

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

May 2011

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

Words from the President

Tom W8JWN

WEATHER SPOTTERS

I received a phone call from the Dickinson County Emergency Coordinator, Peter Schlitt (KC8JRH), that our weather spotter list is out of date. There was a tornado watch a few weeks ago and spotters were needed. There are only three amateurs on the list: one of them is an SK, another is no longer active in the club, and the third is someone that I've never met.

It is very important that we have an active list of spotters along with the spotter's location. In the past, I was on the corner of County C and N in Florence County. I can remember, at a meeting several years ago, assigning specific locations for our spotters. I thought that Dennis, K8SWX, our ARES EC had the latest spotter list. I wasn't even on the list at the sheriff's office. There has to be better communication between our group and the Dickinson County Emergency Coordinator. Our community's safety could depend on it!

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT VOTE

At our meeting, on Tuesday June 14, we will vote on changes to our constitution. Please try to be at that meeting!

FIELD DAY 2011

June 25-26 at Marion Park in Norway we will be operating in the ARRL Field Day. Operators and antenna specialists are needed.

There also is a chance that we will have a club picnic on Saturday June 25 at 11:30 a.m. This depends on interest shown at the next meeting.

Paul (KD8KUF) has informed me that he will be on vacation Field Day weekend. He cannot pick up the lift at Lofholm's and we will not have his trailer for shelter. Therefore, someone is needed to get the lift on Saturday morning. If someone has a camper, trailer, or motor home for use during Field Day, please contact me before the next meeting.

There will be a presentation on the use of the N3FJP computer logging program at the next meeting. This is the program that we use for Field Day and Veterans Day.

Jim Rye has offered the use of his Icom 725 transceiver for Field Day. We will use it with the club Astron power supply.

There will be more Field Day discussion at the June meeting.

CLIMBER NEEDED

Due to an injury, I cannot climb my tower to remove the club Cushcraft A3S tribander. We will be using it for Field Day. It is at the 40 foot level. Not a bad climb, if you have two hands. Unfortunately, I have only one hand available for the next 4-5 weeks. Would you believe it is a "golfing" injury???

CLUB STORAGE

Finally, my garage is clear of club materials! I took it all to our storage van at Schultz Equipment. I plan on removing all emergency equipment from the sheriff's garage this week and taking it to our van. Now, to get the other club equipment at Gary's (K4FMX) farm and store it in the proper storage facility.

73,

Tom W8JWN

Michigan Summer Family Outing"

JULY 7, 8, 9, and 10th 2011

will again be held at the

WOODLANDS CONFERENCE CENTER AND CAMPGROUNDS
318 S. Sage Lake Road, Hale, MI 48739

from :

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager: Dale R Williams, WA8EFK

wa8efk@arrl.org

What is the Michigan Summer Family Outing?

The *Michigan Summer Family Outing* is a 4-day fun-filled event hosted by your ARRL Michigan Section Staff and paid for totally from donations, involving fun events for the whole family! Camping, RVing, Canoeing, Horseshoes, Water Slide, Rock Climbing Wall, Hiking, Volleyball, Softball, Boating, Swimming facilities are available all day every day of the outing for your pleasure (canoeing, swimming and boating involve safety issues that will be addressed at the outing). Hayrides around the 420 beautiful acres will be arranged and announced. There will be games, campfires, and sing-a-longs for all to enjoy. And of course, there will be ARPSC training and other informative seminars available on both Friday and Saturday for any who wish to participate.

Last year we expanded the seminars to cover BOTH Friday and Saturday. This year we have an experienced event coordinator who will be planning activities for the non-Hams in attendance. So the wives/kids/significant-others will have a number of activities available to keep them busy. So stay tuned to this website for frequent updates as plans are solidified.

Bring along your HF stations and antennas - the park DOES allow us to string up antennas!!! It's just us Hams, afterall. And don't forget to bring any musical instruments and join in the musical entertainment each evening around the campfire. We're not professionals - but we have a LOT of fun.

So come join your fellow Hams and their families for one, two, three, or all four days!

<http://www.sectionouting.info/>

Here is the current agenda for the upcoming Outing. For further information, check <http://www.sectionouting.info> Hope to see you there.

Friday July 8th Schedule of Events

**8:00am to 9:30am
Community Breakfast**

9:30am Chicks and Chat!
Coffee and visiting with the ladies. Get to know each other and find a new friend.

