

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

March 2009

Field Day 2009 – June 27th & 28th

by:

Dan Henderson, N1ND
ARRL Field Day Manager

Dear Field Day Participant:
Field Day... For the Fun of It!

We all became hams for our own reasons. Some of us were interested in public service and helping others in times of need. Many discovered the hobby as an outlet to their curiosity about electronics and communications. Still others joined our ranks because of the quest to meet new people and expand their own personal bank of knowledge.

Whatever the reason you became an amateur, there is one compelling thread that brought us all together in this fraternity of amateur radio. It is as simple as can be:
We became hams for the FUN of the hobby!

And while it serves a wide array of interests and purposes, there is no greater FUN-damental goal for Field Day than to **HAVE FUN!** While it encompasses a broad range of amateur radio interests – CW, Phone, Digital, emergency preparedness, public service, satellites, recruitment, antennas, new and vintage equipment, and so many more – Field Day is, above all else, a chance for us to have some fun with our hobby. After all, while it is a regulated service and there are serious aspects to our use of the bands, the true “amateur spirit” of our hobby (defined by Paul Segal, W9EEA, back in 1928 in “*The Amateur’s Code*”) is found in “slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others.”

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

Fun is where YOU find it in this hobby. Some will discover the fun by operating overnight building up their club's total number of QSOs. Others will never make a single Field Day contact but will derive their fun by helping set-up **antennas and generators**. The joy of sharing your radio **knowledge** to a newcomer will be fun for many old-timers while other old-timers will experience the "Field Day high" when they make their very first QSO using a new **digital mode** or via one of the amateur radio **satellites**. The camaraderie of the annual club Field Day **picnic** covered dish supper will be a fun highlight for many, while still others will find the joy in the hobby by simply being able to spend a couple of hours from home on an otherwise busy weekend tuning the bands and making a few contacts.

Now is the time to start preparing. There are no significant rule changes for Field Day 2009. So no matter how you choose to participate, let the planning and adventure begin. Try something new! Get newcomers involved! Test your skills and limits. But what ever you do, remember the first and most important element of Field Day is HAVE SOME FUN!

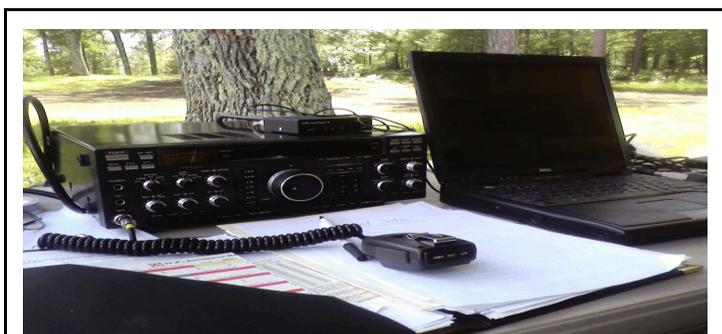
See you on the air June 27th and 28th. 73!

Dan Henderson, N1ND
ARRL Field Day Manager
fdinfo@arrl.org or (860) 594-0236

*Words from the President W8JWN
submitted by Tom, W8JWN*

"Field Day... For the Fun of It". These words from N1ND, ARRL Field day Manager, reflect the true spirit of the traditional last weekend in June Field Day experience. Over the years, our club has shared many enjoyable Field day activities at Marion Park in Norway, a member's camp in the woods, or on the top of Pine Mountain. We have the memories of a tower crashing down, during the "tear down" after the event, the memories of some operator's RTTY signal wiping out other club stations, the memories of freezing one night and getting drenched another, the memories of a generator surge destroying a transceiver, and many other memories related to the fun weekend. We don't have too many memories of warm weather!

Last year our club placed 4th in the Great Lakes Division in 3A. It was an excellent effort, only missing 3rd place by 50 points. Despite the RTTY issue, we did very, very well. I guess we could rest on our laurels and say that for a club our size that's good enough. However, I thrive on competition



Every Radio Needs an Operator!

and a challenge. I say, "Let's go for it!" Now, that's my attitude. Unfortunately, that may not be other club member's desire.

It is possible that this year we will not have a Field Day Chairperson. We need one member, or two members to co-chair, the event. I know that there are members out there that would like to contribute more to the club in some fashion. Let's face it, a few like to operate and there are others who would rather assemble and install antennas, or maintain the generator. Everyone can find something to do to contribute.

