

# MICH-A-CON RF

IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN

May, 2008

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Field Day Planned

Field Day 2008 Rule Changes

FCC to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees?

Conducting Business Via Amateur Radio

Calendar of Events

Club Activities

Repeaters

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

V.E. Testing

The Success of the 2008 Michigan  
Section Youth Conference

Chinese Officials give Kudos to Amateur  
Radio Operators

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes April 8th 2008

Club Meetings

Club Officers

Reminders

Visit the ARRL's web site at  
<http://www.arrl.org>

## Field Day Planned.

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club is working on this year's Field Day plans. Field Day 2008 is set for June 28<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>. An organizational meeting was scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> and final details will be discussed at the regular club meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2008.

The Mich-A-Co Amateur Radio Club will have our event at Marion Park in Norway. Setup of equipment and antennas will begin early Saturday with exact times to be announced.

## Field Day 2008 Rule Changes

From:

**ARRL Web Page, February 2008**

Here are some of the rule changes for Field Day 2008:

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only the HF bands, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time.

Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed

since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via [e-mail](#).

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said.

Complete rules for the 2008 Field Day can be found at the following link:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/fd.html>

### **FCC to Raise Vanity Call Fee?**

From :

*Weaver's Words*, Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2008

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director

ARRL Great Lakes Division

On May 8, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) designed to increase fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The Commission proposes to raise the fee to \$12.30. This is a \$.60 increase over the current fee of \$11.70. As is true of regular call sign licenses, vanity call licenses are good for 10 years. Vanity call fees have varied from a high of \$50.00 to the current low of \$11.70.

The FCC expects to receive about 15,000 vanity call applications during the coming fiscal year

#### **Conducting business via Amateur Radio**

From :

*Weaver's Words*, Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2008

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director

I recently commented on the acceptability of using Amateur Radio to support commercial activity during certain forms of emergency. Bruce Moyer, KI8GR, reminds me of an additional type of business activity that is legal for hams to practice on a daily basis. This involves using Amateur Radio to purchase personal items.

First, let me point out that the FCC did not change its rule against using ham radio for pecuniary interest. Instead, the Commission clarified what is and what isn't financial interest as regards hamming. Examples of the clarification are two people talking by radio (simplex or by repeater) to order a pizza or to pass along a list of items to be bought on the way home do not represent prohibited activities.

On the other hand, it would not be permissible for a pizza shop to take orders directly off the air with a rig set up in the shop.

<b><u>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for June 2008</u></b>						
<b><u>SUN</u></b>	<b><u>MON</u></b>	<b><u>TUE</u></b>	<b><u>WED</u></b>	<b><u>THUR</u></b>	<b><u>FRI</u></b>	<b><u>SAT</u></b>
<b><u>1</u></b> <b><u>UPSN</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b> <b><u>ARES</u></b>	<b><u>6</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
<b><u>8</u></b> <b><u>UPSN</u></b>	<b><u>9</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b> <b><u>Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b> <b><u>ARES</u></b>	<b><u>13</u></b>	<b><u>14</u></b>
<b><u>15</u></b> <b><u>UPSN</u></b>	<b><u>16</u></b>	<b><u>17</u></b>	<b><u>18</u></b>	<b><u>19</u></b> <b><u>ARES</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>	<b><u>21 Club</u></b> <b><u>Breakfast</u></b>
<b><u>22</u></b> <b><u>UPSN</u></b>	<b><u>23</u></b>	<b><u>24</u></b>	<b><u>25</u></b>	<b><u>26</u></b> <b><u>ARES</u></b>	<b><u>27</u></b>	<b><u>28</u></b> <b><u>FIELD DAY</u></b>
<b><u>29</u></b> <b><u>FIELD DAY</u></b>	<b><u>30</u></b>				-	
-					-	

**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 Echo Link. (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 on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz.)

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at 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 at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.

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## **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: WA8FXO/R IMT**

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	-----
444.850 MHz	plus	-----

Visit the Mich-A-Con Web Site:  
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

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.

