

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

June 2005

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Visit the ARRL's web site at:

<http://www.arrl.org>

Question: What is the most popular amateur radio event in the US and Canada?

Answer: The ARRL Field Day



During the fourth full weekend in June, the eyes of the amateur radio community turn towards the annual Field Day operating event. From its beginning back in the 1930s as an event to test the field preparedness and emergency communications abilities of the burgeoning amateur radio community, Field Day has evolved into the largest on-the-air operation during the year. In 2004, Field Day entries were submitted by a record number 2,242 clubs, groups and individuals across the US and Canada to the ARRL Contest Branch. These logs showed participation by 33,000 individuals and over 1.3 million QSOs were reported during the brief 24-hours of the event.

Field Day is officially an operating event rather

than a contest. The purpose remains today as it did in the beginning: **To demonstrate the communications ability of the amateur radio community in simulated emergency situations.** Groups across the continent use Field Day as a literal “show and tell” exhibition. At sites from the tundra of Alaska to the sandy beaches of Puerto Rico, amateur radio brings together its resources to show officials in government and various agencies what “amateur radio can do.”

Many clubs use Field Day as the centerpiece of their annual calendar. Many hams that are not otherwise interested in contesting or DXing find themselves meeting various challenges to help their club run a successful Field Day operation. Officially, Field Day is not a contest. But it is the thrill of the “non-contest contest” that brings out the best in thousands of amateurs who under most circumstances choose not to participate in the various sponsored contests.

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Mich-A-Con ARC June 14th Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 6:30 PM.

Secretary Report:

The minutes of the May 10th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tom, W8JWN. As of this meeting we have \$183.03 in checking, \$2,087.79 in the savings account, \$1,365.82 in the repeater account and \$26.00 petty cash. Interest earned on the Repeater Account, \$0.52. Since the last meeting, \$80.00 was deposited in checking for dues received. Bills paid since

last meeting: WE Energies Felch Repeater, \$22.46; SBC, \$23.08 and Frankenmuth Insurance \$50.00. Dues collected at this meeting: Jon Mott, family membership - \$30.00. We now have 38 members, including 14 new members, that have paid their 2005 dues. 10 members on last year's roster have not yet paid.

Repeater Report:

Lee, N8LT, reported that a used antenna has been installed on a 20 foot mast at the Pine Mountain repeater site. Tests run on the 146.85MHz repeater indicated a problem with noise on the primary and spare repeater antennas which are both

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Words from the President

Like many of you, my brother in Maine and I share jokes and various stories through e-mail. A lot of these jokes have been forwarded from friends of his and there is some repetition over the years. One that I received yesterday is about 1957. It was a nostalgic look at the way things were during the "Happy Days" of our country. This e-mail triggered a walk down Memory Lane for me in relation to ham radio. I'm sure that, one time or another, we all think about how we got started in this great hobby.

I can remember back in 1958 going to Johnny Joe's house to listen to foreign broadcast on his brand new Ocean Hopper. What a difference in selectivity from our family console radio! It actually was 50 pounds lighter and could be held in one hand!

Not long after that, I took a Boy Scout merit badge class for electronics at W9ATG's house in Greenfield, Indiana. We were mesmerized by the pulsating blue glow of the 866-A rectifiers in the power supply for the linear amplifier in his 6 foot rack. He would turn off the basement lights and what a show! He drove this amp with a Viking Ranger. His receiver was a brand new RME-6900. Talk about vintage gear! I was bitten by the radio bug right then and there. I guess that's where I got my love for high power operation! After I got my novice in early 1959, My first commercial rig was a Viking Valiant

with those 866 mercury vapor tubes. I used to stay up all night operating on 40 meter CW. (I'm still a night owl and operate in contests and Field Day through the wee hours.) I'd turn out all of the lights in the bedroom and log contacts by the glow of those tubes.

So, my first "Elmer" was Phil Macey (W9ATG). After his death, in 1966, the Hancock County ARC got his call for their club station. I talked to the president of the club during a contest a few years ago and took time out of the contest to discuss club activities and share our common interests. It was a very enjoyable QSO.

