

MICH-A-CON RF

IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN

March, 2008

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Visit the ARRL's web site at <http://www.arrl.org>

Michigan Amateurs Team Up With State ARRL

from:

The ARES E-Letter March 20, 2008

Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor

Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK, and Michigan SEC John McDonough, WB8RCR, have been working with the Homeland Security Division of the Michigan State Police Emergency Management office to align the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC) more closely with the communications needs of the state's public service agencies.

ARPSC -- Michigan's integrated ARES/RACES program -- also participates in the Michigan State Department Emergency Management Coordinators Quarterly meetings at the State EOC. It is here, Williams said, that discussion of the Public Safety communications grants are discussed and their investment justifications are detailed. "We have been afforded the opportunity to discuss Amateur Radio's involvement with communications interoperability, as well as our ability to fill gaps in disparate networks and outages. As a result of these conferences, I was asked to include a list of ARPSC's needs for the next three years." To further that end, Williams said that they have been successful in incorporating the ARPSC program into the Michigan State Preparedness Priorities.

Michigan intends to develop the ARPSC into a fully integrated communications team operating under common standards and procedures, including maintaining and enhancing the statewide Amateur Radio communications

system; establishing suggested standards for Amateur Radio capabilities in local Emergency Operations Centers; and developing a public awareness and education program to bolster the ranks of Amateur Radio participants. The hope, Williams said, is to have all of this implemented by 2010. Williams said, "Since the early 1980s, Michigan has operated an integrated ARES, RACES and NTS program referred to as the Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. By combining the forces of these normally separate structures, these valuable resources are pulled together to form an active trained and unified organization. The SEC also holds the positions of Section Traffic Manager and RACES Radio Officer.

Membership in ARPSC is open to all amateurs and is structured to allow a beginning ham to progress from an entry-level position to a RACES-qualified operator by meeting specific training milestones." "There is no doubt that by presenting a unified organization, the Michigan ARPSC has demonstrated the effective use of resources, training and our unique capabilities so that we have become a well respected public service organization in the state," Williams said.

**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the March 11, 2008 Meeting**

Submitted by: Mike, K8DDB

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the February 12th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of the end of February:

Checking - \$398.83

Regular Savings – \$2,007.46, which includes \$485 in the trailer fund and \$9.84 interest

Repeater Savings - \$982.28

Petty Cash - \$21.00

Repeater Report

Lee had two bills for repeater related parts: \$30.60 and \$65.66 for the old repeater and the new UHF repeater.

He received the TNC from Skip.

He also found the problem with Scott's FT-1000. A transistor was "dead".

ARES

The ARES Net is back on the repeater on Thursdays at 6:30PM. Not much action on the NET lately.

Old Business

Special Event –

Tom was paid for the QSL cards.

Crivitz Packet Equipment -

Lee has received the TNCs from Skip.

Field Day –

Lofholm's of Norway will supply a man-lift. We're looking for one more.

Mike, N9NBN, wants an operating schedule with 2-hour shifts as an operator/logger.

Mike explained the GOTA change for this year. We will need more inexperienced ops.

Mike, K8DDB, couldn't make a sketch of the Marion Park facility to show antenna supports because of the snow-covered area.

Trailer Fund –

Scott gave the fund \$100 for his purchase of Don Smith's donated SB-102 and accessories.

New Tech -

Barry Perron aced his second test.

Dalberto Estate Gear -

Tom gave an update on sold gear.

New Business

Another donation for the trailer fund. Al Poquette, K9ECG, gave the club a Swan 350C and AC and DC power supplies. Tom and Lee will check it out.

Bob, KC8TWG, was reminded of the need to repair the generator's oil fill cap.

For The Good Of The Order

Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

Adjournment

Mike, N9NBN, adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM for a brief antenna presentation. He distributed a 74-page handout of N4JA's book, *Understanding Antennas for the Non-technical Ham*.

Submitted by Tom Martin

Attendees

Tom Martin---President

Lee Michaud, N8LT

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX ---Treasurer

Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS

Bob Uren, KC8TWG

Nate Mieras, KD8GLP

Scott Baker, KB9AVX

Beth Baker, KC9KVP

Mike Boileau, N9NBN --- Vice President

Art Costa, KD8GLO

Barry Perron (new member, waiting for callsign)

Al Poquette, K9ECG

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for April 2008						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 ARES	4	5
6 UPSN	7	8 Meeting	9	10 ARES	11	12
13 UPSN	14	15	16	17 ARES	18	19 Club Breakfast
20 UPSN	21	22	23	24 ARES	25	26
27 UPSN	28	29	30	27 ARES	28	29

Club Activities:

The Upper Peninsula 2-meter Social Net (UPSN) is conducted every Sunday at 7:00 PM Central Time on the 146.850 repeater. Dennis, K8SWX will facilitate the link from our repeater to the other participating stations via Echo Link. (Note: Dennis is currently working on a problem with the Link and therefore the net may not be held on our local repeater.)

