next month – This will be the N8KJF-4 Hamgate.Monroe JNOS node.
- First X1J4 (NetROM) nodes are online in Benzie County X1J4
 uses the NetROM route discovery mechanism, and also supports
 IP routing as well. This allows them to integrate with the JNOS
 nodes (and MSYS BBS's) more effectively.

(Continued on page 4)



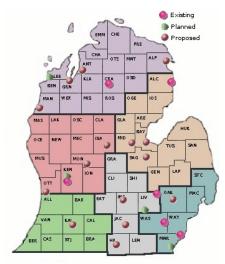
ARRL Michigan Section Digital Radio Group

(Continued from page 3)

 Experimentation with ICOM's "D-Star" data radios – These tests are occurring in some parts of the State. D-Star radios allow for simultaneous voice & data at data rates of 128kpbs.

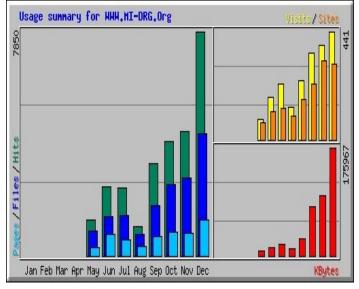
Current HamGate Deployment

- HamGates allow disperse portions of the state network to be interlinked via the Internet using the TCP/IP protocols.
- NetROM/X1J4 can be natively run across these links making them transparent to the End Users.
- The HamGates provide a mechanism for SMTP mail to both be sent and received between the RF network and the Internet.



Website Statistics:

Website usage has steadily grown as the site becomes more widely known. As more data is placed on the site, it has become a valuable resource to users within Michigan as well as users outside the State. It even sees frequent visits from users in other countries.



Training & Presentations:

- February 5, 2005 "DAPR" group in Grand Rapids
- February 12, 2005 Hillsdale ARES/RACES
- June 2005 ARROW Radio Club, Ann Arbor
- July 21, 2005 MCRCA Radio Club, Monroe

Training resource material and web links are available on the DRG website for individuals to self-train.

Problem Areas and their Resolutions:

- TRAINING!!!!!! Fewer Hams understand Classic Packet than they once did. Re-education of the Amateur public through DRG offered Training Classes is necessary to re-gain that wealth of operators we once had.
- Little participation on the DRG mailing list It is disappointing the lack of group participation on the DRG reflector. We have begun a new campaign jokingly called: "Please Participate, or Jay will Dictate!"
- Little feedback on DRG proposals (same as above)
- Little sharing of DRG material through the DEC's to their EC's
 and others in their districts It is hoped that the DEC's will filter
 down material from the DRG reflector to their EC's in hopes of
 getting more involvement from the rank & file. Section Staff may
 assist in helping this happen.
- Many key members still do not understand 'Packet' Those that lead the group need more in-depth training so they themselves can "lead" their respective Districts and make better informed decisions.

Goals for 2006:

- MORE TRAINING!!!!!!
- Increased participation on the DRG reflector list
- Increased participation in Working Groups
- Improved Network Maps
- Deploy more HamGates for better long-haul linking
- Deploy more NetROM/X1J4 nodes
- Deploy more "Gateway" Multi-ported Nodes
- Continue migration to Multi-Layered networks and the use of District/Regional "Local Access" frequencies
- Link up Full-Service BBS's and improve Mail Forwarding
- Begin developing District "Standard Operating procedures"
- Get more Clubs involved!

For comparison, here are the "Next Steps" from a year ago:

- Begin using LAYERED network topologies
- Each County use its own Local Access Frequency
- Establish *Gateway Nodes* between networks
- Establish reusable backbone frequencies and link nodes using directional antennas wherever possible
- SHARE your network maps with others!
- We need a *Frequency Coordination* body now!
- Each District needs to assign a Packet Representative to the Digital Committee
- Section Digital Committee needs to meet ASAP!

