

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

May 2005

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Visit the ARRL's web site at:

<http://www.arrl.org>

High Praise for Amateur Radio Follows ARES' TOPOFF 3 Performance

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 8, 2005--The role of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers in Connecticut in this week's massive TOPOFF 3 exercise has drawn high praise from the American Red Cross, for which ARES provided virtually all radio communication. Sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security and intended as a realistic test of the nation's homeland security system, TOPOFF 3's goal was to push the system of first responders beyond its limits to find the weak spots. American Red Cross emergency services director Mario J. Bruno extolled ARES' performance.

"Operators were there when we needed them, and messages got to where they were needed," he said in a note to ARRL Connecticut Section leadership. "We have learned a lot about what ARES can really do when things get messy, and TOPOFF 3 has been a clear example of how complicated a disaster can get."

Bruno said the Red Cross doesn't have to worry if today's fancy telecommunications devices fail,



The ARES marshaling center in Chesterfield, Connecticut--just outside the TOPOFF 3 "hot zone."

because ARES will always be there to provide the needed support.

"Thank you ARES for helping us respond to the largest disaster exercise in the history of the

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Mich-A-Con ARC May 10th Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 6:30 PM.

Secretary Report:

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

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tom, W8JWN. As of this meeting we have \$198.57 in checking, \$2,087.79 in the savings account, \$1,365.30 in the repeater account and \$26.00 petty cash. Bills paid since last meeting: WE Energies Felch Repeater, \$19.10; SBC, \$23.08;

CallingPost.com, \$14.95. Interest on the repeater account, \$0.65. Dues collected at this meeting: Burt Armbrust, renewal - \$20.00, Randy Zandt, new member - \$20.00. We now have 30 members, including 10 new members, that have paid their 2005 dues. 14 members on last year's roster have not yet paid.

Repeater Report:

Mike, K8DDB, reported that an equipment rack has been installed at the Pine Mountain facility which contains enough space to accommodate both repeaters and all of the packet equipment

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Words from the President

Last year we conducted a survey of members to ascertain what could be done to make the Mich-A-Con ARC a better club. Based on these results, we implemented a Tuesday night 2 meter net, a once a month Saturday breakfast at the Holiday Kitchen, an attractive and very informative newsletter, and a shorter business meeting. Also, we have resurrected ARES with Dennis, KD8AIT, as net control on Sunday evening; we have had a successful Field Day 2004 and are getting prepared for Field Day 2005; we have, whenever possible, entertaining and informative programs after the general meeting; we have signed on to CallingPost, an automatic telephone messaging system, for alerting members if a tornado watch/warning is for our area, so that SKYWARN can be launched. These changes have led to, in my opinion, a better club for its members. Yet, we have 14 members from last year who didn't renew their membership.

I can understand that interests wane and family activities can put ham radio on the back burner for a while, in my case as long as eight years. However, during that time, I was completely away from the hobby. I didn't even turn on the radio! I didn't use the repeater. I didn't subscribe to any ham radio magazines. I didn't pay my dues. I was totally away from it all. I did renew my license because I knew that I would be back!

Notice that I said that, "I didn't use the repeater. I didn't pay my dues." I wasn't going to use something that I didn't contribute to, unless it was an emergency situation. Yet, there are individuals using our repeater like it was a cell phone. I pay a monthly bill for my cell. Shouldn't they?

It costs money to have the repeater site, to have a phone patch, and to maintain the equipment. Our dues help pay for this expense and other club activities. If you haven't paid your dues, please do so. It's never too late to support the Mich-A-Con ARC.

Packet System Status

We didn't get packet moved because of the lousy weather and now Bob, WA8FXQ is up north. We did finish building an equipment rack for the Pine Mountain site and there's enough room on it for both of our repeaters and all of the packet equipment. Lee, N8LT, is busy programming EPROMs for the TNCs. We're going to see if a vertical antenna we have lying around will be good enough for the link to Critvitz. If so, we can use a spare antenna that is already installed on the Pine Mountain tower for MIIMTB and MIIMTA. The EPROMs will have a new callsign (KB8HHQ) and Dennis will be our Sysop. The LAN and backbone nodes will also have new aliases ... more later.

