

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

January 2011

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

Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

Some odds and ends from the past month:

The ARRL RTTY Roundup has come and gone. It is my favorite contest. I finally won a plaque for the Great Lakes Division High Power Single Operator category in 2010. This year, thanks again to my SO2R (Single Operator 2 Radio) setup and the 4-element SteppIR bi-directional mode, I beat my score from last year by 8,000 points. Conditions were not great, no 10 meters at all, but it was still a lot of fun.

Murphy made a visit a few days before the start of the contest. I lost two of my three amps. I finally got the Heathkit SB-220

back on the air, after filing some bumps off of the tuning capacitor. A very high SWR on 15 meters, over 5:1, caused arcing. The Butternut vertical needs work on 15. It's a good thing that I finally got the second radio beam up on the tower two days before the contest started. The SWR was 1:1 on the A3S.

The Dentron MLA-2500 could not be fixed. Fuse kept blowing. (Possibly, a power supply issue?) Gary, our May-November amp expert, will be asked to check it out this coming summer. I just have the Alpha 99 and the SB-220 for the remaining contests. Hopefully, no more Mr. Murphy visits to this QTH! Hint: check your SWR before loading up!!!

What I learned about transferring programs from one computer to another computer with a different operating system in a few words. Don't do it! My Vista logging and contest programs failed to work, when I went back to XP. This caused some hair pulling before the contest. Finally, I downloaded all of the programs, on the XP computer and started over. Many hours were spent setting up the programs. I have learned a lesson!

In the January issue of *QST*, the article entitled, "The last CQ-A Survivor's Guide", goes into detail concerning organizing our "ham radio estate" if we are called to that "great ham shack" in the sky. If you remember, I wrote a "Words from the president" article on the same subject a few years ago. Be sure to read the *QST* article very carefully. AF6OH's suggestions will be a benefit to your survivors.

See you at the next meeting.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the January 11, 2011 Meeting

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

The meeting began with a round of introductions.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the December 14 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

We received \$180 in club dues tonight. We now have 16 paid members for 2011.

Checks were written to: WE Energies, \$30; ATT, \$23.40.

Balances as of January 1, 2011:

Checking - \$108.94

Regular Savings - \$1,970.31, \$334.62 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$840.92

Petty Cash - \$15.00

Repeater Report

No problems to report.

ARES

The net has been meeting regularly.

Old Business

Club Trailer –

Tom Martin has contacted Farmers for a quote on trailer insurance and also for club liability insurance - waiting for a response.

Paul Schultz will investigate the problem with the trailer locks.

Veteran's Day Special Event –

All requested QSL cards and certificates have been sent.

New Business

Field Day 2011 –

Mike Bray will reserve the small pavilion at Marion Park.

Tom Martin will co-chair Field Day this year. We need another volunteer to co-chair the event.

There will be a presentation on the N3FJP logging program before Field Day.

License Class –

Several attendees expressed interest in a Technician and General license class.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary

Randy Zandt – KB9ZES

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President

Joe Komblevicz – KB8ETK

Terry Moriarity – K9TRY

Alfred Poquette – K9ECG

Perry Amicangelo

Dave Thomas, KG9Y

Paul Schultz – KD8KUF

Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer

Dana Bey

Red Maxwell, KC9KWS

Swap and Shop

from:

The Standing Wave

February 2011

Don't forget the annual (Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette County) **Swap and Shop** is scheduled for Saturday February 5, 2011 at the Negaunee Township Hall.

Preliminary setup will be Friday evening at 6:00pm. Saturday the doors will open 7:00am for vendors to set up.

Main doors to the floor will open at 9:00 am (mqt time) with NO ADVANCED SALES. There are plenty of door prizes (need to be present to win) as well as the raffle prizes. Admission is still only \$4.00.

If you need a table there might be a couple still available. Hurry! Contact John at jsveiht@mqtpublicservicegarage.com

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://kcra-mi.net/skywarn/>

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 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.**

Amateur Radio in the Classroom: ARRL Teachers Institute Now Accepting Applications for 2011 Sessions

FROM:

The ARRL Letter for January 27, 2011

The ARRL Education Services Department has announced the 2011 schedule for the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI) workshop. Offered through the ARRL's Education & Technology Program, the Teachers Institute is a four-day, expenses paid, in-residence learning opportunity designed for motivated teachers and other school staff who want to learn more about wireless technology and bring that knowledge to their students.

