

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

June 2006

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<http://www.arrl.org>

FIELD DAY 2006

GOTA Station Frequently Asked Questions

The rules regarding the Get On The Air (GOTA) station have changed for Field Day 2006. Previously, a 100 point bonus was awarded for completing at least 100 valid QSOs (by all participants combined). This year, it will be possible to earn up to 500 bonus points (by making 500 QSOs), but it will be much more difficult for our club to earn any bonus points at all because the scoring is tied more to individual GOTA operator performance than last year. The following Q&A's discuss GOTA station operation and scoring.

Q. What is the GOTA station?

A. It is an opportunity for Novice, Technician, Technician Plus licensees, other generally inactive licensees, and non-licensed persons to experience first-hand the fun of amateur radio by allowing them to **GET ON THE AIR**.

Q. How many GOTA stations may a club have on the air?

A. Only one GOTA station may be used by a club at any given time.

Q. What are the bands for the GOTA station?

A. The GOTA station may operate on any amateur HF band on which Field Day operation is permitted.

Q. What modes and frequencies may the GOTA station use?

A. The modes and frequencies are determined by the license class of the control operator of the GOTA station. There must be a control operator permitted to use the frequencies and modes desired in direct control of the GOTA station any time it is transmitting.

Q. What callsign does the GOTA station use?

A. The GOTA station uses a callsign different

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Mich-A-Con ARC June 13th Meeting Minutes

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

Secretary Report:

The minutes of the May 9th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Dennis, K8SWX. Account balances are as follows: Checking, \$281.62; Regular Savings, \$1,599.56; Repeater Savings, \$1,159.40; Petty Cash, \$25.63.

The following transactions were made: WE Energies, \$21.02; SBC, \$23.03, Repeater Savings to checking, \$213.21 for the purchase of a climbing harness. Dennis will contact WE Energies about the fluctuations in billing for the Metropolitan site.

Repeater Report:

Lee, N8LT, reported that the repeater has been working well. He increased the hang time on the 2-meter repeater from 2 to 5 seconds.

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Words from the President

This is the time of the “ham radio year” when conditions aren’t the greatest on 160-20 meters but improve on 6 meters. This was apparent last weekend during the ARRL VHF contest. With just a sloping dipole at 25 feet, I worked over 50 stations in a few hours of operation. This was the first time in 47 years as a ham that I have worked more than one or two stations on 6. Of course, in the past, you had to have a separate radio for 6, or a transverter. Also, there was a lot of DX to work on 20, 15, and 10 to keep me busy.

Now, with my third rig in the station, an Icom 706 MKIIG, 6 meters is included. Just like the 14 clubs in my golf bag, I want to use them all. No matter how poorly I hit the 3 iron, I will use it. I want to get my money’s worth!

I doubt if I will get too involved in 6 meter activity because I don’t have room on the tower for another beam. A beam is necessary if you want to have signal rejection and directivity. Also, with my propensity toward HIGH POWER, I don’t have an amp for 6. HI!

It was fun working stations as far away as Vermont and Alabama on a new band. I also had a pileup on Saturday because grid square EN55 is fairly rare on 6 meters. It was like being in Jer-

sey or Belize. It’s nice to be wanted.

I was thinking, after the weekend operation, that next year I might take the rig mobile and operate as a “rover”. That means jumping from grid to grid. I could cover 4-5 different grids over the weekend. It would be a mini-DXpedition, since 2007 doesn’t have me leaving the country for any planned operation. Of course, with the price of gas, the “rover” classification might be as expensive as Jersey!

These “Words” have expressed the variety found in ham radio. Just when you think there’s nothing left to get the juices going, a new facet of the hobby grabs you.

And, speaking of new facets, get to Norway on June 24-25 and participate in Field Day. We need operators for the GOTA station and the SSB station. If you’re afraid of the mic, feel free to try your hand, or fingers, at RTTY or PSK31.

Finally, thanks to Mike for publishing this newsletter for the past two and a half years. He has done an outstanding job.

Now, welcome to Steve, KD8CCP, who will continue the newsletter. Good luck and feel free to ask for any advice.

73,
Tom, W8JWN

FIELD DAY

Field Day will be held on the 24th and 25th of June at Marion Park in Norway. Setup will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning, and operating will commence at 1:00 PM and continue through 1:00 PM on Sunday afternoon. Come out and enjoy a good time with your fellow club members.

July Club Activities

The Upper Peninsula 2-meter Social Net (UPSN) is conducted every Sunday at 7:00 PM Central Time on the 146.850 repeater. This is to replace the Tuesday Night Net, which didn’t have much activity. Dennis, K8SWX, will facilitate the link from our repeater to other participating stations via EchoLink.

