

# MICH-A-CON RF

IRON MOUNTAIN, MI

MAY 2007

## Are You Ready for Field Day 2007?

By: Mike K8DDB

Make plans now to take part in the most popular event in Amateur Radio ... Field Day! The event takes place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and we will once again be using the facilities at Marion Park in Norway. This year we will be combining our club picnic with Field Day, so bring the family along and enjoy a great time.

Setup of equipment and antennas will begin at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Operation will commence at 1:00 PM Saturday and will continue through 1:00 PM Sunday afternoon, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

The meal portion of the picnic will be held on Saturday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Members are asked to bring their own meat, drinks and utensils and a dish to pass.



Tom, W8JWN, makes an SSB contact during FD 2006

We will be operating class 3A this year, which means that we will have one more HF station in operation than we did last year. This was done so those that have upgraded their licenses since last Field Day will have a greater opportunity to take part. We will have 3 HF stations operating SSB, CW and Digital modes; a GOTA (Get On The Air) station to enable Technicians and those that haven't been on the air for a while to get on HF; and a Packet station for demonstration purposes and for passing traffic. I will also have my Solar Powered QRP station in operation to earn the 100 bonus points for operation using a natural energy source.

Members that are operating non-traditional modes, such as APRS, Winlink email, SSTV and Satellite can earn the club extra bonus points by demonstrating these modes to fellow members and the public. So, if you are able to participate, please call me for more information. Bonus points are meant to be an incentive to the club to introduce the public to Amateur Radio and give our less experienced operators training in the setup and use of radio equipment in an emergency setting.

Our packet station will be operating under the callsign of KC8VC with a mailbox ID of KC8VC-1. So, drop us some mail to help demonstrate this mode of communication. We should be able to receive via the MIIMT Local Area Network.

## New Field Day Rules for 2007

In order to encourage Class A and F stations to make concerted efforts to have a GOTA (Get On The Air) station and to maximize the number of participants at the GOTA station, there have been changes in the GOTA Bonus Point structure. In addition to the regular QSO points earned the individual operator of a GOTA station can earn 20 bonus points when they complete 20 QSOs. They earn an additional 20 bonus points for each additional 20 QSOs completed up to 100 QSOs for each individual GOTA operator. The operator may make additional contacts for credit beyond the 100-QSO level, but only the first 100 qualify for the bonus points. Additional operators may also

earn the 100-point bonuses for a GOTA station, up to the maximum of 500 QSOs allowed for the GOTA station. If the GOTA station is supervised full-time by a designated GOTA Coach, the earned bonus points double (the 20 points for 20 QSOs becomes 40 points, 100 points for 100 QSOs become 200 points, etc).

**Last Year's Stats:**

<u>Band</u>	<u>CW</u> <u>QSOs</u>	<u>Digital</u> <u>QSOs</u>	<u>Phone</u> <u>QSOs</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>QSOs</u>
160	0	0	0	0
80	22	0	60	82
40	90	0	103	193
20	76	37	63	176
15	45	0	43	88
6m			4	4
<u>GOTA</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>117</u>
Totals	233	37	390	660

Bonus points earned:

100% emergency power	200
Media publicity	100
Set-up in a public place	100
Information booth	100
Copy W1AW Field Day message	100
Formal NTS messages handled	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site visited by an invited elected official	100
Site visited by an invited served agency official	100
GOTA bonus	50
Field Day entry submitted via the web	<u>50</u>
Total bonus points	1,100

Total Score – 1,860 + 1,100 bonus points = 2,960

We have improved our score each year, with the greatest improvement shown on the GOTA station. GOTA operators took great pride in making 117 QSOs during the 24 hour operating period last year. As a group we worked 49 out of the 50 states (missed South Dakota), 5 Canadian Provinces, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and New Zealand. There were only 7 ARRL/RAC contest sections (of a total of 80) that we didn't contact. We placed tenth out of twenty "class 2A" Michigan entries.

To support the club's emergency communications capabilities, the Sheriff's Department has given us emergency power equipment, including a new generator, which we will be using at Field Day 2007 for the first time.

Club shirts are available for Field Day. Randy, KB9ZES, has donated T-Shirts with the club logo screen-printed on the back as a fund raiser for the club. See the Buy-Sell-Trade page of the club website for available sizes: <http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

As a final thought, remember that even though we can get caught up in a spirited competition with other clubs or in just trying to improve upon last year's results, this is not a contest. It should be a fun event and at the same time allow us to demonstrate that we are able to set up communications in an emergency/disaster situation. It is a time that we can "learn by doing" and also a time that we can educate the public about the capabilities of amateur radio.

