

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

March 2011

## Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

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

I just completed the BARTG RTTY contest this past weekend. For the first time in any contest, I reached the one million mark! I had 1,104,000 points in 29 hours. Again, I lost an hour because of a program problem with the second radio.

I was using a new FSK interface and, four hours into the contest, it wasn't transmitting properly. After much trial and error, I got it working.

Looking back, I should have waited until my break period and worked on it then. I was just too stubborn to give up on it. That attitude cost me another 40 contacts. Antennas, amps, and the computer worked fine this time. Hopefully, that trend will continue in the future!



Looking for a "Mouse"?

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Scott (KA8TFF) and I met today to discuss possible changes to the club constitution. At the last club meeting (see the club minutes in this newsletter), we discussed the dues language in the Bylaws. Also, member conduct on and off the air was discussed. Scott and I came to the following conclusions:

No change is needed in the constitution, concerning late dues. Our reasoning will be mentioned at the next meeting in April.

We did conclude, on the matter of conduct, that two new sections should be added to the Bylaws. The proposed language is as follows:

#### Section 6 -Removal of Members:

Any member who operates his/her station in violation of Part 97 of the FCC rules and Regulations, and who does not cease and desist from the aforementioned violations, may be removed from membership in the Mich-A-Con ARC.

Any member who causes adverse publicity to Amateur radio, or the Mich-A-Con ARC may be removed from membership in the Mich-A-Con ARC.

Please bring your thoughts on these recommended additions to our Bylaws to the next meeting, or e-mail me .

<mailto:tmartin@chartermi.net>

## **Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the March 8, 2011 Meeting**

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

The meeting began with the introduction of Rob Ferris, a student at MTU by his father Joe.

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the February 8 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurer Report**

Membership Dues Received: \$70.00

Checks were written to: Auto Owners, \$204; ATT, \$23.54.

Balances as of March 1, 2011:

### **Wanted:**

**YOUR ARTICLES, IDEAS AND  
INPUT! SEND IT IN NOW TO:**

[kd8ccp@arrl.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arrl.net)

Checking - \$50.34

Regular Savings - \$1,983.56, \$351.82 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$1,126.50

Petty Cash - \$15.00

We now have 35 paid members for 2011.

## **Repeater Report**

No problems to report. Terry brought a 24 volt power supply to be used at the site.

## **ARES**

The net has been meeting regularly. Dennis, K8SWX, will contact the Sheriff Dept for installation of the emergency communications equipment

Burt informed the group of a monthly meeting of the Dickinson County Emergency Planning Committee on April 12 at 4:00 in the library. Dennis has been notified.

## **Old Business**

### **Club Trailer –**

Motion made by Skip, KE9L, and seconded by Scott, KA9TFF, to sell the trailer and to receive the van box donated by Paul Schultz, KD8KUF, to be used for storage.

Discussion followed. The motion passed.

Proceeds from the sale of the construction trailer will go to the purchase of a smaller trailer.

## **Field Day 2011**

Dana Bey, KD8POR, and Perry Amicangelo volunteered to co-chair with Tom, W8JWN.

There will be a Field Day at Marion Park in June.

## **New Business**

### **Old Repeaters**

GM Communications has some old repeaters to give the club. Nate, KD8GLP, will handle the transfer.

## Constitution

There was discussion on membership dues and our constitution bylaws. Tom, W8JWN, and Scott, KA8TFF, will work on some new language. Skip, KE9L, will provide some language from the NEWDXA.

Also, discussion was held on conduct that is unbecoming of a club member and licensed amateur. Language will be considered for an amendment to our constitution.

## Packet

Leroy, N8WQG, has an old 250 watt packet repeater in a six foot rack to donate. Randy, KB9ZES, will handle it. The club doesn't need it.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

## For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Tom Martin, acting for Paul Schultz

### Attendees

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President  
Barry Perron, KC9NFT  
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES  
Nate Mieras – KD8GLP  
Scott Baker, KB9AVX  
Beth Baker, KC9KVP  
Skip Caswell, KE9L  
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY  
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer  
Red Maxwell – KC8KWS  
Joe Komblevicz – KB8ETK  
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President  
Perry Amicangelo  
Dana Bey, KD8POR  
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
Rob Ferris guest

### **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.



## Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for April 2011

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 <i>ARES</i>	8	9
10	11	12 <i>Meeting</i>	13	14 <i>ARES</i>	15	16 <i>BREAK FAST</i>
17	18	19	20	21 <i>ARES</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 <i>ARES</i>	29	30

### ***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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.

### **Club Repeaters:**

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain (elevation 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.