**10:00am to 11:00am
Hidden Transmitter "Fox" Hunting by Tom Bosscher K8TB**
Helpfull tips on techniques and equipment used in Hidden Transmitter (a.k.a. "Fox") Hunting. Antennas to use, passive and active attenuators, third harmonics, single station and multi-station triangulation, varied signal strength, and other aspects for Fox hunting. A Fox Hunt will take place after lunch (1pm) giving you an opportunity to test your skills.

**10:30am
Design a Note Card**
Bring scrapbooking or stamping supplies or use Marian's to make great note cards!

**NOONISH -- Community LUNCH!!!
(free/donation)**
Lunch meats, bread, and fixin's will be provided. Bring your own and feel free to bring a dish to pass.

**1:00pm to 2:00pm
Fox Hunt**
A hidden transmitter (the "Fox") will be mysteriously placed somewhere within the 420 acres of the Woodlands Campground. It will be on the

2-meter band and most likely will be FM. It will transmit periodically and then go silent for a few minutes. In your mission Mr. Phelps, should you decide to accept it, is to find the "Fox" before anyone else does. This will earn you the "Foxey" award to be presented at the Saturday evening campfire. So bring your HT, bring your Direction Finding antenna, bring your attenuator, and bring your friends and work as a team or work individually to capture the Fox!

**1:30pm -- Shopping day trip to nearby
Tanger Outlet Mall**

**2:15pm to 3:15pm
VoIP Primer & Asterisk Repeaters by Steve Gladden N8LBV**
A beginners Primer about Voice over IP (VoIP). What is VoIP and where is it used. An introduction to the protocols used, the hardware and telephone devices and where to acquire them. An introduction to "Asterisk" - a free software package that runs on Linux, providing your very own PBX (Private Branch Exchange) with call logging (CDR), calling plans, voice mailboxes, FXS and FXO lines, interoffice trunking, SIP signalling, and a whole gambit of other Telco-like stuff. Steve will also provide the Lupton campsite with a low-power repeater that is fully controlled by a special version of Asterisk that provides all the COR/PTT/Timers/ID functions and links over the Internet to other Asterisk repeaters much like IRLP does.

**3:30pm to 4:30pm
What is your Handicap & Your Name in Braille by Denny VE3EUI**
Denny lost his eyesight many years ago, yet has been an active NTS traffic handler and net control station for many HF nets. He will talk about how he dealt with his handicap and

how others with various handicaps still enjoy our wonderful hobby. His discussion will focus on what can your handicap allow you to do. Denny will also show each of us how to write our names and callsigns in Braille.

6:00pm to 7:30pm
Pot-Luck DINNER!!!
Bring a dish to pass

7:30pm -- HAY RIDE
A Hay Ride taking you all around the beautiful 420-acre park. Relaxing and fun for both young and old. Come join us!

9:00pm -- Campfire complete with entertainment. Bring along your musical instruments and join in!

Saturday July 9th Schedule of Events

8:00am to 9:30am
Community Breakfast with Eggs, Pancakes, and Sausage grilled up by our own Chef Rick! Perhaps he will surprise us with some Hippie Hash?

9:30am -- Chicks and Chat!
Coffee and visiting with the ladies. et to know each other and find a new friend.

09:30am to 11:00am
"Standing Up" for "Standing Waves" by Bill Hays AE4QL
Bill will present his world class RF Transmission Line & Antenna Theory Training Tool using live circuits and incandescent lamps as visual aids in an interactive classroom environment. he "tool" is oftentimes known as a Lecher Wire.
For more information:
<http://home.windstream.net/whays101>

10:30am -- Tie-Dying
Use that T-shirt you purchased on yesterdays trip to Tanger Outlet Mall and design your own Tie-Dye shirt! How better to fit in with this years theme of Remembering the Sixties and go

home with something unique.

11:30am to 12:30pm
Community LUNCH!!! (free/donation)
Lunch meats, bread, and fixin's will be provided. Bring your own and feel free to bring a dish to pass.

1:30pm to 2:30pm
Beginners Packet by Jay Nugent WB8TKL
As requested by many attendees, Jay will dig down to the grass roots of Packet Radio and the use of Terminal Node Controllers (TNC). He will begin with a brief history of how Packet started, the basics of the AX.25 protocol, but most importantly - HOW to make a connection! This presentation will cover how to hook up a TNC to your rig, how to select a frequency, and how to make your first connect. This presentation is a must for anyone who has never operated Packet.

1:30pm -- Treasure Hunt!
Get back to nature! Enjoy a walk and scavenger hunt!

