

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

March 29, 2013

In This Issue:

Words from the President

Minutes of the March 12th 2013 Meeting

Club Patches

Links to popular sites

Dues Form

FCC Grants ARRL's Request for Temporary Waiver for TDMA Systems

5 Things You Should Know about Electrical Insulating Gloves (A Link)

Freak Snow Storm Hits Billings, Montana, Hams Rally

VE Testing

Calendar of Events

Club Activities

Club Repeaters

Club Meetings

Club Officers, Reminders

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

Words from the President

Tom W8JWN

Hope that you all had a very happy Easter. I spent my Easter in Chicago and Cincinnati with children. I'm writing this in advance; so, I don't know how the trip went. Hopefully, there will be warmer weather in those cities than here in Iron Mountain. I'm really ready for green grass and warm weather. I'm especially looking forward to an ice-free sidewalk. I took a header yesterday! My cane hit a spot of black ice and I went down. I didn't land on my new knee. Thank the Lord!

Radio activity has been spotty. Not much on the air to get excited about. I did have two interesting contacts the past few weeks. On March 13th, I worked HV0A on 10 meter SSB in Vatican City at the exact time that white smoke came out of the stack to signify that a new pope had been chosen. The Italian guys were very excited.

I also worked XW4XR, on March 25th, in Laos on 15 meter RTTY to reach 300 countries in that mode. What was really special was the fact that my beam was locked at 345 degrees. I have a rotor controller power issue and haven't been able to turn the antenna more than a few degrees at a time. Luckily, the bearing to Laos was 345 degrees.

Now, for some future Dxpeditons:

A3EAQ, Tonga, 3/26 to 4/16 SSB only. Bearing 253 degrees

VK9CZ, Cocos Keeling, 3/30 to 4/13. Bearing 352 degrees. This will be a very difficult path for us. They will be using “real-time logging”. More on this down the page.

V63XG, Micronesia, 4/3 to 4/11. Bearing 292 degrees

5W0M, Samoa, 4/4 to 4/18. Bearing 256 degrees

VK9NT, Norfolk Is., 5/3 to 5/12. Bearing 257 degrees

If you worked Clipperton Island (TX5K), in early March, you had the chance to see the **DXA**, real-time logging” software in action. About a minute after you worked them, you could check the band and mode and see if you were in the log. Another interesting feature allowed you to see your call appear on the USA map over Michigan. This program, developed by KK6EK, sure cuts down on the number of duplicates at the DX station’s end.

What most Dxers like about the “real-time logging” programs is that they don’t have to wait until their QSL card is returned to find out that they worked a pirate. “Sorry not in the log.” This has happened to me twice. I still need Myanmar (XZ) for a new country because I thought I had worked him on 20 meter CW several years ago. I didn’t try to work him again because I was sure we had made contact!

Hope to see you all at the next meeting on April 9th. 73, Tom W8JWN

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the March 12th, 2012 Meeting

Vice-President Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Report

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

Treasurer Report

Membership Dues Received: \$ 10.00

Checks were written to: AT&T \$28.14

Balances as of February 13th, 2013:

Balances as of January 22nd, 2012:	
Checking	\$ 21.31
Regular Savings	\$ 542.44
Trailer Fund	\$1830.23
Repeater Savings	\$1114.69
Petty Cash	\$ 7.00

We now have 24 paid members.

**Repeater Report
Working fine.**

ARES

Nets are meeting every Thursday at 6:30 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

Old Business

Our \$25.00 security deposit from last year's Field Day was returned from the Florence County Fairgrounds with a letter which Scott read. RV's & campers should not be connected to electrical or water. In the future we will be charged if this happens.

June 22nd – 23rd Field Day. Chairman is requested. Scott asked "should we go back to Florence?" Little to no discussion.

Skip said that the Technician Class finished up last night and they have started to review the test. Test session will be Mon. March 25th @ 6:30 pm at the Dickinson County Library. Cost is \$14.00 Upgrades are welcome. Pre-register by calling Mike Boileau at 563-1350. They started out with 6 students but now are down to 4.

