

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

May 2009

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

Wild Fire In Ishpeming Michigan Puts Hams on Standby Alert.

By:
Steve, KD8CCP

An extreme weather change on May 20, 2009 prompted the National Weather Service in Marquette to issue a Red Flag Warning. This warning is issued when extreme fire danger conditions exist. The forecast called for a warm front to speed into the area causing very high winds. The forest were very dry adding to the danger.

In the early evening a fire was reported south of Ishpeming on county road 581. The fire apparently started when a tree fell on a power line. Local fire crews arrived to find a rapidly expanding fire. The home in the area where it started was saved but 35 other structures were burned down. Twenty-one of the structures were homes!

My sister lives in the area and when we heard the news of the fire on WLUC TV6 I called her immediately. The fire had moved over four miles towards her house in a matter of about 30 minutes! My brother Stu KD8DRD and myself jumped into his truck and headed to the area. We went to the store on 581 and positioned ourselves there in case of activation. The fire continued to advance and since the DNR and law enforcement were continuing to evacuate homes we made the decision to leave the area.

The area has very poor cell phone service so when the call came over the radio for possible ham radio activation I was not surprised. Several local hams reported they would be available if needed.

The winds died down in the evening and a tanker had dropped fire retardant in the area slowing the fire's progress. The continued fire fighting efforts on the ground by DNR personal and many local fire departments turned the tide on the fire and allowed for the eventual containment.

The call came over the radio for the ham radio operators to stand down late in the evening. The authorities would notify key ham radio personal if the need for our activation arose.

We never know when our services will be needed. It was impressive how quickly a group of operators could be assembled! I guess it really is true.... when all else fails ham radio is ready!



Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the May 12, 2009 Meeting

President Tom Martin, W8JWN, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the April 14 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of May 1, 2009:

Regular Savings - \$2,175.94, \$908.20 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$899.87.

Checking - \$337.05

Petty Cash - \$0.00.

We now have 24 paid members.

Repeater Report

Bob, WA8FXQ, reported that the work session to scrape and paint the repeater building was well attended by 7 members.

The north high antenna has been repaired and the noise has disappeared. Range has also increased.

The 440 antenna has issues, during windy conditions. Noisy...

Scott Baker has a two-drawer filing cabinet for the site.

There will be a maintenance meeting after this general meeting.

Bob, WA8FXQ, has been reimbursed \$30.01 for the heater.

ARES

There have been many check-ins on the Thursday weekly net.

Old Business

New Techs from the Class

More repeater activity since the new hams are on the air. One ham in Tipler is having a problem getting into the repeater. Scott baker is helping him with this issue.

Field Day 2009 -

Antennas will be erected on the Friday evening before FD.

Members want to continue our competitive spirit. Education will still be emphasized.

Many members in attendance will operate. Final decision on club class for FD will be made at the June meeting.

Buckeye Tower in Florence County

No decision to man the tower because of low fire danger.

New Business

VEC Testing and W5YI Checking account issues have been resolved. This is not the responsibility of the club.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

For The Good Of The Order

Attendees discussed their recent radio related activities.

Submitted by Tom Martin

Attendees

Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice President/Treasurer

Art Costa, KD8GLO

Bob, Meyers, WA8FXQ

Scott Baker, KB9AVX

Beth Baker, KC9KVP

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF

Jim Riverside, K8ABS

Jim Rye, W8IFI

Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS

Robert Thomas, KD8KMT

Corissa Thomas, KD8KUG

Nate Mieras, KD8GLP

Steve Reese, KE8KF

Joe Koublevicz, KB8ETK

Terry Moriarity, K9TRY

Paul Schultz, KD8KUF

Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

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Articles to: Steve Skaug kd8ccp@arrl.net

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MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM FREQUENCIES

submitted by:

Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF

from **CQ** Magazine April 1986

M.A.R.S ARMY FREQUENCIES: 33485,69975,144035

AIR FORCE FREQUENCIES:

3292,3299,3308,3314,4487,4517,4580,4590,4535,4832,7302,7305,73135,7324,74
57

NAVY&MARINE CORPS: 31905,40425,73825,139755,14385,209985

ARRL FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES THAT EVERYONE CAN USE

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 21
May 29, 2009

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

- 1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
- 2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.
- 3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.
- 4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.
- 5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.
- 6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."
- 7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."
- 8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
- 9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.
- 10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

FCC LOOKS TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

from:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 20
May 22, 2009

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FC-C-08-126A1.pdf.

Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$13.40 for 10 years, an increase of \$1.10. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/31/105> to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$201,000 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal three years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec> will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html>.

There is additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.htm>

The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>.

V.E. TESTING:

06/20 **Iron River**: 9:00am central time, at the Beef-A-Roo Restaurant in Iron River. NOTE: Pre-registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9GJ at 906 265-4240 or e-mail: dmwaters@ironriver.tv.

06/13 **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. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 or e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net

07/11 **Houghton**: 8:30am eastern time, V.E. Exams at Michigan Tech. University in Houghton, MI will be held in the ballroom of DHH (Douglass Houghton Hall at Michigan Tech). Free Parking in Lot #14, front of DHH, across from Wadsworth Residence Hall. Use door #9 on the South-East side of DHH. Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 if you have questions.

07/11/2009 **Gladstone**: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Howard St. John (906) 428-9476 email: hsj99@charter.net Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

08/01 **Iron Mountain**: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) 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 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.

U.P. and Wisc area
from: Air Scoop May 2009
(Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society)

Area 2 Meter Repeaters

Escanaba	147.150 +	100
Escanaba	145.130 -	No PL
Gladstone	147.240 +	100.0
IRPL 4013	147.550 S	100.0
Crooks	146.700 -	No PL
Grand Marais	147.195 +	No PL
Gwinn	146.640 -	100.0
Iron Mountain	146.850 -	No PL
Iron River	145.170 -	107.2
Ishpeming	146.910 -	No PL
Marquette	146.970 -	100.0
Marquette	147.270 +	100.0
Menominee	147.000 +	107.2
Munising	145.410 -	No PL
Newberry	146.610 +	127.3
Newberry	147.090 +	114.8
Republic	147.090 +	No PL
Trenary	147.030 +	No PL
Wetmore	146.790 -	No PL

Wisconsin Repeaters

Abrams	146.835 -	107.2
Crivitz	145.470 -	107.2
Egg Harbor	146.730 -	107.2
McAllister	146.880 -	136.5
Green Bay	147.120 +	107.2
Green Bay	147.270 +	107.2
Green Bay	146.685 -	107.2
Green Bay	145.490 -	100.0
Sister Bay	147.180 +	107.2
Sturgeon Bay	147.210 +	107.2

Club Patches are available from:

Mike Boileau, N9NBN
1106 Cleveland St.
Niagara, Wi. 54151

The patches are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3 ea.
If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with
your payment.



Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for June 2009

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

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 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 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.

Please remit dues to :

Mike Boileau, N9NBN
1106 Cleveland St
Niagara, Wi. 54151

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.**

Club Repeaters:

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain (elevation 1,650 feet) 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.

OUTPUT CALLSIGN	OFFSET	PLTONE	
146.850	Minus	-	WA8FXQ
444.850	Plus	100 Hz	WA8FXQ

Repeater Specifications:

The 146.85 repeater is a Melco Hi Pro (built from a kit in the 1970s) with 25 watts output.

The 444.85 repeater is a GE Master Pro with 30 watts output.

The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet.

To use the Auto Patch, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch ON code and let up on your mic. You will then hear a dial tone. Key your mic and dial your number. The phone should then ring. When you complete your call, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch OFF code and the phone call will terminate. Club members will be given Auto Patch codes on request.

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:
Mike Boileau N9NBN
(715) 251-3137
n9nbn@uplogon.com

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

Treasurer:
Mike Boileau N9NBN
(715) 251-3137
n9nbn@uplogon.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2009 are payable on January 1st. 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, Mike Boileau, N9NBN at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The May Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tues June 9th 2009.

MICH-A-CON RF

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

