

MICH-A-CON RF

Iron Mountain, MI

APRIL

Meeting Reminder: **Second Wednesday of Month**

Which is **APRIL 9, 2014** at 7:00 PM at Dickinson Library.

Please be there and support the cause of Amateur Radio.

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Words from the President

In this column I would like to welcome all the new hams that received their KD8 calls. Congratulations! Now, that you are licensed members of one of the greatest fraternities in the world, be sure to be an active member. I've known many a new ham that didn't remain in the fraternity because of a failure to try to go beyond getting the "piece of official paper" and actually operate on the air. Of course many of those new hams were afraid of the code and using CW to actually "talk" to someone. Today, with the 2 meter FM radio, you can talk to anyone through the local repeater, or in most areas of the country, through other repeaters. Don't be afraid to key the rig and use your new call.

Now that you have the new ticket and are located in, or near, the Dickinson County area, please try to attend one of our Mich-A-Con meetings. Here you will meet many people just like you. We were all beginners at one time. We needed support to make that first contact, to build that first antenna, to assemble, or purchase that first radio, and to remain an active ham.

One of the best events of the year is Field Day. We practice our emergency preparedness at Marion Park in Norway on June 24-25. During this exercise, we setup and operate with emergency power for 24 hours. You can stop by and try your hand at operating on the GOTA station (a special station for newly licensed or unlicensed individuals to try amateur radio), or you can lend a hand in erecting antennas.

Hopefully, you all received my phone message on Wednesday, April 19th. This came to you via CallingPost, an automated message service that we use for alerting club members of severe weather for SKYWARN. This is another important facet of amateur radio. During the year, we are many times called upon to observe severe weather situations and report storm information to the National Weather Service in Marquette via 2 meters.

Well, again congratulations and welcome to a great hobby! I hope to meet all of you at some time in the future.

73, Tom W8JWN

reprinted from 2006:

From your New Newsletter Editor:

Thank you to those contributors and critiquers.
Welcome your articles - They make the Newsletter

MICH-A-CON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**MINUTES OF MARCH 12TH, 2014 MEETING**

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

Secretary Report

Minutes of the February 12th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of - March 7, 2014:

Checking - \$19.64

Regular Savings - \$ 2,416.96 of which \$ 1,862.03 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$ 1097.68

Petty Cash - \$ 19.00

Repeater Report

The repeater has been rough, especially when it's windy. This appears to be a bad connection or a problem with the antenna itself. Sam Holmes reported that a four-bay co-linear antenna can be acquired for \$840, shipped. A motion by Terry Moriarity, second by Sam Holmes, to purchase the two meter co-linear antenna passed unanimously. Gary Schafer will donate a 440 MHz antenna that he has. Sam Holmes will build another standoff, if the club can provide the metal.

Old Business

- The two meter net has continued to meet each Thursday at 6:30 pm on the 146.850 MHz repeater. There have been 13 to 15 participants. It was noted that the social net has been a lot of fun.
- Burt Armbrust reported that the necessary parts for the jumpers have been ordered.
- Dave Thomas is officially the Emergency Coordinator for Dickinson County. At present, he is working to determine certified ARES members. The plan is to have the ARES net immediately following the Thursday night social net.
- Herb Pahlow's antenna project is still on hold, until the weather improves.
- Tom Martin discussed his experiences as W1AW/8. He found that there were many hams who intentionally interfered with his signal. Nevertheless, he found it a positive experience. The W1AW/p stations have been getting people on the air and getting the bands used. Currently, Arizona and Ohio are on the air.
- Tom Heyboer was congratulated for producing another excellent newsletter this month.

New Business

- ARRL Field Day will be held on June 28-29. There is no chairman or definite site, at this time. President Tom Martin will check on the availability of the U.P. Veterans Memorial site at Pine Mountain. It was noted that other suggestions are welcome.
- Skywarn plans for this year were discussed, since we are getting close to the severe weather season. Members who are participating as Skywarn spotters will get a robocall if their services are needed. A tentative list of spotters, from among those present, and their locations was developed.

SKYWARN SPOTTERS AND LOCATIONS		
NAME	CALL	LOCATION
Steve Johnson	KC8RYY	Millie Hill
Tom Martin	W8JWN	Pine Mountain
Burt Armbrust	WB8EBS	Hill above Wells Fargo along US-2.
Skip Caswell	KE9L	Merriman/Granite Bluff area.
Barry Perron	KC9NFT	Buckeye Lookout (if still in area).
Jim Rye	W8IFI	Crystal Falls (top of the hill)
Bob Meyers	WA8FXQ	Faithhorn area (if not in Copper Country)
Terry Moriarty	K9TRY	Niagara
Dave Thomas	KG9Y	Niagara
Bill Grabowski	KD8VTT	Mansfield Township/Johnson's Potato Farm area
Debbie Grabowski	KD8VTS	Mansfield Township/Johnson's Potato Farm area
Sam Holmes	N8ATS	Cemetery Road in Pembine
Steve Hebert	KD8WAK	East D Street
Joe Ferris	KC9TQR	Vicinity of County N, U, & C in Florence County

- Burt Armbrust advised those present that the Habitat for Humanity Restore currently has some 500 foot rolls of #12 stranded wire for sale. They are asking \$75 per roll.
- Tom Heyboer asked for email addresses from any members who have not received the last couple of newsletters.
- Tom Martin noted that the club has received a donation of 500 feet of cable from Cable constructors.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Program

Bill Bertoldi, Rocket Club advisor at Kingsford high School, discussed methods he and his students have used to track and recover their rockets after launch. He displayed several commercial antennas and showed videos of some of their rocket launches. Bill also is donating a camera to the club that is able to transmit video on the 440 MHz ham band.