June Club Activities

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:00 PM Central Time every Sunday evening on our 2-meter repeater (147.85MHz.)

Please join us for the Tuesday Night Net on the 7th, 21st and 28th at 6:30 PM on the 2-meter repeater (146.85.) Dennis, KD8AIT, is our Net Control Operator.

Club meeting on Tuesday the 14th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway Michigan. The meeting room is upstairs next to the Sanctuary.

Saturday Morning Breakfast, 9:00 AM on the 18th at the Holiday Kitchen in Iron Mountain, on US-2 across from Econo Foods.

Field Day will be held at Marion Park in Norway (across from the fair grounds) on the 25th and 26th. Setup will begin at 9 AM Saturday morning and operations will be from 1 PM on Saturday through 1 PM on Sunday. Please plan on participating in this fun event, we will need help to set up antennas and to operate the various stations. Techs will be able to operate HF using the GOTA station. If you are unable to participate, but find a few minutes to spare, stop by and visit.

Club Operating Activity

All club members are invited to use the club callsign to help the club attain WAS and DXCC. If you use the club call, please give information required for the log such as: station worked, date and time (UTC), frequency, RST sent and received, mode and power to Mike, K8DDB. Also give a description of the equipment you were using.
mikebray@chartermi.net

VEC Testing at Iron River

The Iron Range Amateur Radio Club VEC makes exams available on a monthly basis on the 3rd Thursday of the month, prior to the start of their Club meeting. Examinations must be arranged before hand. Exam time: 6:30 PM (Central), Place: Iron River Lutheran Church (on US-2 next to McDonalds), Contact: Dan Waters, AA9G, dmwaters@ironriver.tv, (906) 265-4240

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for June 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 ARES	6	7 Tnn	8	9	10	11
12 ARES	13	14 Meeting	15	16	17	18 Breakfast
19 ARES	20	21 Tnn	22	23	24	25 Field Day
26 Field Day	27	28 Tnn	29	30		

License Study Materials Available from the ARRL:

Technician Class:

Now You're Talking - 5th edition - Order No. 8810
\$19.95

ARRL's Tech Q&A - 3rd edition - Order No. 8829
\$12.95

ARRL Technician Class Video Course - 4th ed.
DVD Course No. 9116
VHS Course No. 8837
\$149 each + \$12 s&h

General Class:

ARRL General Class License Manual - 5th ed.
Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9205
\$16.95

ARRL's General Q&A
Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9213
\$12.95

ARRL General Class Video Course
Order No. 8349
\$149 + \$12 s&h

Your Introduction to Morse Code - Pass 5 wpm test
Cassettes No. 8322
Audio CD No. 8314
\$14.95 each

Ham University - Complete Edition - Learn Morse code with this easy to use software. Includes a written exam quiz generator with all three question pools. CD-ROM for Win95-XP
Order No. 8735
\$39.95

Phone: 1-888-277-5289

or

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/>

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/8330/>

<http://hamuniversity.com>

High Praise for Amateur Radio

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United States," Bruno concluded. "We will not forget."

The Connecticut TOPOFF 3 began April 4 with an explosion in New London meant to simulate a terrorist attack. Realism, including simulated injuries, blood and fatalities, was very much a part of the \$16 million exercise--the largest federal drill ever held. Prospective ARES volunteers were cautioned in advance, so they'd know what to expect.



Realism was the order of the day at the TOPOFF 3 "ground zero" site in New London.

Brian Fernandez, K1BRF, a Connecticut Assistant SM and ARES liaison to the Red Cross said Amateur Radio's performance in TOPOFF 3 did not go unnoticed at the highest levels. "Amateur Radio made a major contribution to the nation," he said, "and those who contribute to making it safer and stronger, and folks in the right places know it."

After ARES stood down from the drill late on April 6, ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC, and SEC Chuck Rexroad, AB1CR--said they felt Amateur Radio acquitted itself very well during the drill.

"The energy, enthusiasm and absolute dedication of all the volunteers for this event are a testament to the real dedication and teamwork in the Connecticut Section," Doane said in a statement thanking all who took part.

Rexroad agreed. "It's just been amazing," he said. "People came into this drill prepared and ready to stay. It was a very positive experience." Several, he pointed out, took time away from their jobs and families to volunteer for the drill. Numbered among the ARES volunteers were several members of the ARRL Headquarters staff.