My last "Elmer" was Harold Shoquist, W8CON, who got me back into radio after an eight year absence because of college and other interests. In 1969 Harold loaned me an old Knight transmitter and receiver and I was bitten again. Harold was an Elmer to many of the local hams and was always available to help with any problems that you would have with antennas or radio gear. After his death, I was surprised that we didn't apply for a W8CON club call. It would have gone quite well with our club name Mich-A-Con ARC.

Well, that's my nostalgic trip back to the halcyon days. I hope that many of you younger guys have, at sometime in the future, the same opportunity to reflect on your first experiences in ham radio.

June Club Activities

Field Day will be held at Marion Park in Norway (across from the fair grounds) on the 25th and 26th of June. Setup will begin at 9 AM Saturday morning and operations will be from 1 PM on Saturday through 1 PM on Sunday. Please plan on participating in this fun event, we will need help to set up antennas and to operate the various stations. Techs will be able to operate HF using the GOTA station. If you are unable to participate, but find a few minutes to spare, stop by and visit.

July Club Activities

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:00 PM Central Time every Sunday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.85MHz.)

Please join us for the Tuesday Night Net on the 5th, 19th and 26th at 6:30 PM on the 2-meter repeater (146.85.) Dennis, KD8AIT, is our Net Control Operator.

Club meeting on Tuesday the 12th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway Michigan. The meeting room is upstairs next to the Sanctuary.

Saturday Morning Breakfast, 9:00 AM on the 16th at the Holiday Kitchen in Iron Mountain, on US-2 across from Econo Foods.

Club Operating Activity

All club members are invited to use the club callsign to help the club attain WAS and DXCC. If you use the club call, please give information required for the log such as: station worked, date and time (UTC), frequency, RST sent and received, mode and power to Mike, K8DDB. Also give a description of the equipment you were using.
mikebray@chartermi.net

VEC Testing at Iron River

The Iron Range Amateur Radio Club VEC makes exams available on a monthly basis on the 3rd Thursday of the month, prior to the start of their Club meeting. Examinations must be arranged before hand. Exam time: 6:30 PM (Central), Place: Iron River Lutheran Church (on US-2 next to McDonalds), Contact: Dan Waters, AA9G, dwmwaters@ironriver.tv, (906) 265-4240

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for July 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 ARES	4	5 Tnn	6	7	8	9
10 ARES	11	12 Meeting	13	14	15	16 Breakfast
17 ARES	18	19 Tnn	20	21	22	23
24 ARES	25	26 Tnn	27	28	29	30
31 ARES						

ARRL Field Day

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What makes a good Field Day? Ask that question at any hamfest and you will probably receive a different answer from each person you interview. I would offer a few basic ideas to keep in mind as you contemplate your Field Day operation.

First, and foremost, **Field Day should be a fun activity**. Field Day serves as one of the biggest introductory “drawing cards” we offer in trying to expand interest in the hobby. A Field Day that is technical in set-up may well produce a good score. But remember that a Field Day that practices the **“KISS” principle (Keep It Simple, Silly)** is more likely to attract interest and participation than one which is run like a hard-core contest.

This doesn't mean you don't do the technical planning and preparation to ensure the operation is a good demonstration of what hams can do. It does mean that you should consider having a wide-range of activities and “jobs” which will encourage participation. Yes, 40-meter CW will probably be a great way to rack up points. **But make certain that there are things for the non-CW inclined members of your group to do.** Standing around watching one or two operators make all the contacts is a sure-fire way to kill enthusiasm among your group.

For example, several years ago our local club put up its highest Field Day score ever. We had first-class stations and used outstanding operators on the “prime bands.” They put in 18-20 hours of hard core contest-style activity. The next year our club score fell approximately in half. But the number of people who actually made a contact using the club call went from eight to thirty-six. This brings us to the second major point: **a successful Field Day is well planned.**

Planning entails a wide range of things when it comes to Field Day. But they all start at a common sense point: **set realistic goals for you or your group.** Plan your operation to bring out the best in your club members. If your club is primarily comprised of no-code operators, then set goals which allow their interests to be highlighted. If your club has lots of experience in various modes and operating conditions, plan a more challenging test for yourself. **After all, the success in Field Day is not found in placing first in your category or finishing with “bragging rights” over your cross-town rival. Success in Field Day is measured in attaining the goals set for you or your group.**

While many people will be important to your Field Day operation, the key person during the entire experience – from selection of the site to the submission of the score – will be **the Field Day Chairman or Coordinator**. This person needs to be a good organizer with the ability to delegate responsibility. The responsibilities are many: site selection, securing “band captains” for each transmitter, how to best utilize the operating site, helping solicit operators, equipment, computers, generators, assisting in public relations, safety issues, and much more. The Field Day Chairman needs a good working relationship with the

club membership and officers. It's also helpful if they have some previous Field Day experience. Many clubs use an experienced Field Day Chairman along with an assistant Chairman who is in “training” to assume the job the following year.