In the past, we have had to struggle to get operators to man two, let alone three stations and to supervise the GOTA station. We have ONLY one CW operator. If we lost him, does that mean that someone else has to run CW, RTTY, and SSB? How can we develop operating skills for A.R.E.S, if we don't practice operating under conditions that require concentration, precision, and perseverance? There are some of us who would be willing to tutor anyone who was willing to try operating during FD.

The club can't rely on the same four or five people to do the majority of the operating during events like Veterans Day and Field Day. At one point the well may run dry.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 14; I expect a large attendance to discuss the upcoming Field Day. Your input is vital.



Field Day..... For the Fun of It!

FCC CLARIFIES WHAT CONSTITUTES AN AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 12
March 27, 2009

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), a repeater in the amateur service is "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels."

Mitchell sought clarification on the word "simultaneously," asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, "some amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater."

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."

Call for Papers -- 2009 GL Division Convention

from:
Weaver's Word's (March 30th 2009)
ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE

The Great Lakes Division Convention will be in Findlay, Ohio on Sept. 12, 2009, the day before the Findlay Hamfest. The Convention is being organized and sponsored by the Findlay Radio Club.

When the opportunity to have the Convention in Findlay came up, the Club decided that to sponsor it, but to try a few things different than in the past.

We know that hams are thrifty, so we decided to keep the cost of admission low. In fact, we decided we would pick up the cost of the convention so the admission charge will be \$0.00. (Ed. This is correct -- nada, nothing, free!)

We also decided that we would not have a standard convention banquet. There will not be a \$30 per person sit down dinner banquet at the end of the day. Instead, we are looking into doing a chicken barbecue at the fairgrounds. Tickets for the barbecue would be available for purchase at the Convention or at the barbecue. For lunch we will take orders for box lunches that will be brought in, or you can eat at a local restaurant of your choice. The Findlay Radio Club can not take credit for any of these ideas. We are modeling the convention format after the very successful SW Ohio Digital Conference and a picnic meal the day before the Lake Placid NY Hamfest!

Our "theme" for the Convention will be attracting new hams through "Elmering-like" activities and re-interesting existing amateurs through ground-up discussions of newer technologies. We would like to provide seminars and demonstrations to help a new ham get on the air (especially on HF) and also show new and old hams alike some of the hobbies within ham radio like homebrewing, satellite, digital, ATV, ballooning, APRS, etc. In addition, we plan to showcase methods people have found that work well introducing people to our hobby. Obviously there is not enough time to really cover everything in detail, but we hope to spark interest in these areas for new and old hams alike. Attendees will learn where they can go to get detailed information and more help to get started.

We intend that the Convention will expand your horizon. Perhaps that should be the theme of the Convention - "Expanding your Ham Radio Horizon"

We need speakers. K8JE has arranged for a top notch main speaker - former astronaut Tony England WOORE - and is arranging for a quality speaker from ARRL. All I have to do is get a dozen or so speakers to talk on topics like:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Getting On HF -- Your First Station | 9 Amateur Radio in the Local Schools |
| 2 Getting On HF -- Your First Antenna | 10 Getting New Hams Through the Boy Scouts, Using Radio Merit Badge |
| 3 Homebrew -- It Is Still Being Done | 11 Mobile Operation |
| 4 Contesting -- Getting Started | 12 VHF/UHF/Microwave Operation |
| 5 The Digital Modes -- An Introduction | 13 Triple Play Award |
| 6 Getting on the Air with Satellites | 14 Echolink/ILRP |
| 7 The QSL Bureau -- What Is It, and How Do I Use It? | 15 Winlink |
| 8 Emergency Communications -- What Can I Do to Help, And How Do I Start? | 16 PSKmail |
| | 17 Other |

(Please tell us the number your top four favorite ideas for seminars through the survey described below. If you click on 17 on the survey, please go to the Forum area to add your suggestions for topics as well as for speakers.)

You get the idea. If you can speak at the Convention on any of these topics or something similar to these, please contact me (n8et@arrl.net) We have a good internet connection at the Convention site, so if you can do a talk remotely, let me know and we will see what we can work out.