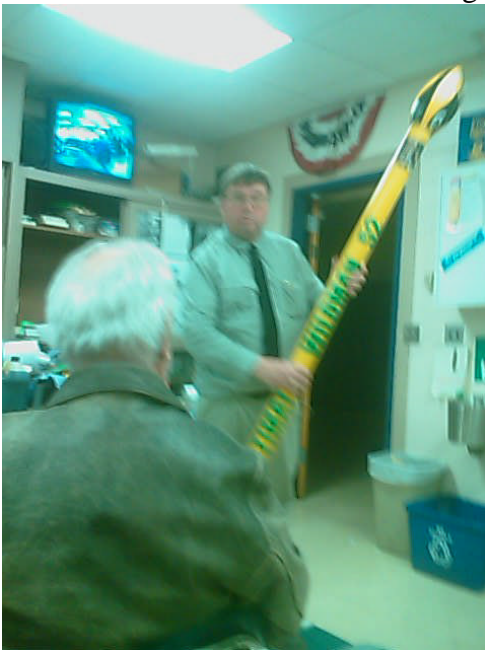
Submitted by Joe Ferris

Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President
 Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President
 Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer
 Joe Ferris, KC9TQR - Secretary
 Tom Heyboer, KC8TH
 Skip Caswell, KE9L
 Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK

Terry Moriarity, K9TRY
 David Thomas, KG9Y
 Bill Grabowski, KD8VTT
 Debbie Grabowski, KD8VTS
 Sam Holmes, N8ATS
 Michael Boileau, W9MB
 Nathan Boileau, N9NBN
 Barry Perron, KC9NFT
 Gary Schafer, K4FMX
 Steve Hebert, KD8WAK
 Scott Dolatowski KC9ZBC (and son, Shelby)
 Steve Johnson, KC8RYY
 Jim Rye, W8IFI
 Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ

From the "Class" on Rockets at Kingsford H.S.:



Directional Finder



Direction finder Antenna info:

Arrpw II Model 440-3 Handheld Portable 3 element yagi beam.

See:

www.arrow.antennas.com

telephone: 307-222-4732

Thank you to Bill Bertoldi, Kingsford H.S. who sponsors the Rocket activities for the students.

Of Interest was the beacon and tracking system employed.



Photo's from student activities with the Rocket Development and Technology.
Example on right of launching person.

ARRL MICHIGAN SECTION NEWS

Weavers World:

April, 2014

+++ Interested in Becoming an ARRL Employee? +++

ARRL is looking for two good people to fill staff openings. Summaries of these openings follow:

ARRL Seeks Candidates for Contest Branch Manager: The ARRL is seeking candidates for the position of Contest Branch Manager. This individual will be responsible for all aspects of ARRL's contest program. Applicants should have at least 5 years of experience in personnel, software, and process management in a non-profit environment and as an active Amateur Radio contesting participant. A bachelor's degree is preferred. Details are on the ARRL website.

ARRL Seeks Principal Software Engineer: The ARRL is seeking an experienced software engineer who can work independently, as part of a small development team and with contractor teams, to design and develop database applications and interfaces to external services and systems. The position will be the primary software engineer for the Logbook of The World (LoTW) system. Candidates must possess strong C++ programming skills on Linux/Unix platforms, as well as experience in all phases of project management, from architecture to production system release.

For more information and for instructions on completing and submitting an application, visit the ARRL Employment Opportunities web page at <http://www.arrl.org/employment-opportunities>.

+++ Dale's Tales for April, 2014 +++

Greetings all.

Is your club a Special Service Club (SSC)? Many are, and this ARRL Program exists to recognize those clubs that take the extra effort to serve their local communities, both ham radio communities and the more conventional communities in which we live.

Some of the service to ham radio can include training classes, active publicity/public relations programs and special operating activities, like Field Day and State QSO Parties.

Local community service projects can include emergency preparedness efforts, Halloween patrols, and parade controls. True, it means more effort on the part of your club, but activity is what you want, isn't it? Being an SCC will further drive the effort for your club to stay active.

Take a look at the options available and really give a serious consideration to becoming an SSC. If your club is already recognized as an ARRL SSC, you too can take a look at this ARRL Club Primer and use it as a refresher:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/Active%20Club%20Online%20Primer.pdf>

We need strong radio clubs. Clubs provide the social contacts, information and resources for problem solving, troubleshooting, entertainment, training, activity sponsorship...the list goes on. It all takes effort and you get out what you put into it. Participation is the key, it is up to each of us to help our clubs grow. Let's make it happen!

73, see you on the bands.

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Vice Director, Great Lakes Division

wa8efk@arrl.org

+++ The Centennial on-air Celebration +++

To earn the "Worked all States with W1AW Award," work W1AW operating portable from all 50 states. (Working W1AW or W100AW in Connecticut does not count for Connecticut, in this particularly award. For award credit, participants must work W1AW/1 in Connecticut.) A W1AW WAS certificate and plaque will be available (pricing not yet available).

The ARRL has posted an ARRL Centennial QSO Party leader board that participants can use to determine how many points they have accumulated in the Centennial QSO Party and in the W1AW WAS operations. Log in using your Logbook of The World (LoTW) user name and password, and your position will appear at the top of the leader boards. Results are updated daily, based on contacts entered into LoTW.

(From The ARRL Letter.)

+++ Ham Receives Fine for QRMing +++

As evidence that the FCC does not fool around when it enforces its rules, the Commission notified an Oklahoma amateur he has set a fine of \$12,000. The Notice of Apparent Liability was issued to Orloff Haines, KF5IXX for intentional, long-term jamming of CB channel 19. The Notice was \$7,000 higher than one previously stated. The increase in fine came after Haines apparently ignored two earlier warning letters sent by the Dallas Field Office.

+++ Win a new Station at the ARRL Centennial Convention +++

The ARRL has announced a "Centennial Station Giveaway" as part of its National Centennial Convention in Hartford, Connecticut, July 17-19, 2014. Sponsored by the ARRL and R&L Electronics, the first-prize winner will receive a Grand Prize voucher worth up to \$5000 of equipment -- radio, antenna, and accessories -- redeemable for products sold by R&L Electronics. A second-prize winner will receive a \$2500 prize voucher for products sold by FlexRadio Systems, also co-sponsored by ARRL.