## **V.E. TESTING:**

**06/14 Marquette: 8:30 am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00 am). Marquette County Health Department Building on U. S. 41 east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at (906) 249-3837 or email: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net). NOTE: Pre-registration is required.**

**06/19 Iron River: 7:00 pm central time, Iron River Lutheran Church after the club meeting. NOTE: Pre-registration is required. Contact Dan Waters, AA9JG at (906) 265-4240 or by email: [dmwaters@ironriver.tv](mailto:dmwaters@ironriver.tv)**

**07/12 Houghton: 8:30 am eastern time, Room G04 in the basement of Wadsworth Residence Hall at MTU (Michigan Technological University). Free parking is available across Hwy U.S. 41 from this building. Contact Glen at (906) 482-7743 or by email: [wa8qnf@arrl.net](mailto:wa8qnf@arrl.net).**

**07/12 Gladstone: 9:00 am eastern time at the Gladstone Public Library. Testing begins at 9:00 am. Contact Howard W8HSJ at (906) 428-9476 or by email: [w8hsj@dcars.org](mailto:w8hsj@dcars.org)**

**08/02 Iron Mountain: 9:00 am central time, (arrive by 8:30 am) in the Dickinson County Library conference room. Contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 396-5519 , 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.**

**Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to allow time for application processing. Testing applicants should bring two pieces of I.D. including one photo I.D. Original license and a clear copy of their license if applicable and a completed form 605 will also be needed. (Form 605 will be provided if needed.) Please bring pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individuals listed to confirm dates, times and locations.**

### **The success of the 2008 Michigan Section Youth Conference**

**From:**

**Simon Boehme, KC8ZYD ARRL Michigan Section Youth Coordinator**

**And**

**ARRL Michigan Section**

**Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK**

**[wa8efk@arrl.org](mailto:wa8efk@arrl.org)**

When Dale and I first met up at the hotel in Gaylord, we were both unsure of what the potential of this Conference could create. We were both unsure about the number of people who would show up, if the weather would cooperate, and all the little details for an event that has never been done before. So we both went to the event site and began to set up. And people began to trickle in all the way up to starting time at ten o'clock. We had a total of 7 youth participants (not including myself). The youth came from Midland, Grayling, Shepherd & Lansing. The ages ranged from 11 years old to 14 years old. Once the session began, it was all done to business.

YAM time. Youth Assessment of Michigan was the primary focus of the Conference. We hoped to gather what the youth thought of Ham Radio and how to get more youth involved. This was the most time spent at the Conference and involved all of the youth and the adults. Dale was the Official Scribe while I tried my best to open the brains of the youth and see what their ideas, views, and observations of Ham Radio in Michigan were. We took many pages of notes on the big poster board and those notes are in the current stages of being copied and analyzed into a final report. Look in the future for this report. YAM time was not just business, it was fun. We shared laughs about how to change the image of Ham Radio and eating some good pizza.

At the conference we were also lucky to have the Civil Air Patrol trailer to demonstrate what they do and special event station N8ES. Many of the young Hams made a few connections on HF and for those who connected with us, will be receiving a certificate. To say the least, it was a highly successfully day.

However the Conference was not just a successful day because we talked on the radio and talked about radio, but what we will soon learn from all the input of the youth. Many of the views shared in the Conference were startling to me and so many others which may arouse your thoughts about Ham Radio as well. Once that report is released, we will begin to make more steps into getting more youth involved in Ham Radio. Yet one step I would like to make, and as some could put it, my first "Official Act" is to challenge all the clubs across Michigan. Operation license the YOUTH! Each club in the Michigan Section will try to get a minimum of 5 licensed hams under the age of 19 by September 25th. Those who reach this or go beyond the goal will be recognized at the Kalamazoo ARRL Michigan Section Conference in October. If you have passed the challenge, please contact Dan Romanchik KB6NU, [kb6nu@arrl.net](mailto:kb6nu@arrl.net), the ARRL Michigan Section Affiliated Club Coordinator and he can provide a form for the organization to fill out. Good luck to all and I hope that many clubs will be able to reach this goal.

So just remember, this Conference may have ended, but the push for more youth in Michigan has just begun. I find it pivotal that we begin to set in motion more programs, incentives and policies geared towards the youth which can lead to an extension of this great hobby into future generations. Thank you all who helped and for those who attended this wonderful and successful Conference.

73,

Simon KC8ZYD

## CHINESE OFFICIALS GIVE KUDOS TO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

FROM:

The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 27, No. 21  
May 30, 2008

As disaster recovery efforts continue following the earthquake in the Wenchuan area of China's Sichuan province on May 12, China's Information Office of the State Council reports that the death toll has reached more than 67,000 persons as of May 27. Communications in some of the surrounding areas were cut off, and communications in some other areas experienced network congestion due to drastically increased traffic. According to the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) -- the Chinese IARU Member-Society -- Chinese government officials and the news media have recognized that when communications failed after the earthquake, Amateur Radio operators stepped in to provide vital links.

CRSA designated 14.270, 7.050 and 7.060 MHz for emergency communications use during the quake, but these frequencies are now no longer restricted for this use; should a severe aftershock occur, CRSA said it will make the call for them to be kept clear again.