I hope to see you there! Mike, K8DDB [mikebray@chartermi.net](mailto:mikebray@chartermi.net) (906)563-7020

## **Governor Granholm declares the week of June 23 as Amateur Radio Awareness Week.**

From:

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK wa8efk@arrl.org

Governor Granholm declares the week of June 23 as Amateur Radio Awareness Week. The official proclamation marking the week of June 23 has been released by the Governor's Office and sent to all Michigan Section Public Information Officers. Additionally, a downloadable copy is posted on the Michigan Section Web Page.

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

Clubs and FD teams are encouraged to incorporate this document into their publicity arrangements for Field Day next month. Our thanks go to PIC Bobby N8CY for making these arrangements well in advance so everyone has the material for PR purposes.

### **Words from the President** **Tom W8JWN**

**Object:** To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

The above is taken from the ARRL rules for Field Day 2007. You will note that the purpose of the exercise is to work as many stations as possible and “to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.” This suggests that individuals and clubs should be operating from locations and facilities that aren’t “normal”. Also, I take it that “less than optimal conditions” would suggest using equipment and antennas that wouldn’t be similar to a home station. Obviously no linear amps running 1000 watts or more to beams at 70 feet would be considered as “less than optimal.” Operating from a tent or camper in a park or field would be considered “abnormal conditions”. Yet, there are literally hundreds of clubs that use 50-100 foot towers and large beams on the last full weekend of June. Why?

The answer is that Field Day has become nothing more than another contest weekend for many clubs. If a “premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness”, then Field day should be geared to the real world. Do you really think that the emergency stations that have been activated during natural and manmade

disasters like Katrina and 9/11 were set up with beams, towers, and large loops over a 4-10 hour time period? Did members have weeks to sort and to pack gear to be ready for the unknown event? Was traffic handled with a "59 Michigan...QRZ?"

Now, I'm not suggesting that we use one antenna and transmitter connected to a battery. What is important though is that the weekend should be used as a test of our ability to work together and to operate under less than ideal conditions. The number of contacts is not the end all of the activity. FD is a valuable exercise to acquaint the public with ham radio and its usefulness during an emergency. Ham radio and our club should be shown as a vitally important part of our community.

### **Tom, W8JWN Decides to Keep His Existing Call sign!**

By: Steve KD8CCP

Tom noticed that I have been putting the wrong call sign on his *Words* articles the last couple of months. I apologize for the mistake and ask all readers to send me corrections when you find them. I am the only proof reader of the newsletter so I expect to have some typos but will not find them without your help!

Thanks again Tom, [W8JWN](#) for all your articles!!!

### **ARRL SUBMITS PLAN TO MITIGATE REPEATER INTERFERENCE TO MILITARY RADARS**

From

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 20 May 18, 2007

The ARRL has submitted an interference mitigation plan to the US Department of Defense (DoD) as part of an effort to resolve reported interference from dozens of 70 cm amateur repeaters to US military radar systems on both coasts.

Since Amateur Radio is secondary to government users from 420 to 450 MHz, hams must not interfere with primary users and, under the rules, can be forced to cease operation. Earlier this year, the US Air Force asked the FCC to order dozens of repeater systems to either eliminate interference to its "PAVE PAWS" missile and satellite detection and tracking radars in Massachusetts and California or shut down.

"We are waiting the response of the DoD representative to the proposal and will continue to provide information as to its status when it becomes available," commented ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND.

The interference mitigation plan has four primary steps:

- \* All repeaters the DoD has identified as potential interference sources will immediately and temporarily reduce transmitter power output (TPO) to 5 W.

- \* The ARRL will conduct Longley-Rice studies on each repeater system to determine what further mitigation techniques might apply to individual repeaters. These could include relocating the system, the use of directional antenna systems to create nulls towards the PAVE PAWS site, permanent power reductions or a combination of these techniques.

- \* The DoD will review ARRL's studies to determine if the proposals will meet DoD's unspecified field strength requirements to mitigate the potential interference satisfactorily.

- \* Once the DoD reviews and approves the proposals, the ARRL will provide the recommendations to respective repeater frequency coordinating groups and the FCC.

The situation affects 15 repeaters within less than 100 miles of Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more than 100 repeaters within some 140 miles of Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California.

PAVE PAWS facilities occupy essentially the entire 70 cm band -- one factor that makes mitigation difficult. Feeding upward of 1800 active antenna elements, the broadband radar transmitters emit an average power output of more than 145 kW. Henderson says repeater owners and trustees ultimately would be responsible for implementing the mitigation proposals or for developing alternatives that protect the radar systems to the same extent.

Cooperation will be the key to a successful resolution of the situation, Henderson says. "Although ARRL has no means to compel compliance with the mitigation strategies, each repeater is absolutely obligated not to interfere with these radars," he emphasized. "Failure to implement the mitigation strategy or otherwise eliminate interference attributed to an individual repeater will result in immediate FCC action.