As simulated TV crews record the action, a TOPOFF 3 "victim" is transported to the hospital.

Under the National Disaster Plan, the Red Cross had primary responsibility for mass care. Rexroad said ARES provided the only communication among all of the Red Cross emergency response vehicles (ERVs), mobile canteens, kitchen, headquarters and other sites the organization had to stay in touch with during the drill.

As many as 40 of the 150 ARES volunteers from Connecticut and other states in the Northeast were deployed to the field at any given time, and each one got to take part at some point, Rexroad said. "Everyone had at least one shift when they were able to get on the radio and provide communications support." Doane credited the ARRL



ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC (left), and Eastern Massachusetts SM Mike Neilsen, W1MPN, are interviewed by a newspaper reporter from Norwich.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses and other training with raising the overall level of operating skill--even among newcomers.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who monitored ARES net activity during the event, com-

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High Praise for Amateur Radio

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mended the high level of proficiency. "The level of professionalism and discipline was very impressive," he said. "The benefits of the emphasis the ARRL has placed on training over the past several years were clearly evident." Sumner this week also visited the ARES marshaling headquarters in Chesterfield, Connecticut, to congratulate some of the volunteers in person.

TOPOFF 3 called on participants to be ready for unexpected events, and the ARES operation was no exception. "The only big curveball we got thrown was when one of the judges decided they were going to take one of our repeaters down," Rexroad explained. Connecticut ARES was able to promptly switch to a backup. During a staged "power failure" at unified command, only the ARES radio, equipped with battery backup, remained working. ARES promptly worked around a genuine repeater breakdown that occurred just before the exercise got under way.

Rexroad and Doane agreed that TOPOFF 3 not only was a success but a helpful learning experience for ARES. Doane allowed that there was a need to streamline things organizationally and to provide a mechanism to debrief volunteers returning from the field. "Feedback immediately after an event is important," she said.

Rexroad says Connecticut ARES also prepared to assist the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and actually activated several of its stations to show state officials that it had the back-up coverage in case they needed it. In anticipation of that possibility, he said, the OEM added a 2-meter antenna at its headquarters in Hartford so ARES would have VHF and UHF capabilities from there as well as from a communications center at an OEM location several miles away in Rocky Hill.

"I want to let everyone know how proud I am and how privileged I feel to work with such an outstanding group of people," Rexroad said in a post-drill message to Connecticut ARES members "Everyone dealt with difficult situations professionally and positively, and we overcame hurdles wherever, whenever and whatever they were."

Doane expressed her gratitude not only to Rexroad and Fernandez, but to Assistant SEC Rod Lane, N1FNE, TOPOFF 3 ARES Operations Manager and Area 4 District Emergency



ARRL Connecticut SEC Chuck Rexroad, AB1CR (left), and TOPOFF 3 ARES Operations Manager and Area 4 District Emergency Coordinator Hank Wolcott, KA1WTS.

Coordinator Hank Wolcott, KA1WTS, her Section Cabinet, ARES leadership, ARRL headquarters staff and all who volunteered. She also thanked Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Mike Neilsen, W1MPN, "and his dedicated, professional team" for their participation in TOPOFF 3. "This was a great example of how two ARRL sections can work together," Doane said. "It was a real pleasure having them on board."

A bioterrorism incident was the scenario in New Jersey--the only other TOPOFF 3 site. Emergency officials there not only were key to the exercise, they had genuine problems dealing with flooding in the northern part of the state.

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Local Packet Bulletin Board System

Mike Boileau, N9NBN, of Niagara would like to start a local packet BBS if there is enough interest among area hams in doing so.

There has been a resurgence of interest in packet radio recently and this is our chance to get the ball rolling in our area. So, get your old TNCs out of the closet, dust them off and get on the air. I'm just getting started with packet and am having fun exploring the Wisconsin and U.P. system. So far, I've been able to get as far south as Lodi, Wisconsin (just north of Madison) and as far north as Calumet, Michigan.

If you'd like to see a local packet BBS, please send me an email (or better yet, a packet message) at mikebray@chartermi.net or via my packet mail box, **K8DDB-1** from the MIIMTB LAN on 147.42MHz.

