

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

March 2006

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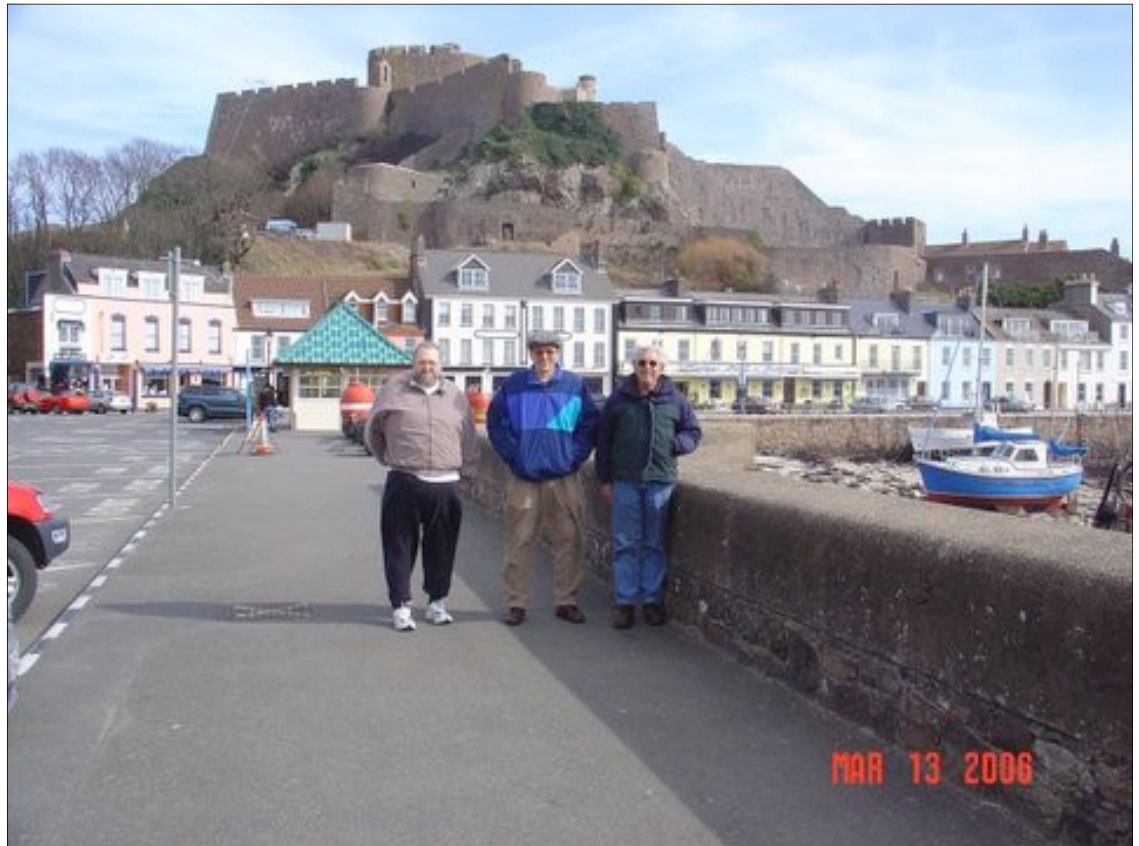
MS Becomes 22nd State
to Adopt PRB-1

Visit Jay Jennings

Visit the ARRL's web site
at:

<http://www.arrl.org>

Words from the President—Jersey DXpedition



Craig Hill, MJ/K3PLV; Tom Martin, MJ/W8JWN and Jim Spears, MJ/N1NK, in front of Gorey Castle
Photo by Pete Tremi, MJ/K8PT

Finally my “body clock” is back to normal and I can stay awake long enough to write these “words”. I returned from my Jersey Island adventure last Thursday evening. It was a very interesting experience from a cultural and historical perspective. The radio operation almost was secondary to the trip. I will provide the reader with a few observations on the country, food, people, climate, and ham radio.

In my brief travel around the Jersey coastline, the first thing noticed is the many German bunkers from their occupation of Jersey from 1940-1945.

As was mentioned in previous newsletters, the Jersey Amateur Radio Society club station is housed in a refurbished German signal/observation post. It seems like that there is some form of bunker every 500 yards. They poured a lot of concrete on that island! Also, interspersed along the coastline are Martellos, 18th Century English fortifications to protect the coastline from French invasion during the Napoleonic era. Today, they are tourist attractions and some are used as navigation markers for ships in the Channel Islands.