"Henderson points out that the FCC is aware of and monitoring this situation and will act as necessary to protect the radars from interference. He stresses, however, that the US military is aware of the critical role Amateur Radio repeaters play in disasters and emergencies, and a wholesale shutdown of US 70 cm Amateur Radio activity is not under consideration.

A US Air Force contractor identified the allegedly problematic repeater systems last summer, but the situation didn't become critical until the Air Force contacted the FCC in March. ARRL officials met with Defense Department representatives later that month to discuss alleged interference to the PAVE PAWS radar sites, and last month Henderson contacted Amateur Radio frequency coordinating organizations in both affected areas -- the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (NARCC) and the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC).

Contact Dan Henderson, N1ND [n1nd@arrl.org](mailto:n1nd@arrl.org) ; (860-594-0236), with specific questions or issues associated with this situation.

## **Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the May 8, 2007 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 7:06 PM.

### **Secretary Report**

The reading of the minutes of the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was waived.

### **Treasurer Report**

No report – treasurer absent.

### **Repeater Report**

Lee, N8LT, reported that he has resolved the low power output problem on the new 440 repeater. We have obtained controllers for the new 2 meter and 440 repeaters at no cost to the club. Lee requested that the club authorize the expenditure of up to \$120 for new crystals for the 440 repeater. The request was approved and funds will be taken from the Repeater Savings account.

### **ARES**

Terry, KB9ZER, and Steve, KD8CCP, attended Storm Spotter training at the Dickinson County Correctional Center on May 1. Training now includes information on reporting winter conditions. There is a Storm Spotter training session scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> in Pembine.

### **Old Business**

Bob, KC8TWG, will check the feasibility of using Bob's, WA8FXQ, camper trailer for storage and transport of club equipment.

The feed lines and antennas at the packet site in Metropolitan need to be taken down.

The Crivitz packet EPROMs need to be reprogrammed to remove the KE9LK ID (Skip's old call).

The antenna at the 80 foot level on the Pine Mountain WE Energies tower needs to be grounded.

### **New Business**

Randy, KB9ZES, reported that some repeater users are not using proper ID procedures.

Terry, KB9ZER, suggested that we hold the club picnic on Field Day. A motion was made by Randy, KB9ZES, seconded by Terry and approved by those in attendance. The meal portion of the picnic will take place from 11AM to 1PM on Saturday. Members are asked to bring their own meat, drinks, utensils and a dish to pass.

We will operate Class 3A for Field Day this year. Field Day assignments are as follows:

Mike, K8DDB and Tom, W8JWN – Publicity

Lee, N8LT – Setup

Terry, KB9ZER and Tom, W8JWN – Donations

Mike, K8DDB – Scoring/Reporting

Randy, KB9ZES – Transport of generator and accessories from Rocconi's.

We should consider purchasing a light weight aluminum tower to replace our 40 foot steel tower.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

For The Good Of The Order – Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

### **Attendees**

Mike Bray, K8DDB ---Secretary

Bob Uren, KC8TWG

Tom Martin, W8JWN ---President

Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER

Lee Michaud, N8LT

Skip Caswell, KE9L

Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS

Randy Zandt, KB9ZES

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF

## Scarborough Reef DXpedition

**Mike, K8DDB and Tom, W8JWN report that they recently worked them on 20 cm.  
Tom also worked this “Most Wanted” Station on 20 SSB a few weeks ago!**



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 (second 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., do not worry about format, that is the editor's job.

Send to:

[kd8ccp@arrl.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arrl.net)

(906) 779-5720

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<b>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for June 2007</b>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 UPSN	4	5	6	7 ARES	8	9
10 UPSN	11	12 Meeting	13	14 ARES	15	16 BREAKF AST
17 UPSN	18	19	20	21 ARES	22	23 Field Day Picnic too!
24 Field Day UPSN	25	26	27	28 ARES	29	30

**CLUB ACTIVITIES:**

The Upper Peninsula 2-meter Social Net (UPSN) is conducted every Sunday at 7:00 PM Central Time on the 146.850 repeater. Dennis, K8SWX will facilitate the link from our repeater to the other participating stations via EchoLink. (Note: Dennis is currently working on a problem with the Link and therefore the net may not be held on our local repeater.)

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:30 PM Central Time every Thursday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz).

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Dickinson County Library. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Avenue (US-2) in Iron Mountain, across from Econo Foods. Why not enjoy a good meal and camaraderie with your fellow members?

June 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup> is Field Day 2007 and the Mich-A-Con ARC will be actively participating again this year! Plan on attending:

**The Club picnic will also be held during the Field Day Operations this year too. On Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> the meal portion of the picnic will be held from 11 - 1 PM. Members are asked to bring their own meat, drinks, utensils and a dish to pass.**



## **Marinette & Menominee ARC 2006 Ham of the Year Award**

**From:**

**ARRL Michigan Section Newsletter**

**Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK wa8efk@arrl.org**

The presentation of the Marinette & Menominee ARC 2006 Ham of the Year Award highlighted the Charter Night Banquet held at the Best Western Riverfront Inn in Marinette on Sunday April 15th.