Packet Radio

I seemed to spark some interest in Packet Radio, that actually came alive with just checking various areas to see what I found.

I can connect to the node at Iron Mountain on 147.420 MHz simplex for regular AX.25 packet radio. I have a very good connection and can make connections to the following from here:

MIIMTB - IRON MTN
GRBMBX/KB9ALN
WIAPL/K9ALS-5
MIIMTA/WA8FXQ-5
WIGRB/KEPLZ-5
MIIRN/N8WQG-7
UPDX/KD9LK-7

It seems packet is alive and well. Steve N8MLI is interested in putting up another packet node. Sparking some interest has got me wondering if we can also have a packet system open for the entire Upper Peninsula tied together via a frequency into the Iron Mountain area. Moreover, also tie in the Copper Country area, via Ishpeming via Iron River to Iron Mountain.

Surely, if everyone is interested in packet keyboard to keyboard which in fact is much better for passing messages or files, or even doing what we did many years ago, which we downloaded files from BBS areas here.

I think that nodes installed at MQT, Munising, Newberry, Grand Marias, Sault St Marie and other areas would be in the interest of many hams ...

Need some input from you all. Since most if not all use computers now days, it's much easier to just get on and type or carry on the keyboards ... When conditions are such, 2 meter voice will not work across the Upper Peninsula.

Your thoughts would be appreciated ... maybe some discussion can be added to the Upper Peninsula club newsletters to see just what the interest would be.

Sincerely,
KG8SQ Les Elder
Escanaba DCARS
kg8sq@uplogon.com

Net Operations

Greetings everyone. Hope each and all is doing ok. Well as I sit and type this out I wonder what happened to spring? Seems like we had some warm weather just to tease us. I am sure though that in a few months I will be wishing for some cool weather. On another note at our last meeting we talked about Field Day. This will be my first Field Day that I am about to encounter. I am not sure what to expect but I am really looking forward to it.

Here are my weekly net reports. I am missing some from the ARES nets so I will just give our Tuesday Night Net report.

Tuesday Night Net check-ins for the month of April:

April 5 - Jerry, KB8YET; Bill, KB9URW; Al, K9ECG

April 19 - Mike, K8DDB; Bruce, WB8NJP; Randy, KB9ZES

April 26 - Charlie, W9UOI; Skip, KE9L; Mike, K8DDB; Randy, KB9ZES; Bill, KB9URW; Irv, KB9AVW

73 - Dennis, KD8AIT

N8LT's WORKBENCH

This series, written by our resident expert on the technical side of things, focuses on technical topics that you, the reader, want him to write about. Lee wants your input.

This is your chance to get those gnawing questions answered so that you can become more self-reliant when repairs are needed to your electronic gear.

What subjects would you like to see covered?

Please send your input to me and I will collate the responses and give them to Lee.

Send your input to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Mike Bray, K8DDB
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Weaver's Words—Regulation By Transmitted Bandwidth

I have received many questions and comments about the Board of Directors' evolving plan to ask FCC to shift from regulating our bands by mode to a system of regulating by transmitted bandwidth. Not surprising is the fact that many writers clearly do not understand (1)why doing this is important, (2) exactly what details of the plan are being considered and (3) what this will mean to "us" active Amateur Radio operators. Very clearly, some folks believe they know all of this when they do not. Equally clearly, it is time to begin explaining different aspect of the draft proposal as it currently exists. Currently exists? Yes, currently. This remains a work-in-progress. Here are a few questions I've received and answers to these questions:

I. WHY IS THE BOARD CONSIDERING CHANGING THE WAY OUR BANDS ARE REGULATED?

A. There are three basic reasons for considering a change. These are:

(1) To thrive and hold its own against commercial attempts to grab our frequencies, Amateur Radio needs FCC rules that can stand the test of time for at least 5 to 10 years. Current rules cannot do this.

(2) Amateur HF operating patterns and technology are shifting. As these evolve, FCC Rules need to accommodate both the changed as well as current uses.

(3) FCC rules and its system for modifying its rules are too slow and inflexible to meet necessary changes.