(Continued on page 3)

This is Your Newsletter

After over two years of editing and publishing Mich-A-Con RF, I'm growing weary. The editor's job would be so much easier if there was input from the membership. I'm looking for someone to take over the job of editor, and for club members to offer to contribute items for publication. You don't have to be a Pulitzer prize winner to write an article for the newsletter. The editor would be grateful for your input and would help with wording and format. And, your fellow members would enjoy hearing from you! Please contribute a news item, an article that you have seen elsewhere that you think might be of interest to the club, or an article written by you.

We want to hear about what occupies your Ham Radio time. We want to hear about (and see) your shack and antennas. We want to hear about that new piece of radio gear you're using and what you like or dislike about it. We want to hear about the contacts you've made and the QSL cards you've received.

Please help to make this newsletter worth reading. Your response to this plea could very well make the difference between a newsletter that serves the club's needs or one that withers and dies. Don't think, "Oh, someone else will volunteer."

Mike, K8DDB

Amateur Radio Exam

The Iron Mountain/Kingsford VEC will conduct radio testing beginning at 6 PM on Tuesday, March 28th at the Dickinson County Library. To pre-register, telephone (906) 774-6598.

CCRAA Swap and Shop

CCRAA SWAP & SHOP
 APRIL 29, 2006 9:00 AM - Noon
 CHASSELL VFW HALL
 MID-TOWN CHASSELL
 Set-up Friday night at 6 PM if Needed
 ENTRANCE FEE \$3.00
 1/2 Table \$3.00, Full Table \$5.00
 Ladies VFW sales of Hot Dogs, Bakery, Coffee
 73, Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF
 Home 482-7743, Cell 369-2461

The U.P. Ham Directories will be available at that time, too! Hope you reserved a copy? We still have a few left, if anyone is interested? Call or write: George, W8FWG at (906) 337-2542, or E-Mail at : w8fwg@arrl.net \$3.00/copy, and about \$2.25 postage if we have to mail them. Save the mailing cost by picking one up at Chassell, or have some club member pick one up for you. It is bigger and better than ever this year!
 73, Geo., W8FWG

March Meeting

The March meeting was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict for meeting space in the church.

GPS Training

Bill Becks, WA8WG, will conduct a GPS training class on April 8th from 10 AM to noon in the lower level of the Dickinson County Correctional Facility. Please call Dennis, W8SWX, for more information:
 (906) 771-1996

dbeurjey@msn.com

April Club Activities

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

Please join us for the Tuesday Night Net on the 4th, 18th and 25th at 6:30 PM on the 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz) Dennis, K8SWX, is our Net Control Operator.

Monthly meeting on Tuesday the 11th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street in Norway. The meeting room is upstairs next to the sanctuary.

Saturday Morning Breakfast, 9:00 AM on the 15th at the Holiday Kitchen in Iron Mountain, on US-2 across from Econo Foods.

Club Operating Activity

All club members are invited to use the club callsign to help the club attain WAS and DXCC. If you use the club call, please give information required for the log such as: station worked, date and time (UTC), frequency, RST sent and received, mode and power to Mike, K8DDB. Also give a description of the equipment you were using.
mikebray@chartermi.net

VEC Testing at Iron River

The Iron Range Amateur Radio Club VEC makes exams available on a monthly basis on the 3rd Thursday of the month, prior to the start of their club meeting. Examinations must be arranged before hand. Exam time: 6:30 PM (Central), Place: Iron River Lutheran Church (on US-2 next to McDonalds), Contact: Dan Waters, AA9G, (906) 265-4240
dwmwaters@ironriver.tv

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for April 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Tnn	5	6 ARES	7	8 GPS
9	10	11 Meeting	12	13 ARES	14	15 Breakfast
16	17	18 Tnn	19	20 ARES	21	22
23	24	25 Tnn	26	27 ARES	28	29
30						

Words from the President—Jersey DXpedition

(Continued from page 1)

I have never been that excited about English culinary arts but the Full English Breakfast, included in the guesthouse rate, was enjoyed each morning. I even got used to baked beans and a grilled tomato every morning with my egg, bacon, toast, and of course, pot of tea. Coffee was available but I had to make it a point to say, “Black, no milk.” If I didn’t, I would be served hot milk with a touch of coffee in it. This was true, not only in Jersey, but also at Gatwick International Airport in London.

The best part of the menu was Jersey ice cream. It was fabulous! I made it a point to have three scoops every other day. Hopefully, my Lipitor will save the arteries!

