



# MICH-A-CON

Iron Mountain,  
Dickinson County, Mich

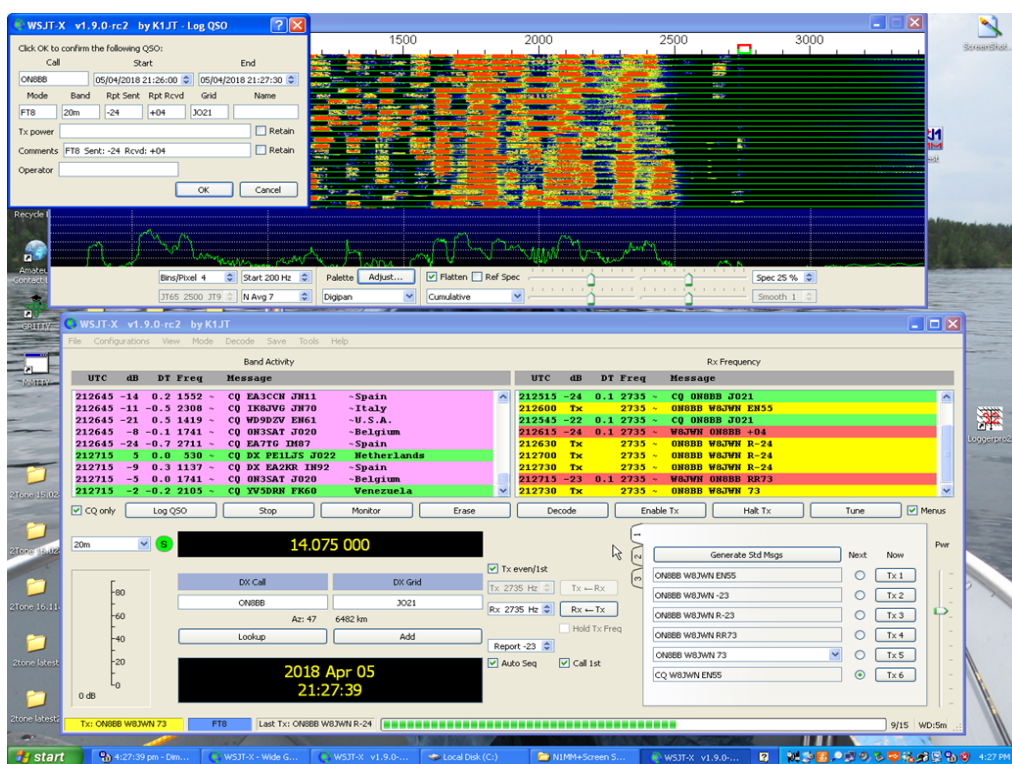
April 2018

## Meeting Reminder: Second Wednesday of the Month

Which is **April 11, 2018** at 07:00 PM at the Dickinson Library, Iron Mountain.

## From The President

Thank all of those who attended our club dinner. It was a nice turnout.



(Screenshot of WSJT-X v1.9.0-rc2 on W8JWN's computer screen)

Lots of signals on FT-8! I've been operating FT-8 for a few months now, and thanks to Dave, KG9Y, I'm starting to make more DX contacts. Dave's advice was to increase the power out from 20 watts to 40. Although FT-8, like JT-65 is a weak-signal mode, band conditions and the antenna come into play. I know that I would have worked more DX with my SteppIR at lower power.

FT-8 is faster than JT-65. It takes 15 seconds for a QSO. JT-65 was four times as long. I can't go upstairs for a cup of coffee and a doughnut like with JT-65. With Auto Sequence checked, all you do is click and wait for the connection. Then, after 73 is given, you log the contact. Below are some of the contacts made on 15, 20, and 40 meters in the past 10 days:

