

# MICH-A-CON RF

IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN

JANUARY, 2008

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

## QSO with a Radio Hero Mike, K8DDB

I fired up the old Heathkit HW-16 that I bought from Paul Hintz, WB8SZI, a couple years ago to see that all was in working order for Straight Key Night (SKN) which was less than a week away. David, N1EA, of Green Harbor Massachusetts answered my CQ on 80 meters and gave me a signal report of 589. We had a nice QSO which was interrupted after 10 minutes by QRM from a net control operator that jumped on the frequency and began calling his net to order. We signed with each other, relinquishing the frequency to the net.

It wasn't until I looked up his call on QRZ.com that I realized that N1EA was a radio hero. His QSL card is shown below along with a more legible version of the text that appears at the bottom of his card.



SOS DE PJTAA – October 4, 1980 – In what many called a miraculous rescue, all 535 passengers and crew of a Holland-America's burning passenger liner Prinsendam/PJTA were rescued from lifeboats after abandoning ship in the frigid waters of the Gulf of Alaska. The ship's modern high-tech SATCOM, 2182 kHz MF SSB and VHF FM distress signals failed to summon aid, but the dependable 500 kHz Morse Code SOS was heard by over 350 stations, including the USA supertanker Williamsburgh/WGOA. In 1988, the Williamsburgh's two Radio Officers, Mr. D.J.J. Ring, Jr., N1EA and Mr. J.N. Pfister, NS1L were each awarded a VWOA Marconi Gold Medal for helping those in peril on the sea.

## **UP Skywarn Web Page has New Address & New Look!**

submitted via email from:

**Mike Swiatkowski AA9VI**

The U.P. Skywarn page still resides on the Pasty.com server, but it has a new address... <http://kcra-mi.net/skywarn> (We have taken off the .html part that used to be on there). You will automatically be forwarded to the new page if you happen to go to the old one that you book marked. Please make sure to update your bookmarks/favorites once you reach the new website. The website has had major reconstruction over the last week and I finally got it working well enough to initiate the switch at 7:50 PM EST Saturday. I hope you all like it.

Here is a list of improvements from the old format:

- 1) Better organized!
- 2) More modern look
- 3) Added APRS weather station reports under "Latest Conditions"
- 4) Added school closings to the bottom right of each page.
- 5) Added a "Today's Topics" section which will change every now and then. It will mostly be an update of upcoming activities and interesting tidbits.
- 6) Added EASY to find training links at the bottom of each page. You can learn at your own pace and attend one of the NWS sponsored spotter sessions.
- 7) Revised a few of the maps on the main page.
- 8) Page loading should be a bit faster! (If you have a problem, ever, reload with CTRL + reload button in your browser.)
- 9) Updated NOAA weather radio streaming, coverage maps, and table organization. Looks much cleaner.
- 10) Added Weather Radio Canada information for those in the Soo area and Copper Harbor... if you care, they activate SAME codes too!
- 11) ...and finally, added a list some popular links under "Newsletter" . This will give you access to even MORE training slides other Skywarn agencies, NOAA weather offices, etc.

As always, let me know if you have any other ideas or updates (like local net information) .

## Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

First, let me say that I am sorry that there were no "Words" for the December issue of the newsletter. To all readers I wish you a very happy 2008.

As many of you know, RTTY contesting is one of my major radio pursuits. The ARRL Round Up is my favorite contest. Each January I get fired up for the contest and try to improve on the previous year's score.

Below is my "soapbox" entry for the contest.

Murphy hit the shack!!! Didn't get started until 22:29. Probably the only guy to take his off-time at the start of the contest!!! Rebooted computer several times...checked computer connections. The computer is under the desk. Keyboard shelf came loose and hit me on the head, when I was under the desk checking connections. I tied it with wire. Gave up and watched the Red Wings vs. Dallas game.

Finally, 2 1/2 hours into the contest, I discovered that the RIGblaster phono plug was loose behind the radio. How did this happen? Ah, 20 minutes before the test I disconnected the mike. Tried to work the 3Y0 on SSB. Must have pulled loose then because every thing worked great before the contest started. Wave muted in soundcard many times in the N1MM contest program. Audio Properties in Windows XP open a lot for the first 50 contacts until it finally became "unmuted" on its own!

The second radio output was low, no more than 50 watts to drive SB220. Today, the day after the contest ended, there is a full 100 watts out!

The 40 meters slopers to replace the broken 40 meter beam didn't perform very well. Worst 40 meter operation ever. Besides the two slopers kept turning on the motion light in the back yard, when I transmitted. Drove the XYL crazy! Not much heard on 15 meters. Never listened on 10.

Operated until 3 a.m local...exhausted mentally and took a two hour nap...operated until 10:30 a.m. and said the "heck" with this. Went to bed and started again at 3:30 p.m. until closing.

Never got the state of New Jersey! That's unreal. I also called DC for an important multiplier but skip was long on 20, when I finally found him.

I only spent 15.7 hours in the test out of the allowed 30. My XYL even was sorry that I had a terrible time this year. That was nice of her.