All paid convention registrants will be entered in the prize drawings (door prizes). Winners will be drawn from among eligible registrants at the end of the convention on Saturday, July 19, 2014. The winner does not need to be present during the drawings.

Three-day convention tickets are \$75 and include an all-day training workshop and lunch on Thursday. Two-day tickets are \$25 (\$30 at the door), good for admission on Friday and Saturday. Everyone who attends the convention must register.

(From The ARRL Letter)

+++ Ramblings +++

What is the ARRL OO corps and what does it do?

ARRL's Official Observer (OO) corps may be one of the more misunderstood functions sponsored by the League. Although I suspect that most amateurs have an idea of what the corps is and how it operates, many others appear to have absolutely no concept of what it is and does.

I remember a few years ago when a ham in Cincinnati received an OO card that simply pointed out he had been operating on a local repeater for very extended periods of time without IDing every 10 minutes as the FCC requires. The ham launched into a weeks-long rampage about how the ARRL police were out to take his license from him! No one could convince him this was not the case. As incorrect as this misconception was, it unfortunately is understandable when one considers that many people still have the

totally wrong idea that ARRL tells FCC what to do -- which rules and regulations to adopt and enforce, and which ones to change.

Let me make a flat statement. ARRL is not now and has never had regulatory powers. A follow up to this statement is that ARRL does not want regulatory power. Consequently, the ARRL corps of OOs can do no more than to call attention to an operator that he -- or she -- has deviated from the rules and regulations established by FCC and to report continued violations to the Commission for possible follow-up. This is all done in the tradition of "self policing" for which Amateur Radio is famous. Self policing is important to each of us because it goes a long way toward keeping our bands open and usable for each of us to enjoy.

In the tradition of self policing, an OO report will advise an operator that he has violated an FCC rule. Provided the violator wants to follow the rules, he will avoid repeating the violation and will voluntarily return to complying with them. This return to compliance may be the result of simply wanting to be a law-abiding operator, or wanting to avoid being embarrassed before a group of friends, or wanting to avoid FCC punishment that could result from continuing the violation, or for some other personal reason.

The OO corps is part of the ARRL Field Organization. It is coordinated through ARRL HQ and is managed through the Section Manager and an assistant (an Official Observer Coordinator), and a group of OOs in the Section -- all volunteers.

An OO basically listens to the amateur bands to see if FCC rules and regulations are being observed, and if good operating practices are employed. As suggested, above, an OO notice can be sent to operators who violate these rules or who use poor operating procedures. An OO may also give atta-boys to operators whose operations are particularly good. For operators who persist in violating rules and good practices, OOs may document the actions and submit a report to ARRL HQ. Truly persistent violations may result in multiple reports being submitted to HQ and on to the FCC.

When/if sufficient documentation of continued violations is received at HQ, the reports are compiled and submitted to the FCC for review and possible action.

The FCC has a range of responses it can take regarding errant operators. The first of these likely actions is to notify the operator it has received reports that he was heard violating Commission rules, to ask the operator for any reply to the alleged violations and to list any steps he plans to take to avoid continuing any further violations.

Follow-up responses FCC may take include monitoring by an FCC engineer and, if considered appropriate, fining the operator and withdrawing his license. Fines levied can be in the tens of thousands of dollars for especially flagrant violations.

FCC may enlist the continued support of the OO corps in obtaining continuing information about a violator. Surveillance by OOs is done as a member of the FCC's Amateur Auxiliary.

What I do not understand is why anyone who took the time and effort to obtain an Amateur Radio license, and went to the expense of assembling an Amateur Radio station would intentionally act like a "jerk" and intentionally violate the simple and useful rules that guide operating on the ham bands. Some people must get their jollies from doing this, but it doesn't make sense to me.

73, Jim

+++ Tom Delaney, W8WTD Named Special Assistant to Director +++

Tom Delaney, W8WTD has been appointed Special Assistant to the Director for the Great Lakes Division. Tom is a long-time ARRL member. He is well known in Southwest Ohio-Northern Kentucky amateur circles as a long time major contributor to Amateur Radio support given the Red Cross the Queen City Emergency Net (QCEN). Tom is serving the Division as an Ambassador without specific Portfolio at this time.

Please join me in welcoming Tom to the Division Cabinet.