QSO: 21076 RY 2018-04-01 1842 W8JWN -  
08 LU8EKC -15 FT8 Sent: -08 Rcvd: -15

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QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-01 1917 W8JWN 06 FT8 Sent: -09 Rcvd: -06	-09 VY2JB	-	QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-04 1918 W8JWN -17 FT8 Sent: -14 Rcvd: -17	-14 WL7CG
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-01 1925 W8JWN 24 FT8 Sent: -07 Rcvd: -12	-07 IK6GPZ	-	QSO: 7076 RY 2018-04-05 0027 W8JWN -18 FT8 Sent: -14 Rcvd: -18	-14 CM2PBR
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-01 2006 W8JWN 12 FT8 Sent: -07 Rcvd: -12	-07 EA2XR	-	QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-05 1433 W8JWN -21 FT8 Sent: -12 Rcvd: -21	-12 GM4VGR
QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-01 2012 W8JWN -19 FT8 Sent: -16 Rcvd: -19	-16 HB9TQL	-	QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-05 1443 W8JWN -20 FT8 Sent: -13 Rcvd: -20	-13 OE3UKW
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-01 2017 W8JWN -17 FT8 Sent: -14 Rcvd: -17	-14 F4HMOV	-	QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-05 1452 W8JWN +07 FT8 Sent: -13 Rcvd: +07	-13 WP4AZT
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-01 2019 W8JWN 14 FT8 Sent: -24 Rcvd: -14	-24 Z37M	-	QSO: 14074 RY 2018-04-05 1607 W8JWN 12 FT8 Sent: -03 Rcvd: -12	-03 SP4TXI
QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-01 2037 W8JWN 04 FT8 Sent: -03 Rcvd: -04	-03 S51ZZ	-	QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-05 2109 W8JWN 18 FT8 Sent: -04 Rcvd: -18	-04 PE1LJS
QSO: 14077 RY 2018-04-01 2044 W8JWN 15 FT8 Sent: -16 Rcvd: -15	-16 HI8CSS	-	QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-05 2119 W8JWN -19 FT8 Sent: -15 Rcvd: -19	-15 IM0DTF
QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-01 2132 W8JWN -03 FT8 Sent: -02 Rcvd: -03	-02 EA9ACD	-	QSO: 14077 RY 2018-04-05 2126 W8JWN +04 FT8 Sent: -24 Rcvd: +04	-24 ON8BB
QSO: 21075 RY 2018-04-01 2152 W8JWN 12 FT8 Sent: -13 Rcvd: -12	-13 HK6JCF	-	QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-05 2203 W8JWN 11 FT8 Sent: -04 Rcvd: -11	-04 VE7BC
QSO: 21075 RY 2018-04-01 2200 W8JWN -04 FT8 Sent: -01 Rcvd: -04	-01 ZP6ARO	-	QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-06 1453 W8JWN -14 FT8 Sent: -09 Rcvd: -14	-09 VE1RSM
QSO: 21075 RY 2018-04-02 1450 W8JWN -10 FT8 Sent: -10 Rcvd: -10	-10 CE1OEB	-	QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-06 1542 W8JWN 09 FT8 Sent: -05 Rcvd: -09	-05 SP7AID
QSO: 21075 RY 2018-04-02 1452 W8JWN +00 FT8 Sent: -03 Rcvd: +00	-03 HI8DL	-	END-OF-LOG:	
QSO: 21076 RY 2018-04-02 1503 W8JWN -11 FT8 Sent: -15 Rcvd: -11	-15 LU8FAB	-	The higher the minus dB # the stronger the signal. I could have reduced power and still would have been copied in many cas- es.	
QSO: 14075 RY 2018-04-02 1522 W8JWN -10 FT8 Sent: -12 Rcvd: -10	-12 DL8ZBA	-	My logging program logged the contacts as RTTY (RY). It was changed to FT-8 after all contacts were entered.	
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-02 1528 W8JWN 04 FT8 Sent: -14 Rcvd: -04	-14 OK2AT	-		
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-03 1422 W8JWN -20 FT8 Sent: -07 Rcvd: -20	-07 MW3FLI	-	<b>Download WSJT at <a href="http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt-doc/wsjt-main-1.7.1-devel.html">http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt-doc/wsjt-main-1.7.1-devel.html</a>. and have fun with a new mode. This will keep me occupied until Bouvet Island comes on the air.</b>	
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-03 1429 W8JWN -16 FT8 Sent: -03 Rcvd: -16	-03 OM3LK	-	<b>See you all at the meeting!</b>	
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-03 1441 W8JWN -16 FT8 Sent: -12 Rcvd: -16	-12 OH6FTR	-	<b>73, Tom W8JWN</b>	
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-03 1507 W8JWN 20 FT8 Sent: -06 Rcvd: -20	-06 NP4RA	-	<a href="http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt-doc/wsjt-main-1.7.1-devel.html">http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt-doc/wsjt-main-1.7.1-devel.html</a>	
QSO: 10138 RY 2018-04-03 1639 W8JWN 06 FT8 Sent: -05 Rcvd: -06	-05 NS9I	-		
QSO: 14076 RY 2018-04-04 1503 W8JWN -13 FT8 Sent: -23 Rcvd: -13	-23 9A5CW	-		

## MICH-A-CON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES OF March 14th, 2018

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

**Secretary Report**

Minutes of the February 14th, 2018 meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report**

Balances as of March 14th, 2018:

Checking: \$111.01

Savings: 2950.67 (Repeater: \$1271.00)

Cash: \$23.00

**Repeater Report**

Bob Meyers reported that the two-meter unit locked up recently, possibly during digital use. The repeater power was cycled and normal operation resumed. The 440 unit remained in operation and is working normally.

**Old Business**

Tom Martin reported that the paperwork to change the licensee address for the club repeaters is now complete.

Dave Thomas noted that work on the club's old TS-440S is almost finished. A sale price of \$300 was agreed upon.

A count of planned attendance for the March 24th club dinner was taken.

**New Business**

Dave Thomas presented three Motorola repeater-type power supplies for sale at the meeting with proceeds going to the club.

Tim Miller reported that the local Civil Air Patrol chapter is looking for someone to help their students learn to use radio communications. Anybody that is interested should contact Ray Kaldor.

ARRL Field Day was discussed briefly. This year's event will be on June 23rd and 24th. Members were asked to think about how to get public site points. This year's location is not as accessible to the public as in previous years..