Food was very expensive an average evening meal was \$20-36 per person. This was only topped by the price of petrol at over \$5.00 a liter. I saw many Smart cars on the island. We can’t complain about gas here at \$2.59 a gallon. On second thought, yes we can!

The weather was cold, rainy, foggy, cloudy, windy, and, the last two days of the trip, sunny. The highest temperature was 8 degrees C, about 48F. All of Europe has had a harsh winter.

I found the people of Jersey friendly and warm. I avoided any political discussions, although I did have an interesting conversation with an Italian restaurant owner about political correctness. He was upset that, “Merry Christmas” was a no-no there as well as here in the States.

Now, to the main reason I took this jaunt to Jersey. To operate from a semi-rare country, especially on the low bands, 160-80 meters, is quite an experience. My first pileup on 80 meter CW was shocking! I had to remove the earphones and take a deep breath. I couldn’t distinguish a single call. Eventually, I went split frequency and things got a little better. Belize, last year, was nothing like this. I had Europe at my back and North America to the front all calling at once. Of course, 10 years ago it wouldn’t have been so bad. Today, with DX Clusters on the Internet and Packet everyone in the world knows that MJ/W8JWN is on 3.508 at 0012UTC!

In the past the Italian hams were quite unruly; on this expedition, they were actually very well behaved. One EA3, however, insisted in coming back in Spanish and asking me questions that I couldn’t understand. He was a persistent fellow and QRMed the frequency for sometime. The UK hams were extremely friendly and considerate. They even helped pull through US stations on 80 meter SSB one morning. A French ham invited me to France to visit his QTH. The ham fraternity is filled with a great group of people.

My operation was limited to mainly all night operation, when the other ops were back at the guesthouse sleeping, because of interference between the four stations. Two of the stations were



Kempt Tower Martello

running 400 watts and at times just killed the Yaesu FT-900 that Craig, K3LPV, brought along. When the fellows with QRO keyed the mike on 20 or 40, my rig would also be keyed on 17 meters. I was in a different room but it still wasn’t far enough away to alleviate the interference. Two band pass filters in the coax didn’t help at all. Jim, N1NK, operated 30 meter CW about 15 feet from me with his Kenwood TS-2000 with little trouble at all. In spite of the interference and limited operating time throughout the day, I was still able to make over 1,800 contacts, including an SSTV contact with a ham in the Netherlands, possibly a first from Jersey. Other highlights of the expedition were working Skip, KE9L, on 80 meter SSB with the help of a Florida station and Mike, K8DDB, on 20 meter SSB. Mike was pounding into Jersey with his 18 watts. HI!

In hindsight, even though my job was just to bring extra coax, rope, and antennas, I wish now that I would have taken my Icom 706 MKIIG. I could have setup in the rental car with battery power and operated during the day interference free. Yet, weight restrictions by British Airways (50 pounds for checked luggage and 13 pounds for one carry-on) scared me away from taking a rig.

To sum, it was a wonderful trip. It’s amazing to think that there was a thousand years of history all around me, whereas, we, in this country, don’t even have 400 years! Other than a few scars from erecting dipoles through the thick gorse surrounding the shack and several bumps on the head from hitting low door jambs in the shack (I thought Germans were a lot taller!), it was a fine ham radio adventure. Now, the QSLing begins!

Tom, W8JWN

TECHNICAL TIPS AND INFORMATION

Taken from the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, copyright ARRL

For heavy-handed operators (you know who you are) who can't keep a keyer paddle still, check out the Radio Shack "Jelly Sticky Pad" (part number 25-2516). At 4" W x 7.25" deep, it's the perfect fit under just about any paddle.

(Thanks, Bob N6TV)

When you install underground conduit, make sure there are a few (two?) low spots along the run. At these spots install a PVC tee in the conduit, with the open end of the tee facing the dirt beneath. Dig a pit (a couple of cubic feet in volume) underneath this opening and fill it with gravel. Fasten garden weed-block cloth over the tee opening to allow the water to drain but to keep varmints out. The water that gets in will flow along the slope of the conduit to these openings and drain into the gravel-filled sump.

(Thanks, Brian N9ADG)

We all have numerous pairs of headphones and boom-mike headsets, many of which need new earphone pads now and then. While the manufacturer probably sells replacement pads (Heil Sound is particularly good on this count), in a pinch you might try the sets from Radio Shack (<http://www.radioshack.com>). Part numbers 33-375, 33-379, and 33-380 replace many types of foam headphone pads.