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 Amateur Radio Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Dickinson County Library. 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.

REPEATERS:

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

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	-----
444.850 MHz	plus	-----

Visit the Mich-A-Con Web Site:
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

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 member use only.

CLUB EQUIPMENT LIST

TOM MARTIN W8JWN has custody of the following club equipment:

Gin pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.

Small TV type rotor and control.

Dipole antennas for 80,40,20,15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.

Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy).

RG8X with double shield (100 ft).

3/16 Single Braid Dacron rope (200 ft).

20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters).

40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters).

40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters).

6 PL259 silver connectors.

4 T-adapters for stubs.

4 UG-176 silver sleeves.

3 right-angle connectors.

Hygain tri-band beam antenna.

G5RV antenna.

Club banner.

MIKE BRAY K8DDB has custody of the following club equipment:

40 foot light tower, guy ropes, anchor stakes, drive-on tilt base.

Lafayette 80 - 10 meter tube type VFO #99-2501 with operating manual.

J-38 Morse code straight key.

Lambda model LT-2095A-1583 power supply 0 to +-32VDC, 2 amp (rack mount).

Multi-meter ME-26D/U (old military type) by Sentinel Electronics, Inc.

Power supply (partially built - home brew).

Duplexer (rack mount - home brew) TX and RX cans- possibly 440 MHz.

LEE MICHAUD N8LT has custody of the following club equipment:

Multi-band wire antenna - Paul Hint's old antenna.

Sheriff's Office Garage has the following club equipment stored:

Honda EM 3800 Generator SN EAMC 1004814 with battery

Gas Can

Auto Battery Charger/Maintainer

2 - 80 foot extension cords

Sta-Bil Fuel Stability

1000 watt light stand kit

Astron RS-35M DC power supply

RIGrunner RR/4008/C outlet strip

Isobar-8 Ultra Premium surge protector.

Furman M-8D Power Conditioner.

Club Patches are Available From:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
612 Balsam Street
Kingsford, Mi 49802

They are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3.00 each. If ordering by mail, please include a self addressed stamp envelope 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 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.

** If you are in an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater Only Membership.

V.E. TESTING:

04/12 Houghton: 8:30 am eastern time, Room G04 in the basement of Wadsworth Residence Hall at MTU (Michigan Technological University). Free parking is available across Hwy U.S. 41 from this building. Contact Glen at (906) 482-7743 or by email: wa8qnf@arrl.net.

04/12 Gladstone: 9:00 am eastern time at the Gladstone Public Library. Testing begins at 9:00 am. Contact Howard W8HSJ at (906) 428-9476 or by email: w8hsj@dcars.org

04/17 Iron River: 7:00 pm central time, Iron River Lutheran Church after the club meeting. NOTE: Pre-registration is required. Contact Dan Waters, AA9JG at (906) 265-4240 or by email: dmwaters@ironriver.tv

05/05 Iron Mountain: 9:00 am central time, (arrive by 8:30 am) in the Dickinson County Library conference room. Contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 396-5519 , 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

06/14 Marquette: 8:30 am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00 am). Marquette County Health Department Building on U. S. 41 east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at (906) 249-3837 or email: n8gba@chartermi.net. NOTE: Pre-registration is required.

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to allow time for application processing. Testing applicants should bring two pieces of I.D. including one photo I.D. Original license and a clear copy of their license if applicable and a completed form 605 will also be needed. (Form 605 will be provided if needed.) Please bring pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individuals listed to confirm dates, times and locations.

Map your FD site

Weaver's Words
Fri March 2008

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director ARRL Great Lakes Division

ARRL has opened a new online locator service. Through this service, Field Day (FD) groups may post their location on a map to help workers and visitors reach the site. This new service is described on the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/03/21/10021.?nc=1. I was privileged to participate in the beta test of this locator service. It is neat.