I did meet a goal to make more than 56 contacts an hour on 80 meters. I made exactly 80 contacts in one hour Sunday morning.

N1MMLogger worked great as usual in SO2R. I finally used the keys more than the mouse.

Can't wait until next year!

Band	QSOs	Pts	Sta	Cty
3.5	235	235	33	3
7	86	86	1	7
14	196	196	20	22
21	1	1	0	0
Total:	518	518	54	32

Score: 44,548

Note:

I even worked Scott, KB9AVX, in Niagara on 20. I'm glad to see a lot of the guys in the club becoming interested in RTTY and PSK.

### Swap'N'Shop 2008

The Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette, Mi will be holding their annual Swap'N'Shop on Feb 2, 2008.

Doors open at 9:00 AM (EST) - 2:00 PM. Admission \$4.00.

Negaunee Township Hall on Hwy M35. Talk in Frequency 147.27 PL Tone 100. Additional info on the club's web site: <http://www.qsl.net/k8lod>

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for February 2008						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Swap'n'Shop Marquette
3 UPSN	4	5	6	7 ARES	8	9
10 UPSN	11	12 Meeting	13	14 ARES	15 UP 200 MIDNIGHT RUN	16 Club Breakfast UP 200 MIDNIGHT RUN
17 UPSN UP 200 MIDNIGHT RUN	18	19	20	21 ARES	22	23
24 UPSN	25	26	27	28 ARES	29	

### Club Activities:

The Upper Peninsula 2-meter Social Net (UPSN) is conducted every Sunday at 7:00 PM Central Time on the 146.850 repeater. Dennis, K8SWX will facilitate the link from our repeater to the other participating stations via Echo Link. (Note: Dennis is currently working on a problem with the Link and therefore the net may not be held on our local repeater.)

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:30 PM Central Time every Thursday on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz.) **Note: Dennis, K8SWX announced the ARES Net will be held on Simplex 147.555 until our 2-meter repeater is back up and running.**

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Dickinson County Library. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.

## V.E. TESTING:

02/02 **Iron Mountain**: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library (conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802

03/08 **Marquette**: 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am) Marquette County Health Dept. Bldg, U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 or e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net) Note: You must Pre-Register at least one week in advance.

4/12 **Houghton**: 9:00 am eastern time (arrive by 8:30 am) Wadsworth Residence Hall, Room G04-W (basement of 'WADS'). Contact Glenn at (906) 482-7743 or by e-mail: [wa8qnf@arrl.net](mailto:wa8qnf@arrl.net)

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change.

Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc.

Club Patches are Available  
From:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX  
612 Balsam Street  
Kingsford, Mi 49802

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

## Links

ARRL WEB PAGE:

<http://www.arrl.org>

ARRL MICHIGAN:

<http://www.arrl-mi.org/>

US REPEATERS:

<http://www.usrepeaters.com>

MICH-A-CON :

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

Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts:

<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

FCC Universal Licensing System:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

QTH.COM:

<http://www.qth.com/>

QRZ.COM:

<http://www.qrz.com/>

Ehamnet.com:

<http://www.eham.net/>

Michigan Section ARES:

<http://arpsc.mi-nts.org>

## **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 check 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:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\* 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 in an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater Only Membership.

## **Satellite Serves as Voice Repeater**

from:

ARRL Headquarters Newington, CT

January 23, 2008

To all radio amateurs SB SPACE ARL ARLS002 ARLS002 AO-16 Satellite Serves as Voice Repeater Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16) -- a digital satellite -- has been unavailable for use while the command team dealt with a serious computer problem.

The satellite has since been recovered, and is now a voice repeater, at least for an unspecified "test period" using FM voice on the uplink, but SSB voice on the downlink.

Since AO-16 was recovered approximately six months ago, the command team -- Bruce Rahn, WB9ANQ, Jim White, WD0E, and Mark Hammond, N8MH -- attempted to reload the satellite software almost a dozen times without success. The team performed a series of memory tests that pointed toward a hardware failure that prevented the spacecraft software from restarting successfully.

AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, said, "After concluding that the spacecraft computer system was damaged, and as discussions about decommissioning were taking place, Jim recalled a series of low-level commands that Tom Clark, K3IO, included in the spacecraft design during construction. One of these commands allows an uplink receiver to be directly tied to a downlink transmitter. The twist is that the uplink is regular FM, but the downlink via the BPSK transmitter is DSB (Double Sideband).

Mark placed the satellite in this mode early this week and did some testing." Glasbrenner also said the satellite hears very well; the reduced bandwidth by using either USB or LSB on the ground station receiver "allows for a very robust downlink. Tuning the downlink is just like on a linear transponder, meaning it is tight and with fast Doppler. Uplink tuning is not required, just as with the FM mode V/U satellites.

My personal observations include being able to access and hear the satellite within one degree of the horizon, much lower than any other current bird for my location [in Florida]. This should be an easy satellite with omni antennas and a 70 cm preamp."