(Thanks, Lloyd K3ESE)

TECHNICAL LINK OF THE WEEK - When you are looking for a particular IC, you can browse site after site looking for it or you can try <http://www.findchips.com>. FindChips will retrieve pricing and availability from several on-line vendors, making your shopping a whole lot easier.

(Thanks, Michael VE3TIX)

Check out this website if you are looking for older technical info, even older Handbooks http://www.pmllett.com/technical_books_online.htm There are a lot of good old books. They are good for research on tube subjects, and for tube data, like Sylvania, GE, and RCA tube manuals, see the tube data page of this site.

(Thanks, Curt W4QBU)

TECHNICAL LINK OF THE WEEK - While doing a Google search on a constant (number) to try to discover its name, I found out that Google (<http://www.google.com>) does calculations if you type the expression into the search field.

The Google calculator does conversions as well as calculations, recognizes pi and e, and does trig and complex numbers. To give examples of what it's capable of, try some of these "search" expressions:

sin(45 degrees)

pi in degrees

2m^3 in gallons

2PI*4.7E-6*7.04E6

5*5/2

e^-1

250 ml as tablespoons

SQRT(-4)

Arcsin(.5)

Arcsin(.5) in degrees

(1+2i)*(1-2i)

20Log(50/7)

(Thanks, Nick WA5BDU)

An oldie-but-goodie, back in 1995 Frank W3LPL generously compiled and published a table of coax cable loss vs. frequency performance. You can find it here: <http://www.k1tt.net/technote/coaxloss.html#tables>. The information is presented in several ways and the frequencies are those of the ham bands.

(Thanks, Gene AD3F)

Here is a great tutorial on PL-259 crimp-on connectors. Plenty of photos and detailed instructions make this particularly good:

http://www.bcdxc.org/pl259_crimp_on_connectors.htm

(Thanks, Paul VE7BZ)

Not everyone is born with a soldering iron in hand. If you are just starting on your homebrew career, you should make a point of download the various issues of "So You Want To Be a Builder?" by Doug KI6DS. Issue number one is available at:

<http://www.norcalqrp.org/sywtbab.htm>

(Thanks, Doug KI6DS)

When you're trying to sniff out whether a 60 Hz or 120 Hz buzz or racket is related to the household ac, here's a tip that works with most oscilloscopes. That rarely used LINE position of the sweep knob syncs the sweep to the ac voltage supplying the 'scope. If the offending noise is linked to the line, its waveform will stabilize instantly! If the 'scope doesn't have a LINE position, try connecting "EXT SWEEP" or a second vertical channel to the voltage from a fila-

(Continued on page 8)

SKCC

Have you ever wished that Straight Key Night would go on and on and on?

Have you ever wished for other incentives to dig out your old straight key or old bug and knock the dust off?

Ever wished they had a Straight Key Night more than once a year?

That is a light you see at the end of the tunnel!! Recently, a group of hams have decided to make their wishes come true and founded the Straight Key Century Club - a/k/a "SKCC". Yep, a Straight Key club - where you can dust off your straight key or old bug, and get on the air and torture other ops with your straight key fist. Here's how it will work:

- A) Open to any interested amateur.
- B) Membership is free, there are no dues and it shall stay that way as long as practical.
- C) SKCC numbers are issued for life. Once you get it, it's yours. Take care of it. Above all, USE it.

The first day of each month, at 0000Z will be designated as a monthly operating event that allows SKCC members or non-SKCC members to work each other on the air, although you may work each other for credit at any time. Contact with 100 SKCC members will qualify that person for a certificate of accomplishment.

Suggested operating frequencies are:

1.820
3.530
3.720
7.055
7.120
10.120
14.048
18.080
21.120
24.910
28.170
50.090
144.07

For your SKCC number, send an email to KC9EC1,tom@galesvillefiredepartment.org

Monthly Michigan Section News Summary

The Hiawatha ARA announces their Ham of the Year, Ralph Watters, N8HXZ. The Lowell ARC, Grand Rapids ARA and Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance clubs have jointly chosen their Ham of the Year who is Joe Bell WD8USA. Marinette and Menominee Radio Club's Ham of the Year is Jim Pearson, KS8O. Congratulations to all of these honored and deserving individuals from your staff of the Michigan Section.

