

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

April 6, 2012

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Words from the President

Tom W8JWN

What's the Appeal of Ham Radio?

Some hams are attracted by the ability to communicate across the country, around the globe, even with astronauts on space missions. Others build and experiment with electronics.

Computer hobbyists find packet radio to be a low-cost way to expand their ability to communicate. Those with a competitive streak enjoy "DX contests," where the object is to see how many hams in distant locations they can contact. Some like the convenience of a technology that gives them portable communication. Others use it to open the door to new friendships over the air or through participation in one of more than 2000 Amateur Radio clubs throughout the country.

Who's the Typical Ham?

Amateur Radio operators come from all walks of life -- movie stars, missionaries, doctors, students, politicians, truck drivers and just plain folks. They are all ages, sexes, income levels and nationalities. But whether they prefer Morse code on an old brass telegraph

key through a low-power transmitter, voice communication on a hand-held radio or computer messages transmitted through satellites, they all have an interest in what's happening in the world, and they use radio to reach out.

The above, courtesy of the ARRL Public Relations Department, sums it up pretty well. The answers to the two questions cover most, if not all, of the 41 hams in our club. We have a few contesters, experimenters, "brass pounders", and Dxers. A majority seem to enjoy the "shack on the belt" operation because it is cheaper than a cellular plan. I can't begrudge them because, one time several years ago, I was rescued from a perilous situation thanks to my 2 meter rig.

I was preparing to duck hunt north of Florence. I had just backed the boat trailer into the Brule River and had set the emergency brake. I got out to remove the wench strap and after removing it, the emergency brake let go and the boat, trailer, and truck proceeded to slip into the river. My Lab was in the boat and I was standing on shore trying to hold the truck on dry land. I finally jumped into the cab of the truck and put my foot on the brake.

After several failed attempts to drive out of the river (no 4-wheel drive at that time), I got on my 2 meter rig and gave a "Mayday" on 85. To my surprise, George, W9QFL, came back to me. He was tractor-mobile on his potato farm a few miles south of my location.

I explained my plight and within 10 minutes he was there in his tractor to pull me out.

Thanks to the VHF rig, my hunt was saved and I didn't have a truck floating down the Brule!

Oh, I didn't get any ducks that day. My Lab didn't talk to me on the way home either!

The above was written 7 years ago. George, W9QFL, is a silent key (SK) and today we have 27 paid members in the club. What happened to the 14 members that left the club? I hope that many of them didn't think that the club had nothing to offer them. I'm sure that a few left the area because of work. Others lost interest in ham radio, or didn't upgrade their license. Yet, I'm sure a few might not have felt welcome. Let's all make it a point to reach out to members in need of assistance and to make them feel like they are an important part of the club.

HAPPY EASTER

Tom W8JWN

Please remit dues to :
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
693

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____

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: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____
ARRL Member? Yes ___ No ___

Annual dues were due in January.

*** The dues for NEW members are prorated - you only pay**
for the Cliff St.
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876 remainder of the year!

Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership
or \$2.50 per month for a Family membership.



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 each.
If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with your
payment.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 ARES	6	7
8	9	10 Meeting	11	12 ARES	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 ARES	20	21 BREAK-FAST
22	23	24	25	26 ARES	27	28
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 3rd 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 1650 ft) 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	OFFSET	PLTONE	CALLSIGN
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 ft.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the March 13th, 2012 Meeting

President Tom Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Visitor Dan Putney, KJ4MZI from Powhatan, Virginia was welcomed.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the February 14th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Membership Dues Received: \$ 25.00
Checks were written to: AT&T for \$26.11
Balances as of March 2nd, 2012:
Checking - \$ 43.15
Regular Savings - \$ 2,857.39 of which \$ 1,809.64 is in the Trailer Fund.
Repeater Savings - \$ 1,154.84
Petty Cash - \$ 14.00
We now have 27 paid members for 2011.

Repeater Report

A little noisy during bad weather but otherwise working fine.

ARES

The net has been meeting regularly every Thursday at 6:30pm on 146.850 repeater with good turn-outs. Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX has added a 30 minute Amateur Radio Net podcast after the net.

Old Business

Nothing has been heard from the Sheriff's dept. regarding antenna installation.

President Tom reported that he has some old equipment boxed up that belongs to the club that he will move into the storage box. Burt will assist and they will run the generator.