If you've read this far, you must have some interest in Packet and Public Service Communications. It seems that we, in Dickinson County, need a Gateway Node to allow us to easily pass traffic from here to other areas within the state and throughout the country. If we are to handle Emergency and Public Service Communications, it is my opinion that Packet (or other error-checking digital means) in conjunction with the internet is the best way to get a message from point A to point B with the least chance of error. VHF and UHF voice communications are fine for SKYWARN and other immediate tactical needs, but to communicate a complex message, Digital, in my opinion is the only way to go. Let's support this endeavor.

Packet Racket

LeRoy, N8WQG, has replaced a failed power supply on the MIIRN LAN.

I have received packet messages from Jerry, N0MR, so the route to northern Minnesota is operational. Give him a shout. The route is:

> MIIMTB MIIMTA #IRNW #CMXS #CMX CMXLAN MICMX MIWIN MNOGM WICORN NOMR-1

2-Meter Repeater

Lee, N8LT and Bob, KC8TWG prepared the tower and mounting hardware for the 2-meter repeater antenna and brought it to the Pine Mountain repeater site earlier this month. On Thursday, January 12th, a work party raised the antenna to its new temporary location, 35 feet above ground level. This places the antenna 15 feet higher than it was and it will remain in this location until the weather is warmer.

We hope to place the antenna at its permanent location, 80 feet up the WE Energies tower, some time this spring.



Time Change for Local ARES Net

Our ARES net has been changed from Sundays to Thursdays at 6:30 PM. We hope this is a more convenient time and will result in more checkins.

3Y0X DXpedition Receives ARRL Colvin Award Grant

The 2006 Peter I Island 3Y0X DXpedition has received a \$7500 ARRL Colvin Award to help finance the trip to the small island off Antarctica in the Bellinghausen Sea. A team of 22 operators hope to activate Peter I for approximately two weeks in early February, weather and sea conditions permitting.

"This is a prestigious award and is important to our overall DXpedition financing," Peter I DXpedition co-leaders Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Ralph Fedor, K0IR, said of the ARRL Colvin Award. "Our special thanks to the Awards Committee." The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) is a premier contributor to this major undertaking.

The Colvin Award was established in 1994 with the proceeds of a life insurance policy purchased by Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, that named the ARRL as beneficiary. The award is conferred in the form of grants in support of Amateur Radio projects that promote international goodwill in the field of DX.

From the 1960s into the early 1990s, Lloyd Colvin and his wife Iris, W6QL, activated more than 100 DXCC entities. Lloyd Colvin died in 1993 and Iris Colvin in 1998.

The 3Y0X DXpedition team plans to travel to Peter I via the South Shetland Islands. "Our sea container containing all of our equipment, and most of the team's personal gear is aboard the vessel DAP Mares which is now in the South Shetland Islands," a DXpedition announcement said January 10. "Our foodstuffs are also aboard after being purchased in Punta Arenas, Chile. The team will be reunited with their equipment and gear on or about February 2 to begin the four-day voyage to Peter I."

The 3Y0X team emphasizes that no dates are firm at this point. The team has been assigned the Chilean Antarctic call sign of XR9A for use en route to and from Peter I. DXpedition members hope to be on the air from Punta Arenas for a few days and then maritime mobile to and from Peter I. There is also a possibility that the team will be active from the South Shetlands for a few days after the Peter I DXpedition is complete.

This is the second attempt at a successful Peter I Island DXpedition by a team headed by Allphin and Fedor. An anticipated Peter I 3Y0X DXpedition in early 2005 had to be called off at the eleventh hour after its charter vessel was delayed, and the DXpedition simply ran out of time.

Allphin and Fedor recommend checking the 3Y0DX Web site http://8.3.8.118/peterone/main.htm regularly for news and announcements. "The Web site should be considered the best source of updated and correct DXpedition news direct from the DXpedition leaders," their announcement says.

The site will provide twice-daily updating of the 3Y0X logs through the generosity of satellite telephone provider Iridium Satellite LLC. A "souvenir" QSL card is in the design stages.

QSL 3Y0X via Robert Schenck, N2OO, PO Box 345, Tuckerton, NJ 08087. The ambitious DXpedition is also an expensive undertaking, so the team continues to seek financial support via its Web site.

K7QO Morse Code Course

Mike, K8DDB, still has free CD ROMs of Chuck Adams' K7QO Morse Code Course. Any member desiring a copy should contact Mike at mikebray@chartermi.net or (906) 563-7020.