Think about these reasons for a moment. We must get the Amateur Radio Service into a position in which we can achieve changes in our operating rules fairly quickly. If we fail to do this we will be unable to adapt to real situations we will face in the future. We will be viewed increasingly as an out-of-date group that increasingly is out-of-touch with the technical reality that surrounds us.

II. WHY IS THE BOARD DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR WINLINK?

A. We have no such proposal.

III. WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL ASPECTS OF THE BOARD PROPOSAL?

(1) As it stands at this time, the proposal would largely shift the assignment of subbands from the FCC to amateurs. The FCC currently does little, if anything, to address needs for modifying subbands as our operating practices change. Because we hams do a pretty good job of complying with band plans, shifting responsibility for developing band plans from the Fed. to us makes much more sense than leaving it to the FCC where the needs can be expected to go unattended.

(2) According to the existing band plan, automatic control of certain digital programs is allowed in certain areas. We intend to allow such operations to continue in the future, so long as there are operators who wish to use these. In short: We think it would be wrong to take anything away from anyone. However, we plan to limit areas where automatic control can operate and, thereby, minimize unintentional interference to non-digital modes.

(3) What about AM, FM, ATV, etc.? We plan to propose that any mode of operation that currently is approved for amateur use by FCC will continue to be available legally for as long as amateurs wish to use it. Again, the changes we propose will not take any form of operation away from anyone.

(4) So what is the main reason for the proposed change in regulating our bands? This is simply to make it possible to introduce advances in communications technology into our ham bands more rapidly. Essentially, we hope to have our bands open for use to modes of transmission so long as the transmitted bandwidth falls within the bandwidth permitted in the allocated band segment.

(5) Tentative proposals by frequency band:

160M - Entire band = up to 3 kHz

75/80M - Segments of up to 200 Hz, 500 Hz, and 3 kHz. A sub-segment of 3 kHz would be open to automatic control. AM and Independent SB (ISB) would be authorized by special exemption.

40M - Same as for 80/75.

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SKYWARN Endures Daylong Siege in Central Mississippi



(Apr 7, 2005) -- Wednesday, April 6, in Central Mississippi began with tornadoes, severe hail and flooding, prompting activation of local SKYWARN, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams and Amateur Radio

volunteers. Members of the Jackson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) staffed the National Weather Service (NWS) Jackson Forecast Office. Operations continued for more than 16 hours as a line of severe storms marched across Mississippi. The club's station, WX5JAN, handled a substantial number of warning statements, spotter and damage reports well into the evening. Within an hour of activation, an F3 tornado struck the Monterey area in Rankin County, injuring six residents, destroying 17 homes and damaging many more. Smith County radio amateurs reported major damage in Mize after a tornado struck the community's K-12 school as students took shelter. Throughout the morning, reports of hail, funnel clouds and flooding streamed into the station from counties across Central Mississippi. As another wave severe storms moved through these same areas in the afternoon, operators continued to report funnel clouds, hail and flooding. Several JARC ARES members responded to the Central Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross to assist with damage assessment and other duties. During this second wave of storms, a nearby lightning strike forced the SKYWARN station off the air. Hurricane Watch Net Assistant Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, served temporarily as alternate net control while the station recovered from the strike. Although the interruption was short lived, warnings and reports continued unabated. By late afternoon, a third round of storms moved through, hitting many of the same areas. Again, reports of hail, funnel clouds and flooding continued until operations ceased at 10:30 PM. "I think we did extremely well considering the length of the event and everything else that occurred," said JARC SKYWARN Coordinator, Robert "Billy Bob" Sekul, N5XXX. This week's event marked the eighth SKYWARN activation since March 1. SKYWARN is a voluntary program developed by the NWS to improve its severe weather warning program.--Ben Jones, AC5SU

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Weaver's Words

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30M - Same as for 80/75 except no phone (per international agreement).

20M - Same as for 80/75.

17M - Same as for 80/75 except no automatic control.

15M - Same as for 80/75.

12M - Same as for 80/75 except no automatic control.

10M - Segments of up to 20 Hz, 500 Hz, 3 kHz, and 15 kHz. A sub-segment of 3 kHz would be open to automatic control.

60m - Operation on this band is under special control by FCC and the NTIA. We cannot change these limitations.