There are two criteria that determine your Transmitter class. First, you must be able to transmit a signal on the total number of band/modes that you claim simultaneously. For example, if you claim 10A, you must be able to transmit 10 different signals at the same time (remember that a band/mode counts as a separate band). Changing the band-switch to another band does not count as a “different signal.” If you are claiming 10 transmitters, you need 10 stations capable of sending a signal at the same time (yes that means antennas, too).

As you plan Field Day, don't overlook the wide range of bonus points that are available. In 2005, all entry classes are eligible for some type of bonus points. Check the rules to see which bonus points you can attain and start earning them!

If you are operating in a category that requires emergency power, you may receive a 100-point per transmitter (up to 20) bonus if your entire operation is emergency powered. If you use commercial power for some of the equipment, sorry, you don't qualify for the emergency power bonus.

Are you operating in a public place (mall parking lot, a local park, in front of the fire department)? Don't forget the 100-point bonus. Add in a table, some general ham radio informational handouts, and some volunteers answering questions for visitors and you have another 100 points for an Information Booth.

Sometimes there is confusion as to the bonus for media publicity. Prepare a press release about your event and send it to the various local media outlets (television, radio, and newspapers). At that point you qualify for the 100-point media bonus. While we hope the press will attend your event, their resources may not allow them to cover it. The bonus is for the attempt to secure media publicity.

Educating the state and local government officials and representatives of agencies that ARES may work with is a vital part of the Field Day goal. You may claim a 100-point bonus if an elected or appointed local or state governmental official visits your site as a direct result of your invitation. A second 100-point bonus may be earned if a representative of one of the agencies which we serve (such as Red Cross or Salvation Army) visits your site as a result of a direct invitation from your group. Two things are required to earn this bonus: you must formally invite officials to visit the operation and one (or more) of them must visit. Maximum bonus is 100 points per category (100 for an elected official and 100 for an agency official – not 100 point per official). ARRL \ ARES officials do not qualify you for this bonus.

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ARRL Field Day

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Part of any real emergency will be handling formal traffic for the agencies we serve. Field Day incorporates this into the exercise in two ways. First, 100 points are earned by originating a message from the club to your ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator. The message must be originated during the Field Day period. Why not use one of your club's experienced traffic-handlers working with someone just learning how to handle traffic involved in this part of Field Day?

You should also be ready to garner points for originating, relaying, or receiving and delivering formal NTS style messages during the Field Day operation. You can gain up to 100 points (10 points each for 10 messages) as well as incorporating another segment of your club into the operation. You can't double dip – so you may not include the ARRL SM/SEC message as one of these messages, since it already receives a separate bonus.

During any actual wide-scale emergency, WIAW will broadcast situation bulletins during the duration of the event. To allow groups to practice using this source of information, a 100-point bonus is available for copying the special WIAW Field Day bulletin during the course of the event. You must copy this special bulletin on the air during the Field Day period. It won't be sent out as an email or posted to an ARRL web page. It takes some planning on how to accomplish this at your Field Day site, but it is another available bonus category. The WIAW schedule is found in the packet with the rules. In 2005 also look for the West Coast transmission of the WIAW bulletin from K6KPH.

Groups for many years have used alternative power sources rather than commercial or petroleum-derivative powered generators to run part of their Field Day operation. To encourage this, an easy 100-point bonus may be earned by making at least five QSOs using a "natural power" source. Solar, wind, water-power, methane or grain alcohol all qualify here. (Sorry, dry cell batteries are a no-no.)

