

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

April 24, 2013

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

Radio Amateurs Provide Communication Support in Boston Marathon Bombings

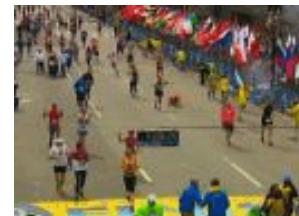
from:

The ARRL Letter for April 18 2013

04/16/2013

As has happened many times in years past, over 200 Amateur Radio operators

participated in communications for the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 15, 2013. Unlike prior



challenging situations such as very warm weather for the runners or other weather-related challenges, this year's marathon will be remembered for the bombings that took place at the finish line. Despite this heinous act, professional first responders, medical volunteers from the American Red Cross that staffed the route, and Amateur Radio operators performed magnificently in the face of adversity.

“Within minutes, cell phone systems became overloaded and making phone calls and text messages was difficult.

Amateur Radio operators performed communication duties under duress and performed admirably. No Amateur Radio volunteers were injured on the course in this terrible act," said Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, who is the Amateur Radio Course Communication Coordinator and associated with a consortium of clubs and groups known as Marathon Amateur Radio Communications (MARC).

"At the finish line net control, which was only 400 feet from the initial blast, we heard the explosion. I poked my head outside to confirm what I thought it was and saw the white smoke. We immediately knew what had happened and commenced a roll call of all ham operators and medical tents. State Police authorities initially ordered us to lock down and post a ham for security watch outside the net control trailer. Thankfully none of our people were hurt," said Paul Topolski, W1SEX, Amateur Radio Finish Line Coordinator.

Following the explosion and roll call, Topolski stated that they began pulling together updates and sent the information via the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Web-EOC software tool and provided updates via Amateur Radio. Shortly after sending a few updates both Boston Police and Massachusetts State Police gave the order for the tent area to be evacuated. "In my mind, the course end of things is where a lot of work needed to happen as runners eventually needed to be stopped, congregated and transported to safety and staging areas," Topolski said. "At the finish line, our job was to check on the safety of our people, provide those initial updates and evacuate per police instructions. Three of our Amateur Radio operators redeployed to the Boston Marathon Course Net Control Center."

Across the course outside of the finish line after the bombings occurred, first aid stations were consolidated to larger first aid stations to pool runners for pickup and to keep runners warm as there were enhanced tents along the route where runners could be kept warm and hydrated. At the Heartbreak Hill first aid station, amateur operators had a complete base station setup, including a computer, and were prepared to handle health and welfare traffic as required. Several shelters were set up along the route at churches and schools, and Amateur Radio operators from secured first aid stations went to those shelters, providing communications in those areas until runners were moved out of their locations.

"My role at the request of Steve, W3EVE, as event organizer before the race was to shadow the course medical tent coordinator for the Red Cross, Kandi Finch," said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, who is also the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. "It was a challenging position but all organizers on both the Amateur Radio side and Red Cross side said things went well in coordinating during normal race conditions and particularly after the bombings."

At course net control, which was away from the bombings, ham operators controlled their nets calmly and professionally while also expressing an appropriate level of urgency. Over a dozen amateurs at the net control center pooled together to announce messages and keep status of changes along the course route as required.

Net Control Center Coordinator, Karen Brothers, K1KEB, kept in constant contact with MEMA, where Terry Stader, KA8SCP, was stationed. Stader became the MEMA 'Ops' point person at the State Emergency Operations Center as runners were transported from the shelters to other staging locations. From his location at the EOC, Stader was able to sort out the sheltering plan and reception centers for the runners, subsequent transport of runners from shelter locations and give out information on MBTA bus and train operations.

Jim Palmer, KB1KQW -- who served as a net control at the Net Control Center -- stated that nets were doubled up on operators, to allow one person to operate the radio while the other listened and logged priority calls and ambulance requests, creating a more efficient operation. "Several ambulance requests for dehydration and exhaustion were handled due to the runners needing to be stopped," Palmer said. The specific net that Palmer ran also provided a link between the marathon course and the American Red Cross in its Cambridge facility. Lou Harris, N1UEC; Frank O'Laughlin, WQ1O, and Dan Howard, K1DYO, staffed the Red Cross in Cambridge.