Negaunee Swap 'n Shop Feb 4th

The Negaunee Swap 'n Shop will be held on the first Saturday of February (Feb 4, 9 AM to 2 PM Eastern time) Sponsor: Hiawatha ARA. Location is Negaunee Township Hall, 42 Hwy M-35, midway between Negaunee and Marquette; turn S at blinking light (intersection of US-41 and M-35), go 1/4 mile to Township Hall on right. Swap and Shop, refreshments. Talk in: 147.27 (100 Hz). Admission: \$4. Tables: \$6. Contact: Robert Serfas, N8PKN, 1600 Bayview Dr., Marquette, MI 49855; 906-225-6773 n8pkn@aol.com, http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/

Michigan Section News Summary

Michigan Scanner Law

I am very pleased to report that the proposed changes to the "Michigan Scanner Law" have moved to the next phase in the legislative process. A draft version has been completed which now includes a specific exemption for licensed radio amateurs. Members of the Michigan House and Senate have been working to produce this final version for several weeks. The next step is a review by the Senate Judiciary Committee and if no further changes are needed, it will be sent to the Senate with a recommendation for passage. It would then go to the Governor for her signature.

This is the bill about which I testified before the House Judiciary Committee last fall and then, as recently as last week, debated again when I was informed that the amateur radio exclusion clause was going to be deleted. I advised the committee representative that we radio amateurs would oppose the bill if the clause were to be eliminated, as we already have an exemption based upon the existing federal preemption in PR docket 91-36. Based upon my communications about our concerns with the exemption being removed, Rep. Elsenheimer decided to keep the language in place.

The intent of this law revision is to eliminate a significant workload in the issuance of scanner (receiver) permits and make legal the use and transportation of scanners by the general public. As an example, under present law, persons traveling to a motor sports event where they intend to monitor racecar driver conversations were in fact in violation. My personal thanks goes to Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer and his staff for their diligence in sponsoring and strongly supporting this bill.

Michigan Traffic Net

MiTN Needs Net Controls. The Michigan Traffic Net which meets daily at 7:00PM on 3952KHz has a need for additional NCS operators. If you have a few minutes you can devote to assisting one evening a week, check in and let the net manager know of your interest. This is an excellent net for handling traffic and a great venue for public service.

73. Dale

Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Elected ARRL'S 14th President

ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years. He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Gathering in Windsor, Connecticut, for its annual meeting, the Board voted 10 to 5 to choose Harrison over ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, the only other nominee. Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past.

"One of the things we need to do over the next few years is realize that Main Street USA is not the Main Street USA it was years ago," Harrison commented after the vote. "We all remember those days when we became interested in radio and the magic that it provided to us. The magic is still there, but Main Street has changed."

Harrison says this means focusing on doing a better job of attracting the average person on the new Main Street of today "into the magic of Amateur Radio."

First licensed in 1972 as WN5IGF, Harrison says he's interested in virtually all aspects of Amateur Radio, from HF DXing and contesting to VHF/UHF/microwave and moonbounce. He's an ARRL Life Member. His wife, daughter and son all are Amateur Radio licensees. He'll become the League's 14th president since its founding in 1914.

Harrison said the ARRL's initiative to create an improved entry-level license also will be among his top priorities as he assumes office.

"It is imperative for the Amateur Radio Service that we have an entry-level license that provides a wide variety of privileges for an individual to get into radio and learn a little bit about all of it," Harrison said, adding that the League believes this approach will keep new licensees interested in ham radio.

Saying that the Technician ticket "is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration," the ARRL has asked the FCC to consider modifying the Technician license to provide limited HF phone, data and CW privileges.