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.(Skip Caswell/Terry Moriarity)

The 50/50 drawing was won by Terry Moriarity. The club treasury was enriched by \$30.00.

**For the Good of the Order****Attendees**

Tom Martin	W8JWN	Skip Caswell	KE9L
Scott Jarmusch	KA8TFF	Dave Thomas	KG9Y
Joe Ferris	KC9TQR	Terry Moriarity	K9TRY
Debbie Grabowski	KD8VTS	Bob Meyers	WA8FXQ
Bill Grabowski	KD8VTT	Brian Lucas	KD9KKB
Gary Schafer	K4FMX	Janet Schafer	Visitor
Tim Miller	N8TUM	Joyce Williams	Visitor

## News

### Distracted Driving Alert

*This was forwarded to one of our members. Thank you George! - Ed.*

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018**

#### **DISTRACTED DRIVING ALERT**

Michigan State Police announced today they will be stepping up their enforcement of "Distracted Driving."

What does this mean?

It means ANYTHING YOU MAY BE DOING WHILE DRIVING OTHER THAN PAYING ATTENTION TO THE DRIVING IS CONSIDERED TO BE "DISTRACTED DRIVING."

A FEW ITEMS ARE LISTED HERE:

1. Eating while driving
2. Drinking while driving
3. **Holding the microphone to your ham rig in one hand**
4. Holding a cell phone and talking while driving
5. Talking to passengers in your vehicle while driving
6. Reading a map while driving
7. Texting
8. Adjusting the rear view mirror(s).
9. Looking for something in the glove compartment
1. wearing earphones of any kind
- 1 Making an autopatch call while driving
- 1 Listening to any device like an MP3 player
- 1 ANY OTHER item you may be doing while driving

I've brought just a few items to your attention, to prevent you from getting a summons.

Please pay attention to these, and since you are a radio HAM, this message is directed to you.

If you must communicate with someone while driving, pull over to the side of the road a safe distance from other drivers and do your calling, otherwise you could be asking for a ticket!

Hope this makes sense to you?

73,

George, W8FWG

Sponsored by the American Radio Relay League



# Hamfest 2018

The annual Chassell Hamfest  
Amateur Radio Swap - n - Shop

When: April 28, 2018

Where: The Chassell VFW Post 6507

42103 Wilson Memorial Dr, Chassell, MI (US 41)

Time: 9-12 a.m. (EDT)

(Those with tables can set up at 8am.)

Admission: \$3/person

Tables: \$10 (1 free admission included)

**A chance to win valuable Door Prizes with each admission  
ticket stub**

*Estate Items For Sale*

**Refreshments and food available**

Talk-in Frequency 146.880 w/PL tone of 100 hz

Table info contact Jeff W9GY 906-337-4158 [jeffw9gy@pasty.net](mailto:jeffw9gy@pasty.net)

Sponsored also by your **THREE LOCAL AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS:**

**BCRA, CCRAA, & KCRA**

## ARLB032 W1AW 2018 Spring Operating Schedule

ZCZC AG08  
 QST de W1AW  
 ARRL Bulletin 8 ARLB008  
 From ARRL Headquarters  
 Newington CT March 12, 2018  
 To all radio amateurs

### Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf	Tue, Thu

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM ET)  
 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET)

(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM ET))

### Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
2200 " (6 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
2300 " (7 PM ET)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 " (8 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
0100 " (9 PM ET)	DIGITAL	Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM ET)	VOICE	Daily
0200 " (10 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM ET)	CWb	Daily

### Frequencies (MHz)

-----  
 CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675  
 28.0675 50.350 147.555  
 DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095  
 50.350 147.555  
 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590  
 50.350 147.555

### Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM  
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM  
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, and CW/digital/phone bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The CW/digital/phone audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to [w1aw@arrl.org](mailto:w1aw@arrl.org).

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

on page 90 in the March 2018 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.  
NNNN

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found

## ARRL MICHIGAN SECTION NEWS

Greetings to ALL the Amateurs of Michigan,  
March 15:

I am hopeful this note is finding you well, and wherever you are, the spring thaw is beginning. I have had the opportunity to chat with many of you in person, or electronically, and as always, I am excited to hear from you. Please note that I'm not just interested in hearing about issues, but also your take on how we might be able to resolve them. And yes, although I encourage you all to consider becoming a member of the ARRL, I will still love to chat with you, even if you choose not to support the only active lobbying organization the hobby has. Amateur Radio needs your input to continue to thrive and grow in Michigan.

### Great Lakes HamCon

Almost immediately after the successful inaugural event, the Great Lakes HamCon team began planning the 2018 event. This year, the dates are October 7th and 8th. Many ham clubs have already volunteered to assist, and new for this year will be FREE amateur radio exams. Get you club involved in continuing to make this event even greater for 2018.

### Radio Interference

Reports around Michigan are suggesting that RF Interference is on the rise. For many older amateurs, this is a little like the reverse of the times when radio operators had to tip toe around causing issues to consumer devices.

Now, the consumer devices are generating much of the interference. I encourage you to take advantage of the section volunteers, however, please note that this isn't a magic fix.