+++ Tentative Travel and Hamfest Schedule +++

Apr 5 - Lincoln Trail ARC's Hamfest, Elizabethtown, KY - KY4Z Apr 5 - Portsmouth Radio Club, Portsmouth, OH - N8SY Apr 12 - Cuyahoga Falls ARC 60th Annual Hamfest, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Ohio Cabinet Apr 12 - Letcher Co. KY ARC Hamfest, Whitesburg, KY - KY4Z Apr 13 - Milford Swap, Highland, MI -- QSL Checking -- WB8R Apr 26 - Jackson Co. ARC Hamfest, Jackson, OH - N8SY Apr 26 - **Hamfest Swap, Chassell, MI Apr 27** - Athens Hamfest, Athens, OH - N8SY May 3 - Cadillac Amateur Radio & Computer Swap, Cadillac, MI -- WB8R May 10 - Big Sandy AR Hamfest, Louisa, KY - KY4Z May 16-18 - Dayton Hamvention(R), Trotwood, OH -- QSL Checking -- K8JE, WA8EFK, etc. Jun 1 - Chelsea Radio Swap 'n Shop, Chelsea, MI - WB8R Jun 7 - Princeton Kentucky Hamfest, Princeton KY - KY4Z Jun 7 - Fulton Co. RC Hamfest, Tedrow, OH - Ohio Cabinet Jun 7 - Luce ARS Hamfest, Newberry, MI - WB8R Jun 7 - IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI - WB8R Jun 15 - Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI -- WA8EFK, WB8R Jun 21 - West Michigan Youth Club Hamfest, Lowell, MI -- WA8EFK, WB8R Jun 21 - Milford Hamfest, Milford, OH - K8JE, N8SY Jul 12 - 20/9 RC Tailgate and Hamfest, Austintown, OH Jul 17-19 - ARRL Centennial National Convention, Hartford, CT -- K8JE, WA8EFK Jul 20 - Van Wert Hamfest, Van Wert, OH -- Ohio Cabinet Jul 20 - PSC Meeting, Newington, CT -- K8JE Jul 21-22 - ARRL Board of Directors, Newington, CT -- K8JE, WA8EFK Jul 26 - 2014 CMARC Outdoor Hamfest, Lansing, MI -- WB8R Jul 27 - Portage HAMFAIR '14 - Randolph, OH -- WA8EFK, Ohio Cabinet Jun 14 - Midland Hamfest, Midland, MI Aug 2 - **UP Hamfest, Delta County ARS, Escanaba MI Aug 2** - Ohio Section Conference & Columbus Hamfest, Columbus, OH -- QSL Checking Aug 10 - Central Kentucky ARRL Hamfest, Lawrenceburg, KY -- QSL Checking -- KY4Z Aug 17 - Warren Hamfest, Cortland, OH -- QSL Checking Sep 6 - Greater Louisville Hamfest, Shepherdsville, KY -- KY4Z -- QSL Checking Sep 13 - Richmond Hamfest, Richmond, KY - KY4Z Sep 28 - Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show, Cleveland, OH -- QSL Checking -- N8SY Oct 4 - 'Vette City Hamfest, Bowling Green, KY -- QSL Checking -- WA8EFK, KY4Z Oct 5 - Conneaut ARC Hamfest, Conneaut, OH Oct 18 - Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest, Muskegon, MI - WB8R Nov 2 - Massillon ARC Hamfest, Massillon, OH -- QSL Checking - N8SY

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 Director, Great Lakes Division
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 Mason, OH 45040
 Tel. 513-459-1661; e-mail K8JE@arrl.org
 ARRL: The reason Amateur Radio Is
 Members: The reason ARRL is

[Michigan Section News](#)

In anticipation of what promises to be an unusual spring with the tremendous amount of ice cover on the great lakes, our thoughts need to turn to the convective weather season. Now is the time to get your spotter training refreshed and to check your jump kits for fresh batteries and to make sure all is in order for what may be a tumultuous season. One weather extreme seems to foster another extreme and it is our job to be prepared.

PRB-1 Update

All is currently quiet on the PRB-1 front as we are waiting on Michigan Senator Nofs office to set up a meeting between the various factions that will be working with us to find a reasonable compromise solution to the issue of PRB-1. Please watch for more information as soon as it develops.

Digital Presentation Team

As a reminder, we now have a team of Michigan hams who have worked together to provide information and instruction concerning digital HF soundcard mode operation. This group has prepared a common

presentation and has volunteered to be available for presentations at club meetings, hamfests or other gatherings where hams have an interest in learning how to get on the air via HF digital.

HF Digital is rapidly becoming the de facto standard for EmComm record communications and we need to be capable of providing it.

The booking for meetings and workshops has already begun and as dates, places and times firm up, they will be published here. Feel free to contact one of the team members closest to you to discuss setting up a presentation for your group.

The team members are:

John Clements, KC9ON Gaylord, MI kc9on@arrl.net, Stephen Smith, WA8LMF, Haslett, MI wa8lmf@aol.com, Joe Miller, KJ8O, Troy, MI kj8o@arrl.net, Brian Johnston, W8TFI, Warren, MI w8tfi@arrl.net, John Mathieson, AC8JW, Kalamazoo, MI ac8jw@arrl.net

Please understand that these gentlemen are volunteers who operate on their personal funds for travel. There is a chance that their availability may not mesh with your needs. Our team will do their best to provide your group with quality information on a reasonable schedule.

ARRL Centennial QSO Party

Michigan recently completed the first leg of our on the air activity as W1AW/8 with a resounding QSO total of 27,138! Not the largest total so far, but far from the least.

The hams of Michigan, true to our traditions, rose to the occasion and did very well to represent our section. Special appreciation goes to Randy, AA8R who coordinated the event and thanks to the nearly 50 operators who made it happen.

This fall the K8CC group will be at the helm, working out of their excellent contest station in Ypsilanti.

Complete information concerning the ARRL Centennial Celebration is available on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org.

ARRL National Centennial Convention

The 2014 ARRL National Convention will be held in Hartford, CT, the home of the ARRL on July 17 – 19, 2014. Tell your boss that you need that week off work and make your plans now! Hotels are taking reservations now and they will be going fast.

Complete information is available on the ARRL website.

Foundation for Amateur Radio Scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) has scholarships available for qualified students who hold an amateur radio license. These scholarships must be applied for prior to April 30, 2014. You can find complete information at:

<http://www.farweb.org/2014-scholarship-information>.

WB8RCR Recently Honored

Our own Section Emergency Coordinator/Section Traffic Manager John McDonough, WB8RCR was recently honored by the Midland ARC and was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his long and dedicated service to Amateur Radio and for exemplifying the spirit of Amateur Radio.

John is a tireless proponent of emergency preparedness and has done much to put amateur radio firmly in the forefront of volunteer emergency preparedness in Michigan.

<http://w8kea.org/images/newsletters/Mar%202014.pdf>

Michigan QSO Party

The annual Michigan QSO Party is scheduled for **April 19, 2014** and runs from noon to midnight local time. Clubs and individual hams alike, make your plans now to get on the air and enjoy this great event.

Work as much or as little as you like, but get on the air! Don't forget to send in your contest log, no matter how many or how few contacts are made. This is a great activity to use as a stepping stone to some of the bigger contests and will certainly whet your contest appetite. For more information, here is a link to the rules for the 2014 event:

<http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm> .