A reminder from the MiTN: This daily traffic net for the Michigan area meets at 7:00PM [Eastern on 3.952 MHz] and invites your participation. MiTN also encourages persons interested in serving as Net Controls to join in and assist. Spreading this effort among several persons really helps train new NCSs and keeps our skills well honed.

Here is a special note from Mark NU8Z. As written, it simply defies any editing and most importantly, it announces a fun annual event for everyone:

Attention Michigan Hams. Do the low sunspot numbers and worsening HF conditions have you feeling down? Do you find it difficult to conjure up the energy needed to get on the air and have some fun like in the old days? Do you shy away from participating in ham radio related group activities? If you have any one of, or all of the above symptoms, you may be suffering from Amateur Radio Dysfunction Syndrome, also known as ARDS.

Fear not! ARDS is a condition that can be treated with proper corrective actions. It is a fact that 9 out of 10 doctors agree that the best treatment for ARDS is a good dose of Radio Activity. Doctors also agree that the most efficient delivery method for ARDS treatment comes in the form of participation in the 2006 Michigan QSO Party. The number of ARDS patients seeking treatment in the MiQP has been growing every year. Remember, this is a yearly condition, and yearly treatments may be needed. Treatment may be administered in single exposure doses taken in the comfort of your home (Single Op), or when you travel in your car (Mobile). If you are apprehensive about taking the treatment when you are alone, you may be treated within a group session (Multi-op), or as single treatment member of a larger support group like your radio club. Your treatment support group can compete against other ARDS support groups.

Warning! Dosages should not exceed time periods of over 12 hour. Exposure times of less than 12 hours may be appropriate depending on the severity of your condition. Remember, even short exposures to MiQP ARDS treatment will be of benefit to you. If at any time during the MiQP treatment period you experience excessively high fun levels, you should consider terminating or reducing the level of treatment. In rare cases excessively high Fun levels have been known to last for days after the treatment. If these high levels should persist, see your family doctor.

The Michigan QSO Party ARDS treatment should only be taken as prescribed below.

Date /Time: Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 15th until 0400Z April 16th. Stations may operate the full 12 hours. (12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 15th)

Modes and Categories: Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, and mobile categories. Single-op entries are categorized by output power, QRP (5W or less), Low Power (100W or less), and High Power (greater than 100W)

Multipliers: Work stations once per band and mode. Work other states and Michigan Stations. MI to MI QSO's are allowed. Work portables and mobiles again as they change county, state or province.

Exchange: Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, state/province or "DX" for others).

Scoring: One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode. Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states & provinces for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

Freqs: Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045; Phone-3850, 7225, 14250, 21300, 28450.

Log Submittal: Mail logs no later than 30 days after the contest to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 or via e-mail to logs@miqp.org

More Information: For complete rules, along with free logging software, log and summary sheets, see <http://www.miqp.org>

All kidding aside, the MiQP is a ton of fun. It has been growing in size every year. We expect this year to be even better! There will be stations on from all 83 counties. Consider making it a club event. This is a great way to get folks on the air. I also ask that you all help spread the word about the 2006 MiQP. Let's all make Michigan Radio Active on April 15th!!

73,
Mark NU8Z.

Thanks to all who reported SARs for February, 2006: K8LJG 201, K8ZJU 140, KC8MLD 133, WD8USA 133, K8AE 124, AA8SN 71, K8AMR 69, WB8RCR 47, KV8Z 27, W8RNQ 27, KA8IXC 19, K8FE 18, WB8TKL 14, KD8BGQ 14, N8UN 10, KC8ZCF 9, PSHRs for January, 2006: K8AMR 347, KA8IXC 134, KD8BGQ 133, K8ZJU 120, K8AE 110, K8VFZ 90, WB8RCR 88, KV8Z 77. OES reports came in from K8COP, KC8ULE, KC8ZCF, and W8RAE. PSHRs and SARs should be filed monthly with WB8RCR and OES reports with WA8EFK.

73,
Dale WA8EFK wa8efk@arrl.org

Michigan Scanner Law Revised

I am pleased to report that Governor Granholm signed the attached legislation on March 2, 2006 and it became enacted on that date. These changes to Section 508 MCL will take effect 90 days from that date.

The holders of all classes of amateur radio licenses will become totally exempt from the receiver restrictions. I suggest that anyone carrying a transceiver capable of receiving public safety frequencies also carry a copy of this Act along with your Amateur Radio License.