Glasbrenner said that he would like to open the satellite to general use for a test period. The uplink is 145.920 MHz FM, and the downlink is 437.026 MHz SSB +/- Doppler shift. He asks that users restrict their uplink power to a reasonable power level, and do not transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-channel guidelines apply.

Please submit reports via e-mail at, [ao16@amsat.org](mailto:ao16@amsat.org) "Enjoy this bird's new life!" Glasbrenner said.

## **Michigan Section Staff Meets for Review and Planning.**

From:

Monthly Michigan Section News Summary:

ARRL Michigan Section Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK

Greetings for a good start to 2008.

As we start out each new year, your Michigan Section staff meets to review the past year and plan for the new.

That meeting was held on January 19. I am pleased to report that Michigan continues to make gains in the areas we targeted for the year. Our efforts with Public service have shown improvements both in the increase in membership (we now stand strong with more than 2400 individuals in the ARES®/RACES program) and despite horrific band conditions where copy is often problematic, our NTS traffic counts are higher. Details will be posted at <http://arpsc.mi-nts.org/> and <http://www.mi-nts.org/>.

The state's digital infrastructures are growing and we have continued to expand our packet coverage and this year, we have seen implementation of D-Star® and P25 digital voice systems, with more scheduled to start in both Districts 1 and 7 and others in the early planning stages elsewhere. Check <http://www.mi-drg.org/> for details.

Our OO/AA program has been successful in working with the FCC in eliminating scofflaw users of ham frequencies for unlicensed purposes.

Plans are in place for the 2008 Michigan Section Outing to be held in Lupton the weekend of July 11, 12, 13.

The Technical Specialists have resolved several EMI/RFI issues during the recent months and assisted hams in solving some interesting problems.

Club growth continues and more groups are opting for ARRL affiliation.

Work with Local governments continues with very positive results and our relationship with state level officials is demonstrated with the continued growth with the support of the RACES Program. Local officials are being offered our Power Point® presentation on amateur radio.



For 2008, the focus is heavily on youth and our planned Youth Forum is being scheduled for the March timeframe. The date has been a moving target and efforts to nail it down should be completed the week of January 21. We are expecting to host the conference in Gaylord and learn from the younger attendees exactly what makes amateur radio attractive to them. This information will then be shared with our local ARRL Affiliated Club leaders to help all of us bring more young folks into this hobby.

## **Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club**

### **Minutes of the January 8, 2008 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 7:00 PM.

#### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved with one exception. The cost of QSL cards from UX5UO should have been \$69 instead of \$68.

#### **Treasurer Report**

##### **Balances as of the end of December:**

Checking - \$93.51

Regular Savings – \$1917.62 which includes \$400 in the trailer fund

Repeater Savings - \$979.75

Petty Cash - \$21.00

#### **Repeater Report**

WE Energies will allow the club to place our repeater in a temporary weatherproof cabinet at the site.

#### **ARES**

The ARES Net has been meeting on Thursdays at 6:30PM on 147.555 MHz simplex.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Special Event –**

Special event certificates have been sent to all that have requested them.

QSL cards are on order. QSLs will be prepared for mailing at our next meeting.

Scott, KA8TFF, has attempted to contact Yaesu about repairs needed to his radio but hasn't received an answer.

#### **Crivitz Packet Equipment -**

Lee hasn't received the TNCs from Skip.

#### **Trailer Fund –**

Mike, N9NBN, donated an IC-28H 2 meter radio to the trailer fund. Burt, WB8EBS, purchased the radio for \$75.

Randy, KB9ZES, donated a Diesel SWR bridge to the trailer fund. It is available for \$5.

#### **New Business**

Tom, W8JWN, circulated SKP Wave, a newsletter edited by Cliff Haycock, KD4ZBP, which included an article by Tom.

#### **For The Good Of The Order**

Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Submitted by Mike Bray

#### **Attendees**

Mike Bray, K8DDB --- Secretary

Art Costa, KD8GLO

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF

Randy Zandt, KB9ZES

Mike Boileau, N9NBN --- Vice President

Tom Martin, W8JWN --- President

Burton Armbrust, Jr., WB8EBS

Lee Michaud, N8LT

Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ

Scott Baker, KB9AVX

Beth Baker, KC9KVP

Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER

Bob Uren, KC8TWG

Nate Mieras, KD8GLP

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX ---Treasurer

# MICH-A-CON RF

Mich-A-Con ARC  
c/o Stephen Skauge  
213 South Angeline  
Ishpeming, Mi 49849

## Club Meetings:

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. 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](mailto:tmartin@chartermi.net)

Vice President:  
Mike Boileau N9NBN  
(715) 251-3137  
[n9nbn@uplogon.com](mailto:n9nbn@uplogon.com)

Secretary:  
Mike Bray, K8DDB  
(906) 563-7020  
[mikebray@chartermi.net](mailto:mikebray@chartermi.net)

Treasurer:  
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX  
(906) 771-1996  
[dbeurjey@msn.com](mailto:dbeurjey@msn.com)

## Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2007 were payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form in this newsletter when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The monthly meeting for February is on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.