Interference issues are in many cases difficult to track down, and even after the source(s) are located, there can be little action that can take place, outside of real diplomacy. If you've had success, or want to volunteer to join the section technical specialist team, feel free to reach out.

### DXCC Field Card Checkers

DXCC Field Card Checkers have come up in many conversations recently.

Director Williams has chosen to appoint an additional Field Card Checker to augment the great work being done by the existing volunteers. There have been some changes in what Field Card Checkers can process, please review the DXCC section at the ARRL website for details. Additionally, consider extending the same hospitality to these volunteers at your next swap or club meeting.

### No Crystal Ball

We have a great number of volunteer resources in our section, but to my knowledge none of us are members of the Physic Friends Network. If you don't let us know what's going on, it's not likely that we can "guess" effectively. Please consider dropping a detailed email or letter, passing conversations at a swap may get lost.

**Hospitality Acknowledgements**

Thanks to these organizations and clubs for their outstanding hospitality shown to the MI ARRL staff:

Feb 18, 2018 Livonia ARC Swap & Shop – (WA8EFK)

**Michigan ARRL Section Staff Travel Plans**

Mar 17, 2018 Crossroads Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI – K8JK

Apr 28, 2018 Chassell Hamfest, Chassell, MI – K8JK

Apr 29, 2018 GMARC 1st Annual Hamfest, Madison Hgts, MI – K8JK

May 5, 2018 Cadillac Hamfest, Cadillac, MI – K8JK

**Michigan Public Service Activities**

Michigan Section Traffic/ARPSC Nets (all times local)

Please note that time adjustments may be necessary due to propagation changes. Contact your net manager for alternate frequencies and/or times.

MACS - MI Amateur Communications System 3.952 1000 Daily

UPN – Upper Peninsula Net 3.921 1700 Daily; Noon Sun

MIARPSC – MI Amateur Radio Public Service Corps 3.932 1700 Sun

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) 2000 Tu, Th, Sat

MIADS – MI ARES D-Star Net Reflector 24A Mon 2000

D8EN - District 8 Emergency Net 3.909 Wed 2000

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

Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC) Activities for January 2018

**Station Activity Reports (SAR) for January 2018:**

WB8WKQ 203, K8ED 78, WB8TQZ 71, K8BKM 70, WD8MWD 46, WB8RCR 8

KC8NFN 4

Total SAR reported: 480

Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) for February 2018:

WB8RCR 293, WD8USA 255, N5MKY 170, WB8TQZ 110, WD8MWD 110, K8ED 90, WB8WKQ 90, KE8BYC 89, KC8YVF 79, KC8NFN 34

Brass Pounder's League

Brass Pounder's League (BPL): None

**Net traffic for February 2018:**

The Michigan Net 325

Michigan Traffic Net 181 Southeastern Michigan Traffic

Net 304 Michigan Amateur Communications System

172 Upper Peninsula Net 1007 Saginaw County ARES

Net 48 District 3 ARPSC Net 39 Red Cross Net of Greater

Grand Rapids 6 Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service

Corps 50 Michigan ARES D-Star net 107

Total net traffic reported: 1735

Total Volunteer Dollar Value for February 2018: \$ 28,828

More information is available at <http://nts-mi.org/>.

Come join us on our traffic and public service nets.

A hearty thanks to the hundreds of volunteers across the State of Michigan who work hard as volunteers to hone their skills month after month to make sure they are ready for any situation that may arise. Our ARPSC and NTS programs are an integral part of AuxComm, which in turn is an integral part of the Michigan State Police Homeland Security Division.

Final Thoughts

"... Silence Remains Inescapably, A Form Of Speech..."

Susan Sontag

I'm looking forward to running into you on the air!

73

Jim K8JK



## *Dales Tales*

Greetings Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan, welcome to "Dale's Tales" for April 2018.

Some Michigan Radio History: Kimball N8FNC informs us of the recognition of a historic event and a Special Event station to commemorate it. That is the 90th anniversary of the Detroit Police Department's installation of one-way radio for its police cars. Special Event Station KØP will be on the air to celebrate, through the efforts of The Ford Amateur Radio Club, the Detroit IEEE chapter and APCO. Check out this URL for full details:

<http://www.mi-arrrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Belle-Isle-Article.pdf>

**OO/AA Update:** There is some considerable interest in what is happening to the Official Observer Program and rightly so. There has been a hiatus on appointing new OOs because of impending changes. We have been working with the FCC to make some significant improvements. The Official Observer/Amateur Auxiliary program has long been stagnant and in recent times, has not resulted in any significant improvement in the conditions of our ham bands. In working jointly and collaboratively with the FCC, we have developed a revised program to meet some new requirements for the Commission. The FCC is currently examining these plans in detail and thus the proverbial ball is in their court. At this time, we don't have any feedback about the implementation timeline or the details of what exactly will comprise the new program. As soon as the Commission releases some information, ARRL will post it on the web page.