73,
Dale WA8EFK
ARRL Section Manager - Michigan

STATE OF MICHIGAN 93RD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2006

Introduced by Reps. Elsenheimer, Jones, Newell, Nofs, David Law and Sheltroun ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4544 AN ACT to amend 1931 PA 328, entitled "An act to revise, consolidate, codify, and add to the statutes relating to crimes; to define crimes and prescribe the penalties and remedies; to provide for restitution under certain circumstances; to provide for the competency of evidence at the trial of persons accused of crime; to provide immunity from prosecution for certain witnesses appearing at such trials; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts inconsistent with or contravening any of the provisions of this act," by amending section 508 (MCL 750.508), as amended by 2002 PA672.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:
Sec. 508.

(1) A person who has been convicted of 1 or more felonies during the preceding 5 years shall not carry or have in his or her possession a radio receiving set that will receive signals sent on a frequency assigned by the federal communications commission of the United States for police or other law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical, federal, state, or local corrections, or homeland security purposes. This subsection does not apply to a person who is licensed as an amateur radio operator by the federal communications commission. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(2) A person shall not carry or have in his or her possession in the commission or attempted commission of a crime a radio receiving set that will receive signals sent on a frequency assigned by the federal communications commission of the United States for police or other law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical, federal, state, or local corrections, or homeland security purposes. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a crime as follows:

- (a) If this subsection is violated in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least 93 days but less than 1 year, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.
- (b) If this subsection is violated in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor or felony punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of 1 year or more, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a person who carries or has in his or her possession a radio receiving set described in subsection (2) in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of less than 93 days.

(4) This section does not apply to the use of radar detectors.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days after the date it is enacted. This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

K7QO Morse Code Course

Mike, K8DDB, still has free CD ROMs of Chuck Adams' K7QO Morse Code Course. Any member desiring a copy should contact Mike at mikebray@chartermi.net or (906) 563-7020.

License Study Materials Available from the ARRL:

Technician Class:

Now You're Talking - 5th edition - Order No. 8810
\$19.95

ARRL's Tech Q&A - 3rd edition - Order No. 8829
\$12.95

ARRL Technician Class Video Course - 4th ed.

DVD Course No. 9116
VHS Course No. 8837
\$149 each + \$12 s&h

General Class:

ARRL General Class License Manual - 5th ed.

Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9205
\$16.95

ARRL's General Q&A

Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9213
\$12.95

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<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/>

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/8330/>

<http://hamuniversity.com>



Dickinson County ARES Net

The Dickinson County ARES Net meets every Thursday at 6:30 PM on the 146.850 repeater. Dennis, K8SWX, EC for Dickinson county, is the net manager.

ARRL to Supply Jump Kits

When another major incident occurs, the League will be able to deploy "ham gear ready to go," thanks to manufacturers' donations of equipment, ARRL members' generous monetary contributions and a federal grant. The ARRL Ham Aid-sponsored "Go Kits" now being assembled at Headquarters are the third leg of a program that's already reimbursed certain out-of-pocket expenses for ham radio hurricane zone volunteers and helped restore Amateur Radio backbone infrastructure along the US Gulf Coast.

The League will loan out needed equipment on a moment's notice. Emergency Communications Specialist Harry Aberly, AB1ER, has been stowing various equipment complements in rugged, waterproof Pelican containers. The "HF Kit" contains a 100-W HF transceiver, a microphone and a power supply. The "VHF/UHF Kit" includes a dualband mobile transceiver, power supply, headset, 10 handheld transceivers and a supply of alkaline batteries. In the "Handheld Transceiver Kit" are eight dualband handheld transceivers and antennas plus a stock of extra batteries. The "Support Kit" includes a length of BuryFlex 213 coaxial cable, rope, 15-foot jumper cables with battery clamps at one end and an Anderson Powerpole on the other.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE ACTIVATES IN TORNADOS' AFTERMATH

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams in Missouri this week assisted emergency managers in that state with damage assessment after a huge string of tornados swept through the nation's midsection March 12. Nine people were reported dead in Missouri and one in Indiana in the aftermath of the severe weather. Missouri Section Emergency Coordinator Don Moore, KM0R, told ARRL that he and three other radio amateurs deployed March 13 as a "quick-response team" to Pettis County, Missouri, just south of Sedalia along US Route 65 to support the county's emergency operations center (EOC).

"There was some major wind through here," Moore told ARRL. The severe weather damaged or took down utility lines along US Route 65 and elsewhere. The Pettis County Emergency Management Agency requested the ARES call-up. Nine ARES members ultimately activated to help seven damage-assessment teams. ARES stood down later the same day.