Our tentative plans are to start the talks at 9 AM, and go to 5 with an hour for lunch. Sessions will start on the hour, with the initial 5 minutes for speaker set up, and the last 10 minutes of the hour as a break between sessions. We have the room to do two concurrent tracks, so we should be able to get 10 or 12 speakers. If you have a topic that needs more than an hour (for example -- a panel discussion on attracting new hams or building club membership), we can combine sessions and make a two or even three hour session.

There is a huge parking lot at the Convention site. If the weather is good we can do demos in the parking lot at lunch, like erecting and trimming a dipole or working a satellite, and there is room in the hall for displays if you have something you would like to display.

Feel free to contact me if you have an idea that you think would fit in the 2009 Convention. We want to make this new, different, and the best convention ever!

Hope to hear from a lot of you soon!

73 -- Bill -- N8ET, Convention Chairman (n8et@arrl.net)

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for April 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2 ARES	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 ARES	10	11
12	13	14 Meeting	15	16 ARES	17	18 Club Breakfast
19	20	21	22	23 ARES	24	25
26	27	28 Spotter Training	29	30 ARES		

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 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.

Spotter Training: Then National Weather Service will be conducting Spotter Training for Dickinson County again this year. The training will be held on April 28th at 6:30 PM (CDT) in the Fornetti Hall located on the campus of Bay College West in Iron Mountain.

Please remit dues to :

Mike Boileau, N9NBN
1106 Cleveland St
Niagara, Wi. 54151

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:

04/11 **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.

04/11 **Gladstone**: 9:00am arrival time with testing beginning at 9:00am, at the Gladstone Public Library. Contact Howard W8HSJ at (906) 428-9476 or w8hsj@dcars.org .

04/18 **Iron River**: 9:00am central time, at the Beef-A-Roo Restaurant in Iron River.
NOTE: Pre-registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9GJ at 906 265-4240 or e-mail: dmwaters@ironriver.tv .

05/02 **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.

06/13 **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

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.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the March 10, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Michael Boileau, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the February 10th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of March 1st, 2009:
Regular Savings - \$2,150.94, \$875.20 of which is in the Trailer Fund.
Repeater Savings - \$899.87.
Checking - \$279.80
Petty Cash - \$0.00.

Repeater Report

It was reported that the 440 repeater is now online. When the weather warms, we need to remove the flaking paint from the interior walls.

ARES

Net is being run by Dennis, K8SWX, Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Old Business

Club Station –

Tom, W8JWN, states that Kim Fox said that our proposal is on the Associate Directors desk. Space and rent issues are still in the mix. Mike, K8DDB, reports an email from a VA club in New Mexico with an offer to help us.

Charlie Dickinson Estate –

Randy, KB9ZES, has purchased the two 2-meter beams.

Club Anniversary -

The 40th anniversary of the founding of the club will be celebrated during Field Day

Technician License Class –

It was reported that the class has started, and is going well.

Field Day 2009 –

We are looking for a volunteer to chair the field day committee. There were no volunteers.

New Business

Mike, N9NBN, reported that insurance has been secured for the club. Mike also reported that it takes 23 paid memberships to cover just the insurance and phone line costs. We have 18 paid as of the meeting date.

A request was made for the availability of the repeater cards with auto patch info.

A group discussion regarding ways of increasing membership, and a general outreach to grow the hobby was talked about. Outreach to kids, and a possible mailing to existing hams in our area was discussed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

For The Good Of The Order

Attendees discussed their recent radio related activities.

Submitted by Mike Boileau

Attendees

Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice
President/Treasurer
Steve Johnson, KC8RYY
Bob Uren, KC8TWG
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Beth Baker, KC9KVP
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Dave Thomas KB9JOG
Steve Brooks

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 CALLSIGN	OFFSET		PLTONE
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 444.85 repeater is a GE Master Pro with 30 watts output.

The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet.

To use the Auto Patch, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch ON code and let up on your mic. You will then hear a dial tone. Key your mic and dial your number. The phone should then ring. When you complete your call, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch OFF code and the phone call will terminate. Club members will be given Auto Patch codes on request.

Wanted:
Your Articles, Ideas and Input!
Send it now to: kd8ccp@arrl.net

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Send Articles to: Steve Skauge
kd8ccp@arrl.net

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2009 are 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, Mike Boileau, N9NBN at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The April Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tues April 14th 2009.