Field Day is a time of experimentation and demonstration for many hams. Two rules encourage groups and individuals to broaden their scope during the weekend. If you complete at least one QSO via one of the amateur satellites, you earn a 100-point bonus. The contact must be directly through the satellite between the two earth bound amateur stations, not relayed through a system that uses a satellite uplink system. A dedicated satellite station does not count as an additional transmitter towards your group's total. The total bonus is 100 points – not 100 points for each satellite that you contact. A QSO with the ISS does not qualify for the bonus since the QSO must be an Earth-to-Earth contact. However, if the astronauts on the ISS participate in Field Day (as they have during the past 4 years) I bet the excitement of that contact energizes your whole Field Day operation.

Many new modes of communication are being introduced into the amateur's "bag of tricks." To encourage this experimentation, you may earn up to 300-bonus points by setting up demonstrations of a "non-traditional" mode of amateur communication. You may earn 100 points each for up to three demonstration stations. This would include such things as APRS, ATV or one of the modes that is not covered by the three categories of QSOs – CW, Digital and Phone. Be careful when you choose this mode. The digital category already includes such things as RTTY and PSK31, so they don't qualify for the bonus.

If you wish to claim packet for this special bonus credit, you must set-up a completely portable packet system, including a portable node. You may not use existing packet networks to qualify for packet credit under this bonus, and any contacts made do not count for QSO credit. Also remember that frequencies are not modes. Simply demonstrating a CW QSO on 47 GHz does not qualify, since CW is a regular mode and 47 GHz is a frequency.

If your Field Day group is operating in the Class A or F category, and are at least a two-transmitter entry, you have two more ways of adding operating excitement to your event. Groups at 2A or higher may add a dedicated GET ON THE AIR station (GOTA). This station may be operated by those holding Novice and Technician-Plus licenses or by generally inactive licensees. Non-licensed individuals may participate in this station under the direct supervision of a properly licensed control operator. It may be operated on any Field Day HF band or mode, provided it is under the direct supervision of a control operator that has license privileges that includes that band and mode. The complete guidelines are found in Field Day Rule 4.1.1. A maximum of 400 QSOs from this station may be counted towards the group's total. The station does not qualify as an additional transmitter for the per transmitter bonus. If the station completes at least 100 QSOs from the GOTA station, you will have earned an additional 100-point bonus. The GOTA station is limited to being an HF station. Be sure to read the GOTA rules.

For those in your club who are more VHF/UHF oriented, any group operating as a Class 2A or higher may also include one dedicated VHF/UHF station. This will allow those licensees to participate fully on their favorite amateur bands above 50 MHz. This dedicated VHF/UHF station does not count as an additional transmitter towards your group's total and does not qualify for the 100 points per transmitter bonus. Your group may operate more than one VHF/UHF station during the event. If you do, the first VHF/UHF transmitter does not count towards your club's transmitter total.

Getting youth involved in amateur radio is always important. Beginning in 2005, we have added a new 100-point maximum bonus known as the Youth Element bonus. For all Classes except B, you earn 20-points for each person (age 18 or younger) who completes at least one QSO. Class B may earn either a 20 or 40 point bonus if their operators are age 18 or younger.

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ARRL Field Day

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After your successful Field Day operation, what happens next? Submitting the required paperwork on time is an absolute must. Submit your entry to the ARRL Contest Branch within 30 days of the end of the event. Your entry begins with a completely and accurately filled out Summary Sheet which shows all of the information. Be careful: many of the commercial logging programs provide some basic information on your summary sheet, but leave some important things out. Your best bet is to use an official Summary Sheet. Make certain you use the most current Summary Sheet from the ARRL, since there are changes that affect scoring. Make certain you complete all parts of the Summary Sheet. Without your supplying us complete, accurate information, we can't print the results accurately.

Consider making your submission via the ARRL Field Day Web Applet that is found at www.b4h.net/cabforms/. At this site you can submit your summary sheet information directly to the ARRL and it will show receipt of the information within about 24 hours on the ARRL Web. Remember that if you use this option you still need to submit your supporting documentation. Also keep in mind that the Cabrillo format does not accommodate Field Day. There is a 50-point bonus to submit using the Web Applet.

The logging requirements for Field Day are different from ARRL contests. Instead of standard log files, you are only required to submit a Dupe Sheet, separated by band and mode. For Field Day, paper copies of the dupe sheets are acceptable. Keep your logs available, however, in case we need to request you to submit them at a later time for clarification. You do not have to use the Cabrillo format for Field Day, since it is a log format and only Dupe sheets are required for submission. We do accept electronic logs in lieu of dupe sheets.