If you would like to see more detail about the tentative band plan as it currently exists, you may go to <<http://www.arrrl.org/htdig/?q=bandwidth+regulation>>. You will also find a discussion of our current thinking for the UHF/VHF ham bands at this same site.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on this planning. You can be certain that "the 'fat lady' hasn't sung yet" on this proposal. As I said "at the top," this is still a work-in-progress. Nothing will be presented to the FCC without Board approval.

73, Jim

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Director, Great Lakes Division ARRL
5065 Bethany Rd., Mason, OH 45040
Tel.: 513-459-0142; E-mail: k8je@arrrl.org
<http://www.arrrl.org/>

Edited to fit available space

For Sale

Tri-Comm Handy Packet W/manual. Portable or 100v operation, W/Cables. Zenith Data System Portable computer w/ Disk and some programs \$210.00

Bill Lukes, WB9SYG
408 Lane Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802
blukes@chartermi.net
(906)774-4381

Packet Radio Directory

Through the grapevine, I've heard that the following local hams are active on packet and can be reached from the MIIMTB LAN on 147.420MHz:

N8WQG—Le Roy
KC8EMF—Pat
KB8HHQ—Dennis
N9NBN—Mike
K8DDB—Mike
KC8RY—Steve
N8FZU—George
KB8KY—Kelly
KB9AVW—Irv

KD8AIT, Dennis, is in the process of assembling a packet station and fellow club member N0MR, Jerry, in Minnesota is very active on packet. He can be reached via the following route: MIIMTB, #446IM, #446CR, #446GB, to WIGATE in Appleton Wisconsin. Leave a message there, and it will be automatically forwarded to him.

As new packeteers get active, please let me know and I'll add you to the list.

While exploring the packet system, I'm creating a map of sorts of the backbones, LANs and BBSs. After I get a couple of knowledgeable packeteers to check it out for accuracy, I'll include it in a future newsletter.

If there is a veteran packeteer that would like to write a column for the newsletter, please let me know. Packet has a steep learning curve as compared to other modes, so if you can share your expertise via the newsletter, maybe we can get more hams involved in this fun activity!

Mike, K8DDB
Packet mail drop, K8DDB-1@mikebray@chartermi.net

Area News

Club Equipment List

Please take the time to look through your "stuff" and see if you have anything belonging to the club.

Here's what we have so far:

Tom, W8JWN, has custody of :

- Gin Pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
- Small TV type rotor and control.
- Dipole antennas for 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
- Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy)
- RG8X with double shield (100 feet)
- 3/16 inch single braid Dacron rope (200 feet)
- 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters)
- 6 PL259 silver connectors
- 4 T-adapters for stubs
- 4 UG-176 silver sleeves
- 3 right-angle connectors

Pat, KC8EMF, has custody of a light 40 foot tower (condition is not known.)

The list can be accessed by a link on the Membership page of our web site:

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

If you have custody of any club equipment, please notify Mike, K8DDB, of what you have. Also, notify Mike when you give custody of the equipment to another member.

Email: mikebray@chartermi.net
or
Phone (906) 563-7020

In addition to publishing news from other clubs that may be of interest to our members, this column will also inform us of issues that other clubs are dealing with so we may benefit from their ideas.

From the AIR SCOOP Monthly

Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society, *Editor: Les Elder, WA8LE*

From February Meeting Minutes

Discussion to whereabouts of our club Kenwood TS 120 transceiver and also club equipment. It was brought up that the last place the unit was used was at Tom Elegeerts Camp several years ago. The club will do what can be done to locate this unit. Dave asked everyone to make a list of equipment that they have in possession and to forward to our club treasurer for record keeping.

Sound familiar? Our club probably owns a lot of items that are not accounted for on our Club Equipment List. Please refer to the side-bar on this page and help make the list complete.

Tony KC8NUR Would like to start "Project Night at the Electronics Lab" at Bay College. Marshall – N8VBA, Electronics instructor, will check the availability if we can have project nights on "Monday Nights" alternating Monday nights starting at 7PM. We should be able to start this very soon. If you have anything you are working on or need some minor repairs, or tuna can projects, bring them with you. This will be a good time to start a small project. All are welcome to attend. Further updates on project nights will be in our newsletter.