Note to Hamfest Coordinators and Committees:

Making arrangements for a QSL Card Checker to attend your swap makes attendance more valuable to your attendees. Michigan has 5 certified card checkers (80 meters and up) who may be able to attend your swap to provide that service for the hams of your area. You can obtain a list of MI card checkers here: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-cardchecker-search>.

Contact the one closest to your swap and see if they are willing and available. Be sure to let me know when you have a checker scheduled so that I can help publicize it for you. This column is published on or about the 15th of each month, so be sure to give me time in which to work.

The Kalamazoo Hamfest (October, 2014) has already made arrangements for a card checker to be present at their swap. Thanks, folks!

Michigan Section Traffic/ARPSC Nets (All times Local)

MACS - MI Amateur Communications System 3.952 1000 Daily
UPN – Upper Peninsula Net 3.921 1700 Daily; Noon Sunday
MIARPSC – MI Amateur Radio Public Service Corps 3.932 1700 Sunday
QMN – The Michigan Net 3.563 1830 and 2200 Daily
MITN – MI Traffic Net 3.952 1900 Daily
MIDTN – MI Digital Traffic Net 3.583 (Olivia 8/500) in waterfall 2000 Tues, Thurs, Sat
GLETN – Great Lakes Emergency and Traffic Net 3.932 2000 Daily
MVTN – MI VHF Traffic Net IRA Link System 2100 Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun
NLEUP - Northern Lower Eastern UP Net 146.64- 18:30 Daily
SEMTN – SE MI Traffic Net 146.76- 2215 Daily
TMMTN – Thumb Mid Michigan Traffic Net 147.30+ 2130 Mon - Sat

More information is available at <http://nts-mi.org/>. Come join us on our traffic and public service nets.

Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC) Activities

Station Activity Reports (SAR) for February, 2014: K8ED 588, K8RDN 430, WB9JSR 277, KB8RCR 233, N8FVM 198, WB8TQZ 177, KD8ULU 127, KD8AAD 109, WD8USA 91, WB8RCR 87, KC8BW 54, N8OSL 25, W8MSK 19, WB8H 16, WB8R 15, N8UN 6, KC8YVF 4, KD8LSM 3, KC8QWH 1.

Total SAR reported: 2460

Brass Pounder's League (BPL) for February, 2014: K8ED 588.

Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) for February, 2014: N8OSL 306, WB8RCR 300, WB8R 210, K8RDN 200, KC8YVF 185, N8FVM 160, WD8USA 120, WB8TQZ 100, WB9JSR 100, KB8RCR 100, KC8QWH 92, KC8BW 90, W8TBC 85, K8ED 80, KD8ULU 51, KD8AAD 51, WB8H 44, KD8HPG 26, KDLSM 20.

Net traffic for February, 2014:

Michigan Amateur Communications System 248, Michigan Traffic Net 238, Michigan VHF Traffic Net 176, The Michigan Net 151, Southeastern Michigan Traffic Net 130, Michigan Digital Traffic Net 50, Upper Peninsula Net 45, Great Lakes Emergency and Traffic Net 27, Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps 5, District 3 ARPSC Net 3, Saginaw County ARES Net 3, Red Cross Net of Greater Grand Rapids 2, Bay Area Regional Traffic System 1, Branch County Digital Net 1, District 5 Hospital Net 0, Branch County Emergency Net 0, Genesee County ARPSC Traffic and Training Net 0, District 3 Digital Training net 0, Chelsea ARC Net 0. Total net traffic reported: 1080

Total value of ARES activity for February, 2014: \$46,086

Total value of NTS activity for February, 2014: \$54,845

Total value of Michigan Public Service for February, 2014: \$100,931

Parting Comments

If you are reporting monthly to our SEC/STM WB8RCR, you can see your PSHR eligibility status at <http://www.nts-mi.org/>.

The full details are at: <http://www.arrrl.org/public-service-honor-roll>.

This award recognizes the efforts of hams that are active in public service. Those reporting accumulate points for checking into nets, volunteering, holding Section appointment(s) and handling message traffic.

EC's can see their FSD212 reports here: http://ares-mi.org/ec_his.php.

If you send your report to WB8RCR and don't see it noted there, send a note to John to tell him your report has gone missing.

EC's: Be sure to share your FSD 212 with your District EC, your ARES/RACES members and with your county's Emergency Manager and others in your jurisdiction who need to know what you and your ARES/RACES group are contributing to your community each month.

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the people of the State of Michigan and for filing your monthly reports. It really shows how active Michigan is in holding a leadership position for ham radio public service activities.

73 until next month,

Larry, WB8R

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager: Larry Camp, WB8R

wb8r@arrrl.org

Reflections:

Like many of you, my brother in Maine and I share jokes and various stories through e-mail. A lot of these jokes have been forwarded from friends of his and there is some repetition over the years. One that I received yesterday is about 1957. I was a nostalgic look at the way things were during the “Happy Days” of our country. This e-mail triggered a walk down Memory Lane for me in relation to ham radio. I’m sure that, one time or another, we all think about how we got started in this great hobby.

I can remember back in 1958 going to Johnny Joe’s house to listen to foreign broadcast on his brand new Ocean Hopper. What a difference in selectivity from our family console radio! It actually was 50 pounds lighter and could be held in one hand!

Not long after that, I took a Boy Scout merit badge class for electronics at W9ATG’s house in Greenfield, Indiana. We were mesmerized by the pulsating blue glow of the 866-A rectifiers in the power supply for the linear amplifier in his 6 foot rack. He would turn off the basement lights and what a show! He drove this amp with a Viking Ranger. His receiver was a brand new RME-6900. Talk about vintage gear! I was bitten by the radio bug right then and there. I guess that’s where I got my love for high power operation! After I got my novice in early 1959, my first commercial rig was a Viking Valiant with those 866 mercury vapor tubes. I used to stay up all night operating on 40 meter CW. (I’m still a night owl and operate in contests and Field Day through the wee hours.) I’d turn out all of the lights in the bedroom and log contacts by the glow of those tubes.