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:30 PM Central Time every Thursday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz.)

Monthly meeting on Tuesday the 11th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street in Norway. The meeting room is upstairs next to the sanctuary.

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Avenue (US-2) in Iron Mountain, across from Econo Foods. Why not enjoy a good meal and camaraderie with your fellow members.

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. (906) 265-4240 dmwaters@ironriver.tv

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for July 2006

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

**License Study Materials
Available from the ARRL:**

Technician Class:

Now You're Talking - 5th edition - Order No. 8810
\$19.95

ARRL's Tech Q&A - 3rd edition - Order No. 8829
\$12.95

ARRL Technician Class Video Course - 4th ed.
DVD Course No. 9116
VHS Course No. 8837
\$149 each + \$12 s&h

General Class:

ARRL General Class License Manual - 5th ed.
Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9205
\$16.95

ARRL's General Q&A
Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9213
\$12.95

Your Introduction to Morse Code - Pass 5 wpm test
Cassettes No. 8322
Audio CD No. 8314
\$14.95 each

Ham University - Complete Edition - Learn Morse code with this easy to use software. Includes a written exam quiz generator with all three question pools. CD-ROM for Win95-XP
Order No. 8735
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or

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/>

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<http://hamuniversity.com>

GOTA Station Frequently Asked Questions

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from the call being used by the group's main Field Day operation. The GOTA station also uses a single callsign for the duration of Field Day. Remember that you must have permission of the holder of the callsign in order to use it for the GOTA station. Also remember the rules of station ID. A two-by-three call issued to a Technician licensee may be used, but if the call is being used outside of the privileges of the licensee, it must also include the callsign of the control operator (WA4QQN/N1ND for example).

Q. What exchange does the GOTA station give?

A. GOTA stations use the same exchange as its "parent" station.

Q. Who may the GOTA station contact?

A. The GOTA station may contact any other amateur radio station, with a couple of exceptions. The GOTA station may not work its "parent" Field Day station. It may not contact any station operated by a person who was involved with their group's Field Day operation. Remember that if a DX station is involved, the FCC rules involving Third Party participation apply.

Q. What is considered a generally inactive licensee?

A. The GOTA station is not for everyone. The generally inactive licensee provisions pertain to someone who holds a General or higher class license but has been inactive. The intent and the spirit of this station is to provide an opportunity for persons to gain valuable on-the-air experience. This is not a station that a club "ringer" operates in order to rack up points. ***The list of operators of this station must be submitted with the Field Day entry.*** A couple of guidelines to keep in mind when allowing persons to operate the GOTA station:

- 1) Any licensee who has never made HF contacts would be considered inactive.
- 2) Someone who has made no QSOs in the last two years would be considered Inactive.
- 3) A person who operated the GOTA station as a generally inactive licensee last year would not be eligible to operate the GOTA station in the following Field Day.

In order to claim the GOTA bonus, the club/group must provide a list of operators and the

number of QSOs each operator makes at the GOTA station. ***Clubs should use their judgement in determining the operators of the GOTA station.***

Q. May someone operate both the GOTA and the main Field Day stations?

A. It is permissible for someone to operate both GOTA and the main stations. However, remember that to use the GOTA station, you must meet the requirements of license class, be generally inactive, or a non-licensed person. It is not permissible for a seasoned operator to operate the GOTA station.

Q. May a non-licensed person operate the GOTA station?

A. A non-licensed person may *participate* in the GOTA station by speaking into the microphone, sending CW, or making digital contacts but may do so only under the direct supervision of a properly licensed control operator.

Q. I am an active Novice licensee. May I operate the GOTA station?

A. Yes. The GOTA station may be operated by any Novice or Technician licensee, under the terms of their license privileges, or under the supervision of a control operator.

Q. How do I calculate the GOTA bonus points?

A: Please refer to the GOTA Scoring FAQs below.

GOTA Scoring FAQs

In order to encourage Class A and F stations to make concerted efforts to have a GOTA station and to maximize the number of participants at the GOTA station, there have been changes in the GOTA Bonus Point structure.

In addition to the regular QSO points earned the individual operator of a GOTA station can earn 50 bonus points when they complete 50 QSOs. They earn an additional 50 bonus points when they reach the 100-QSO level. The operator may make additional contacts for credit beyond the 100-QSO level, but only the first 100 qualify for the bonus points. Additional operators may earn

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GOTA Station Frequently Asked Questions

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the 50 and 100-point bonuses for a GOTA station, up to the maximum of 500 QSOs allowed for the GOTA station. If the GOTA station is supervised full-time by a designated GOTA Coach, the earned bonus points doubles (the 50 points for 50 QSOs becomes 100 points, 100 points for 100 QSOs become 200 points, etc).