(Continued on page 8)

Club Equipment List

Tom, W8JWN, has custody of:

- Gin Pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
- Small TV type rotor and control.
- Dipole antennas for 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
- Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy)
- RG8X with double shield (100 feet)
- 3/16 inch single braid Dacron rope (200 feet)
- 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters)
- 6 PL259 silver connectors
- 4 T-adapters for stubs
- 4 UG-176 silver sleeves
- 3 right-angle connectors
- Tri-band beam antenna
- Club banner

Mike, K8DDB, has custody of:

- Lafayette 80-10 meter tube type VFO and Operating Manual.
- J-38 Morse key
- Power supply 0 to +- 32
 VDC, 2 amp (rack mount)
- Duplexer (rack mount home brew) 440 MHz?
- Power supply (home brew partially built)
- Multimeter—Military ME-26D/U by Sentinel Electronics, Inc.

Bob, KC8TWG, has custody of :

 40 foot tower (in process of refurbishing)

The list can be accessed by a link on the Membership page of our web site:

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

If you have custody of any club equipment, please notify Mike, K8DDB, of what you have. Also, notify Mike when you give custody of the equipment to another member.

Email: mikebray@chartermi.net

or

Phone (906) 563-7020

Member Profile - Tom Martin, W8JWN

Driving through the 800 block of West B Street in Iron Mountain, if you look to the north, many square feet of aluminum will catch your eye. You are at the QTH of Tom (W8JWN). His antenna farm, although on a small city lot, has kept residents of the area wondering if he, "Gets great reception on Channel 6…has a CIA listening post… is really into CB!"



Tom attained Novice license (K9SNX) in 1959 at the age of 16 in Greenfield, Indiana. His first contact was on July 30th with K9QON in Augusta, Illinois on 7.179Kz. His first rig was a Globe Scout Heathkit AR-3 receiver. He upgraded to General in December and that was the end of CW for many years. His aunt gave him a Viking Valiant transmitter and Hallicrafters SX-100

receiver for Christmas and that opened a whole new world of AM DXing on 10 and 15 meters. He said that he didn't even know what the SWR was on his 80 meter dipole fed with 300 Ohm TV line. He didn't use a tuner or SWR bridge! It worked and that was the only thing that mattered.

He moved from Indiana in 1960 to Eagle River, Wisconsin and made many contacts with Iron Mountain hams on 75 meters. Eventually, he would meet them face to face when he started teaching at Kingsford High School in 1965. Because he had sold all of his equipment in 1963 to get funds for college, he didn't get back on the air until 1969 after meeting Harold Shoquist (W8CON) at a party across the alley from Harold's QTH. Harold loaned him some equipment and that led to 23 years of extensive ham activity before Tom went off the air again in 1992.

After retiring in 2000, after 35 years of teaching, Tom decided to devote the majority of his time to ham radio. He rejoined the Mich-A-Con ARC. [Actually, in 1969, Tom was the winner of the "Name the Club Contest" when the radio club was started. His name, the Mich-A-Con ARC, easily defeated the second place name----Menominee range ARC.] Tom, the present President of the club, has held all offices in his years with the club. He is also a member of the ARRL and the NEWDXA DX club out of the Appleton, Wisconsin area.

Contesting, especially RTTY contesting, and Dxing are his main interests. Getting the Extra Class in 2004 has really



helped his DX total. Recently, he went on a Dxpedition to Belize. This year, in March, he will be heading to Jersey Island with K8PT from Marquette, K3PLV, and N1NK to operate from a historic WWII German observation post that has been turned into a local Jersey radio club.

His home station consists of Yaesu FT-1000MP, Kenwood 830S, and Icom 706MKIIG transceivers. Two meter and 440 transceivers round out the rig department. Having never met a linear amplifier that he didn't like, Tom owns three: an old Heathkit SB-220 his favorite, a Dentron MLA-2500, and an Ameritron AL-80B. According to Tom, "You have to be heard!" All of that high power goes to that aluminum on top of



a 72-foot self- supporting tower. He has a five element beam on 20 meters, a two element beam at 76 feet on 40 meters, a three element beam at 80 feet for 10 meters, a Cushcraft 11 element beam at 82 feet on 2 meters, a Cushcraft tribander for 10, 15, and 17 meters at 40 feet, and various wire antennas on 40 and 80 meters.

(Continued on page 8)

December 13th Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 1)

Old Business:

Tom has not yet received the safety harness brochure from Glen Martin Engineering.