2:45pm to 3:45pm
D-Star by Chuck Scott N8DNX & John "Duckie" Martin KF8KK
Chuck and John will give an introduction to D-Star. What it is, how it works, what features does it provide, and how do you as an operator configure your D-Star radio to access its many features. They will show us how a typical ICOM D-Star repeater is set up and operates, and as a bonus will introduce us to how many folks are setting up NON-ICOM D-Star repeaters! This should be a great presentation for those of us that enjoy operating in the Digital Modes.

3:00pm -- Bingo 60's Style!
Bring your best Go-Go Boots and enjoy the music while we gals play bingo! Win awesome prizes!

4:00pm to 5:00pm

ARRL Forum by the Section Staff

All Section Staff and Division Leadership and Guests are welcome to participate in an open discussion regarding happenings in Amateur Radio and within the Great Lakes and Michigan Section.

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Community Pot-Luck DINNER!!!

Ham will be provided, just bring a dish to pass

7:30pm -- HAY RIDE

A Hay Ride, taking you all around the beautiful 420-acre park. Relaxing and fun for both young and old. Come join us!

7:30pm -- More Shopping at the Tanger Outlet Mall

8:00pm 'till late

Campfire and Musical Entertainment Campfire, Entertainment, Prizes, and more!!!! Bring out your musical instruments and join in! If you can carry a tune, or only a bucket, join in and have fun!

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the May 10th, 2011 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

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

Treasurer Report

Membership Dues Received: \$10.00

Checks were written to: Lofholm - \$24.37; Master lock - \$15.00; AT&T - \$23.51

Balances as of April 1st, 2011:

Checking - \$43.92

Regular Savings - \$1,993.56 of which \$361.82 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$1,146.50

Petty Cash - \$16.00

Repeater Report

No problems to report.

ARES

The net has been meeting regularly with the exception of April 28th which was SkyWarn training at Bay College.

Old Business

Proposed revision to Article VII of the constitution detailing removal of members was passed out and discussed. It will be voted on at the next meeting on Tuesday June 14th so it's important for members to attend this meeting.

President Tom recommended that we do not purchase the web address michaconarc.com from godaddy.com for our web site because it's too expensive. We will continue to use qsl.net

Perry Amicangelo will loan two laptop computers for field day. One for station #2 and one for logging.

President Tom will loan his 706 for field day for station #1 and another transceiver is needed for station #2.

Secretary Paul reported that Lofholm Lumber will donate the use of their lift for field day. Secretary Paul will pick-up and return. President Tom will bring the generator to field day.

New Business

Congratulations to Perry Amicangelo for recently passing his Technician exam.

Randy Zandt donated a tuner for a Yeasu FT897. President Tom will sell it on qth.com and donate the proceeds to the trailer fund.

ARES – President Tom visited Pete Schlitt at the Sheriff's Dept. this morning regarding installation of the county's HF Kenwood TS2000 radio and VHF Icom 2 meter/440 radio and all related equipment. GM communications will install the coax up to the roof and it's up to the club to install the Hustler vertical antenna on the roof. We can't screw into the building. It needs to be completed this summer. The existing 2 meter antenna will be replaced with a dual band 2 meter/440 antenna and PL259's will need to be soldered on the coax. Dave Thomas and Burt Armbrust volunteered to assist. An email will be sent out announcing the work bee details.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Submitted by Paul Schultz

Attendees

Tom Martin - W8JWN - President
Scott Jarmusch - KA8TFF-Vice President
Randy Zandt – KB9ZES
Terry Moriarity – K9TRY
Joe Komblevicz – KB8ETK
Paul Schultz – KD8KUF- Secretary
Perry Amicangelo
Joe Ferris - KC9TQR
Dean Sledge – KD8FIT
Jim Rye – W8IFI
Burt Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS---Treasurer
Dave Thomas – KG9Y



Field Day Fun!

V.E. TESTING:

08/06 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.

06/11 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 906 249-3837or e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net.

07/9 Houghton: 8:30am eastern time, The Zion Lutheran Church, 400 Ingot St Hancock, Mi. Go north on hwy 41 (Quincy Hill) near the lookout. Turn left on Ingot up about one block. The church is on the left hand side of the street. This is a barrier free entrance for the handicapped Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 or email: wa8qnf@arrl.net if you have questions.

7/9 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.

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.

Field Day Pictures from the Past:



Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for June 2011

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

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.

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.

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

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.