<b>OUTPUT</b>	<b>OFFSET</b>	<b>PLTONE</b>	<b>CALLSIGN</b>
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 repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet

**V.E. TESTING:**

**05/07 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.**

**06/11 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 906 249-3837or e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net).**

**04/9 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.**

**4/9 Gladstone: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Howard St. John (906) 428-9476 email: [hsj99@charter.net](mailto:hsj99@charter.net) Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.**

**Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$15.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc. Note: If you have been assigned a FRN from the FCC you must use it on all forms rather than your SSN.**

<p>Please remit dues to : <b>Burt Armbrust WB8EBS</b> 693 Cliff St. Quinnesec, Mi. 49876</p>	
<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Address:</b> _____	
<b>City, State, Zip</b> _____	<b>Call Sign:</b> _____
<b>Email Address:</b> _____	<b>Phone:</b> _____
<b>ARRL Member? Yes</b> ___ <b>No</b> ___	
<p><b>Annual dues are due in January.</b> <b>Please make check payable to Mich-A-Con ARC</b> <b>Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 ___ * Family \$30 ___ Repeater Only \$10 ___**</b></p>	
<p><b>If family membership, please list additional names and call signs:</b> _____</p>	
<p><b>* 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.</b></p>	

## FCC Seeking Comments on ARRL Petition Regarding TDMA

from:

*The ARRL Letter, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2011*

Earlier this month, [the ARRL filed a \*Petition for Rulemaking and a Request for Temporary Waiver\* with the FCC](#), seeking authorization of the use of single-time-slot Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the amateur bands at and above 50 MHz, wherever multiple-time-slot TDMA is authorized. The FCC has designated the *Petition* as [RM-11625](#) and is soliciting comments on it. Comments may be [filed electronically](#) and will be accepted until April 22. (<http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/>)

Through this rulemaking, the ARRL seeks to facilitate the use of and experimentation by radio amateurs with existing narrowband spectrum-efficient digital voice and data technology. “Such technology is now in regular and increasing use in the private land mobile radio services, but its use in the Amateur Radio Service is now apparently unintentionally precluded by two specific Commission rules,” the ARRL’s *Petition* stated. The *Petition* asks the FCC to allow those amateurs who are presently using a Motorola narrowband (12.5 kHz) digital land mobile system -- commercially marketed as MotoTRBO -- to be used legally. Because of some restrictions in the Part 97 rules, the TDMA repeaters (which are multiple-time-slot devices) are legal, but the mobiles and portables are not because the emissions used (single-time-slot TDMA) are not authorized anywhere, due to the emission designator.

### ***Public Service: Radio Amateurs in Japan Still Providing Communications Support***

from:

**The ARRL Letter, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Amateur Radio operators became involved in the rescue effort soon after the March 11 8.9 earthquake and devastating tsunami that hit northern Japan, and that effort continues nearly two weeks later. “In the early stage following the earthquake and tsunami, several radio amateurs were able to activate their stations with car batteries or small engine generators, despite the electric power outages,” IARU Region 3 Secretary Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP, told the ARRL. “They transmitted rescue requests and information on the disaster situation -- including refugee centers and their needs -- and the availability of basic infrastructures, such as electricity, water and gas supplies.” After the earthquake and tsunami, there was no electricity, water or gas service in many of the affected areas.

In his report to the ARRL, Yamamoto said that the Japan Amateur Radio League ([JARL](#)) quickly activated JA1RL, its headquarters station in Tokyo, to assist in the rescue effort. With the help of many other amateurs, it also activated its regional headquarters station JA3RL in Osaka to communicate with amateurs in the areas devastated by the tsunami, including its Tohoku headquarters station JA7RL in Sendai. “The communications were mostly on the 7 MHz band in daytime and the 3.5 MHz band at night,” Yamamoto explained. “Short range communications were also made on the 144 and 430 MHz bands. The

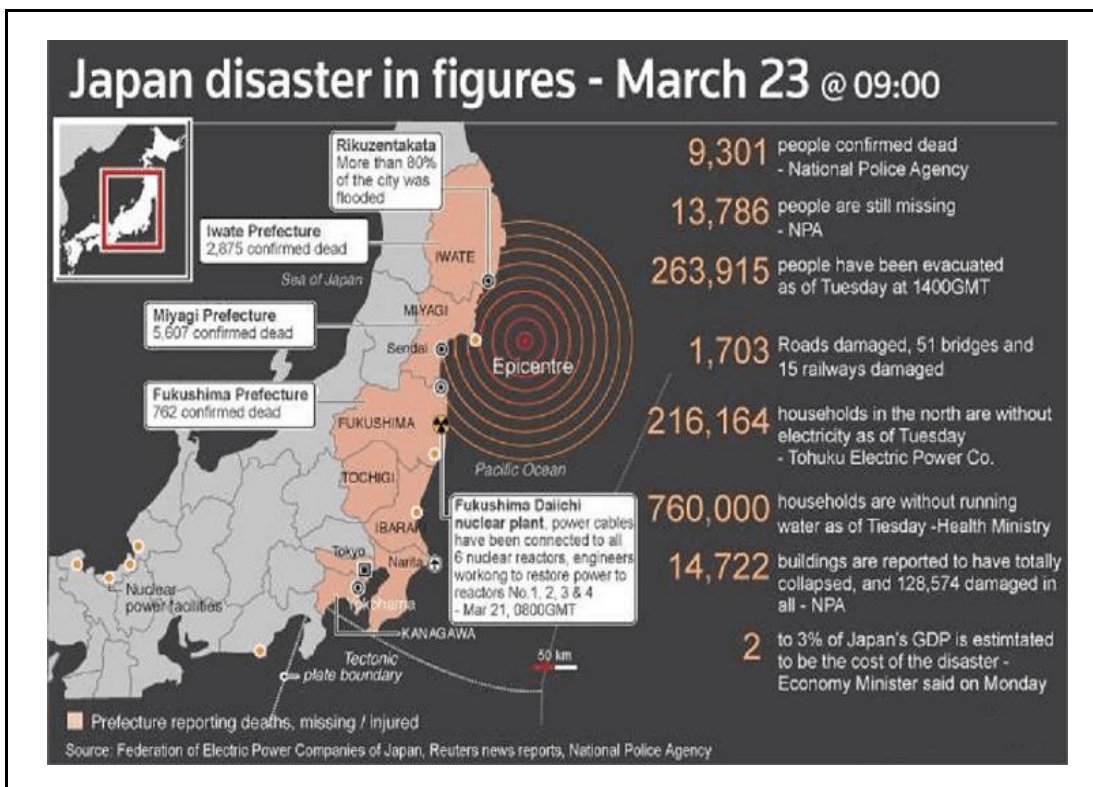
information gathered through Amateur Radio communications was reported to the rescue and disaster relief organizations for their appropriate deployment. Some other amateurs accepted health-and-welfare inquiries from the [impacted] areas and then posted the information on the Internet.”