**QSO Party time:** The Mad River Radio Club sponsors both the Ohio and Michigan QSO Parties. The Ohio QSO Party is scheduled for Aug 25, 2018 and the Michigan QSO Party is an April Happening, falling on April 21 & 22. You can check out the complete details at <http://www.miqp.org/index.html>. All of the rules are posted and the web site includes a huge amount of helpful information for anyone interested in the QSO Party and contesting in general. Check it out - participate and join the fun. For more information and some interesting history about the sponsor, the Mad River Radio Club, please see their web pages at <https://www.madriverradioclub.org/>.

**TOM'S COMMENTS:** Comments from our Vice Director Tom Delaney W8WTD

Just over a month ago, at the end of February, the ARRL submitted to the FCC a petition to change some of the operating privileges for Technicians in the hope that more HF privileges will lead to more interest in upgrading to general class and extra class. You can find more complete information on the ARRL website.

This work came out of the Entry Level License Committee, on which I served. We were faced with a number of challenges. The FCC has stated clearly that it has no interest in expanding the number of license classes. We have three, and that's all they want. So we had to work within that, even though we feel strongly that the Technician class was never intended to be an entry-level license.

We got clear data on what hams would prefer. We also did studies on the current test, including the readability and the material covered.

Over the last two years, I've talked to a number of you about licensing, exams, and advancement of hams to higher-level licenses.

Most support these proposals. There are always a few people who object to what they consider "dumbing-down" of license material. Actually, this whole effort is aimed at just the opposite—making better hams. From a knowledge standpoint, we'd like to see the actual language of the tests be improved in "readability," for better comprehension of the material. And as for the additional privileges, we think that gaining experience on HF will help provide more incentive for advancement, meaning that more hams will advance to the next level of license.

All this is the result of two years of consultation, research and careful consideration of the issues involved. I was privileged to serve on that committee.

And, finally, it is good to note that throughout the Division, classes for all levels of license continue to be offered, with many classes filling up with almost record

numbers of students . To those of you in the many local clubs who spend so much time helping out, thank you! Keep up the good work.

--73, Tom W8WTD Vice Director, Great Lakes Division

**CONVENTIONS:** The ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention will be held in conjunction with this year's Dayton Hamvention® May 18-20. The theme this year is "Amateur Radio - Serving the Community". There are five forum rooms available this year and a very full schedule. Check out their web site for the latest information. <http://hamvention.org/>

In even numbered years, the Great Lakes Division's three Sections normally host their individual State Conventions. Kentucky's ARRL State Convention will be hosted by the Greater Louisville Hamfest in Shepherdsville, KY on September 8, 2018. See <http://louisvillehamfest.com/> Michigan's State ARRL Convention will be held at HamCon Brooklyn, MI on October 6-7. <http://glhamcon.org/>.

While not a state convention, Ohio will be holding the Ohio Section Conference in conjunction with the Columbus Hamfest on August 4, 2018. See <http://columbushamfest.com/>

**HAMFESTING:** Here is the current Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Schedule covering the next couple of months. These swaps have received their sanctioning approval from ARRL HQ at the time of this publication. We have approximately 65 ARRL hamfests each year in the Division. I do encourage each Hamfest Chair to register early for ARRL Sanctioning. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set.

4/7/18	Lincoln Trail	Elizabethtown, KY
4/14/18	Cuyahoga Falls	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
4/21/18	Portsmouth	Portsmouth, OH
4/28/18	RCARA Tailgate	Ashland, KY
4/28/18	JCARC Hamfest	Jackson, OH
<b>4/28/18</b>	<b>Chassell Hamfest</b>	<b>Chassell, MI</b>
4/29/18	GMARC Hamfest	Madison Hgts, MI
4/29/18	Athens Hamfest	Athens, OH
5/5/18	Cadillac Hamfest	Cadillac, MI
<b>5/18 to 5/20</b>	<b>Dayton Hamvention</b>	<b>Xenia, OH</b>
6/2/18	IRA Hamfest	Hudsonville, MI

6/2/18	Fulton County Hamfest	Tedrow, OH
6/2/18	Princeton Hamfest	Princeton, KY
6/3/18	Chelsea Hamfest	Chelsea, MI
6/16/18	Midland Hamfest	Midland, MI
6/17/18	Monroe Hamfest	Monroe, MI

Be sure to check your Section's news pages for the latest local happenings, club and net information.

73, Let's light up the bands,

Dale Williams WA8EFK  
Director  
Great Lakes Division



## ARRL PROPAGATION BULLETIN

QST de W1AW  
 Propagation Forecast Bulletin 14  
 ARLP014 From Tad Cook, K7RA Seattle, WA  
 April 6, 2018 To all radio amateurs

We only saw sunspots over two days of this past week, March 30 and 31 when the daily sunspot numbers were 11 and 12. There were no sunspots during the previous week, so the average daily sunspot number rose from 0 to 3.3.

Average daily solar flux changed from 68.2 to 68.6.

Geomagnetic indicators were quiet, with average daily planetary A index declining from 10.6 to 5, and average mid-latitude A index going from 8.9 to 4.

The averages for solar flux and A index shown at the end of last week's bulletin were incorrect, and have been corrected above. Thanks to AA2F for discovering my error.