More Field Day Pictures from the Past:



VHF Operation and Field Day: FAQ's, Tips and Guides for Getting More Field Day QSOs

By Steve Ford, WB8IMY, Editor, QST & Sean Kutzko, KX9X, ARRL Contest Branch Manager

Updated February 2011:

When most hams think of Field Day, they automatically envision a stampede of activity on the HF bands. While this may be true, there is a gold mine of contact points on the bands above 30 MHz. Beginning in 2011, **ALL** class A and class F entries are able to have a free VHF station to make extra QSOs towards their Field Day score. Adding an experienced VHF team to your Field Day effort can pay big dividends. Many efforts to gain points from a VHF station in the past have not succeeded because the operating protocols on VHF are not known to hams who operate mostly HF, and they simply do not know where or when to transmit. This guide attempts to answer some basic questions about VHF operating so your club can utilize their VHF station to its maximum potential.

Terrestrial VHF Communication

During the summer months, sporadic-E propagation comes into full force, opening the door for possible long-haul QSOs on 6 Meters across the country. During exceptional openings, Sporadic-E is possible on 2 Meters, too. Tropospheric enhancement on 2 meters and 432 can occur as well, allowing communications as far as several hundred miles. Sporadic-E is, by definition, unpredictable; nobody knows when it will occur. While it can occur at any time, it seems to occur most often in the afternoon and evening. Tropospheric conditions are generally best in the early-morning hours, especially on 2 meters and 432 MHz.

It is also possible to have VHF bands that are completely dead, or openings that only last a very short period of time. VHF bands generally do not function like HF, and require some enhanced propagation conditions to come to life. Two of the best tools for using the VHF bands are patience and perseverance.

General VHF Tips

Technician-class licensees have full privileges on 6 meters and up. However, don't make the mistake of leaving an inexperienced Technician (or any class licensee, for that matter) at the VHF station without some guidance; you may end up with a very dissatisfied operator. Recruit an experienced VHF operator to your team and let them provide instruction for those unfamiliar with VHF operating techniques.

Feedline losses are much higher on VHF frequencies than HF. If you're going to set up a VHF station, use high-quality coaxial cable. RG-8 is the bare minimum; do not even bother to use RG-58 or RG-59, as the losses will be substantial.

Many VHF operators use Maidenhead grid squares to help identify their location more precisely. Some collect grids, much like HF operators try to work all States or DXCC countries. Know what grid square your Field Day operation is in; while exchanging grids is not required for a Field Day QSO, many VHF'ers you work will want to exchange grids. You can get more information on grid squares here: <http://www.arrl.org/grid-squares>

The VHF bands are generally "line-of-sight" bands, so antenna height is critically important on the VHF bands. "The higher, the better" is definitely true! If possible, set your VHF station at the highest elevation point of your Field Day site. If your Field Day site is in a valley or has high hills surrounding it, your VHF operations may suffer.

CW/SSB

Most long-haul communications on the VHF bands take place on USB or CW. Horizontally-polarized yagis or loops are the preferred antenna for SSB/CW VHF communication. Even a dipole on 6 meters will work nicely, and is less than 10 feet long.

Attempting VHF SSB/CW communication with a vertically polarized antenna, especially on 2 meters and higher, will reduce your ability to hear stations and be heard by others by as much as 20 dB. Make sure you use horizontally-polarized antennas when attempting SSB/CW VHF work.

Important 6 Meter SSB/CW tips:

- 1) 6 meter SSB activity is from 50.125 to 50.200 MHz, and can go up to 50.300 MHz if the band is open and packed with signals.
- 2) 6 meter CW activity will range from 50.080 to 50.100 MHz. from 50.000 to 50.080 MHz, you can listen for CW beacons to help see if the band is open.
- 3) 50.100 to 50.125 MHz is the 6 Meter DX window, which is reserved for stations attempting intercontinental QSOs. **Please do not make Field Day QSOs in the DX Window.** There are many non-Field Day operators that focus on 6 meter DX'ing and request the DX window be kept clear. 4) The 6 Meter SSB calling frequency is 50.125 MHz. If you spin the dial and don't hear many callers, you can call CQ on the calling frequency. However, do not monopolize the calling frequency; if the band is open, find a clear frequency above 50.125 and call CQ there.
- 5) If 6 meters is open, you will hear where the most stations are coming from; listen to the Field Day exchanges being made and what Section the station is sending. If you have a rotatable antenna, point it toward the area where stations are being heard. If there isn't a big opening occurring, rotating your antenna in different directions every 15 minutes or so will increase your chances of being heard in different parts of the country. Under poor conditions, try to aim your antenna toward large population centers.