Many amateur operators who volunteered along the marathon route praised Net Control's support after the bombing. "Net Control did an awesome job," said course volunteer David Wihl, KB1VEG. "The workload was busiest after seven hours on the radio, and it didn't let up for another couple hours."

Several young radio amateurs from the Clay Center Amateur Radio Club also supported Net Control Operations, both as direct net control operators and runners for the operation as they have done in the past. This provided a tremendous learning opportunity for these young operators, from both an Amateur Radio perspective and an overall learning perspective.

"Despite the total lack of warning in this situation, amateurs followed a creed I've long since preached since the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the mutual aid response to those attacks: 'blessed are the flexible for they will not get bent out of shape,'" said Steve Schwarm, W3EVE. "Amateurs on the course did what they had to do to assure their own safety and runner safety working with the Red Cross medical people. They did an outstanding job and I was told so by Red Cross organizers as well."

From an ARES perspective, a heightened state of awareness on the Boston

Marathon event is typical, but within 15 minutes of the bombings, Eastern Massachusetts ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator, Carl Aveni, N1FY, issued an ARES Stand-By and requested that amateurs give availability for the next 24 hours. Within minutes, 20 amateurs offered their availability.

The ARES sub-regional command center at the Acushnet, Massachusetts EOC (under call sign WA1EMA) was utilized as a control point to obtain critical situational awareness of the rapidly changing situation, as well as to monitor resource nets per a report filed by Acushnet Emergency Management Communications Officer Ed Caron, KA1RSY; he also serves as the South Shore Massachusetts ARES District Emergency Coordinator. A total of five Amateur Radio operators were deployed to this facility. An ARES resource net was called on the 147.18 Bridgewater repeater with Byron Piette, K1YCQ, as net control with 11 stations checking into the net.

“In terms of having amateurs within ARES who cannot get directly involved in the marathon, we have a process where we have them monitor in case of a situation like what occurred on Monday. That process paid off and facilitated a rapid response to our request for possible additional support,” said Carl Aveni, N1FY.

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/>

**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the April 9th, 2013 Meeting**

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

Secretary Report

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

Treasurer Report

Membership Dues Received: \$ 10.00

Checks were written to: AT&T \$28.19

| Balances as of March 22, 2012: | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Checking | \$ 21.12 |
| Regular Savings | \$ 567.44 |
| Trailer Fund | \$1830.23 |
| Repeater Savings | \$1086.69 |
| Petty Cash | \$ 7.00 |

Repeater Report

440 repeater's back on frequency. \$28.00/month is cost for the phone but no one uses the phone patch. Bob Myers uses the radio to program the repeater. Skip motioned, support by Scott Baker to remove the phone line to save the money. All Yes's, No no's. Motion passed.

ARES

Bob Myers has been mostly running the nets lately. President Tom will contact Dennis Beurjey to see if he is interested in continuing to be the ARES Emergency Coordinator.

Old Business

Florence County Fairgrounds was discussed for June 22nd-23rd Field Day for this year. Scott Baker will contact Bob Friberg to discuss installing a telephone pole for use as an antenna support. Only three people at the meeting said they'd be at Field Day this year. Possibility we could cancel if we don't have more interest.

EOC desk. Motion by Bob Myers, support by Sam to purchase a desk for the EOC and do a photo with the Daily News. All Yes's, No no's. Motion passed.

Skip Caswell reported that we now have four new licensed Technicians from the class of five.

New Business

National Weather Service Storm Spotter Training will be Wed. April 24th at 6:30pm in Fornetti Hall at Bay College in Iron Mountain. Also May 8th at 6:30pm at Nadeau Township Hall. Other classes available can be found at www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/spotter_talks.php

In addition to the live classes, on-line self-study spotter training courses are available, which can be taken in lieu of the classes. For more information about these official NWS spotter courses, visit the Storm Spotter web page: www.weather.gov/grb/skywarn

Storm spotter locations were briefly discussed.