Field Day: President Tom contacted Ken Johnson, President of the Florence Co. Fairboard. We have been approved to go to the Florence Co. Fairgrounds for no charge but we will pay \$100.00 security deposit. Friday June 22nd will be antenna set-up and the Picnic will be Saturday June 23rd. Take down will be Sunday afternoon June 24th.

A bucket truck donation for antenna use will be looked into.

Field Day Committees:

Chair volunteer is needed.

Co Chair volunteer will be Dana Bey, KD8POR ?

Antenna setup volunteers will be Joe Ferris, KC9TQR, Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS and Tom Heyboer, KC8TH. Terry Moriarity, K9TRY will also be asked to volunteer.

Donation volunteers will be Joe Ferris, KC9TQR and Terry Moriarity, K9TRY.

Software results and reporting to the ARRL volunteer will be Mike Bray, K8DDB.

Publicity volunteer will be Paul Schultz, KD8KUF.

Callsign will be K8VC w/ 2A Wisconsin exchange. Operating modes will be sideband, CW and RTTY. Bands will be 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 & 6 (if it's open).

Any fund raising activity will not be considered for Field Day including donations because it's against the Amateur Radio rules.

New Business

Operating split was briefly discussed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Tom Heyboer, KC8TH reported that he recently received treatment and was cured of a minor illness with a 28 Khz frequency with 1 watt of current for ten minutes from a "doctor" in Eagle River, WI. He said that it's good for viruses, cancers & bacteria treatment. DISCLAIMER: Tom isn't a doctor nor are we recommending this treatment.

President Tom gave a brief presentation on propagation. Recommended websites are solarham.com and haminfo.co.uk

Submitted by Paul Schultz

Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF - Secretary
Barry Perron, KC9NFT
Mike Bray, K8DDB
Dana Bey, KD8POR
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR
Tom Heyboer, KC8TH
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR
Joe Komblevich, KB8ETK
Dan Putney, KJ4MZI, Guest, Powhatan, VA
Herb Pahlow, KD9SY
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES



Weatherproofing Your Coaxial Cable Connections

via email from:

Tom W8JWN

and

<http://www.dxengineering.com>

This DX Engineering Tech-Tip will show you the preferred way to reliably weatherproof your coaxial connections.

Over the years many different methods have been used to weatherproof coaxial cable connections. Some worked, some did not. Once water or condensation enters your coaxial cable, it will ruin it, or worse yet, cause shorting or high SWR conditions which could lead to permanent damage to your

One type of coaxial sealing material is a gummy tar like substance that you wrap around the coaxial connection. This gummy substance works pretty good, except when you try to remove it for maintenance or coaxial cable replacement, it can cause further problems. The gummy substance just doesn't come off cleanly and small bits of it may remain in the threads of PL-259's or SO-239's. These small bits of material are mini-insulators, and could cause intermittent operation.

The method described in this DX Engineering Tech-Tip uses a combination of two types of tape which not only protect your coaxial connection, but also allow easy removal for future maintenance. The two products, available from DX Engineering, used in this Tech-Tip are:

DXE-3M2155 - 3M Temflex™ 2155 Rubber Splicing Tape.

Conformable self-fusing rubber electrical insulating tape. It is designed for low voltage electrical insulating and moisture sealing applications. For outdoor use, it should be protected from UV deterioration with an overwrap of DXE-33PLUS

DXE-33PLUS - Scotch® Super 33+.

Highly conformable super stretchy tape for all weather applications. This tape

provides flexibility and easy handling for all around performance. It also combines PVC backing with excellent electrical insulating properties to provide primary electrical insulation for splices up to 600V and protective jacketing.

These tapes can be used indoors or outdoors. When used outdoors the temperature should be above freezing, and if it's raining, keep the assembly you are wrapping covered and dry while applying the tapes. Any airborne moisture such as fog, rain and snow may cause the tape to not stick properly, so take adequate precautions to protect the assembly you are weatherproofing. Additionally, the coaxial cable and connectors should be clean and free of any moisture, dirt or residues.

<http://www.dxengineering.com> .

V.E. TESTING:

5/05 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.

6/09 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. You must pre-register by Tuesday preceding the test date. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net or Greg KI8AF 906 225-1594 ki8af@arrl.net.

4/14 Hancock: 8:30am eastern time, The Zion Lutheran Church, 400 Ingot St Hancock, Mi. Go north on hwy 41 (Quincy Hill) near the lookout. Turn left on Ingot up about one block. The church is on the left hand side of the street. This is a barrier free entrance for the handicapped Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 or email: wa8qnf@arrl.net if you have questions.