2 Meter SSB/CW Operating Tips

- 1) The 2 meter SSB/CW calling frequency is 144.200 MHz. As with 6 meters, please do not monopolize the calling frequency.
- 2) Activity will range between 144.160 to 144.240 MHz in densely populated areas. If you live in a more rural part of the country, activity will be much more centered around the calling frequency.
- 3) Once again, horizontally-polarized antennas are the custom. A 5 or 6-element yagi on 2 meters works very well, but larger is generally better. Higher is better, too!
- 4) Rotate the antenna every 15 minutes or so if you don't hear anybody. Point towards high-population areas when possible.

For 222 and 432 MHz, the calling frequencies are 222.100 and 432.100 MHz.

FM

For Field Day operating, FM is probably the easiest VHF mode to implement. You'll have little trouble finding FM rigs to use; even a hand-held transceiver can make a fine Field Day rig. **FM doesn't have the range of CW or SSB**, but it is the most popular communications mode on the VHF and UHF bands. You'll find the greatest amount of FM simplex activity on the 2-meter band, although 6 meter FM may be worth a try as well. **Remember that Field Day rules prohibit the use of repeaters.** This means you'll have to hunt for contacts on the recognized simplex frequencies.

Unlike CW and SSB, most FM operators use vertically polarized antennas. To maximize your signal coverage, you'll want to use vertical polarization, too. A small beam antenna mounted in the vertical-polarity position (elements perpendicular to the ground) is one suggestion. An alternative is a simple omni-directional antenna such as a ground plane. Since most of your contacts will be local, an omni-directional antenna may be nearly as effective as a beam.

There are many 6 meter FM operators, and if the band is open, 6 Meter FM could yield some long-haul QSOs. Monitor the 6 meter calling frequency at 52.525 MHz; simplex QSOs will be possible around the calling frequency. Open your squelch so weak signals will be heard. As with SSB/CW work, please do not monopolize the calling frequency.

SATELLITES

Satellites are a blast on Field Day! Of course, to use a satellite you have to know when it will be passing across your local sky. One easy way to obtain pass predictions is on the AMSAT Web site at **www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/**. Just print the predictions for the satellites you intend to use.

FM Birds

Do you have a dual band VHF/UHF FM rig that can receive below 437 MHz? Try OSCARs 27 and 51—the FM repeater satellites. Just use the frequency table below to program the radio's memories so that you can compensate for Doppler shifting by simply changing memory channels.

Satellite AO-27 AO-51

Time Transmit Receive Transmit Receive

AOS (start) 145.840 436.805 145.910 435.310

AOS+3 Minutes 145.845 436.800 145.915 435.305

Zenith (maximum) 145.850 436.795 145.920 435.300

Zenith+1 Minute 145.855 436.790 145.925 435.295

LOS (end) 145.860 436.785 145.930 435.290 Another FM satellite to try is HOPE-OSCAR 68 (also referred to as XW-1). The only catch is that this bird also operates in SSB, so you need to check its schedule ahead of time on the Web at <http://www.camsat.cn/>.

When HOPE-OSCAR 68 is operating in the FM repeater mode, transmit at 145.825 MHz with a 67 Hz CTCSS, and listen at 435.675 MHz.

One important thing to remember is that the ARRL Field Day rules have changed in regards to these single-channel FM satellites. Stations participating in ARRL Field Day are limited to one (1) QSO on any “birds” that fall into the single channel FM classification. This change is to allow more groups the opportunity to experience the thrill of satellite communications.

SSB/CW Satellites

If you can transmit and receive SSB on 2 meters and 70 cm, try **VUSat-OSCAR 52** or **HOPE-OSCAR 68**

These are excellent SSB/CW birds and you can work it with a fairly minimal setup. The tricky aspect is that these satellites have *inverting transponders*. If you transmit LSB, the satellite repeats as USB. If you transmit at the high end of the passband (see below), the satellites will repeat your signal at the low end of the passband.

Uplink Passband Downlink Passband

OSCAR 52 435.220 – 435.280 MHz 145.870 – 145.970 MHz

OSCAR 68 145.925 – 145.975 MHz 435.715 -- 435.765 MHz

As noted in the FM section above, OSCAR 68 operates on a varying schedule. Check online at <http://www.camsat.cn/>.

For more detailed information about satellite operating, pick up a copy of the ARRL Satellite Handbook. You can order on the Web at www.arrl.org/catalog/ or call 1-888-277-5289.