ARES handled minimal voice traffic, Moore said. While the ARES group was prepared to pass damage assessments to the EOC via WinLink 2000, that turned out not to be necessary. The ARES team did communicate with the Missouri Emergency Management Agency to demonstrate Winlink from the field, he added.

Missouri appears to have been the state hardest hit by the weekend storms, which generated hail said to have been the size of softballs. Damage in the Show-Me State stretched from west to east, with houses reportedly destroyed along a 20-mile path south of St Louis.

Tornadoes also struck Kansas, where the University of Kansas canceled classes March 13 due to safety concerns. The school, located in Lawrence, reportedly suffered damage to nearly two-thirds of its buildings, but no serious injuries were reported. Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) members were requested to deploy the SATERN Mobile Generator Trailer when the storms knocked out power in Douglas County, Kansas.

SATERN Kansas State Coordinator June Jeffers, KB0WEQ, reports that SATERN members moved the generator from Olathe to Lawrence, keeping in touch with the emergency nets along the way. SATERN and ARES members in eastern Kansas remained on standby in case they were needed.

In Arkansas, Section Manager David Norris,

K5UZ, reports Franklin County ARES/RACES and Sebastian County RACES activated SKYWARN nets over the weekend. "Northwest Arkansas was hammered late last night with quite a bit of damage in Centerton," he told ARRL March 13. He reported several people injured and considerable property damage.

Arkansas SEC J.M. Rowe, N5XFW, reported SKYWARN nets were active as the severe weather approached.

In Illinois, Section Manager Sharon Harlan, N9SH, noted that severe storms rolled across her state March 12. Houses and businesses throughout the capital city of Springfield were damaged or destroyed, and roads into the city had to be closed.

The violent weather developed from a line of thunderstorms that stretched from the southern Plains and into the Ohio valley. Twisters also hit Oklahoma.

Taken from The ARRL Letter March 17, 2006 copyright ARRL.

STORM SPOTTER TRAINING

Even with Doppler weather radar and advanced weather satellites, there is a need for storm spotters. The radar and satellites help meteorologists detect storm features often associated with severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, but radar and satellites do not by themselves provide ground-based reports of cloud features, hail size, thunderstorm wind speeds, and tornado touchdowns. Storm spotters provide emergency managers and weather forecasters with these vital, real-time observations of tornadoes, hail, damaging wind, flooding, and winter storm.

Storm spotter training provides initial instruction for new spotters and refresher training for experienced spotters. The training focuses on safety, the observational aspects of storm structure and evolution, and reporting criteria and procedures. To become a storm spotter and to stay current with the latest science, techniques and procedures, new spotters as well as veteran spotters should attend a spotter training session. The training is presented by National Weather Service personnel based in Marquette, Michigan. NWS training classes typically last about 2 hours. Advance reservations are not required, and there is no charge for the training.

A storm spotter training session will be held on May 10, 2006 - 6:30 CDT at the Dickinson County Correctional Center, Lower Level of Sheriff's Office. For more information contact:

Matthew Zika, Matthew.Zika@noaa.gov

Mississippi Becomes 22nd State to Adopt PRB-1 Jay Jennings Wants Visitors

After several earlier tries, Mississippi this week became the 22nd state to revise its statutes to incorporate the language of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. Mississippi Gov Haley Barbour signed the bill March 13, reports ARRL Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Echoing the language of PRB-1, the new law calls on localities establishing ordinances regulating antenna placement, screening or height to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication. The Mississippi measure also takes note of Amateur Radio's communication support in emergencies and disasters.

"This legislation supports the Amateur Radio Service in preparing for and providing emergency communications for the State of Mississippi and local emergency management agencies," the statute reads. The new PRB-1 provision became law when Barbour signed it.

The new law provides that local land use regulation ordinances involving the placement, screening, or height of amateur radio antenna structures "must reasonably accommodate amateur communications and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish local authorities' legitimate purposes" to address health, safety, welfare and aesthetic considerations. Under the new law, local authorities will determine the types of reasonable accommodation to be made and the minimum practicable regulation necessary to address these purposes "within the parameters of the law."

"We now have a Mississippi PRB-1 Law on the books!" Keown exulted in a message to Mississippi League members. Keown this week called on his section's members to contact all those involved and thank them for contributing to the success of the PRB-1 legislation. Similar bills were introduced this session in the House and Senate, but the House version, HB 736, was the successful measure. The Senate version of the PRB-1 legislation, SB 2709, passed the full Senate but died in committee in the House.