So, my first “Elmer” was Phil Macey (W9ATG). After his death, in 1966, the Hancock County ARC got his call for their club station. I talked to the president of the club during a contest a few years ago and took time out of the contest to discuss club activities and share our common interests. It was a very enjoyable QSO.

My last “Elmer” was Harold Shoquist, W8CON, who got me back into radio after an eight year absence because of college and other interests. In 1969 Harold loaned me an old Knight transmitter and receiver and I was bitten again. Harold was an Elmer to many of the local hams and was always available to help with any problems that you would have with antennas or radio gear. After his death, I was surprised that we didn’t apply for a W8CON club call. It would have gone quite well with our club name Mich-A-**Con** ARC.

Well, that’s my nostalgic trip back to the halcyon days. I hope that many of you younger guys have, at sometime in the future, the same opportunity to reflect on your first experiences in ham radio.

73, Tom Martin, W8JWN President

News

What Do Ham Radio Operators Do in Emergencies?

Depending on the nature of the emergency, hams volunteer to perform a number of functions:

- They "shadow" government and agency officials. Shadows ride "shotgun" in officials' vehicles, follow them on foot and keep them in touch, typically via VHF/UHF repeater systems.
- They set up and operate base stations at shelters, command posts, emergency operations centers, agency headquarters, hospitals, and the like, providing communications among the various agencies and their officials out in the field (who are being shadowed by a ham).
- They operate in local, regional, and national *traffic nets* which move information in the form of "radiograms" into and out of disaster areas.
- Besides voice communications, they use digital communications to move data about victims, supplies, etc. accurately by radio; use Amateur TV to provide live video imagery to aid in damage assessment and recovery; and save the world from alien invaders with the Morse Code (just kidding).
- They remain flexible and adapt to changing circumstances as needed, always carrying a large "bag of tricks" (jump bag).

Hams have been providing these types of services to the public since 1913. Emergency communications is the first of the founding tenets of the Amateur Radio Service as codified in the FCC rules ([part 97, title 47 of the US Code of Federal Regulations](#)).

What are ARES and RACES?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) both have very similar goals: to protect life and property during an emergency. Membership in the ARRL or any other organization is not required for either, just a valid Amateur Radio license (Technician or higher for RACES).

ARES and RACES could be organized as essentially one group of people. There are technical and legal differences between the two services, as outlined below. Following is a brief description of ARES and RACES. For more detailed information, see the [ARRL Public Service Communications Manual \(PSCM\)](#).

Participation in ARES and RACES is voluntary and you may quit at any time. You must be pre-enrolled in RACES in order to participate in RACES activities. While it makes sense to join ARES before you are needed, there is nothing to prevent you from offering your services at any time to aid in an ARES emergency response. Joint membership in both ARES and RACES is encouraged.

ARES - The Amateur Radio Emergency Service

The American Radio Relay League administers ARES (although you do not have to be a League member to participate). Any member can activate the ARES group. ARES provides [emergency radio communications](#) to a number of client groups, including local government, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and others.

RACES - The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

[The Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) can provide matching funds to support a local or state government's use of RACES (which is authorized by part 97 of the [FCC Rules](#)).

However, RACES is a local or state government service -- there is no Federal RACES. Only the RACES Radio Officer of a local government civil preparedness agency can activate RACES in times of emergency. During times of war (when the President invokes War Emergency Powers), normal Amateur Radio Service operation is silenced and RACES stations are limited to a pre-defined set of operating frequencies that are within the normal Amateur bands.[See page 10 of the [PSCM](#)] RACES may also be used for non-wartime emergencies which can include natural or technological disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, chemical spills, and nuclear power plant accidents.

During all times that Amateur stations are operating under RACES rules, they may only communicate with other RACES stations, and only for the purpose of conveying official civil-preparedness emergency communications.

Fox Hunting

Shared from Jim K8ABS:

The Lakeland Area Amateur Radio Club is having their annual Picnic this weekend (March 14)at Lake Parker. Supposed to have a Two Meter?? Fox Hunt going on as part of the activities. Hope to get there and take some pictures of their Fox Hunt Set Up and equipment used.

I went to their March Meeting last week with W9IPR who is from the Milwaukee Area and lives in the Early Bird Campground where I am on the Sun N Fun Campus.

One of their members showed us pictures and the equipment he uses for working stations via Amsat! Then he took us outside about 8:15 PM and actually contacted about 5 stations via the Satellite going over the Florida area at the time. He was using a 5 watt battery powered transmitter and receiver with an "Arrow" hand held antenna. It's called Arrow as it uses arrow shafts as the elements that screw into a center shaft four or five feet long and 90 degrees apart

forming an X shape with the elements. Probably had 8 x shaped elements on it. Stations worked were in Texas and Arizona, New Mexico and one in Cuba. Sure whetted the appetite for getting set up to do that myself. It sure makes you wonder why we have high towers with huge antenna arrays, and high power transmitters, when you can work DX stations with an antenna you can hold in your hand!

And work DX anywhere in the world with a rig and antenna in a small pack in your vehicle. Just need to know when the Satellites are due over the area you are in at the time. Which is readily available from Amsat!

The group of Hams here on the Sun N Fun Campus will be running a Special Event Station during the Sun N Fun Expo April 1st thru 6th on 20 meters

SSB, CW??, Digital?? Will let you know what Frequency and more details about what we should be on ASAP. QSL cards will be sent out to all contacts.