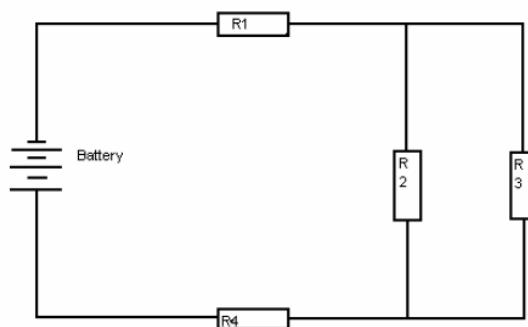
We could try to find a local school that would be willing to host a Project Night for our club if we have enough interest in doing this sort of thing . Notify Mike, K8DDB (906) 563-7020 mikebray@chartermi.net

CLUB LIBRARY

Tony KC8NUR explained to new attendees of the nice library that the club has and can check out any of the manuals or books as they wish, and return them when they are done with them. Tony is our Club – Librarian. Any information you might need also for antenna building or projects, books are available from our club library. Included in our club library will have available our DVD – Technician Class complete program. Additional books are added monthly by mem-

bers that no longer have room in their own library. Thanks members for your help.

Puzzle of the Month



The value of R1 is 1K ohms.
The value of R3 is 20K ohms.
The value of R4 is 5K ohms.

Placing a voltmeter across R3 shows a voltage drop of 10 volts.

Placing a voltmeter across R4 shows a voltage drop of 5 volts.

Question #1: What is the resistance of R2?
Question #2: What is the battery voltage?

Answers on page 8 (submitted by Dave Palmgren)

From The Landline

Newsletter of the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association
Editor: George Thurner, W8FWG

REPEATER OPERATION:

This question comes up from time to time: May I use the repeater, if I am not a club member?

The answer is: We advertise our repeater as an open repeater, meaning anyone can use it at any time. We do ask you to consider this, however:

1. A small group of hams maintain the repeaters.
2. It costs money to own and operate a repeater.
3. It is therefore only a courtesy that you contribute toward the maintenance of the repeater if you use it.

Mich-A-Con ARC May 10th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

now located at the Metropolitan site.

ARES:

Dennis, KD8AIT, reported that the group now has 8 members. Randy, KB9ZES, has been net control a couple of times and Dennis would eventually like all members to practice that role.

Old Business:

Pat, KC8EMF, will determine the condition of the club's tower. Terry, KB9ZER; Dave, KB9JOG and Randy, KB9ZES can provide sections of Rohn 25 tower for Field Day if needed. Mike, N9NBN, will coordinate getting the tower and beam ready for Field Day.

Tom, W8JWN, has arranged for Frankenmuth Insurance to provide the necessary coverage for the City of Norway for Field Day weekend.

Tom, W8JWN, purchased a 200 call plan from CallingPost.com for \$14.95. After a discussion, it was agreed that weather-related callouts would only be initiated for tornado watches or warnings.

Tom, W8JWN, contacted the VA Hospital administration about locating a club station there. The hospital is being renovated and no space exists at the present time but space may become available when renovation is complete. Tom will continue to pursue this with the hospital administration.

Mike, N9NBN and Mike, K8DDB, picked up the coax and hardline that Melissa Lewis donated to the club. A motion was made by Mike, K8DDB, to give enough hardline to Mike, N9NBN, for the installation of his 220MHz repeater in exchange for the Rohn 25 tower base he contributed to the club. The motion was seconded by Burt Armbrust and approved by those in attendance.

New Business:

Dennis, KD8AIT, is looking for an alternate Net Control Operator for the SKYWARN/Storm Spotter net for times when he is not available. Please call Dennis if you can help.

Mike, K8DDB, will ask the City of Norway to once again consider declaring the week leading up to Field Day, Amateur Radio Week. Setup for Field Day will be at 9:00 AM Saturday the 25th and operation will begin at 1:00 PM Saturday

and continue through 1:00 PM Sunday.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM

A Field Day planning meeting followed the business meeting.