Keown says efforts have been under way since 2001 to get such legislation through the Mississippi Legislature. In past years, PRB-1 bills have made it through one legislative chamber only to die in committee in the other. A ceremonial signing of the PRB-1 legislation will be scheduled after the legislative session ends.

Taken from The ARRL Letter March 17, 2006 copyright ARRL

Tom Martin recently received a call from a staff member of the ManorCare Nursing Home on Woodward Avenue in Kingsford saying that Jay Jennings was lonely and would like visitors. Jay is a former member of our radio club and has been staying at ManorCare since he suffered a stroke many years ago. You may recall that Lee repaired his transceiver and the club moved his tower and triband antenna to ManorCare a couple years ago. Jay is unable to speak, but he understands what you're saying. He enjoys listening to the radio and is practicing writing code with his left hand.

If you can spare some time, please pay Jay a visit. I'm sure he would like to see you.

Technical Tips and Information

(Continued from page 4)

ment transformer's secondary winding.
(Thanks, Tod KOTO)

In a concern about the worthiness of UHF connectors at VHF and up, John W0UN contributed a link that debunks some of the myths of UHF connectors. It's a tech note on UHF connectors by K2RIW on the Roadrunners Microwave Group web site: <http://www.k5rmg.org/UHF-con.html>. Great reading!

Jim K9YC recently finished and published three years worth of practical research on the use of ferrites for eliminating RFI from audio gear. The paper: (<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/SAC0305Ferrites.pdf>) should be quite helpful to RFI detectives everywhere. He also has created a presentation geared to hams trying to eliminate RFI in and around their stations: <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/Ferrites-Ham.pdf>. Thanks, Jim!

L.B Cebik's Web site has a good article on making your dipole a bit more broadbanded: <http://www.cebik.com/trans/wb.html>.

While you're there, take in the article on the venerable Zepp antenna at:

<http://www.cebik.com/gup/gup12.html>.

(Thanks, Tom W7WHY and Tony KTONY)

The Contester's Rate Sheet is edited by Ward Silver, N0AX, and is copyright by the ARRL.

Club Apparel:

Our club apparel is supplied by:

Shirt Tails

408 S Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Phone: (906)774-3370
or
finleyd@up.net

Prices:

Jacket with liner \$45
(Tall add \$5, 2X or 3X add \$5,
to add your name or call sign
on the front is \$5)

T-Shirt - \$10
(2X or 3X add \$1)
Sweatshirt - \$16
(2X or 3X add \$2)

If you wish to have the club logo printed on an item of clothing that you have purchased elsewhere, there is charge of \$6.

Club patches are available from:

Tom Martin, W8JWN
812 West B Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

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



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 checks 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 an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater-Only-Membership.

Exam Schedule

City: Iron Mountain
Location: Dickinson County Library
Room: Conference Room
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time
Contact: Mark Lewis, N8UKD
Telephone: (906) 774-6598

Exam Date: May 6, 2006
Exam Date: Aug 5, 2006
Exam Date: Nov 4, 2006
Exam Date: Feb 3, 2007

Examinees should bring 2 pencils, a pen for the official paperwork, the originals AND copies of any previous credit that you have earned (Certificates of Successful Completion or current license), 1 photo ID (usually a driver's license) and 1 other ID. (usually a birth certificate or SS card), a calculator if needed (make sure your memories are cleaned out), and the test fee (2006 fee is \$14).

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain.

Items for Mich-A-Con RF should be in the editor's hands by club meeting day (2nd Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition. Please consider writing an article related to Amateur Radio to share with your fellow members. Send the article in plain text and attach any photos, etc., don't worry about format, that's the editor's job.

Send to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of material found in Mich-A-Con RF unless otherwise noted, provided that proper credit is given to the author and Mich-A-Con ARC.

Repeaters

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

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	—
444.850 MHz	plus	100

Both repeaters have an auto patch with a toll restriction. The auto patch on the 2-meter repeater can be used with permission. The 440 auto patch is for club use only.

A club net is held on the 2-meter repeater every Tuesday at 6:30 PM except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

Mich-A-Con RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Michael F. Bray
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Mich-A-Con RF

Club Meetings

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. 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

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dbeurjey@msn.com

Reminders

Club dues for the year 2006 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form on page 9 of this newsletter. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con ARC and sent to our new Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank you for supporting our club!

The monthly meeting for April is on TUESDAY the 11th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway, Michigan. (Upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)