A variety of topics are covered during the TI, including basic wireless technology literacy, electronics, the science of radio, radio astronomy, how to bring space into the classroom, ham radio operation, introduction to micro controllers and basic robotics. While participants do not need to have an Amateur Radio license to attend the basic TI sessions, one is required for the advanced (TI-2) session.

All information about the Teachers Institutes – including the application and a downloadable brochure is available online. There you will also find links on that page where hams and interested instructors can read more about what other ETP schools are doing with Amateur Radio and wireless technology topics.

<http://www.arrl.org/teachers-institute-on-wireless-technology>

Club Patches are available from:

Burt Armbrust WB8EBS

693 Cliff St.

Quinnesec, Mi. 49876

The patches are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3 ea.

If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with your payment.



Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for February 2011

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
		1	2	3 <i>ARES</i>	4	5
6	7	8 <i>Meeting</i>	9	10 <i>ARES</i>	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 <i>ARES</i>	18 SLED DOG RACES BEGIN	19 <i>BREAK FAST</i>
20 SLED DOG RACES END	21	22	23	24 <i>ARES</i>	25	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 PM. Visitors and Prospective Members are always welcome.

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

UPSDA 22ND ANNUAL SLED DOG RACE 2011

The dates for this year's sled dog race are Friday, February 18th - Sunday February 20th. Start times are 6:45 p.m. EST, Friday February 18th for the UP 200 starting in Marquette. The Midnight Run starts in Gwinn at 5:30 p.m. EST.

Contact Lou Gembolis KG8NK lgembolis@chartermi.net if you would like to help out with Communications this year. You can also call Lou at (906) 485-5442.

Club Repeaters:

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain (elevation 1,650 feet) in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

The range of the 2 meter repeater is about 40 miles under normal conditions, depending upon terrain. The 440 MHz repeater has a range of about 25 miles.

OUTPUT	OFFSET	PLTONE	CALLSIGN
146.850	Minus	-	WA8FXQ
444.850	Plus	100 Hz	WA8FXQ

Repeater Specifications:

The 146.85 repeater is a Melco Hi Pro (built from a kit in the 1970s) with 25 watts output. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet

V.E. TESTING:

02/05 **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.

03/12 **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.

04/9 **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.

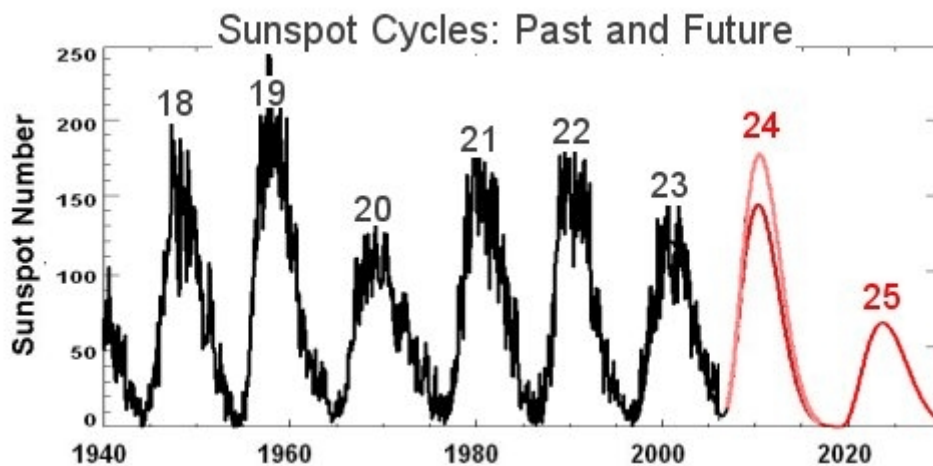
4/9 **Gladstone:** Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Howard St. John (906) 428-9476 email: hsj99@charter.net Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

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.

Will 10 meter DX Return?

By: Tom, W8JWN

A 2009 prediction, published in a report at www.spaceweather.com, states: “The panel predicts the upcoming Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a daily sunspot number of 90. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since number 16, which peaked at 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.”



Looks like the low bands will continue to be best for DX. It's time to work on those 40 and 80 meter verticals, 4-Squares, if you have the room, and, if you have the cash and the tower, 2-3 element beams for 40. If you think about it, 2020 isn't that far away!

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

Vice President:
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

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

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2011 were payable on January 1st. 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 Feb 8th 2011. 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**