Adjournment

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

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Paul Schultz

Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President

Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer

Paul Schultz, KD8KUF – Secretary

Skip Caswell, KE9L

Terry Moriarty, K0TRY

Scott Baker, KB9AVX

Joe Ferris, KC9TQR

Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ

Sam Holmes, N8ATS

Dave Thomas, KG9Y

Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK

Skip Caswell, KE9L

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.

Mini Antennas Article link:

From:

Paul, KD8KUF

FYI, Interesting article on Mini Antennas. "consumer access to free to air broadcast television is still meaningful in this country and that the promise and commitment made by the broadcasters to program in the public interest in exchange for the public's spectrum, remains an important part of our American fabric."

<http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/18514>

**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.**

Words from the President

Tom W8JWN

Field Day 2013? There hasn't been much interest in participating in Field Day the weekend of

June 29-30. If we do operate, I suggest that we don't go back to Florence. I, for one, don't

want to haul a man-lift from Norway to Florence. Also, we don't, at this time, have the manpower to set up three stations and antennas at that site. There are other reasons that were discussed at the last two meetings regarding power and camper issues.



If there is interest shown at the May meeting, I will approach the City of Norway about

operating at Marion Park. I drove out there yesterday and it is the same as we left it in 2011.

There has been no new construction of tennis courts and play areas.

So, your input will be important at the next meeting.

Choice DX coming to a transceiver near you!

P5 North Korea - Another effort underway

There are now two different projects underway to activate P5.

(1) The efforts of K6VVA have been mentioned before on this page. See his web site at www.k6vva.com/p5/.

{2} An announcement was made at the Visalia on April 20th by the Intrepid-DX Group. The four operators who signed the announcement are: N6PSE, AH6HY, YT1AD and K3LP. According to the announcement, they have been working for four years with professionals in the business and tourism industries, who are already doing business in North Korea. The announcement also mentioned that the Intrepid-DX Group is in partnership with the World-Wide DX Group. The entire announcement can be seen at www.intrepid-dx.com/p5/. Courtesy of DXWORLD.

ZS8 Marion Island

By ZR6CWI as ZS8C and ZS1BCE as ZS8C; 40-10m; SSB + digital; operation expected to continue until April 2014; see QSL info on qrz.com

XZ Myanmar

Simon, HS0ZIB, announced on QRZ.com: "During the months of May and June 2013, I will again operate XZ1K from Tanintharyi State. I will only operate on PSK31, according to when I have free time. From 1st July, I will be working in Laos, but I will try to return each holiday to re-activate XZ1K. QSLs will only be available via online verification. There is, of course, no bureau in Myanmar and I will have no permanent address there. I will mail out a hard-copy QSL for each QSO verification. SWLs may also submit their reception reports."

I need Myanmar for a new country!!! It's one of the four that I need to have worked them all. Unfortunately, I don't think that low power PSK31 is going to make the polar route to Iron Mountain. There are a lot of Jas between XZ and W8-land. As I write this SFI is 142. Are we approaching another peak in the cycle?

I have a new addition to the. Actually, two additions. My Dell computer died. I'm now using an HP desktop with XP. After many hours, I have all of my logging programs setup to control the radio. The second item is a new Green Heron RT-21 rotor control. I haven't got it connected to the computer yet.

By contest time next fall, it will be ready to fix the antenna on any station that I click on in the cluster window. Lazy, eh???

See you at the next meeting.

73,
Tom W8JWN

V.E. TESTING:

???? 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.

10/5 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.

7/13 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/VEC Location: 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 May 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|---------------|-----|------|------------|-----------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 ARES | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 ARES | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Meeting | 15 | 16 | 17 ARES | 18 Breakfast |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 ARES | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 ARES | |

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:

Club dues for the year 2013 are payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

**The Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on:
Tuesday May 14, 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