

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

May 2010

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

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tom W8JWN

This month's "Words" will be brief and will cover a few different items.

- **Our club's second big event of the year begins on June 26th. Field Day 2010 will again be at Marion Park in Norway. This will be our chance to setup our rigs, antennas, power source, and laptops in an emergency situation. Also, we will have the club picnic before we start operating on Saturday afternoon. Details are mentioned later in the newsletter. Hope to see all of our members at some time during the weekend. Unfortunately, due to lousy scheduling on my part, I won't be around on Sunday. Instead, I'll be on a flight to Las Vegas. I had forgotten all about Field day, when I made the flight reservations in January.**
- **After many years of operating in the ARRL RTTY Roundup, I won first place in the Great Lakes Division. Operating high power, about 800 watts output and running two separate stations at the same time, finally, after several**

attempts, I beat my rival AB8K in the Dayton, Ohio area. After receiving many certificates for winning the Michigan section, I will now receive a plaque for being the division winner. I will write an article on my SO2R (Single Operator 2 Radio) strategy in a future newsletter.

- **Thanks to the efforts of Paul Schultz, KD8KUF, we might be in the running for a large trailer. We will know in early June the outcome. Stay tuned.**
- **I would like to thank the club members who stayed for my presentation on “Traffic handling” after the last meeting. Your rapt attention was appreciated. I even had a non-ham friend, who was outside the door, on other library business, mention that he even learned something. Let’s hope that we all put that knowledge to use on Field Day.**

That’s it for now. See you at the June meeting.

My First Field Day

Steve Skauge KD8CCP

(Editor’s Note: This is an article from the Mich-A-Con RF published in July of 2006. I hope this will give all the new hams an insight on what to expect at Field Day!)

I am a relatively new HAM and have never experienced Field Day so when I caught on to the excitement that seemed to be going on with the planning and preparation at our club meeting, I decided I should check out this event. I learned from the meeting that Field Day was a great chance for everyone to get on the radio and learn what amateur radio is all about. I found out that I would be able to try out all kinds of communications and equipment that I only dream about owning and operating right now. Sounds like fun to me!

I had kind of a long day at work so I decided I would just “stop by” for a little while and see what all the guys were doing at our Field Day Event. I drove out to the park and pulled in.... looking for our set up area.... there it is... the 40 foot tower painted orange and white just calling everyone over to see what is going on. (Bob, KC8TWG told me I would be able to spot it!) I pulled up and parked noting that our club had set up an informational area under the pavilion...we also have a camper parked close by... and looking to the sky.... a bunch of antennas strung up in the trees. I understand Lee (N8LT) shoots a mean wrist rocket! Dennis, (K8SWX) even brought his new portable tri-pod setup too.

I strolled around the area and got the grand tour from the guys... the 40 foot tower was held in place by the camper! A plate was welded on the base of the tower and the camper is parked on the tower base... ingenuity at work. I next stopped by to talk to Tom (W8JWN). He showed me how RTTY works... here we are out in a park on battery power.... looking at a laptop hooked to a radio and getting a bulletin from W1AW! (See the actual bulletin in this newsletter.)

Mike (K8DDB) showed me the packet and cw radio equipment the club was operating. I am now inspired to learn the code, one of the toughest things about amateur radio in my opinion.

My next stop was under the pavilion ... Terry (KB9ZER) told me I should try out the GOTA station. I have to admit I was very apprehensive. I am just getting comfortable on 2-meter and now I am going to be talking to people around the country? Lee (N8LT) came over and sat down with me and Bob (KD8DJN) to help us make some contacts. (I was happy Lee was there just to explain what all the buttons on this rig did!)



Lee N8LT (SK) and Steve KD8CCP

We worked stations all over the country and I was just amazed that I was talking to people in New York, Washington D.C. Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Ontario and many more! Lee showed me how to tune in a station and explained that when I hear the voice in a low tone they get my voice back as a high tone... thus they may not hear it at all because the low tones tend to be easier to hear. We fine tune a station and call out and make a contact!

Mike (N9NBN) took over with us after some time and we made many more contacts. I was amazed at the different ways the two guys make contacts. Lee likes to start at the top of the band and had us work down slowly tuning in a station... very effective. Mike had us tune faster... listening for the unique noise telling us we were near a station....bringing him in ... making contact and moving on... equally effective!

