

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

January 2010

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Visit the ARRL's Web Site at <http://www.arrl.org>

## Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

Last Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, I celebrated my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in amateur radio. I received my General license after taking the exam in Chicago over Christmas vacation. My mother needed to do some Christmas shopping in the "Windy City"; so, we took a train from Indianapolis to Chicago. She shopped and I took the test in the federal building.

In those days, long before the VEC testing program, you had to wait an interminable time to find out if you had passed the exam. I passed the 13 wpm code section but wasn't sure of the theory part. Well, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, I got the news. According to my paper log, I was on 75 meter AM the moment I got home from school and opened the envelope!

I took out the old logbooks yesterday, in preparation of this column, and I noticed that I had written a short script of a phone contact: "K9TTL this is K9SNX...do you copy?" . After that initial contact and 10 minute QSO, I was ready for many thousands of phone contacts in the years to follow.

I filled two ARRL logbooks from January 1959 until May 17<sup>th</sup> 1960. On that date I moved from Indiana to St. Germain, Wisconsin. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May I had a dipole for 75 meters tied between two birches and my Viking Valiant and Hallicrafters SX-100 on a table in a corner of our two car garage. The garage

was our home for two months while the real house was being completed.

I had weekly schedules with old friends back in Indiana and my new ham friends in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. K9HSS, Ed in Phillips, WI became a good “radio buddy” and continues to hold court on 3.913 every day, Lyle, K9DKW (now K7OO in Los Angeles), and Bart, K8IRC in Iron Mountain were weekly contacts in my log.

Little did I know, at that time, that 12 years later I would be living in Iron Mountain and buying Bart’s tower and tribander for \$50 from his mother! When Bart returned from his military obligation in Ethiopia, he was shocked to say the least to find his tower missing!!!

A few weeks later, Bart and I had a contact on the 2 meter repeater. Little did he know that W8JWN was ex. K9SNX. After an embarrassing moment of silence, the tower situation was broached. He laughed and said that he wanted to put up a bigger tower anyway on his return to the states. From that moment, we became good friends for over 30 years.

In those first 10 years, or so, of my “ham life”, I had many enjoyable QSOs on 75 meter AM; I had a taste of DX on 15 and 10 meters with just a piece of wire and no SWR meter, or antenna tuner (“boat anchors” didn’t need them in those days): and I had several “eye ball QSOs” with hams I had met on the air.

So, what happened in the next 40? Stay tuned.



Tom, W8JWN making contacts at a recent Field Day event.

## **Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the January 12, 2010 Meeting**

President Tom Martin, W8JWN, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the December 8 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurer Report**

Balances as of January 8, 2010:

Checking - \$292.48

Regular Savings - \$2,530.15, \$1,236.62 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$902.25.

Petty Cash - \$0.00.

We have 14 paid members as of this meeting.

### **Repeater Report**

There have been no significant problems with the repeater.

Lou Gembolis, KG8NK, made a presentation on the pros and cons of linking repeaters and how the repeaters in the northern U.P. are linked.

### **ARES**

The ARES Net preamble has been posted on the club website.

Lou Gembolis, KG8NK, the Michigan District 8 DEC, explained that emergency amateur radio communications equipment will be made available to all counties in Michigan through a grant from Homeland Security.

### **Old Business**

#### **Club Radio Equipment –**

The following equipment is for sale:

NC-155

NC-183

Two 30 foot steel towers.

#### **Veterans Day Special Event –**

Tom has processed requests for 20 more QSL cards and 6 certificates.

#### **Ham Radio Class –**

We are unable to support a class this year.

#### **Field Day 2010 –**

Terry, K8TRY, reported that he has one station ready.

#### **Club Programs –**

February – Burt, WB8ES, Soldering

March – Art, KD8GLO, PSK

April – Bob, WA8FXQ, Repeater Phone Patch Procedures

May – Tom, W8JWN, Traffic Handling

#### **Trailer Fund Donations –**

Donations are due from those that have received equipment.

### **Systems Control Building –**

Nate, KD8GLP, will check on the availability of a 15' x 15' steel building. A suggestion was made that the Dickinson County Fairgrounds would be a good site for the building.

### **New Business**

The club website should be updated to reflect the new club officers.