Japan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications -- that country’s equivalent of the FCC -- approved the use of an additional 300 UHF/VHF transceivers in the affected areas.

With gasoline and natural gas in short supply, Yamamoto said that the fuel shortage was “a very serious problem in the cold climate. Calls for fuel were received over radio from many disaster areas, but delivery remained very difficult at least for the first week as the access roads were hacked up everywhere. Several days later, some Amateur Radio clubs reached the affected areas with their radio equipment and established communications for supporting disaster relief.”

Yamamoto told the ARRL that several radio equipment manufacturers offered “hundreds of VHF/UHF transceivers to JARL for the use at refugee centers and local disaster relief centers. These transceivers should help to establish mutual communications between refugee and disaster relief centers, and to facilitate smooth and appropriate delivery of disaster relief goods.”

As of noon JST on March 23 (0300 UTC), Japanese authorities announced that 9408 people have been killed and another 14,716 people have been reported missing in the earthquake and tsunami.





## **Yaesu, ICOM and Kenwood Issue Statements Regarding Effects of Earthquake on Operations**

from:

*The ARRL Letter, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2011*

In a letter to the Amateur Radio community, Vertex Standard Chief Executive Officer and President Jun Hasegawa expressed his "sincere appreciation to all of you for your kind words and thoughts about us" after the [devastating 8.9 earthquake that struck Japan last week](#). Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu. All Vertex Standard employees and their families are safe and unhurt, Hasegawa said, but the company has not been able to reach many of their dealers and subcontractors who are located on the coast area: "We just hope that they are alive." Hasegawa said that a Vertex Standard factory in Fukushima was damaged in the earthquake. Even though the factory is not located near the coast and the damage was minimal, he said that Vertex Standard has decided to "disable the operation at this moment." Saying that they are working very hard to get the factory back to its normal operation, Hasegawa said that "it may take one to two weeks to restart operation in the Fukushima factory. I would like to ask for your understanding and cooperation at this time."

According to a [press release](#), no one from ICOM is known to be injured. No damage has been reported at ICOM's headquarters in Osaka, or at either of their two main factories in Wakayama; both Osaka and Wakayama are located far south of the most severely affected areas. The branch offices in Tokyo and Sendai, however, did suffer some minor damage. "Most of ICOM's facilities and systems are ready to get back to normal business, but supplier logistics, commuting issues and future power disruptions will affect our company," the press release said. "It is too soon to tell how big an impact the earthquake and its aftermath will have on ICOM. We appreciate your interest and concern."

"Thankfully, our staff in Japan is safe due to earthquake preparedness and the special construction of our buildings," said Kenwood USA President Junji Kobayashi on [the Kenwood website](#). "Power outages and interruption of mass transit have kept most of Kenwood's staff at home since the earthquake; however, we expect the infrastructure to improve in the coming week and our operations to fully resume accordingly. We appreciate the concern for our employees expressed by all those who have contacted us." Kenwood's primary office facilities in Yokohama and Hachioji were not damaged, due to their proximity further south and west of the quake's epicenter. Since Kenwood's primary manufacturing facilities are in Malaysia, electronics production is unaffected.

**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](mailto:tmartin@chartermi.net)

Vice President:  
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF  
[s\\_jarmusch@yahoo.com](mailto:s_jarmusch@yahoo.com)

Secretary:  
Paul Schultz KD8KUF  
(906) 774-8900  
[pauls@schultzequipment.com](mailto:pauls@schultzequipment.com)

Treasurer:  
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS  
(906) 774-8383  
[wb8ebs@yahoo.com](mailto:wb8ebs@yahoo.com)

**Reminders:**

Club dues for the year 2011 were payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 April Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue April 12<sup>th</sup> 2011. 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**