The final part of your submission includes the various "proofs" of your bonus points claimed. Some of these are easy. Log sheets noted with the specific QSOs made using natural power or your satellite contacts are sufficient for that bonus. A written statement verifying your location in a public place and a copy of your visitor's log will be fine for claiming those points. Send in a copy of your Press Release, or a copy of any newspaper or media coverage you actually receive. And send in your photographs. Be creative with your photography. Sending in a picture of someone in a baseball cap pouring gas into a generator may be proof of use of emergency power, but probably won't be used in the QST write-up. Creative photos of operators, interesting station set-ups, participation by young people and such are more likely to catch the eyes of QST editors. And make sure you consider taking part in the 2005 ARRL Action Picture Competition (see flier in this packet).

An excellent way to share your group's Field Day story is via the Online Soapbox on the ARRL Web. Log on to www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox and select Field Day. From that site, you may upload a narrative of your group's Field Day operation as well as photographs. Once these are proofed at ARRL Headquarters, they are posted to the web for thousands to share.

The rules require a couple of specific proofs for some of the bonus points. You need to submit a copy of the fully serviced National Traffic System message sent to your Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator as well as any messages relayed from your site. You also need to submit a complete copy of the special Field Day message in your submission. If you submit electronically you should send these proofs as attachments to your email submission.

A couple of hints that might help you make your event even more successful might come in handy. Remember: that while one of the purposes of the event is to have fun, you need to practice safety as well. Having a safety officer for the site is a good idea. Make certain antennas are safely away from power lines. Generators should be grounded properly and operated carefully. Guy wires for temporary structures or towers need to be well marked. The safety officer needs to work closely with the Field Day Chairman to ensure everyone has a safe, as well as fun time.

Make certain everyone is familiar with the Field Day rules. Some people show up and mean well, but their activities on behalf of the club may not be within the spirit of the rules. The complete Field Day rules appear at the Contest Department's Web Page online at: www.arrl.org/contests. From that page you can download the complete Field Day packet. This packet includes copies of the official summary sheet, several other useful forms, as well as some simple information material on several aspects of Field Day. You can also receive this packet by sending an SASE with at least 4 units of postage to: Field Day Packet, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.

How you organize your group for Field Day will depend on the numbers of participants and size of the operation you plan. One helpful hint is to appoint an individual to head up each station / mode/ band. These "band captains" should be responsible for planning their individual station, working in conjunction with the Field Day Chairman and the other stations planned. Band captains shouldn't be expected to do it all so make certain each has plenty of help for set-up, operating and taking down the site.

If you have questions about Field Day after reviewing the rules and packet, drop an email to contests@arrl.org or phone (860) 594-0295 and someone in the Contest Branch will be happy to help you. Field Day is the most popular amateur radio operating event in the US and Canada. Please contact the ARRL Contest Branch if we can assist you in some way to help ensure your Field Day operation this year is the best ever!

This article was taken from the ARRL Field Day 2005 information package, copyright American Radio Relay League.

Weaver's Words (Edited to fit available space)

WRITE YOUR US REPRESENTATIVE TO CO-SPONSOR HOUSE RESOLUTION 230

Your urgent help is requested on this one.

From the ARRL web site: US "Representative Rep Michael Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas, has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives calling on the FCC to "conduct a full and complete analysis" of radio interference from broadband over power line (BPL). The resolution, House of Representatives Resolution 230, says the Commission should comprehensively evaluate BPL's interference potential incorporating "extensive public review and comment," and--in light of that analysis--to "reconsider and review" it's new BPL rules. If approved by the full House, the non-binding resolution, introduced April 21, would express the requests as "the sense of the House of Representatives." The FCC adopted rules to govern so-called Access BPL last October 14 in ET Docket 04-37."

OK, so what does this mean to you and to your ham friend down the street and to me? It means that we all -- and many more as well -- should send an E-mail to our own US House member (this is, to the House member who currently represents the House District in which each of us live). In this letter, we should ask these House members to co-sponsor House Resolution 230. This Resolution, if passed, would "ask" the FCC to review and reconsider the regulations it approved for BPL, last year.