Ed Engleman, KG8CX became the first two-time winner of the award for his work on the DAR Boys and Girls Club Radio Project, as well as his many other contributions to club activities throughout the year.

Ed also serves as Net Control for the Sunday night M&M ARC net, and as SKYWARN coordinator for Marinette, Menominee, and Oconto Counties.

**(Editors Note: Congratulations to Ed from the Mich-A-Con ARC too!)**

### **Report Your Net Activities**

**from:**

**ARRL Michigan Section Newsletter**

**Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK wa8efk@arrl.org**

Local VHF & UHF Net Managers should consider reporting their net activities to WB8RCR. There appears to be a large number of nets that are not getting credit for all of their dedication and service to their communities. Take a look at <http://www.mi-nts.org/index.php> for information on Michigan Nets and their activities. Consider adding you net to the roster of active and reporting nets.

### **EXAM DATES:**

06-June-2007

Sponsor: HIAWATHA ARA

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: RICHARD E SCHWENKE (906) 249-3837

Email: N8GBA@CHARTERML.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

**Location: MARQUETTE HEALTH DEPT BLDG 184 US 41 E NEXT TO MI STATE POLICE BLDG NEGAUNEE, MI 49866**

30-JUN-2007

**Sponsor: TOMAHAWK REPEATER ASSN**

**Time: 8:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**Contact: DIANE L HAMMAN (715)453-3908**

Email: [W8BHL@ARRL.ORG](mailto:W8BHL@ARRL.ORG)

Email: [LITTLELODGE@NEWNORTH.NET](mailto:LITTLELODGE@NEWNORTH.NET)

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: SACRED HEART HOSPITAL 401 W MOHAWK DR TOMAHAWK, WI 54487

28-JUL-2007

Sponsor: TOMAHAWK REPEATER ASSN

Time: 8:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: DIANE L HAMMAN (715)453-3908

Email: [W8BHL@ARRL.ORG](mailto:W8BHL@ARRL.ORG)

Email: [LITTLELODGE@NEWNORTH.NET](mailto:LITTLELODGE@NEWNORTH.NET)

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: SACRED HEART HOSPITAL 401 W MOHAWK DR TOMAHAWK, WI 54487

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 drivers 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. (2007 fee is \$14). Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change.

## AUTO PATCH PROCEDURES:

Did you know our Club has an Auto Patch on both of our Repeaters? The 2-Meter repeater can be used with permission and the 440 repeater is for club use only. The auto patch can be used for making local phone calls from your radio. Remember that you can make calls for most things.... even order pizza, but it is not to be used for business purposes. Here is what to do:

- **LISTEN.** If the repeater is open proceed.
- **Key up the repeater and identify yourself.** IE: "This is KD8CCP Accessing Auto Patch."
- **Push the transmit key and press the \* key.** This should give you a dial tone.
- **Push the transmit key again and dial as normal.** Talk as you normally would on air but remember to tell the person called you are on the air.
- **Inform the called party to pause when you are talking** because you will not be able to hear them while transmitting.
- **When you are done with the conversation push the transmit key again and push the # key.** This releases the repeater.
- **Identify yourself and release the repeater.**

Now its your turn. Next time you are on the air and it seems quiet... experiment ... try out the Auto Patch. It is important for all HAMS to be familiar with the auto patch procedures for emergency use too!

## 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/>

## REPEATERS:

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

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

<u>Output</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>PL Tone</u>
146.850 MHz	minus	-----
444.850 MHz	plus	-----

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 member use only.

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

Please remit dues to :  
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX  
612 Balsam Street  
Kingsford, Mi 49802

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRL Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues are due in January. 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* 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 in an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater Only Membership

### Club Patches are Available From:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX  
612 Balsam Street  
Kingsford, Mi 49802

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

# MICH-A-CON RF

Mich-A-Con ARC  
c/o Stephen Skauge  
945 Woodward Ave Apt 5  
Kingsford, Mi. 49802-4438

## Club Meetings:

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Dickinson County Library. 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](mailto:tmartin@chartermi.net)

Vice President:  
Mike Boileau N9NBN  
(715) 251-3137  
[n9nbn@uplogon.com](mailto:n9nbn@uplogon.com)

Secretary:  
Mike Bray, K8DDB  
(906) 563-7020  
[mikebray@chartermi.net](mailto:mikebray@chartermi.net)

Treasurer:  
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX  
(906) 771-1996  
[dbeurjey@msn.com](mailto:dbeurjey@msn.com)

## Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2007 were payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form in this newsletter when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The monthly meeting for June is on Tuesday the 12th at 7:00 PM at the Dickinson County Library.