Q: How many QSOs may be completed by operators of the GOTA station?

A: 500.

Q: How do you earn GOTA bonus points?

A: The operator of the GOTA station earns a 50-point bonus for completing 50-QSOs at the GOTA station. In addition, they earn an additional 50-point bonus when they complete 100 GOTA QSOs. These QSOs do not have to be made all at once – they can be a cumulative total for operation at the GOTA station during Field Day by the operator.

Q. May an operator make more than 100 QSOs at the GOTA station?

A: Yes, but they only receive bonus points for the first 50 and 100 QSOs. Any additional QSOs beyond the 100 do count towards the 500-QSO limit for the entire GOTA operation. You still receive the regular QSO credit for QSOs over 100 made by an operator, but the maximum bonus points for any individual operator is 100 (excluding the double bonus described below).

Q: I completed 85 QSOs at the GOTA station. How many bonus points do I receive?

A: Since you completed at least 50, you receive a 50-point bonus.

Q: I completed 85 QSOs at the GOTA station and my friend completed 65. That's a total of 150 QSOs. Can we combine our efforts for 150 bonus points?

A: The bonus points are given for the effort of each individual operator. You would both each earn 50 bonus points for completing the 50 QSO level, but you can not “pool” QSOs among various operators to reach another bonus.

Q: How do I earn the “GOTA Double Bo-

nus”?

A: In order for the bonus points for the GOTA station to be doubled, there must be a designated GOTA “Coach” or “Mentor” working with the GOTA station whenever it is in operation.

Q: Our designated GOTA Coach will be operating the 15-meter CW station in the next tent, with the instructions that if we need them we know where to go get them. Does this affect our double bonus?

A: The GOTA Coach must be physically at the GOTA operating position and monitoring/teaching the GOTA operators any time it is being used. The double bonus is to compensate for the GOTA Coach not being at other stations operating, so they should not be involved in any other station while the GOTA station is in use.

Q: Some of our GOTA operators are comfortable making QSOs without a Coach while others need the Coach. How does this affect the scoring of the GOTA bonus points?

A: In order to qualify for the double GOTA Bonus, the GOTA Coach must be present at any time the GOTA station is being operated. If the double bonus does not apply to all QSOs for the GOTA station, it can not be applied to any.

Q: Our GOTA Coach wants to go home to sleep. Does this mean we lose the double bonus?

A: You don't have to have only one person serving as the GOTA Coach. Several experienced operators may serve as GOTA Coaches. As long as at least one of them is present while the GOTA station is operating, you can still claim the double bonus.

Q: How do we claim the GOTA Bonus?

A: First, mark the appropriate area in Item 15 on the Summary Sheet. Then in Item 19 on the Summary Sheet, you must list the name and/or callsign of each operator of the GOTA station for which you are claiming the bonus, the number of QSOs completed by that operator, and the number of bonus points you are claiming earned by that operator. If you do not complete Item 19, the GOTA bonus may be disallowed.

Club Equipment List

Tom, W8JWN, has custody of :

- Gin Pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
- Small TV type rotor and control.
- Dipole antennas for 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
- Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy)
- RG8X with double shield (100 feet)
- 3/16 inch single braid Dacron rope (200 feet)
- 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters)
- 6 PL259 silver connectors
- 4 T-adapters for stubs
- 4 UG-176 silver sleeves
- 3 right-angle connectors
- Tri-band beam antenna
- Club banner
- Climbing Harness (L-XL)

Mike, K8DDB, has custody of :

- Lafayette 80-10 meter tube type VFO and Operating Manual.
- J-38 Morse key
- Power supply 0 to +- 32 VDC, 2 amp (rack mount)
- Duplexer (rack mount home brew) 440 MHz?
- Power supply (home brew partially built)
- Multimeter—Military ME-26D/U by Sentinel Electronics, Inc.

Bob, KC8TWG, has custody of :

- 40 foot tower (in process of refurbishing)

If you have custody of any club equipment, please notify Mike, K8DDB, of what you have. Also, notify Mike when you give custody of the equipment to another member.

Email: mikebray@chartermi.net
or
Phone (906) 563-7020

WinLink 2000—AirMail

by Jerry Groeneveld, N0MR

Airmail Version 3.2

Download the current Airmail program from:

<http://www.siriuscyber.net/ham/>

The file is about 4.1 Meg and the name is amhc32035. Updates from the above version may be slightly different. Also available is a version that will fit on several floppy disks. Execute the file to install the program and desktop icon.

Execute the program from the desktop icon. A wizard will appear to place your call and station information. The message index page will appear with an information message. This message index page is a lot like most internet mail programs where you can read, compose, move, and delete messages.