SPECIAL NOTE: Do NOT send the letter directly to your congressman. Instead, please send it to Zach DeWaters. Zach is an executive for the ARRL account with Chwatco, our retained lobbying firm in Washington, DC. Mr. DeWaters will put your letter into a packet of the other letters they receive for your congressman/woman and will hand-deliver the letters to the respective congressmen/women.

Because of this, address the following letter to your congressman/woman, insert the entire letter (with address, etc.) into the body of an E-mail and send the E-mail to: zach.dewaters@chwatco.com. Please copy your E-mail to me (k8je@arrl.org).

To find the name and House District of your US Representative, go to: <http://www.house.gov/>. It will expedite your search if you have your ZIP+4 codes.

Rep. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. _____

As a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator in your

district and as a member of ARRL -- the national association for Amateur Radio, I ask you to support House Resolution 230. This resolution urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the potential of "broadband over power line" (BPL) systems to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio services.

BPL utilizes electric power lines to serve as the conductors of the broadband signals. Unfortunately, because the power lines are not shielded, they also act as antennas and radiate the signals into the air. These radiated signals will interfere with radio receivers tuned to the same frequency range. BPL has only been deployed to a very limited extent, but Amateur Radio already is experiencing severe BPL interference that the FCC has been unable or unwilling to correct. Unlike BPL, other methods of providing broadband Internet services to consumers, such as cable, DSL, wireless and Fiber to the Home, do not pollute the radio spectrum.

Last October 14, the FCC ignored the evidence that BPL systems will cause widespread interference and adopted rules for BPL deployment that provide inadequate protection to radio communication by First Responders and others who need reliable radio communication to ensure our security. The FCC needs to do what it should have done in the first place: fairly and carefully review this evidence and adopt rules that will keep interference from BPL within reasonable bounds.

Because we need no infrastructure in order to communicate, the Amateur Radio Service is the only 100-percent fail-safe emergency communication capability in the world. Interference from BPL emissions will significantly disrupt this capability. Please cosponsor H. Res. 230 as soon as possible to express your concern over the interference potential of BPL to Amateur Radio operators and to public safety licensees.

Sincerely,

Name
Address
(Email and telephone optional)

Please let me know if you need any additional information. Also, please spread this request throughout your clubs and other amateur groups.

Thanks for your help.

73, GL,
Jim

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Director, Great Lakes Division ARRL; <http://www.arrl.org>
5065 Bethany Rd., Mason, OH 45040
Tel.: 513-459-0142; E-mail: k8je@arrl.org

Area News

Free CW Course

Chuck Adams K7QO's new CW training course is extensive, up-to-date, and FREE. Designed to get the trainee from nothing to 20 wpm, it replaces the recently discontinued ARRL Morse training CDs. Chuck was handing out copies of the course on CD - it includes 90 Mbytes of MP3 files, instructions, a PDF manual and sample QSOs.

There is a review of the course in the June issue of WorldRadio and you can download all of it from Chuck's Web site: <http://www.k7qo.net>

146.85MHz Repeater Problem

The undetermined noise source on the WE Energies tower has gotten worse. The noise is thought to be generated by loose cable clamps, fittings, conduit, etc., when excited by RF energy as the repeater transmits. The noise is heard in the repeater receiver and has made the repeater unreliable for weak and even moderately strong signals.

A temporary antenna has been installed on a 21 foot mast and will be used for the 146.85MHz repeater until the source of the noise is found and corrected by WE Energies. Because the 444.85MHz repeater is not affected by the noise, it will continue to use the primary repeater antenna located at the 120 foot level of the tower.

Users of the 2-meter repeater are advised that while the quality of the signal has improved for local use, the repeater's range has decreased.

K8DDB

In addition to publishing news from other clubs that may be of interest to our members, this column will also inform us of issues that other clubs are dealing with so we may benefit from their ideas.

From the **AIR SCOOP Monthly**

Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society, *Editor: Les Elder, WA8LE*

Club Repeater – 147.150

It was discussed and finalized to install the tone access (107.2) on the club repeater. Also the repeater was moved for testing to Perkins Michigan and installed to test for intermode from surrounding radio signals.