Submitted by: Mike Bray

Attendees:

Mike Bray, K8DDB (Secretary)
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Mike Boileau, N9NBN (Vice President)
Dennis Beurjey, KD8AIT
Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER
Tom Martin, W8JWN (President)
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS
Lee Michaud, N8LT

PUZZLE OF THE MONTH

Answer for puzzle on page 7

5 volt drop across 5k ohms (R4) = .001 amps.
(Total circuit current)

10 volts across R3 / 20K gives a .0005 amps current flow through R3.

Total circuit current flow of .001 amps - .0005 amps flow through R3 = .0005 amps flow through R2. 10 volts across R2 / .0005 amps = 20K ohms resistance.

Since R3 is 20K, R2 also must be Also be 20K ohms to get a total of 10 k Ohms.

Total circuit resistance equals:

$R1 + (R2 \& R3) + R4 = 16K \text{ Ohms}$

$1K + 10K + 5K = 16K \text{ Ohms}$

$16K \text{ Ohms} \times .001 \text{ Amps} = 16 \text{ Volts.}$

So R2 = 20K Ohms and the Battery is 16 Volts.

For Sale

Heathkit HW-16 transceiver with power supply - \$50.00

Paul, WB8SZI (906)563-8044

Club Apparel:

Our club apparel is supplied by:

Shirt Tails
408 S Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Phone: (906)774-3370
or
finleyd@up.net

Prices:

Jacket with liner \$45
(Tall add \$5, 2X or 3X add \$5,
to add your name or call sign
on the front is \$5)

T-Shirt - \$10
(2X or 3X add \$1)
Sweatshirt - \$16
(2X or 3X add \$2)

If you wish to have the club logo printed on an item of clothing that you have purchased elsewhere, there is charge of \$6.

Club patches are available from:

Tom Martin, W8JWN
812 West B Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

They are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3.00 each. If ordering by mail, please include a SASE along with your payment.



Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please remit dues to:
Mike Bray, K8DDB
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____

ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 _____ * Family \$30 _____ * Repeater-Only - \$10 _____**

If family membership, please list additional names and call signs:

* The dues for NEW members are prorated - you only pay for the remainder of the year! Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership or \$2.50 per month for a Family membership.

**If you are an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater-Only-Membership.

Exam Schedule

City: Iron Mountain
Location: Dickinson County Library
Room: Conference Room
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time
Contact: Mark Lewis, N8UKD
Telephone: (906) 774-6598

Exam Date: Aug 6, 2005
Exam Date: Nov 5, 2005
Exam Date: Feb 4, 2006
Exam Date: May 6, 2006

Examinees should bring 2 pencils, a pen for the official paperwork, the originals AND copies of any previous credit that you have earned (Certificates of Successful Completion or current license), 1 photo id (usually a driver's license) and 1 other id. (usually a birth certificate or SS card), a calculator if needed (make sure your memories are cleaned out), and the test fee (2005 fee is \$14).

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain.

Items for Mich-A-Con RF should be in the editor's hands by club meeting day (2nd Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition. Please consider writing an article related to Amateur Radio to share with your fellow members. Send the article in plain text and attach any photos, etc., don't worry about format, that's the editor's job.

Send to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of material found in Mich-A-Con RF unless otherwise noted, provided that proper credit is given to the author and Mich-A-Con ARC.

Repeaters

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	—
444.850 MHz	plus	100

Both repeaters have an auto patch with a toll restriction. The auto patch on the 2-meter repeater can be used with permission. The 440 auto patch is for club use only.

A club net is held on the 2-meter repeater every Tuesday at 6:30 PM except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

Mich-A-Con RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Michael F. Bray
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Mich-A-Con RF

Club Meetings

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. 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:

Mike Boileau, N9NBN
(715) 251-3137
n9nbn@netnet.net

Secretary:

Mike Bray, K8DDB
(906) 563-7020
mikebray@chartermi.net

Treasurer (Pro Tem):

Tom Martin, W8JWN
Mike Bray, K8DDB
(Shared responsibility)

Reminders

The monthly meeting for June is on TUESDAY the 14th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway, Michigan. (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)

Please support the club, its repeaters and packet system by becoming an active, dues-paying member. We can do more with your help!

Have you considered becoming involved in the public service aspect of Ham Radio? Why not join SKYWARN and ARES and provide a valuable service to our community!

Get on the radio and make some PACKET RACKET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!