Paul displayed two desk designs he drew for the ham radio shack for the Sheriff's Department EOC which he volunteered to build for free (materials only). The design without the locking top was chosen. He will modify the plan to add one locking drawer for the laptop and a larger lower shelf for the power supply. Burt volunteered to help by doing the sanding and the staining. The ReStore will be checked to see if they have a desk that will fit. Motion by and seconded by Skipto authorize \$250.⁰⁰ maximum expense for supplies for Paul to build a desk for the EOC.

New Business

Welcome visitor Richard Hartwell who is one of the students.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Paul Schultz

Attendees

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President

Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer

Paul Schultz, KD8KUF – Secretary

Skip Caswell, KE9L

Mike Bray, K8DDB

Dana Bey, KD8POR

Joe Ferris, KC9TQR

Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ

Sam Holmes, N8ATS

Richard Hartwell

Joe Gerwig, KD8KWP

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.

Links

ARRL WEB PAGE: <http://www.arrl.org>

ARRL MICHIGAN: <http://www.arrl-mi.org/>

US REPEATERS: <http://www.usrepeaters.com>

MICH-A-CON : <http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb>

Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts:

<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

FCC Universal Licensing System: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

QTH.COM: <http://www.qth.com/>

QRZ.COM: <http://www.qrz.com/>

Ehamnet.com: <http://www.eham.net/>

U.P. Skywarn: <http://kcra-mi.net/skywarn/>

**Please remit dues to :
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
693 Cliff St
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876**

Name: _____
Call Sign: _____
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 are Payable January 1st.

**Dues for New Members are Pro-rated.
Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single
membership or \$2.50 per month for a
Family membership.**

FCC Grants ARRL's Request for Temporary Waiver for TDMA Systems
from:
The ARRL Letter
March 28, 2013

Acting upon a subsequent request by the ARRL, the FCC issued an Order (WT Docket No, 12-283) on March 25, granting a temporary waiver to transmit communications on amateur service channels above 30 MHz using single time-slot Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) systems. The temporary waiver was granted pending the resolution of a related rulemaking proceeding (RM-11625).

Currently, amateur stations are authorized to transmit messages using telephony and data emissions. The ARRL noted in its request that Amateur Radio Service licensees have recently established numerous narrowband repeater facilities using multiple time-slot TDMA repeaters and single-slot TDMA handheld digital transceivers in the 70 centimeter (420-450 MHz) band, but Part 97 as it currently stands does not permit amateur stations to transmit single-slot TDMA emissions on Amateur Radio Service channels above 30 MHz.



The FCC stated in its Order that the purpose of specifying emission designators for the Amateur Radio Service “is to relegate the transmission of certain inharmonious emission types to different segments of the frequency bands, while still allowing great flexibility in the types of emissions that may be transmitted by amateur stations.” In granting the temporary waiver, the FCC agreed with the ARRL, noting that the digital systems that radio amateurs have recently implemented are “compatible with existing amateur repeater channelization plans.”

The FCC also noted that allowing FXE and F7E as phone emissions and emission type FXD as a data emission “is unlikely to result in inharmonious emission types being used in the same segments of the frequency bands. We also conclude that allowing amateur stations to transmit these emission types is consistent with the basis and purpose of the amateur service, specifically to continue to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. We conclude that good cause has been shown for temporary waiver of Section 97.3(c)(5) to allow amateur stations to transmit emission types FXE and F7E as a phone emission and Section 97.307(f)(8) to allow amateur stations to transmit emission type FXD as a data emission. We therefore waive these rules accordingly, conditioned on the outcome of the pending rulemaking proceeding.”

Five Things You Should Know About Electrical Insulating Gloves:
A Link sent via email from:
Paul, KD8KUF

http://www.grainger.com/Grainger/static/supplylink-five-things-you-should-know-about-electrical-insulating-gloves.html?cm_mmc=EMP_-eNewsletter-_20130325Newsletter-_tbd&cm_em=pauls@schultzequipment.com&RIID=22162332

Freak Snowstorm Hits Billings, Montana: Hams Rally

from:

ARES E-Letter

March 20, 2013

At 1445 on Sunday, March 3, the sunny 53 degree day suddenly clouded over and snow started to fall from the sky. The NWS reported that the temperature had dropped 20 degrees in 50 minutes. Within minutes, Billings was enveloped in a total whiteout, with visibility of less than 100 feet in some areas. Most hams were out performing their activities of daily living when the storm hit.

