

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

February 2010

In This Issue:

The U.P. 200: A Dog Gone Good Time

Words From the President

Calendar of Events

Club Activities

Minutes of the February 9th 2010 Meeting

Club Patches

For Sale: Yaesu FT-990

Membership Form

VE Testing

Field Day 2010: Packets Available

ARRL Continuing Education

Links

Club Meetings

Club Officers

Reminders

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

The U.P. 200: A Dog Gone Good Time

by:

Stephen Skauge, KD8CCP

Bruce, (KB8RJV) and I decided we would help out with the U.P. 200 dog sled race again this year. We let Lou (KG8NK) know we were available as soon as I verified I did not have to work on inventory at work that weekend. Lou assigned us to work the Deerton check point on Sunday as the dog teams raced toward the finish in Marquette.

Deerton is unique because it is also a Dog Drop Checkpoint. The dog teams often stop and hand off a dog to a handler. The team pulls into the area and handlers rush forward to take any dogs that need to be dropped. The dogs might be too tired to continue or even injured. Many of the dogs getting dropped will be bagged on the sled. The "bagged" dogs are riding in a vinyl bag similar to the type of bag used to pack a small tent. The dogs head is out and the dog seems to be enjoying the ride! Sometimes a dog is taken out of the lineup right at the checkpoint. The dogs lead is usually just connected over to another line to avoid it dragging and getting tangled. The dogs may get a snack at this checkpoint or even have the doggie booties removed.

Several Vets are on hand at this checkpoint to look over the dogs. Some of the dogs need more attention than others and we saw at least one dog getting an IV because the dog was dehydrated!

I was amazed at the care and attention the dogs received. The dog we saw getting the IV was up and walking around as soon as the IV was done, obviously feeling better!

Bruce and I had the very important job of recording times out of Deerton and noting the number of dogs dropped. We also took count of how many dogs were “on the ground” as the team left and relayed the info to Headquarters.

We were also very happy to lend a hand to the Vet team with our communications. One of the Vets left some equipment up at the Wetmore station and needed to contact a Vet still on site there to make sure all the expensive equipment was transported to the finish line. I made one quick call to Headquarters who relayed the request to Wetmore. The Vets were busy but assured us they would remember to take the equipment to the Finish Line.



A dog team stops for a snack. Bruce KB8RJV in the tan coat takes a count of dogs on the ground

We talked to handlers and teams from around the country and around the world. The handlers for the New Zealand team talked about some of their experiences with us and the accents were fun to listen too! Everyone noted the U.P 200 Race is exceptionally well organized and the help of the Ham operators make it one of the best and most professional races anywhere!

Bruce and I also had the opportunity to meet Mike, (WK8Z) from Frankenmuth. Mike was at the checkpoint waiting for two teams to come thru Deerton. Mike said he was impressed with all the Hams involved and we talked about the amount of organization that goes into the race. I took Mike’s email address and told him I would send him the race forms Lou (KG8NK) uses to keep everything organized. I told Mike we have the easy job, we show up and have fun operating. Lou does the work of getting people assigned to the dozens of checkpoints and times and makes sure everyone knows what to do at the checkpoint. We all agreed Lou, KG8NK does an awesome job!!!

Many people watching were quick to note we could tell them pretty easily where a team was on the trail and even who came in first, as it happened!

The day was a little longer this year than expected. Bruce called me Saturday from Headquarters and noted several sleds were running really fast because of the warm weather. We decided we should be on site before 09:00 . It was a good thing because we had our first sled into Deerton at 08:49 . The last sled left Deerton at 17:23 so we closed up and said our goodbys to the new friends we made and headed home.

The call came over the radio reminding us that the Welcome Center Hams had hot chilli, brats and hot dogs and coffee! We stopped and enjoyed the food and friendship of the fellow hams there. (By the way: Lyn KC8GKH needs a new radio too!)

Hey Lou, sign us all up for next year it was a blast!!!!



That's me KD8CCP with the papers in my hand getting a count on the dogs.



One of the dogs get special attention from the Vets on site in Deerton



Bruce KB8RJV in the tan open jacket talks with one of the handlers



A "bagged" dog is removed from the sled with the help of Mike WK8Z

Words from the President

by:
Tom W8JWN

My last “Words” article for the January newsletter elicited a few e-mail responses from a few of my ham friends. Pete, K8PT, from Marquette asked me to check my old logs for his old call K9LIT. He didn’t have any of his logs from the 1960s. I found his call for a QSO on May 19, 1960 on 75 meters. He was in the log on the first day that I started operating from St. Germain, Wisconsin, after my move from Indiana. We were in a roundtable with K9HSS, K9POP, and W9CCM.

Gary, K4FMX, whose ex-call was K9WIY from Aurora, Wisconsin, was found in the old log on December 23, 1960 on 75 meters. Also, in the log at that time, was Charlie, W9SQJ from Minoqua, Wisconsin. Charlie eventually moved to Iron Mountain. He lived only six blocks north of my location. Charlie and his wife visited us at Field Day and, when he became a SK, she donated a tower and some antennas to the club.

I even had an e-mail from Jim Weaver, K8JE, from Mason, Ohio. Jim is the Director of the ARRL Great Lakes Division. He, a fellow Hoosier, also went to Chicago to take his General license exam in the old Federal Building. His test was graded on the spot, with his father waiting nervously outside the room.