4/14 Gladstone: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society
Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Dave Palmgren N8DP, (906) 428-2271, n8dp@dcars.org 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

FCC Seeks Public Comments on Emergency Communications by Amateur Radio and Impediments to Amateur Radio Communications

from:
ARRL Letter, April 5th, 2012

In response to the Congressional directive to prepare a study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications, the FCC issued DA 12-523 soliciting comments from the public. The period for public comment runs until May 17, 2012.

"As part of the study contained in Public Law No. 112-96, the Commission has opened a 45 day period for comments to be filed on the issue," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Because of the short deadline for the study to be completed and presented to Congress -- before the end of August -- the ARRL and the amateur community must quickly mobilize their response."

The FCC Public Notice focuses on two specific areas for comments. The first is the role that Amateur Radio has played and continues to play to support emergency and disaster relief organizations, such as FEMA and local/state emergency management agencies. The second is to determine impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications. This would include the impact that private land-use regulations -- such as deed restrictions and homeowner association covenants -- have on the ability of licensed amateurs to fully participate in providing support communications to the served agencies.

"This study is not about zoning ordinances or regulations adopted by the local or state governments," Henderson explained. "Amateurs already have the limited protection of PRB-1 to assist them with those situations. The areas of concern here are the limitations that are placed on a property when it is purchased, either as part of the deed of sale or by restrictions imposed by the neighborhood/homeowner's association. Those restrictions -- sometimes referred to as CC&Rs -- are not currently covered by the FCC's PRB-1 decision from 1985."

To allow the ARRL to quickly collect and collate relevant information from the amateur community to help support the filing it will make with the FCC on this issue, a website has been setup. The site -- www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information -- provides details about what kind of information is needed by the ARRL.

Also on the site, you will find links to two online data collection forms. The first form allows you to provide information about specific emergency communications in which Amateur Radio has played a role since January 2000. The second form asks for specific information on the CC&Rs/deed

restrictions that control your property. It also asks you to provide information on how those restrictions have impacted your ability to fully support emergency communications.

“Whether you are an ARRL member or not, your information and situation are important to helping us make the case for all amateurs,” Henderson said. “Whether your support communications are with ARES®, RACES, SKYWARN, CERT or other emergency and disaster groups, your voice should be heard. If you cannot operate effectively from home during an emergency because CC&Rs prohibit adequate antennas on your property, that is important to document and quantify. This issue affects all of Amateur Radio, not just ARRL members.”

Henderson said that due to the short time frame that the FCC has allotted for public comment, time is of the essence. In order to allow the ARRL to develop its comments, the ARRL asks that all information sent by the amateur community be received at the ARRL no later than April 25, 2012: “We realize this is a very short turnaround asking for your response, but this is based on the time provided by the Commission for the comment window.”

It is important that when you provide specifics of your CC&R, you also provide the ARRL with a copy of its actual wording. If you have the CC&R in a digital format (or you can scan the document into a file), it can either be uploaded through the website above or it can be sent via an e-mail to CCRinfo@arrl.org . If you do not have an electronic format, a hard copy may be sent via US mail to: CCR Study Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

“We need factual, specific details,” Henderson said. “The more accurate information we have -- including copies of the CC&R language -- the stronger case we can make. Having copies of the exact CC&Rs is important. It allows us to demonstrate the wide variation of restrictions. Including the specific text is as important as any other piece of information you provide.”

If you have questions about what is being requested, you may contact the ARRL Regulatory Information Office via e-mail. “Again, time is of the essence in this matter,” Henderson said. “This is the best opportunity that amateurs have had to address the impact of overly burdensome private land use restrictions. If Amateur Radio is to succeed in this effort, it is going to take all of us working together.”

Club Meetings:

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

The URL for the Mich-A-Con ARC web site is:
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

Previous editions of Mich-A-Con RF can be accessed by a link on the news page.

The ARRL DX Bulletin on the Upcoming Activities page is updated each Thursday and the contests section is updated on a monthly basis.

Club Officers:

President:
Tom Martin, W8JWN
(906) 774-5463
tmartin@chartermi.net

Vice President:
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

Secretary:
Paul Schultz KA8TFF
(906) 774-8900
pauls@schultzequipment.com

Treasurer:
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
(906) 774-8383
Secretary:
Paul Schultz KD8
wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2012 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application

- Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue April 10th, 2012. 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