

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

February 9, 2013

In This Issue:

Words from the President

Survey Results

Minutes of the January 8th 2013 Meeting

**Club Patches
Dues Form**

**Calendar of Events
Club Activities
Club Repeaters**

VE Testing

Links to popular sites

Field Day 2013 Packet now available

**Club Meetings
Club Officers, Reminders**

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

Words from the President Tom W8JWN

The results are in! Our first club online survey has been completed. The percentage of responses for each question are in this newsletter. These will be discussed at the next club meeting on February 12th.

Since I will not be able to attend that meeting, due to my knee replacement surgery on February 6th, I will make a few comments in this column.

The responses to the question about member's radio interests seem to be a fair representation of our membership. With an increase in Extra and General class licenses, high frequency operation is on the upswing. That's good. Also, antenna building was popular. Antennas are about the only thing we can build today. For the average ham, technology has really blown us away. Home brew equipment, other than a few station accessories, is a thing of the past. Of course, there are a few guys in the club that enjoy building a QRP rig, or an amplifier.

Field Day and Veterans Day continue to be the most popular operating activities. We need chairman and operators for 2013.

I was glad to see that no one checked the box “I don't feel welcome.” at the club meetings. It appears that the majority of members do enjoy the Tuesday meetings.

The responses to the question pertaining to future programs at meetings will be studied to make sure that meetings will be well attended and informative. With the popularity of the digital modes, more members have an interest in learning about more than just PSK31 and RTTY. JT65 and Olivia are becoming increasingly popular. We will have a program on these modes. I would give a program on RTTY but I don't want any competition. HI!!!

Also, there seems to be quite an interest in test equipment. Other than a MFJ antenna analyzer and a VOM, I don't know much about other test equipment. We will try to get our more knowledgeable “techies” to present a program on these devices.

Finally, I'm glad to see that many of our members have upgraded their licenses. Congratulations to all of the new Extras.

If you have any suggestions, comments, gripes, etc. about the survey, bring them up at the next meeting.

73,
Tom W8JWN

Below are the results from the online survey. There were 12 responses.

1. What are your main interests in amateur radio?

VHF 2 meters	15.2%
HF operation	21.7%
DXing	10.9%
Building antennas	13.0%
Homebrewing equipment	8.7%
Contesting	6.5%
Echolink	4.3%
Collecting old amateur gear	2.2%
SKYWARN	6.5%
ARES and RACES	10.0%

Other (Please Specify):

2. What club activities do you enjoy?

ARRL Field Day 19%

Veterans Day 28.6%

Ham License Class 4.8%

Saturday Breakfast 0%

Club Meetings 41.6%

3. If you don't attend meeting, what keeps you away?

Not a good night for me 25%

Too much business conducted 25%

I don't feel welcome

I have too many meetings 25%

I'm not interested in club meetings 25%

There were only 4 responses to this question.

4. What programs would you like to see at future meetings?

Basic electronics 10.3%

How to operate digital modes 27.6%

How to build antennas 10.3%

How to send and receive morse code 0%

How to set up a HF station 6.9%

How to set up a mobile station 0%

How to use test equipment 27.6%

How to work DX 0 %

View a DXpedition DVD 13.8%

Other

5 . What amateur license do you hold?

Extra 41.7%

Advanced 0%

General 50%

Technician 8.3%

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the January 8th, 2013 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the December 11th, 2012 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Membership Dues Received: \$ 60.00

Checks were written to: Bob Meyers for fuses, \$30.20; \$30.00 for tower rent; \$28.26 to AT&T.

Balances as of January 3rd, 2013:

Balances as of November 30th, 2012:	
Checking	\$ 86.63
Regular Savings	\$ 452.28
Trailer Fund	\$1829.62
Repeater Savings	\$1013.67
Petty Cash	\$ 6.00

Repeater Report

Bob Meyers reported a lot of plugs out, missing jumpers and power supply problems. 440 from Niagara repeater will be tried. When complete we will have a full continuous duty 100 watt repeater.

ARES

There has been meeting every Thursday at 6:30 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

Old Business

President Tom went to the Health Dept. to sign-up for the emergency inoculation per Burt's advice as detailed in the December minutes. They informed him to go to the EOC (Pete Schlitt) instead.

President Tom and Secretary Paul will visit the EOC and take measurements for a locking desk that Paul will build.

New Business

President Tom reviewed the survey results. 14 people took the survey from the newsletter with a variety of responses. Main interest – 4 responses to VHF 2 meters. ARES/RACES 2 responses. Some people checked more than one. Field Day – 3 said is their favorite.

Field Day: brief discussion of going back to Florence or alternate locations. We will probably go back to the Florence fairgrounds because it worked well last year. A Chairman volunteer was requested.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Paul Schultz

Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN – President
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF – Secretary
Skip Caswell, KE9L
Barry Perron, KC9NFT
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR
Mike Bray, K8DDB
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Tom Heyboer, KC8TH
Steve Johnson, KC8RYY
Dana Bey, KD8POR

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

**Please remit dues to :
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
693 Cliff St
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876**

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

**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:** _____
City, State, Zip _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____
ARRL Member? Yes ____ **No** ____

Annual dues are Payable January 1st.

**Dues for New Members are Pro-rated.
Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single
membership or \$2.50 per month for a
Family membership.**

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for February 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Meeting</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>BREAKFAST</i>
<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> <i>ARES</i>		

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.

Club Repeaters:

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain (Elevation 1650 ft) 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.

Repeater Specifications;

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

V.E. TESTING:

11/6 Iron Mountain: 9:30am central time, Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802. Examinees must be pre-registered. (906-776-1553).

3/9Marquette: 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am) Marquette County Health Dept. Bldg,U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. You must pre-register by Tuesday preceding the test date. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net or Greg KI8AF 906 225-1594 ki8af@arrl.net.

4/6 Hancock: 8:30am eastern time, The Zion Lutheran Church, 400 Ingot St Hancock, Mi. Go north on hwy 41 (Quincy Hill) near the lookout. Turn left on Ingot up about one block. The church is on the left hand side of the street. This is a barrier free entrance for the handicapped Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 or email: wa8qnf@arrl.net if you have questions. You can now take a Hamexam "Anytime". Contact Glenn, WA8QNF at (906)482-7743 for details.

4/13 Gladstone: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Dave Palmgren N8DP, (906) 428-2271, n8dp@dcars.org 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

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/>

Field Day: 2013 Field Day Packet Now Available

from:

Arrl Letter February 7, 2013

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 22-23, 2013! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun.

Field Day packets are now available for download and include the complete rules, as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for get-on-the-air stations and a kit for publicizing your event with the local press. New for 2013: Stations operating as Class A or B may begin setting up at 0000 UTC on Friday (which will be Thursday 8 PM EDT, 7 PM CDT, 6 PM MDT and 5 PM PDT). The groups may start and stop their set-up, resuming the set-up later, but may spend only a maximum of 24 hours cumulative time for setting up their sites.



An informational flier with basic "What Is Field Day?" has also been included in this year's Field Day packet. Amateur Radio clubs and individuals are encouraged to reproduce this flyer as a handout. Find it and more on the ARRL's Field Day web page.

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

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:
Paul Schultz KD8KUF
(906) 774-8900
pauls@schultzequipment.com

Treasurer:
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
(906) 774-8383 retary:
Paul Schultz KD8
wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2013 are 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 Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on:
Tuesday February 12, 2013. It will be held in the Dickinson County
Library at 7 PM**

Wanted:

**Your Articles, Your pictures
and your Input for the
Newsletter!**

Send them to:
kd8ccp@arrl.net