HAMS ON HAND AS TORNADOS SWEEP THROUGH GEORGIA, DOWNTOWN ATLANTA

from:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 27, No. 11 March 20, 2008

When tornados swept through Georgia this past weekend, Amateur Radio operators were on hand to assist where needed.

On Friday, March 14, an EF-2 tornado touched down in downtown Atlanta at 9:38 PM (local time). The National Weather Service said the twister was 6 miles long and 200 yards wide. Downtown Atlanta was a busy place that evening; not only was there a professional basketball game, college basketball fans were in town for the Southeast Conference tournament at the Georgia Dome. Due to the tornados, the final college game of the day was postponed until the next day.

According to reports, the tornado blew off portions of the roof of the Georgia Dome. (An EF-2 tornado has wind speeds from 111-135 MPH.) In such a tornado, roofs are torn off well-constructed houses, foundations of frame homes are shifted, mobile homes can be completely destroyed, large trees are snapped or uprooted, light-object missiles are generated and cars can be lifted off the ground.

ARRL Georgia Section Manager Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, said "William Chandler, KG4JTK, went from house to house in the wind and the rain checking for any injuries in the homes that had sustained damage by falling trees and debris. At the same time, he issued reports via radio to Barry Kanne, W4TGA, the Emergency Coordinator for neighboring DeKalb County, regarding fallen trees, billboards, power lines and other threats to public safety. Barry relayed this information to the Atlanta 911 center and to the Grady Hospital Emergency Operations Center."

DeKalb County is directly to the east of Fulton County; Atlanta is the county seat of Fulton County. The City of Atlanta Web site reported that "[e]xtensive damage has been reported to a number of landmark buildings in downtown, including the Omni Hotel, Georgia World Congress Center, CNN Building, the Georgia Dome and Phillips Arena and homes and businesses in nearby neighborhoods."

The Red Cross opened a shelter at Central Recreation Center. There was "no external damage" to Hartsfield International Airport. Eyewitness accounts said that "huge hunks of metal and broken glass were everywhere [in Atlanta], as well as overturned cars and benches in the road. Olympic Centennial Park is a mess." The high winds caused major damage to several other landmarks including the Georgia World Congress Center. Many hotels and office buildings had their windows blown out. Grady Memorial Hospital, the major trauma center for the Atlanta metro area, had its 100 foot tall communications tower blown off the hospital roof, disabling communications with emergency medical personnel.

ARRL Georgia Section Traffic Manager Charles Pennington, K4GK, served as Net Manager during the storms: "After several hours of recovery and damage assessment, it became obvious that while Atlanta had received major damage to downtown area, there were no fatalities reported and amazingly only 21 persons were treated for injuries." Two fatalities were reported in northwest Georgia.

In Effingham County, near Savannah on Georgia's coastline, Swiderski said a tornado "took down six power towers during the annual St Patrick's Day celebrations," thrusting the community into "total blackout conditions." "A local 2 meter SKYWARN net, with Greg Tillman, N4VAD, serving as NCS, provided a vital link with the staff at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah.

Dr Ra Meguiar, N4RVM, a physician and senior hospital administrator, later sent a letter of appreciation in recognition of the local hams 'for staying with us through the weather and the power outage.' He said that this was his first experience in participating in a severe weather net and the 'support was invaluable,'" Swiderski said. According to Swiderski, reports came mostly through the linked repeater system, "usually from a liaison from one of the many local nets that were going on in county after county, but there were also reports from stand-alone hams who had the misfortune of being in an affected area. There were reports of wall clouds, funnel clouds and hailstones -- large hailstones, sometimes as large as baseballs." Tillman said that two mobile homes were completely destroyed and one was "tossed like a rag doll, rolling over numerous times 100 feet from its foundation where the anchors were pulled up from the ground." Nearly a dozen other homes and automobiles were damaged; five people from Effingham were transported to the local hospital for treatment and evaluation, he said. "In some of the counties, this event was a true 'baptism under fire' for brand new Emergency Coordinators," Swiderski said. "I'm pleased to say that they all conducted themselves and all of the challenges admirably."



Summer Memories - Field Day 2007 (photo by Mike N9NBN)

MICH-A-CON RF

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

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:
Mike Boileau N9NBN
(715) 251-3137
n9nbn@uplogon.com

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

Treasurer:
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
(906) 771-1996
dbeurjey@msn.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2008 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form in this newsletter when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The monthly meeting for April is on Tuesday the 8th at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain. Send articles to: Steve Skauge
KD8CCP@arrl.net
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