Predicted solar flux is 67 on April 6 to 12, 68 on April 13 to 22, 69 on April 23 to May 6, 68 from May 7 to 19 and 69 on May 7.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on April 6, 5 on April 7 to 9, then on April 10, 15 on April 11 and 12, 18 on April 13 and 14, then 15, 10, 5 and 8 on April 15 to 18, 15 on April 19 to 21, then 12 and 10 on April 22 and 23, then 5 on April 24 to May 6, then 10, 15 and 20 on May 7 to 9. 18 on May 10 and 11, then 15, 10, 5 and 10 on May 12 to 15, then 15 on May 16 to 18 and 12 and 10 on May 19 and 20.

F. K. Janda, OK1HH sent this geomagnetic activity forecast for the period April 6 to May 1, 2018.

Geomagnetic field will be:

Quiet on April 8 and 9, 24 and 25, 27 to 29, May 1 Mostly quiet on April 19, 26, 30 Quiet to unsettled on April 7, 10,

16 to 18, 23 Quiet to active on April 6, 11, 13, 15, 20 to 22 Active to disturbed on April 12, 14

Solar wind will intensify on April (6 to 8,) 10 to 18, 23 to 25, (27 to 30)

Remark:

- Parenthesis means lower probability of activity enhancement.

Mark Bell, K3MSB of Airville, Pennsylvania reported on April 5:

"I've been trying to work Australia for quite a while on 160M. During the current 160M season I've heard bits and pieces of calls from VK land, and occasionally a complete call, but nothing strong enough to work.

Saturday morning March 31 I was on 160M around 1030Z. I saw Ron VK3IO spotted and tuned to his frequency and was astounded at his signal strength! He was at nice 559, almost armchair copy as the saying goes. I was even more stunned that he answered my first call and received a 579 from him at 1045Z, which is about 35 minutes before my sunrise. At 1101Z I had the pleasure of working Luke VK3HJ, who was not as strong as Ron but putting in a very nice signal. My receive antenna is a 200 foot RBOG (Reversible Beverage On Ground) oriented NW/SE and my transmit antenna is an INV-L.

On Wednesday 4 April 160M was pretty dead around 1030Z so I started calling CQ. A few KHz above me, Jon AA1K was also calling CQ. Phil VK6GX spotted Jon at 1024Z and myself at 1033Z. Later I emailed Phil and he said while he heard us, we were both too weak for a QSO.

Phil also stated that openings from VK6 to the East Coast 'have been few and far between in the last few years. Signals often don't make it across the Nullarbor Plain to VK6.' "

Interesting article on the history of solar photography:

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/space/snapshots-of-the-sun-since-1845>

From Tamitha Skov:

"Outside of the bright region this week being a lot quieter and weaker than we hoped, we have a remnant coronal hole sending small pockets of fast solar wind our way. This is good news for aurora photographers at high latitudes, but it also brings a little more zing to the ionosphere for amateur radio operators and emergency responders suffering with low solar flux right now.

Radio propagation on Earth's day side will likely remain poor, but you might be surprised how a slight bit of activity can really perk up the radio bands at night and in the gray line. GPS users should also enjoy better than average GPS conditions on Earth's night side, even at low latitudes where night time is often troublesome for GPS.

But don't expect these conditions to last for more than a few days. Next week we will be dealing with a more serious chance of reaching solar storm conditions, when a much bigger coronal hole rotates into the Earth-strike zone."

<https://youtu.be/q5hvAqXiVL4>

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>.

An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for March 29 through April 4, 2018 were 0, 11, 12, 0, 0, 0, and 0, with a mean of 3.3. 10.7 cm flux was 69, 68.8, 69, 69, 68.4, 67.8, and 68.5, with a mean of 68.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 5, 7, 5, 5, 4, and 5, with a mean of 5. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 4, 6, 4, 4, 3, and 4, with a mean of 4.

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## ARRL DX NEWS

QST de W1AW  
DX Bulletin 15 ARLD015  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT April 5, 2018  
To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by UR4NWW, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites.  
Thanks to all.

**AGALEGA AND ST. BRANDON ISLANDS, 3B6,7.** A large group of operators are QRV as 3B7A from Saint Brandon Island, IOTA AF-015, until April 17. Activity is on the HF bands with five stations active using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via F5CWU.

**KENYA, 5Z.** Kees, 5Z4ZC is QRV on 40 to 10 meters using PSK31, JT65 and FT8. QSL via PA3CPK.

**CROATIA, 9A.** Dusan, S52DG will be QRV as 9A/S52DG/p from Krk Island, IOTA EU-136, from April 12 to 15. Activi-

ty will be holiday style on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**BHUTAN, A5.** Zorro, JH1AJT, Jin, JF1IST and Champ, E21EIC are QRV as A5A until April 11 while meeting with an official from the ministry of health, sports federations and the BOC National Olympic Committee. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via JH1AJT.

**THE GAMBIA, C5.** C5WP is QRV until April 13 while performing charity work. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using SSB and FT8, with some activity on 60 meters a well, and listening for sporadic-E openings on 10 meters. QSL via ON7WP.

**CAPE VERDE, D4.** Mike, CT1IUA is QRV as D4IA from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until April 9. Activity is on the various HF bands using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

**LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0.** Operators PA2HGJ, PA2RDK, PA3CNO, PA3DRF, PE0MGB and PE1FLO will be QRV as HB0/home calls from April 7 to 14.

Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using mostly CW with some SSB and various digital modes. QSL all calls via PE1FLO.

**OGASAWARA, JD1.** JN2AMD is QRV as JN2AMD/JD1. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

**SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5/6.** Rick, AI5P will be QRV as PJ5/AI5P from April 9 to 16. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

**FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1/F.** Eugeny, UA4RX is QRV as RI1FJ from Heiss Island until September 2018. Activity is generally on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via UA2FM.

**SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9.** Helio, CT1ENW is QRV as S92HP from Sao Tome City, and is here until January 31, 2019. Activity is on the HF bands, and 6 meters, using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

**TUVALU, T2. Antoine,** 3D2AG will be QRV as T2AR from Funafuti, IOTA OC-015, from April 8 to 15. Activity will be in his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8. QSL to home call.

**EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA.** Special event stations UE57G, UE12APR, R12APR, and R108M are QRV until April 15 to commemorate Yuri Gagarin's first flight. QSL UE12APR and R12APR via R3LO, R108M via RK3LC, and UE57G via R3LD.

**UKRAINE, UR.** Special event call EM30N is QRV until December 31, 2018 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the International Radioamateur Club WW. QSL via UR4NWW.

**AUSTRALIA, VK.** Andy, VK5MAV will be QRV as VK5MAV/9 from Cato Reef, IOTA OC-265, from April 9 to 18. QSL via RN3RQ.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The North American SSB Sprint Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, LZ Open 40-Meter CW Sprint Contest, PODXS 070 Club 20-Meter PSK 31 Flavors Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Mississippi QSO Party, Missouri QSO Party, Texas State Parks on the Air,

Florida State Parks on the Air, SP DX Contest and the EA RTTY Contest are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The 144 MHz Spring Sprint and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are scheduled for April 9.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, RSGB 80-Meter Club SSB Championship, Phone Fray and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for April 11.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs during all of 2018.

Please see April QST, page 84, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.  
NNNN



***CLASSIFIED***

Space Available to push your stuff

## LINKS AND STUFF

*Under re-construction. Watch for the orange barrels*

*Delta County Amateur Radio*  
*Escanaba, MI*  
[www.dcars.org](http://www.dcars.org)

*Cooper Country Radio Amateur*  
*Dollar Bay, MI*  
[www.ccras.net](http://www.ccras.net)

### 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 —	100.0
	444.85 — 100.0
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

### ARRL Affiliated Club Area Nets

**UP Net** 3921khz  
 Daily 5pm EST  
 Sunday Noon EST

**UP CW NET** 3590khz  
 Sunday 7pm EST

**160 Net** 1895khz  
 Everynight 0100UTC  
 Dailey 0600UTC

**Midcars** 7258khz  
 Daily 0730am EST  
 0200pm EST

**Outhcars** Node 9614  
 Saturday 0900am EST

**UP Echolink** Node 9617  
 Sunday 8pm EST

**Copper County ARES**  
 146.88  
 Wednesday 9pm EST

**Mich-A-Con Social and  
ARES**  
 146.850  
 Thursday 0630pm CST  
 ARES follows

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

ARRLMICHIGAN: <http://www.arrl-mi.org/>

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

Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts:  
<http://www.d/infocentre.com/tropo.html>

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

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

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

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

E Ham Net <http://www.eham.net/>

UP Skywarn: <http://kera-mi.net/skywarn/>

Band Conditons: <http://bandconditions.com/>



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Terry Moriarity: 715 251 1670

**Activities:**

**Second Wednesday** of the month the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets in the Dickinson Country Library at 7:00 P.M. Winter or 6:30 PM Summer

**Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!**

**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 Yaesu DR 1 digital and Analog repeater Frequency. 146.85 minus offset, 100 hz PL tone encode and decode Power 50 watts. The Controller is an Arcom RC 210 . It is also System Fusion capable.

. The 440 MHz repeater is a GE Master II 444.85, plus offset, 100 hz pl tone. 35 watts output. The Controller is a Arcom 210.

The 2 meter and the 440 can be linked. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 ft.

**We're on the Web!**

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

Previous editions of the Newsletter can be accessed by a link on the **news** page

**From Your Newsletter Editor**

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

*For those not getting the Newsletter, it is because I have an incorrect email address. Please give me the correct address.*

The following is referenced from <http://www.dx-code.org>

### DX Code Of Conduct

I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.

I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.

I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.

I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.

I will always send my full call sign.

I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.

I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.

I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.

I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.

When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.

I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.