I did have to work again on Sunday morning so I did not stay the night.... as a matter of fact I suddenly realized that it was after midnight! **TIME FLIES WHEN YOUR HAVING FUN!**

I feel I learned more in the few hours I was able to participate in Field Day than I learned so far in this awesome hobby, and I thank all the club members for the work and planning that went into the event. I cannot wait for next year!!! I plan to stay up all night!



Putting up the Tower for Field Day!



Tom, W8JWN



Enjoying Field Day!



Mike, K8DDB working stations with code

Fox Hunting:
from:
May Section News
May, 2010
ARRL Michigan Section
Section Manager: Dale R Williams, WA8EFK

If you or your club members has an interest in transmitter hunting, check out this web site:

<http://www.michiganfoxhunter.com> This new web site was created to help Michigan area Fox Hunters share information about their events and it opens opportunities for local club hunts to expand by including visiting teams to participate in Fox Hunts across the state. Transmitter hunting is always a fun event and it tests our skills in technical details, planning, strategy, endurance and a host of other areas. It can be an event pitting individuals against each other or teams against teams. Ideas and suggestions for forming Fox Hunts are posted.

V.E. TESTING:

06/12 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.

07/10 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.

7/10 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.

08/07 Iron Mountain: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 776-1553. 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

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the May 11, 2010 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the April 13 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of May 11, 2010:

Checking - \$305.45

Regular Savings - \$2,942.04, \$1,406.91 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$779.40

Petty Cash - \$0.00.

We have 34 paid members as of this meeting.

Repeater Report

Nate Mieras received a controller from Bob Meyers and a 440MHz radio from Mike Boileau for the repeater linking project.

Mike Boileau reported that the TNC chips for the Crivitz packet nodes have been programmed, but he said that there is no packet activity south of Crivitz, so no need to install the backbone or node.

ARES

The ARES Net has been active.

Old Business

Field Day 2010 -

Terry Moriarity reported that radios and antennas are ready. There will be a Field Day meeting following the June business meeting.

The club picnic will be held on Saturday June 26 before the start of Field Day. Brats, soda, charcoal, etc., will be provided by Field Day donors. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass.

Club Donation -

Paul Schultz has delivered two of his power poles to Gary Schafer's farm in Aurora. A delivery charge of \$50 will be donated by Gary to the club's trailer fund.

Club Programs -

The following programs are under consideration. See Tom if you wish to present a program.

QSLing

Radials & Grounding

Logging

Packet

New Business

The club has lost its tax exempt status. Henceforth, donations made to the club will not be able to be claimed on the donor's IRS tax form.

Club Program

Tom Martin made a presentation on traffic handling.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees discussed their recent activities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary
Barry Perron, KC9NFT
Tom Heyboer, KC8LKO
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President
Adam Hull, KD8LQK
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Mike Boileau, N9NBN
David Thomas, KG9Y
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

New ARRL EmComm Twitter Account Up

from:

ARES E-Letter

May 19,2010

Rick, k1cc@arrl.net

There is now a Twitter page for [ARRL EmComm](#). The plan is to use it to pass along items of interest to emcomm volunteers. -- Mike Corey, W5MPC, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager.

Links

ARRL WEB PAGE: <http://www.arrl.org>

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

US REPEATERS: <http://www.usrepeaters.com>

MICH-A-CON : <http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb>

Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts:
<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

FCC Universal Licensing System: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

QTH.COM: <http://www.qth.com/>

QRZ.COM: <http://www.qrz.com/>

Ehamnet.com: <http://www.eham.net/>

U.P. Skywarn: <http://kcra-mi.net/skywarn/>

Fox Hunting: http://www.michiganfoxhunter.com_

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 ARIES	4	5
6	7	8 Meeting	9	10 ARIES	11	12
13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17 ARIES	18	19 BREAKFAST
20 Father's Day	21 Summer Begins	22	23	24 ARIES	25	26 Field Day Club Picnic
27	28	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 Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and Prospective Members are always welcome. A Field Day Meeting will be held after the Club Meeting.

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.

Field Day is June 26th 2010. The Club Picnic will also be held on June 26th before the Field Day Events begin. Brats, soda, etc will be provided by Field Day donors. Bring a dish to pass!

Please remit dues to :
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
693 Cliff St.
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876

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 Patches are available from:

Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
693 Cliff St.
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876



The patches are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3 ea.

If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with your payment.