In 1961, I departed from St. Germain to attend college in Superior, Wisconsin. I was rarely on the air, during the college days. I even sold all of my radio gear in 1962. I did, however, continue to renew my license. At that time, the license was good for five years.

It wasn’t until I met Harold Shoquist, W8CON, from Kingsford that I got back on the air in 1969. So, for eight years, I was totally away from ham radio. In October Harold loaned me a separate transmitter and receiver and I was now on CW and AM phone. One of my very first contacts was with Gary, K9WIY, who was home on leave from the Air Force.

From 1969 until the present, I, like many hams that I’ve talked to, went through periods of fanatic activity to several years of silence and disinterest. With my retirement in 2000, I have been totally involved in the hobby. Whether it’s operating, participating in club activities, traveling to foreign lands to operate, contesting on RTTY, or building antennas and erecting towers the past 10 years have been the most enjoyable.

Ham radio is a wonderful hobby. There is some facet of the hobby to enjoy for every individual: chasing DX, having repeater chats on 2-meters, building and designing equipment, collecting boat anchors, enjoying the new digital modes, participating in public service activities, etc. What has been one of most important to me are the 50-year friendships that have been created because of ham radio.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 ARES	5	6
7	8	9 MTG	10	11 ARES	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 ARES	19	20 Break fast
21	22	23	24	25 ARES	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the February 9, 2010 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the January 12 meeting were read and approved with exception. Under Field Day 2010, Terry's callsign should read K9TRY.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of February 9, 2010:
Checking - \$201.40
Regular Savings - \$2,860.44, \$1,386.91 of which is in the Trailer Fund.
Repeater Savings - \$902.25.
Petty Cash - \$0.00.
We have 24 paid members as of this meeting.

Repeater Report

Nate, KD8GLP, will work with the Hiawatha ARA technical expert to link our repeater to theirs.

ARES

The ARES Net has been active.

Dennis, K8SWX, will continue as Dickinson County Emergency Coordinator.

Pete Schlitt, KC8JRH, Dickinson County Emergency Preparedness, said the purchase of amateur radio equipment for the EOC is pending the approval of an environmental impact study.

Old Business

Radio Equipment for Sale -

The club has two 30 foot steel towers for sale.
Dean Carollo of UP Logon has Rohn 20 and Rohn 25 tower sections for sale.
Scott, KB9AVX, will repair the club's Drake Twins and sell them on eBay.

Veterans Day Special Event -

Requests are still trickling in for QSL cards and certificates.

Field Day 2010 -

The small pavilion at Marion Park has been reserved for June 26th and 27th.

Club Programs Scheduled -

March - Art, KD8GLO, PSK
April - Bob, WA8FXQ, Repeater Phone Patch Procedures
May - Tom, W8JWN, Traffic Handling

New Business

Paul Schultz, KD8KUF, passed his General Class exam.

Contact Lou Gembolis, KG8NK, to provide help for the UP 200 and Midnight Run dog sled races.

Bob, WA8FXQ, reported on the installation of an HF radio in Rob Thomas' 18-wheeler.

Paul, KD8KUF, will check out an ad for a 6 x 10 foot enclosed trailer listed for \$1,600.

The Daily News published an article and photo of the donation of a climbing harness to the club by Jon Wahoviak of Jon's Signs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Club Program

Burt, WB8EBS, made a presentation on soldering

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Beth Baker, KC9KVP
Barry Perron, KC9NFT
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer
Tom Heyboer, KC8LKO
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Roger Aho, KD8GHG
Pete Schlitt, KC8JRH

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.

FOR SALE : Yaesu FT-990 160-10 meter transceiver

YAESU FT-990 HF TRANSCEIVER AC that is in excellent physical condition.

Recently aligned by AES in Milwaukee .

Details for this item are as follows:

- * Yaesu HF Transceiver
 - * Model No. FT-990
 - * Pow er output adjustable up to 100W (25W AM)
 - * Tunes from 100 kHz to 30 MHz
 - * Built-in 500 Hz CW filter
 - * 90 Memories
 - * Automatic Antenna Tuner
 - * Dual VFOs
 - * IF Shift & Notch
 - * Built-in AC Pow er Supply
 - * Noise Reduction, Digital Filtering
 - * Manual and Auto AGC
 - * Includes Operating Manual, Standard Pow er Cord and microHam USB Interface II with cable. Run FSK, control rig frequency, and send CW.
- Asking \$990 plus shipping.

Contact: Tom Martin W8JWN

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.

V.E. TESTING:

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 906 249-3837 or e-mail: 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@chartermi.net
Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

05/01 **Iron Mountain:** 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library (conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 776-1553.
412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

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.

ARRL Field Day : 2010 Field Day Packets Now Available

from:

THE ARRL NEWSLETTER

February 25,2010

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! 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 (including changes for 2010), 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 GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more. <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2010-packet.pdf> .

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration

from:

THE ARRL LETTER

February 25,2010

Registration remains open through **Sunday, March 21, 2010**, for these online course sessions beginning on **Friday, April 2, 2010**: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator via email : cce@arrl.org.

<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student/>

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/>

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 2010 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 March Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue March 9th 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**