On Monday, May 26, China Central Television (CCTV) reported that, "When all other communication means failed, Amateur Radio operators came out! An Amateur Radio emergency communication network was set up, and one of the commanders, Liu Hu [BG8AAS], called for Amateur Radio operators on air to provide services for disaster relief."

Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, said, "Thankfully, one main repeater survived during the earthquake. This repeater provided 100 km coverage to Mianyang. Amateur Radio operators from Chengdu, Shenzhen, He'nan went to the center of the disaster area, set up repeaters in Beichuan County and provided various valuable first hand information from the center."

CRSA officials said they hoped to report more detailed information on the role of Amateur Radio emergency communications in the big earthquake at a later date. In the meantime, Fan said, CRSA acknowledged that the main organizer of local Amateur Radio traffic, Luo Minglin, BY8AA, "continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang -- among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter -- to form an effective Amateur Radio communication network."

Zhang Zhen, BG8DOU, said that right after the earthquake, "Two ham radio operators drove to the center of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of May 13. This repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions and status reports, and was a main

communication channel for public use. The repeater carried communications for the Mayor of Mianzhu City who gave orders to those on the front line rescue and recovery activity."

The CRSA said it appreciates the support given by the Amateur Radiocommunity in helping to keep clear the emergency communication frequencies of 7050 kHz, 7060 kHz and 14270 kHz during the critical period after the earthquake: "Thanks for the cooperation and efforts made by all Amateur Radio societies." The CRSA also acknowledged having received inquiries and the "warm concerns" of Amateur Radio societies worldwide. -- Information provided by Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, via IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton VK3PC.

**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club**  
**Minutes of the May 13, 2008 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 7:01 p.m.

**Secretary Report**

The minutes of the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report**

No report, treasurer was absent

**Repeater Report**

Bob, WA8FXQ, has the repeater equipment at his home.

Status of the Repeater Building for the WE Energies site is unknown.

A check for the lease of the repeater site has been sent to WE Energies.

**ARES**

No report

**Old Business**

**Trailer Fund –**

Mike, K8DDB, contributed \$175 and Bruce, KB8RJV contributed \$50 for equipment received from Lee's estate.

Tom, W8JWN, will provide a list of equipment donated from Lee's estate to be posted on our website.

**Jay Jennings' Radio Gear -**

Nothing has been heard from Manor Care or Jay's son as to the disposition of Jay's equipment.

**Dalberto Estate Gear -**

Tom gave an update on sold gear.

**New Business**

**Lee, N8LT's, Passing -**

Lee Michaud, N8LT, became a Silent Key on April 13, 2008. He was a charter member of the club, our Technical Expert and had held the office of President, Vice President and Treasurer. He will be missed by all.

Out of respect for the passing of exam team member Lee Michaud, N8LT, the test session scheduled for Saturday, May 3 was cancelled.



Tom, W8JWN; Bob, WA8FXQ; and Mike, K8DDB; removed equipment belonging to the club from Lee's home. Some of the equipment could not be found and some large items, such as a 30 foot steel tower, a 40 foot Rohn-25 tower and a cabinet mounted repeater remain to be removed. Mike, K8DDB, has the club's packet equipment.

With the passing of Lee, the Repeater Technical Committee now consists of: Bob, WA8FXQ; Scott, KB9AVX; Burt, WB8EBS; Mike, N9NBN and Bob, KC8TWG.

### **220 MHz Repeater -**

Mike, N9NBN, is in the process of installing his 220 MHz repeater at the Northern Star Broadcasting facility on Millie Hill.

### **Field Day -**

Lofholm's will provide 2 lifts.

Mike, K8DDB, has completed the site survey of Marion Park.

Mike, N9NBN, will conduct a pre Field Day meeting at Jim's in Niagara on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Participants are asked to consider what aspects they would like to be involved in and be prepared to volunteer for the various committees.

### **Adjournment**

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

### **For The Good Of The Order**

Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

### **Attendees**

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary

Art Costa, KD8GLO

Bob Uren, KC8TWG

Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ

Steve Johnson, KC8RYY

Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER

Burton W. Armbrust, Sr., WB8EBS

Nate Mieras – KD8GLP

Scott Baker, KB9AVX

Randy Zandt, KB9ZES

Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice President

Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

Beth Baker, KC9KVP

Bruce Lawry, KB8RJV

Steve Skauge, KD8CCP

# MICH-A-CON RF

Mich-A-Con ARC  
c/o Stephen Skauge  
213 South Angeline  
Ishpeming, Mi 49849

## 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](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 2008 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 10th at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain. Send articles to: Steve Skauge [KD8CCP@arrl.net](mailto:KD8CCP@arrl.net).  
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