Here is an update to the Field Day Plans!

Via an email from:

Terry Moriarity <kb9zer@yahoo.com >

Field Day 6-26+6-27 2010 Norway MI

Radios and antennas are ready, Set up this year should be easy since there are hardly any trees left at the sight. For next year we should look for a new place, but we will be fine for this year running 2a.

Any operators or interested persons please contact me at:

kb9zer@yahoo.com

We have a bigger list of donations this year so food and snacks will be on sight.

The club picnic will be held sat. 26 at 11:30 before we start, brats soda charcoal have been donated please bring a dish or chips to pass. Should be a good time for all.

See you there;

Terry k9try

Nashville Flooding Response

from:

ARES E-Letter

May 19, 2010

Rick, k1ce@arri.net

Bob Rogers, KB4PYP, EC of Davidson County, Tennessee, reports that on the weekend of May 1-2, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) requested ARES® support, with 23 operators responding. Rogers stated that their "SKYWARN net was in standby for most of the day on Saturday as we watched the approaching storms." The OEM went into full activation and Rogers was called in to the "War Room" at 7 PM where he remained until early Sunday morning, when he had to return home to deal with water seeping into his bedroom. The SKYWARN net remained active until the front passed.

By 5 PM on Monday, a Red Cross shelter at Bellevue Middle School had requested an operator to support communications needs as there was a lack of cell phone service. Two operators established communication systems to support the shelter for emergency medical support. The Cross Point Community Church also requested ARES® assistance with distribution of supplies. Seven ARES® members deployed there.

On Tuesday, May 4, Red Cross requested radio communication support for a relocated disaster headquarters at the abandoned Skyline-Madison campus on Neeleys Bend, where 12 ARES® members participated. Communication was established between Red Cross-Charlotte Road office and the Disaster headquarters. A report was sent to the Cheatham County EMA.

Rogers said "while operating our net in support of the Red Cross shelter operation I received a call from an ARES® member in Cheatham County reporting that his neighborhood was isolated by flood waters. He and his neighbors were running out of fresh water and food supplies. I called K1KY on our MTEARS frequency and obtained the phone number of the Cheatham County EMA office and reported to them that 75 people were in need of fresh water and food supplies. Two helicopters were sent with supplies by the afternoon to those stranded people."

Oregon Dust Storms Response

from:

ARES E-Letter

May 19, 2010

Rick, k1ce@arrl.net

In Oregon, three separate SKYWARN net activations occurred on May 3. The activations were requested by the National Weather Service in Pendleton. During the morning, the Pendleton office issued Dust Storm Warnings and High Wind Warnings for a large portion of its County Warning Area (CWA).

SKYWARN nets were activated on two-meter repeaters (one repeater in eastern Washington and two repeaters in eastern Oregon). Alan Polan, KE4TRR, maintained communications between NWS-Pendleton and the SKYWARN net control stations that operated the nets in Yakima County and in Deschutes County via the repeaters. Polan used EchoLink to communicate with the net in Deschutes County on the 147.360 MHz repeater via the Bend EchoLink node repeater and the Umatilla EchoLink node repeater.

Measured wind gusts of 40 to 77 MPH produced blowing dust in the Yakima Valley, the lower Columbia Basin, and the foothills of the Blue Mountains. In some susceptible areas, there were very dense clouds of blowing dust that dramatically reduced visibility to as low as zero feet. The high winds also caused damage to property from trees blown down and large fallen tree limbs. Power outages also occurred. Dense clouds of blowing dust caused two multiple vehicle pileups on I-84 in Umatilla County. Another vehicle pileup occurred around 9 AM due to blowing dust near the town of Harrah in Yakima County. Unfortunately, a wind surfer lost his life on the Columbia River near Boardman, Oregon due to the wind-driven high waves on the Columbia River. -- Alan Polan, KE4TRR, Pendleton, Oregon

Club Meetings:

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

The URL for the Mich-A-Con ARC web site is:
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

Previous editions of Mich-A-Con RF can be accessed by a link on the news page.

The ARRL DX Bulletin on the Upcoming Activities page is updated each Thursday and the contests section is updated on a monthly basis.

Club Officers:

President:
Tom Martin, W8JWN
(906) 774-5463
tmartin@chartermi.net

Vice President:
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer:
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
(906) 774-8383
wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2010 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The March Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue June 8th 2010. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM

MICH-A-CON RF

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