The upcoming Technician class will be held in the Dickinson County Library because we have been unable to obtain permission from the VA hospital to conduct classes there. Bob, WA8FXQ, will contact the library for space to conduct the class and he and Skip, KE9L, will provide the instruction.

New Business:

Mike, K8DDB, will send a get well KC8VC QSL card to Randal McCloy, KC8VKZ, the hospitalized WV coal miner.

Mike will send a sympathy card to the family of Walt Peters, WB8SYA.

Dennis will send a \$50 check to the Grace United Methodist Church for our meeting facilities. Motion made by Bob, KC8TWG, seconded by Burt, WB8EBS and approved by those in attendance.

It was decided not to have a Christmas Party in February.

The meeting concluded with a Good Of The Order discussion.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by: Mike Bray

Attendees:

Mike Bray, K8DDB (Secretary)
Mike Boileau, N9NBN (Vice President)
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Bob Uren, KC8TWG
Lee Michaud, N8LT
Tom Martin, W8JWN (President)
Dennis Beurjey, KD8AIT (Treasurer)
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS
Steve Johnson, KC8RYY
Steve Skauge, KD8CCP

WANTED:

ICOM IC-28H Transceiver Call or write: Dennis Royce, K9GIR 673 W. North St. Eagle Harbor, MI 49950-9658

E-Mail: garoyce@up.net (906) 289-4251

Member Profile - W8JWN

(Continued from page 7)

All of the antennas and rigs are needed to successfully compete in the contests and break the pileups for needed countries. He has several first place awards for Michigan and the Great Lakes Division over the years. Actually, he won several contests in the low power category. [Those amps must have been broken! Ed.] He has worked 317 out of the possible 335 countries.

When not on the air, Tom enjoys golf, hunting, and fishing. Each summer he and his XYL, Ann, head to Vegas for a few days of "games of chance". He is also a lector at St. Mary and St. Joseph church in Iron Mountain.

Harrison New ARRL President

(Continued from page 6)

Harrison also says he will promote the League's Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) to have the FCC regulate Amateur Radio allocations by bandwidth. "Right now we do that by mode, and we're one of the few countries in the world that does that," he pointed out. "We need to change that and move forward with this initiative of regulation by bandwidth instead of mode."

Related to that issue, the Board was expected to discuss the process of developing effective band plans to support the rule changes it's requesting in RM-11306. The Commission will accept public comments on the petition until February 6.

Harrison said he will continue and build upon the League's emphasis on Amateur Radio's emergency communication role--especially in improving its response to catastrophic disasters like Hurricane Katrina--and on Haynie's "The Big Project" initiative to get ham radio into schools, known formally as the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP).

"Whether or not it generates a large number of radio amateurs, it provides an introduction to Amateur Radio to kids," Harrison said of the ETP. "Having that awareness of Amateur Radio and what it provides is vital," because it imparts a broad-based knowledge of the service to tomorrow's citizens and policymakers.

Harrison will officially begin his term when the Board of Directors adjourns its current session.

The Board of Directors annual meeting was expected to conclude January 21. The Board will meet again in July.

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: Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX 612 Balsam Street Kingsford, MI 49802

| Name: | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Address: | | | | | | |
| City, State, Zip: | | | | | | |
| Call Sign: | | | | | | |
| Email Address: | | | | | | |
| Phone: | | | | | | |
| ARRL Member? | Yes No | | | | | |
| Annual dues are due in January—Please make checks payable to Mich-A-Con ARC Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 * Family \$30 * Repeater-Only - \$10 ** If family membership, please list additional names and call signs: | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

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 4, 2006 Exam Date: May 6, 2006 Exam Date: Aug 5, 2006 Exam Date: Nov 4, 2006

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 (2006 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. 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

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of material found in Mich-A-Con RF unless otherwise noted, provided that proper credit is given to the author and Mich-A-Con ARC.

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.

^{*} The dues for <u>NEW</u> 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.

Mích-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:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX (906) 771-1996 dbeurjey@msn.com

Reminders

Club dues for the year 2006 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form on page 9 of this newsletter. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con ARC and sent to our new Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank you for supporting our club!

The monthly meeting for February is on TUESDAY the 14th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway, Michigan. (Upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)