At 1505, Ron Glass, WN7Y received a text message from Linda Cornetet, KF7ITX, that power to her home just west of Shiloh Road was out. At 1510, the Great Clips hair salon at Grand Avenue and Rehberg where Glass was experienced several power bumps in a row - enough to cause the point-of-sale computer to have to be manually rebooted three times in about five minutes. Glass worked his way home through the slushy roads and poor visibility.

Upon arrival, Glass turned on his D-STAR base radio (on 147.360 MHz), and APRS station, and began streaming live radar feeds from NWS. He put his handheld on the public safety bands, scanning for reports. By this time, Richard Wilson, KF7ITU, had started an informal "Standby Net" from his spotting location near the airport, and was receiving more reports from hams of power outages, white-out driving conditions, and also reports over the public safety channels of slide-offs and vehicle crashes. Soon thereafter, Zimmerman Trail hill was closed and traffic westbound from the airport traffic circle toward Lavina was being diverted back into Billings. Wilson said traffic was still allowed eastbound in front of the airport, but the vehicles appeared out of the snow, drove by, and disappeared back into the snow - all within 200 yards! Air traffic was suspended.

1625: In preparation for a possible call-up to help the City and County, Glass sent out a shared Net Control Log on Google® Drive and began logging all check-ins and radio traffic.

1639: Several hams heard over the public safety Sheriff West VHF repeater a broadcast from the 911 Comm Center that "the only way you can reach us now is via this VHF repeater and by cellphone. We will be contacting officers directly in the field via cellphone." Glass assumed that the new 800 MHz trunked system that was just upgraded last month must have faltered with the power outages.

1650: Glass decided not to spin the Standby Net up into a full Yellowstone ARES (YARES) Emergency Net at this time for several reasons: (1) the Comm Center had a workaround in place - cellphones; (2) the cellphones appeared to be working with no expectation of dropping; and (3) NWS radar showed clearing skies and almost zero precipitation behind the initial violent frontal boundary. The latter was confirmed with four hams who had good visibility to the west and northwest - clearing skies, almost blue skies already. Planes were again allowed to take off and land at the airport.

1659: Hams reported that Northwestern Energy power had been restored to their homes west of Shiloh Road. At 1700, Glass as NCS closed the Standby Net and completed log entries in the Google Drive online log. "We had 18 check-ins during the net, with some via cellphone text messages only, some on D-STAR, and others were monitoring D-STAR, some on 147.360 MHz, some on 145.410 MHz, and several hams on repeaters," Glass reported.

Some wonderful, awesome, but frightening photos came out of various sources after the storm - it was definitely one for the record books and one that Billings residents will be talking about for quite some time. Glass received several e-mails from people asking "did you say your group does Storm Spotter Training in April? When and where can we attend?"

Thanks to everyone that helped, either by checking in with reports, or standing by in listen-only mode in case we were activated. - from a report submitted by Ron Glass, WN7Y, Yellowstone County Emergency Coordinator, Billings, Montana

V.E. TESTING:

11/6 Iron Mountain: 9:30am central time, Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802. Examinees must be pre-registered. (906-776-1553).

6/8 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.

4/6 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. You can now take a Hamexam "Anytime". Contact Glenn, WA8QNF at (906)482-7743 for details.

4/13 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

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 ARES	6
7	8	9 Meeting	10	11	12 ARES	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 ARES	20 Breakfast
21	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.

Repeater Specifications;

The 146.85 repeater is a GR Master Pro, 40 watt output repeater. The 440 repeater is a GE Master Pro, 80 watt. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 ft.

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 KD8KUF
(906) 774-8900
pauls@schultzequipment.com

Treasurer:

Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
(906) 774-8383
wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Reminders:

orm wh Club dues for the year 2013 are payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal fen 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:

Tuesday April 9th, 2013. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM

Wanted:

**Your Articles, Your pictures
and your Input for the
Newsletter!**

Send them to:

kd8ccp@arri.net