I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Call Sign	Last Name	First Name	City	Phone	Email
WB8EBS	ARMBRUST	BURT	QUINNESEC	906-774-8383	<a href="mailto:wb8ebs@yahoo.com">wb8ebs@yahoo.com</a>
W8XBO	ARMBRUST	ED	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-779-5593	<a href="mailto:w8xbo@sbcglobal.net">w8xbo@sbcglobal.net</a>
KC9KVP	BAKER	BETH	NIAGARA		
KB9AVX	BAKER	SCOTT	NIAGARA	715-251-1944	<a href="mailto:kb9avx@yahoo.com">kb9avx@yahoo.com</a>
KB8SBP	BERTOLDI	BILL	KINGSFORD		
W8BEY	BEY	DANA L.	KINGSFORD	906-774-7937	<a href="mailto:lst797@charter.net">lst797@charter.net</a>
K8DDA	BRAY	MIKE	VULCAN	906-201-1550	<a href="mailto:mikebray@chartermi.net">mikebray@chartermi.net</a>
KE9L	CASWELL	SKIP	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-774-3371	<a href="mailto:acaswell4238@charter.net">acaswell4238@charter.net</a>
KC8QZG	DAKE	DAVE	NEWBERRY		
KC9ZBC	DOLATOWSKI	SCOTT	GOODMAN	715-633-1006	<a href="mailto:kc9zbc@live.com">kc9zbc@live.com</a>
KC9TQR	FERRIS	JOE	FLORENCE	517-589-4386	<a href="mailto:jrferris@borderlandnet.net">jrferris@borderlandnet.net</a>
N9MBG	FRY	ED	PEMBINE	906-221-7307	<a href="mailto:efry7849@gmail.com">efry7849@gmail.com</a>
KG8NK	GEMBOLIS	LOUIS	ISHPEMING	906-485-5442	<a href="mailto:lgembolis@chartermi.net">lgembolis@chartermi.net</a>
KE8FWN	GRABOWSKI	BILLY	CRYSTAL FALLS	?	
KD8VTS	GRABOWSKI	DEBRA	CRYSTAL FALLS	906-284-2450	<a href="mailto:kd8vts@gmail.com">kd8vts@gmail.com</a>
KD8VTT	GRABOWSKI	WILLIAM	CRYSTAL FALLS		
KC8TH	HEYBOER	TOM	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-779-0481	<a href="mailto:heyboer.tom@gmail.com">heyboer.tom@gmail.com</a>
N8ATS	HOLMES	SAM	PEMBINE	906-322-8507	<a href="mailto:chopsam@centrylink.com">chopsam@centrylink.com</a>
KA8TFF	JARMUSCH	SCOTT	IRON MOUNTAIN		
KB9EMU	KNUTSON	WILLIAM	FENCE	715-336-2250	<a href="mailto:dknutson54@gmail.com">dknutson54@gmail.com</a>
KB8ETK	KOMBLEVICZ	JOSEPH	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-774-4094	<a href="mailto:kombleviczj@charter.net">kombleviczj@charter.net</a>
KD9HQD	LaLIBERTE	BRUCE	NIAGRA, WI	?	<a href="mailto:liberte@borderlandnet.net">liberte@borderlandnet.net</a>
KE8GHE	LUNDAMO	DUANE	?	?	?
W8JWN	MARTIN	THOMAS	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-774-5463	<a href="mailto:tmartin@chartermi.net">tmartin@chartermi.net</a>
WA8FXQ	MEYERS	BOB	VULCAN	906-396-0119	<a href="mailto:meyersb@uplogon.com">meyersb@uplogon.com</a>
KC8LRP	MEYERS	MARGE	VULCAN	906-396-8913	<a href="mailto:mgmeyer@uplogon.com">mgmeyer@uplogon.com</a>
N8TUM	MILLER	TIMOTHY	FLORENCE	715-696-6517	<a href="mailto:timmiller.up@gmail.com">timmiller.up@gmail.com</a>
K9TRY	MORIARITY	TERRY	NIAGARA	715-251-1670	<a href="mailto:kb9zer@yahoo.com">kb9zer@yahoo.com</a>
ND8M	PAUL	JARED	NORWAY	989-660-9535	<a href="mailto:jaredpaul@me.com">jaredpaul@me.com</a>
KD8SZA	PAUL	MICHELLE	NORWAY		
KC9NFT	PERRON	BARRY	FLORENCE	715-696-6175	<a href="mailto:bperron2@netzero.com">bperron2@netzero.com</a>
KC8JRI	REED	GORDY	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-779-1254	<a href="mailto:gordyreed@charter.net">gordyreed@charter.net</a>
KE8GHH	RITTENHOUSE	DAVE	IRON MOUNTAIN	?	?
K8ABS	RIVERSIDE	JIM	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-458-0773	<a href="mailto:jriverside@charter.net">jriverside@charter.net</a>
W8IFI	RYE	JIM	CRYSTAL FALLS	906-875-3582	<a href="mailto:jimrye@up.net">jimrye@up.net</a>
K4FMX	SCHAFFER	GARY	NIAGRA, WI	?	<a href="mailto:GARYSCHAFFER@LARGERIVER.NET">GARYSCHAFFER@LARGERIVER.NET</a>
KG9Y	THOMAS	DAVE	NIAGARA	715-251-1393	<a href="mailto:kg9y@arrl.net">kg9y@arrl.net</a>

BLACK: Paid Members

BROWN: Past or Unpaid Members



**MICH - A - CON**

**Please remit dues to:**

**Debbie Garbowski, KD8VTS  
203 Camp 5 Road  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920**

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.