Tony KC8NUR and Rich N8OYR, reported that no interference has been coming into the system from the Perkins location. It was suggested at that time that another sight should be looked at in or about 6 to 8 miles from Escanaba so people in this area could have good access to our club repeater. If anyone knows of a good high ground location, or some property that any member has, we can negotiate a small piece of land to install a new tower for our club repeater. (More on this at this club meeting).

New Location For DCARS – Field Day

The Delta County Amateur Radio Society this year will hold its "**Field Day**" at the Upper Peninsula State Fair Grounds in Escanaba.

Dave N8DP, Les WA8LE went to the "Gas and Steam Engine Club" meeting and met with all the members and received a warm welcome to use the facilities that we need to hold our event over the weekend.

They gave us a suggestion that we could use the Textile Mill, General Store, and the Cook Shack for our radio equipment for the event. Les would put keyed-alike padlocks on the buildings that we will use so our members can access a few days before to get everything ready. Arrangements have been made to also use power for our event instead of portable (noisy) engine generators running this year. Computerized Programming will be used during our event. The N3FJP logging program will be wireless to the main computer while in operation. Dave and Joe Thompson have worked out the computer details.

From the **HARA Standing Wave**

Newsletter of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, *Editor: Greg Hanson, K18AF*

Field Day Format: More emphasis on public information, less emphasis on elaborate technical setup and "contest" aspects of the event.

We'll have quite a bit of pre-event press and a number of on-site exhibits of radio technology - crystal radios, old radios, ham TV, a "listening station" so people can hear us and other hams on the air. We'll also have signage and handouts relating to ham radio in the news and community emergency and disaster services. We would like to show off home-brew equipment, especially antennas and other items with visual appeal.

From **The Landline**

Newsletter of the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association
Editor: George Thurner, W8FWG

PACKET RADIO NEWS:

We are working with other hams in the U.P. to establish an APRS node. This will enable weather reports, and other events to be reported directly from the field. Marquette has pretty fair coverage, but they are installing a new node also.....and Escanaba is doing well. With a link from K8LOD-3 in Marquette, it will extend the APRS system into the Copper Country. A site is not yet chosen, but we are thinking it could be either the Herman site or the Keweenaw site. Watch for updates on the new systems. Packet radio is indeed "alive and well" in the U.P.! Stations in the Champion/Ishpeming area are hoping to install additional equipment to reach Iron Mountain, thereby giving us back the route to the south that we lost a couple of years ago, when the tower at Dead River came down due to an aircraft hitting the tower.

LICENSE EXAMS:

The next exam is July 9, 2005. Due to construction at MTU, exams will be held at the clubhouse. Exams will return to Tech in October.

Wanted to Buy: An Alinco DR-1200T transceiver in good operating condition that I can use for my portable packet station. Contact George W8FWG at w8fwg@arrl.net or (906) 337-2542.

Mich-A-Con ARC June 14th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

located at a height of about 120 feet. The noise is probably caused by RF from the repeater transmitter exciting loose cable clamps, conduit, fittings, etc. This noise is then manifested in the repeater's receiver. There was no significant noise when the repeater was switched to the antenna on the 20 foot mast. We need to inform WE Energies of the noise problem and request that it be fixed.

The current configuration at the repeater site is: The 146.85MHz repeater is on the used vertical antenna at 20 feet. This gives us a noise free signal for local users, but has cut down on the repeater's range. There is no significant problem with noise on the 444.85MHz repeater, so it was left on the primary repeater antenna. The MIIMT packet node is on the spare repeater antenna and is running at 30 watts. Other tests indicated that there are de-sense problems between the repeater and packet radios when they are operating in the same frequency band and their antennas are located within close proximity.

ARES:

Dennis, KD8AIT, reported that he attended a Menominee County ARES meeting. This is a new ARES chapter with a recently appointed EC. They hold ARES nets on Sunday at 8 PM. Dennis has attempted to contact the Director of Dickinson County Emergency Services, Scott Ceello, but Scott was out of the office.

Old Business:

Mike, N9NBN, reported that work on the Field Day tower is progressing. Terry, KB9ZER, should have the base fabricated by next Wednesday and Tom, W8JWN, will pick up the antenna from Bill Lukes this week.