Randy, KB9ZES, brought items to be sold for the trailer fund.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

### **For the Good of the Order**

Members discussed their recent activities

Submitted by Mike Bray

### **Attendees**

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary  
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP  
Barry Perron, KC9NFT  
Alfred Poquette, K9ECG  
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ  
Lou Gembolis, KG8NK  
Skip Caswell, KE9L  
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY  
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer  
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President  
Art Costa, KD8GLO  
TomHeyboer, KC8LKO  
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK  
Dr. Dennis Adam, KD8KUI  
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES  
Corissa Thomas, KD8KUG  
Joey Gerwig, KD8KWP  
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF



Lou Gembolis, KG8NK

## **Luce County Amateur Radio Society (LARS)**

From:

***The Standing Wave***

Greg, KI8AF editor

Luce County now has an amateur radio club. Dave, KC8QZG is the president of the Luce County Amateur Radio Society (LARS) and noted the club's web site is [www.w8nby.com](http://www.w8nby.com). The club's call sign is W8NBY.



HF Rig on the Road !

### **HF Rig on the Road**

Submitted by:

Paul, KD8KUF

The photo above is a 1998 Kenworth W900B sleeper tractor that belongs to Dawn Trucking of Iron Mountain and is driven by Rob Thomas, KD8KMT. Rob has an HF rig in the truck that Bob, WA8FXQ helped him install recently.

Rob, KD8KMT and his wife Corissa, KD8KUG both took the technician class in Iron Mountain, Mi last year with Paul, KD8KUF. Rob, KD9KMT and Corissa, KD8KUG now hold General licences.

## V.E. TESTING:

02/06 **Iron Mountain:** 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 396-5519 - 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

03/13 **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 906 249-3837or e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net).

04/10 **Houghton:** 8:30am eastern time, V.E. Exams at Michigan Tech. University in Houghton, MI will be held in the ballroom of DHH (Douglass Houghton Hall at Michigan Tech). Free Parking in Lot #14, front of DHH, across from Wadsworth Residence Hall. Use door #9 on the South-East side of DHH. Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 if you have questions.

4/10 **Gladstone:** Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Howard St. John (906) 428-9476 email: [hsj99@charter.net](mailto:hsj99@charter.net) Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

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 \$15.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc. Note: If you have been assigned a FRN from the FCC you must use it on all forms rather than your SSN.

### **HARA Annual Swap & Shop February 6<sup>th</sup> 2010**

The Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association announced the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Swap & Shop will be held on Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Negaunee Township Hall. For more information contact John, N8RSE at (906)228-9417 or Lou, KG8NK at (906)485-5442.

Set up is at 7:30 A.M. The Doors Open at 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
Admission is just \$4.00 with table rentals \$6.00.  
Raffle Tickets are \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00.  
Talk in on the KG8YT Repeater 147.270.



Terry, K9TRY

## Field Day 2010

Submitted by:

Terry, K9TRY

Hello I'm Terry, K9TRY. I will try to coordinate Field Day this year and will also be bringing back the picnic.

I have some ideas for new antenna schemes and ways to make it easier to keep stations on the air longer. Those will all be thought out between now and June.

I know we have plenty of time but I would like everyone who is interested please email me at [kb9zer@yahoo.com](mailto:kb9zer@yahoo.com) this will give us some idea of how many stations we are looking at.

Thanks hope to see you there;

73,

Terry K9TRY

Please remit dues to :

**Burt Armbrust WB8EBS**  
693 Cliff St.  
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues were 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.

### 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/>

U.P. Skywarn: <http://kcr-mi.net/skywarn/>

### UP 200 & MNR DOG SLED RACES

The UP 200 and Midnight Run Dog Sled Races are scheduled to kick off on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The annual event relies on many HAM s to track the sleds and ensure the safety of the participants.

This year Lou, KG8NK is again organizing the radio operators and is asking for our help. Many slots are still open so contact Lou and get involved, it truly is a great time!

[lgembolis@chartermi.net](mailto:lgembolis@chartermi.net)  
(906)485-5442

### Wanted:

**YOUR ARTICLES, IDEAS AND INPUT! SEND IT IN NOW TO:**  
[kd8ccp@arrl.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arrl.net)



## Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for February 2010

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
	1	2	3	4 ARES	5	6 Swap&Shop Negaunee
7	8	9 Meeting	10	11 ARES	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 ARES	19 UP 200 Sled Dog Race	20 UP 200 Sled Dog Race Club Breakfast
21 UP 200 Sled Dog Race	22	23	24	25 ARES	26	27
28						

### Club Activities:

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

**Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 P.M. 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.**

### **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 ARL 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:  
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFE  
[s\\_jarmusch@yahoo.com](mailto:s_jarmusch@yahoo.com)

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

Treasurer:  
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS  
(906) 774-8383  
[wb8ebs@yahoo.com](mailto:wb8ebs@yahoo.com)

### **Reminders:**

Club dues for the year 2010 were payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

**The February Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue February 9<sup>th</sup> 2010. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM**

## **MICH-A-CON RF**

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