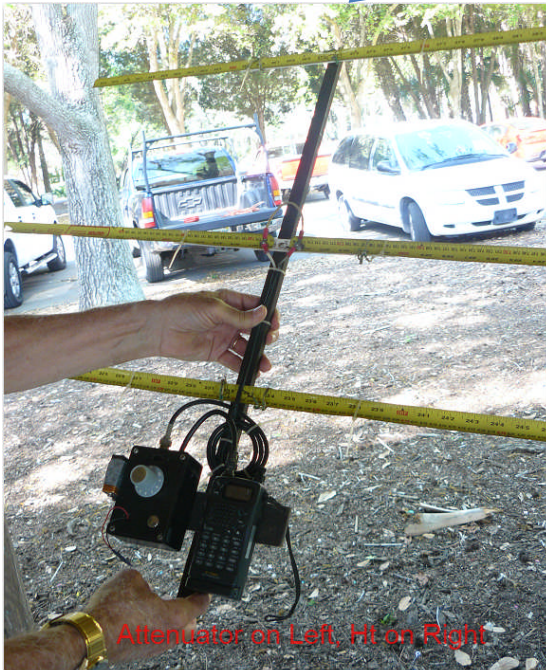


coax connections at the driven element of the antenna, other end connects to the HT antenna connector

APRIL

M I C

shows another antenna with an HT mounted on it and a device they call an Attenuator on the other side of the boom. It gives you much more sensitivity to the DF'ing when close in to the fox. It can tell if it is hidden in the front or back seat of a car while next to the car. While it is called an attenuator, it is actually a local oscillator that beats with the fox signal and puts out a weaker signal 4 Mhz above its frequency. This weaker signal restores directional capability to the HT and antenna for finding exactly where the fox is. One of their members is supposed to e-mail me information on how to build up the "Attenuator" unit, but I do not have that as yet.



.The fox (in above photograph) Its about the size and shape of a plastic tooth brush holder. It's on 2 meters, and can be started remotely. It runs in cycles with CW Identification and dashes that stay on about a minute every 5? minutes or so.

I participated in a fox hunt while there, and we did find the local area where the fox was. could not pinpoint it, using the antenna with just the HT attached. We walked back and forth across the area it was in. but could not find it. Even taking the antenna feed off the HT and just using the HT without the antenna could not pin point it.

So, finally gave up, and found we had almost stepped on it, and were standing about three feet from it. It was in the grass just a few feet from where we gave up, but could not be seen. I was later showed how the antenna with the HT and Atenuator mounted on it could pin point where it was. Impressive!

The fox Lakeland Club is using is a **"BYONICS Micro Fox 15 wirh V4 Antenna & USB Programming Cable.**

A frequency agile transmitter for Hidden transmitter hunting. More information at:

<http://www.byonics.com/mf>

This is an operating transmitter that just needs to be programmed to the freq you want to oerate on and a CW ID that you desire.

..... 73 de JIM K8ABS

Field Day Antenna
by Scott KA8tFF

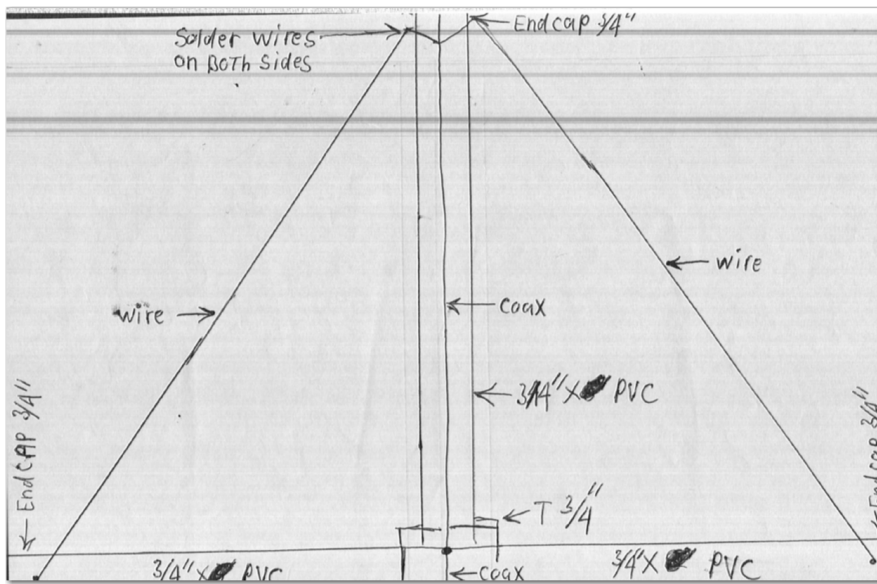
Field DAY Antenna

This Antenna can be found IN QST January 1978 pg. 40. I Made a few changes to Make it easier to Make. you will Need The Following parts:

- 3) Pieces of 3/4" PVC pipe 10" Long either Thin or Thick wall
- 1) 3/4" PVC T
- 3) 3/4" End caps
- 1) PL-259 connector
- 1) U Bolt
- Coax and antenna wire

For 10 Meters: The PVC is approximately 5 3/4' Long / For 15 Meters: The PVC is approximately 7 3/4' OR JUST Leave The PVC at 10' Length and Make a Big one.

Start By Drilling a hole in The Bottom of The T For RG 8X or equivalent. Then Measure in 1" on one end of The 3 PVC Pipes Drill a hole to be Used For The wire size That is going to Used. The Coax is going to Run Through The T and up Through The single PVC Pipe to where The wire is soldered. To Mount The Antenna Find The Balance point and drill your holes for your U Bolt and attach to Mast and start to operate Field Day! after Field Day you Have a Horizontal Rotatable antenna for working DX, Good Luck! KA8tFF SCOTT



CLASSIFIED

Help Wanted:

Gene Meyers, 7741256, owner of GM Communications (Motorola). in Iron Mountain called me this morning.

He is looking for a **full time and part time equipment installer** & wanted to know if I knew of anyone looking for a job. He asked me to put the word out, he would prefer someone with two way radio experience. He will be advertising in the paper shortly.