Tom, W8JWN, presented a bill for \$34.00 for the purchase of 100 feet of rotor cable. Mike, K8DDB, made a motion to reimburse Tom and Randy, KB9ZES, seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all in attendance.

Tom, W8JWN, reported that CallingPost.com was used to call out members for a tornado watch. Most members received the phone call within a few minutes. There are 28 members now on the list and there are 187 calls remaining on the plan.

Tom, W8JWN, will see John's Signs about making an 8 by 3 foot banner for the club for use at

Field Day and other club events.

New Business:

Tom, W8JWN, will attempt to find a WE Energies contact person for the repeater tower noise problem.

Dennis, KD8AIT, expressed appreciation for member participation in the recent SKYWARN nets.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM

A Field Day planning meeting followed the business meeting.

Submitted by: Mike Bray

Attendees:

- Mike Bray, K8DDB (Secretary)
- Mike Boileau, N9NBN (Vice President)
- Lee Michaud, N8LT
- Dennis Beurjey, KD8AIT
- Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS
- Tom Martin, W8JWN (President)
- Bob Uren, KC8TWG
- Jerry Groeneveld, N0MR
- Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
- Paul Hintz, WB8SZI and Carol
- Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER
- Jon Mott, KC8QYP

Packet News

Lee, N8LT, has installed a 147.42MHz node at the Pine Mountain site (MIIMT:KB8HHQ-4). The setup includes a Comet dual-band antenna at 120 feet, an Alinco DR1200 2-meter rig running 30 watts and a PacComm Tiny II TNC.

I have received the following information from Andy, KB8ALN, sysop of GRBMBX in Green Bay, regarding WIGATE: I have been in contact with Al, who operates WIGATE. He is moving and has temporarily taken the system down. It may be a while before he returns to the air, but so far he does plan to get back on. So "keep checking", eventually he will be back.

I plan to set up my packet station at Field Day, so those not familiar with this mode can learn about it. The station will be operating under the club callsign, KC8VC, with a mailbox ID of KC8VC-1. Connect to the station using the MIIMT or MIIMTB LAN on 147.42MHz. Please take the time to send us some messages!
K8DDB

Club Apparel:

Our club apparel is supplied by:

Shirt Tails
408 S Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Phone: (906)774-3370
or
finleyd@up.net

Prices:

Jacket with liner \$45
(Tall add \$5, 2X or 3X add \$5,
to add your name or call sign
on the front is \$5)

T-Shirt - \$10
(2X or 3X add \$1)
Sweatshirt - \$16
(2X or 3X add \$2)

If you wish to have the club logo printed on an item of clothing that you have purchased elsewhere, there is charge of \$6.

Club patches are available from:

Tom Martin, W8JWN
812 West B Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

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



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

Please remit dues to:
Mike Bray, K8DDB
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____

ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

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 an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater-Only-Membership.

Exam Schedule

City: Iron Mountain
Location: Dickinson County Library
Room: Conference Room
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time
Contact: Mark Lewis, N8UKD
Telephone: (906) 774-6598

Exam Date: Aug 6, 2005
Exam Date: Nov 5, 2005
Exam Date: Feb 4, 2006
Exam Date: May 6, 2006

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 driver's 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 (2005 fee is \$14).

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 (2nd 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., don't worry about format, that's the editor's job.

Send to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of material found in Mich-A-Con RF unless otherwise noted, provided that proper credit is given to the author and Mich-A-Con ARC.

Repeaters

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

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	—
444.850 MHz	plus	100

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 use only.

A club net is held on the 2-meter repeater every Tuesday at 6:30 PM except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

Mich-A-Con RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Michael F. Bray
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Mich-A-Con RF

Club Meetings

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. 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@netnet.net

Secretary:

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

Treasurer (Pro Tem):

Tom Martin, W8JWN
Mike Bray, K8DDB
(Shared responsibility)

Reminders

Come to Field Day at Marion Park in Norway on the 25th and 26th of June. Setup begins Saturday at 9:00 AM. Operation begins Saturday at 1:00 PM and continues through 1:00 PM Sunday. Participate in any way that you can - don't miss this fun event!

The monthly meeting for July is on TUESDAY the 12th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway, Michigan. (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)

Please support the club, its repeaters and packet system by becoming an active, dues-paying member. We can do more with your help!

Help to make us a better and closer knit club by becoming involved in club activities!