Some Final Considerations :

When it comes to VHF/UHF operating, antenna height is everything (the only exception is satellite operation). To make the most of your VHF/UHF capability, you'll need to mount your antennas on portable supports or select a hill or mountain for your Field Day site. Feed line loss is substantial at VHF and UHF, so use the best coaxial cable you can find. If you exploit the VHF/UHF bands to their full potential, you'll be surprised at how many points you'll add to your score. And if the HF bands are dead, VHF and UHF may save the day!

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.

Central Massachusetts Experiences Rare Tornado, Area Hams Hasten to Help

from:

The ARRL Letter for June 2, 2011

06/02/2011

At least two tornadoes touched down in Central Massachusetts late in the afternoon on Wednesday, June 1. The storm pulverized or sheared off the tops of roofs on Main Street in Springfield, a city of more than 150,000, located about 90 miles west of Boston. A debris-filled funnel swept into downtown from the west, then swirled across the Connecticut River, which runs through the city. Like their counterparts in Alabama and Missouri who responded when storms hit those regions, hams in Western Massachusetts volunteered their time and radios to the American Red Cross and the National Weather Service.



According to ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, six hams from the Western Massachusetts ARES® group mobilized to support the American Red Cross in staffing shelters in Springfield, Monson and Brimfield, as well as the American Red Cross office in Springfield. “This part of the operation is winding down, and the Red Cross is looking to see what other tasks radio amateurs may be needed, which may include helping out with damage assessment,” Macedo said on Thursday morning.

Stefan Rodowicz, N1SR, reported that hams with RACES were already at the Emergency Operations Center in Worcester County and Springfield when the tornado touched down.

Using the call WC1MAC (Region 3 RACES), they coordinated through the Mt Tom repeater and provided communications for the three shelters. Meanwhile, across town, ARES® District Emergency Coordinator Tom Doyle, N1MUV, was stationed at the American Red Cross in Springfield. At 9:30 PM. Doyle told the ARRL that there had apparently been several touchdowns in the region, and normal communications was “ragged, but coming back.” Much of the area was still without power or landline phones, as of the morning of Thursday, June 2.

Macedo said that as of Thursday, ARES® in Eastern Massachusetts has not received requests by the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, cities or towns for assistance. “The National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts -- which serves most of Massachusetts, including Boston, as well as Rhode Island and most of Connecticut -- is working with Amateur Radio SKYWARN operators from Western Massachusetts,” Macedo explained. “Ray Weber, KA1JJM, and PJ Howe, N1PJ, are assisting the NWS with damage surveys, as is former ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Mike Neilsen, W1MPN. Neilsen is a meteorologist and a Special Advisor to ARES®/SKYWARN.” Hams in Connecticut and Massachusetts conducted SKYWARN nets, providing timely reports to the National Weather Service offices in Taunton and Albany, New York. The Albany office covers Berkshire County in Massachusetts and Litchfield County in Connecticut.

Western Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator John Ruggiero, N2YHK, ran net control for the Worcester County SKYWARN Net on the Paxton, Worcester and Marlboro repeater systems, with assistance from Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP. Steve Craven, N9SC, ran the SKYWARN Net on the Mt Tom Repeater.

The Amateur Radio Station at the Taunton NWS office, WX1BOX, was active from noon-11 PM, with SKYWARN self-activating that morning at 8:15. “This was in response to the warm front that produced large hail in advance of the cold front that spawned the severe weather and tornadoes over Northwestern Connecticut, Western, Central and Interior Northeast Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire,” Macedo explained.

Macedo said that the Western Massachusetts Section was severely impacted. “Homes and businesses in 19 communities sustained damage, and at least eight communities -- Westfield, Springfield, Agawam, Brimfield, Monson, Wilbraham and Sturbridge -- experienced severe damage, including homes that were destroyed,” he said. “Southbridge also appeared to be hit hard, as well.” The ARRL Western Massachusetts Section includes Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick declared a state of emergency and called up 1000 National Guardsmen after the storms. He said on Wednesday, June 1 that the death toll of four persons was preliminary and that police and firefighters were going door to door in Springfield to ensure that no one was trapped in damaged buildings.

According to the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, Massachusetts hasn't experienced a tornado since 2008. The last killer tornado in Massachusetts was on May 29, 1995, when three people died in Great Barrington, a town along the Massachusetts/New York state border. The state's deadliest recorded tornado on June 9, 1953, killed 94 people in the Worcester area. Worcester is about 50 miles east of Springfield.

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.

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Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2011 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 May Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue June 14th 2011. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM

MICH-A-CON RF

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