Ride Wanted to Swap/ Hamfest

Contact: Herb (KD9SY) 715-324-5325
Will share expenses

For Sale

- Radio, 10M Mobile Rig
For more details
Contact: Herb (KD9SY) 715-324-5325

For Sale

RIGblaster rig to sound card interface. Get on all of the popular modes: PSK31, RTTY, JT65, etc. Wired for a Yaesu radio but can be changed, via internal jumpers, for any radio. Cables included. \$30

Timewave Technology PK232 mbx Multi Mode Controller for Packet, CW, RTTY, etc. Used very little. Recent factory upgrade. Manual and all cables. \$90

Alinco DR-140 2 meter mobile transceiver, audio cable wired for packet, if using the PK-232 listed above.\$45

Both for \$130

Contact: Tom Martin, W8JWN

UP Hamfest Information

Hamfest and Swap	Saturday, April 26, 2014 0900 – 1500 hrs
Location:	Chassell VFW Post 6507 42103 Wilson Memorial Dr. Chassell, MI
Admission:	\$2.00 12 and younger are "Free" Tables: \$10.00
Talk-in Freq:	146.880 PI-tone 100
Sponsor:	CCRAA & KCRA
POC:	Howard Klann (KD8ABP), 906-337-0234 ccraaclub@gmail.com
Door Prizes	Dealers/Vendors set-up: 0800 hrs

Hamfest 2014	Saturday, August 2, 2014 0900 – 1400 hrs (EDST)
Location:	Bay de Noc Community College 2001 N. Lincoln Rd. Escanaba, MI 49829 Coordinates: N45 46.226 W087 05.087
Admission:	N/A First table free. Each additional table: \$5.
Talk-in Freq:	147.150 (+600 / 100 PL)
Setup:	Friday: 1800 – 2100 hrs Saturday: 0700 – 0900 hrs
Events:	U.P. Net Meeting QCWA Chapter 219 Meeting UP Amateur Radio Repeater Association (UPARRA) UP ARES Meeting Vendors & Swap Food

LINKS:

<p>ARRL WEB PAGE: http://www.arrl.org</p> <p>ARRL MICHIGAN: http://www.arrl-mi.org/</p> <p>US REPEATERS: http://www.usrepeaters.com</p> <p>MICH-A-CON : http://www.0sl.net/kalddb</p> <p>Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts: http://www.d/infocentre.com/tropo.html</p>	<p>FCC Universal Licensing System: http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/</p> <p>QTH.COM: http://www.uth.com/</p> <p>QRZ.COM: http://www.urz.com/</p> <p>Ehamnet.com: http://www.eham.net/</p> <p>U.P. Skywarn: http://kcra-mi.net/skywarn/</p>
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Delta County Amateur Radio
Escanaba, MI
www.dcars.org

Cooper Country Radio Amateur
Dollar Bay, MI
www.ccraa.net

Keweenaw County Repeater Ass.
Hancock, MI
www.kcra-mi.net

**ARRL Affiliated Club
Area Nets**
UP Net 3921khz

Daily - 5pm EST
Sunday - Noon EST
UP CW NET 3590khz
Sunday - 7PM EST

Everynight 160 Net
1895 khz - Nightly
0100UTC

Midcars 7258khz
Daily 7:30am - 2pm ES

outhcars Node 9614
Saturday - 9am EST

UP Echolink Node 9617
Sunday - 8pm EST

Delta County ARES Net
Sunday - 7pm EST
147.150 MHz

Area Repeaters

Escanaba	147.15+	100.0
	145.13-	No PL
Wells	444.30+	No PL
Gladstone		
IRLP 4013	147.55 Smpx	100.0
Champion	146.82-	100.0
Cooks	146.70 -	110.9
GrdMarais	147.195+	No PL
Gwinn	146.64-	100.0
Iron Mtn	146.85 -	No PL
Iron River	145.17-	107.2
Ishpeming	146.91-	No PL
IRLP 8993	443.50+	100.0
Manistique	146.79 -	No PL
Marquette	146.97 -	No PL
	147.27+	100.0
	444.80+	No PL
Menominee	147.00+	107.2
Newberry	146.61+	No PL
	147.09+	114.8
Republic	147.09+	No PL
Trenary	147.03 +	100.0
Wetmore	145.41-	100.0

Wisconsin Repeaters

Abrams	146.835 -	107.2
Crivitz	145.47 -	107.2
Egg Harbor	146.73 -	107.2
McAllister	146.88 -	136.5
Green Bay	147.12 +	107.2
	147.27 +	107.2
	146.685 -	107.2
	145.49 -	100.0
Sister Bay	147.18 +	No PL
Sturgeon Bay	147.21 +	107.2

ABOUT OUR CLUB.....**Club Officers**

President:

Tom Martin, W8JWN

(906) 774-5463

tmartine@chartermi.net

Vice President

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF

sjarmusch@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Joe Ferris, KC9TQR

iferris@borderlandnet.net

Treasurer:

Burt Armbrust, WB8EB

(906) 774-8383

Wb8ebs@yahoo.com**Newsletter Editor:**

Tom Heyboer, KC8TH

(906) 779-0481

Heyboer.Tom@gmail.com**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

<http://www.osl.net/ka1ddb/>

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

Activities:

Second Wednesday of the month the Mich-ACon Amateur Radio Club meets in the Dickinson Country Library at 7:00 P.M.

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

3rd Saturday of every month, Saturday Morning Breakfast held on at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Kitchen restaurant on Stephenson Ave(US-2) in Iron Mountain .

Club Repeater:

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. The range of the 440 MHZ repeater is about 25 miles. Both are under normal conditions, depending upon terrain.

The Repeater Specifications:

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

Please remit dues to :

Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS
693 Cliff St
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

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: _____

Call signs: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Annual dues are Payable January 1st.

Dues for New Members are Pro-rated. Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership or \$.50 per month for a Family membership.