There are several ways to use AirMail. We will discuss the telnet client, and the HF Pactor. Go to the tools menu, select options and then modules. Check the terminal window and the telnet client. If there is a PMBO in your area with VHF capability, select the VHF window. Several other operations are available for very advanced operation that will not be covered.

Telnet client set-up

Go to the Modules menu and select the telnet client. In the 'connect to window', click on the 'New' button. Enter the following:

Remote callsign	KN6KB
Remote host	kn6kb.no-ip.com
Port	12001
Timeout	30
Local callsign	Yourcall
Password	WL2KtelnetClient
Protocol	B2
Check 'Include in autocheck'	
Click on 'OK'	

Again click on 'New' and enter the same information with the callsign K4CJX. This will give you two Winlink sites for telnet.

At the 'connect to window', select one of the callsigns. At the bottom of the window under autocheck, place a check in the top window, enter 30 minutes and enter one minute after the even interval to autocheck at 1 and 31 minutes after the hour. If you have a dial-up internet service, check the bottom box, enter your dial up networking name, and check to hang up.

To test the connection, click on the upper left green button. The Winlink dialog will display in the middle window and any outgoing mail will upload and any incoming mail will download.

Click on the lower right 'Hide' button to leave the telnet client

running in the background. To terminate automatic telnet operation, you must close the telnet client window.

HF Pactor operation

HF Pactor operation requires a TNC capable of HF Pactor operation like the Kantronics KAM or similar unit. Also needed is the cable from the radio to the TNC.

Open the tools menu, select the options, and then the connections tab. Select the TNC type. The Comm port is generally Com1 and 9600 baud.

The right side of the window is for automatic radio band switching and is not generally used. Note on the bottom of the window that the LSB mode is used. Click on apply and OK and the message index page will return.

The far right icon on the tool menu is the 'Switch to terminal window'. Click on this icon and the terminal window will appear. The TNC will initialize and say 'OK' if successful. In the two windows in the tool bar, the left window is the PMBO station selection and the right window is the frequency. A good selection for this area is a Florida station on 20 or 30 meters. When selected, the radio dial position will be noted on the bottom of the window. A frequency followed by P2 or P3 is Pactor II or III and requires the specialized TNC.

To test the connection, click on the upper left green button. The Winlink connection will attempt and if successful the dialog will appear in the window. If not successful, select another station and/or frequency. It takes time to find the stations and frequencies to use at different times of the day.

To return to the message index window, click on the right most tool bar icon. The HF terminal window will run in the background unless it is closed.

Format a message

In the top right toolbar of the message index window just under the edit and view menus is the 'Format a new message' icon. This will bring up a window to format a message much like any internet mail program. Address to a callsign designates Winlink mail with the address callsign@winlink.org. Also any internet mail address can be entered like callsign@arrl.org. Then enter the subject and text.

To send an Airmail message, it needs to be posted for the next connection either by telnet or HF. Click on the toolbar mailbox just under the tools menu to post the message. The message will appear at the top of the message index window with a mailbox on the left of the line. The message will automatically send on the next connection, either HF or telnet.

Jerry, N0MR

Bothered by Power Line Noise?

FCC CITES FLORIDA UTILITY FOR INTERFERENCE TO RADIO AMATEUR

The FCC has issued a Citation to Lakeland Electric, a municipally owned utility in Lakeland, Florida, for violating Part 15 rules by interfering with a local radio amateur. §15.5(c) of the FCC rules requires that the operator of an "incidental radiator" must cease operating the device after an FCC representative notifies the operator that the device is causing harmful interference. The "incidental radiator" in this case is overhead power lines. Under an agreement, the ARRL and the FCC cooperate in resolving cases of line noise interference to Amateur Radio licensees.

"Power line noise continues to generate the bulk of interference complaints that ARRL receives," says ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, who says the League reviews hundreds of such complaints each year. About half of them are resolved promptly by the utilities, in some instances with assistance from the ARRL Laboratory. Gruber says he believes this is the first time the FCC has issued a Citation to a utility in a case involving power line interference to ham radio.

The radio amateur involved, J. C. Flynn, W4FGC, told ARRL that Lakeland Electric has been good about fixing routine problems, but he doesn't think the utility personnel know how to resolve cases of power line noise. "I have been 10 years trying to get something done," he said, adding that the noise affects all HF bands. "It is terrible!"

Flynn first noticed the power line noise around 1995. Subsequent complaints, assurances from the utility that it was addressing the problem--or that it couldn't find one--and even some FCC warnings followed before the FCC issued its Citation to Lakeland Electric on May 16. Flynn, who's now 84, told the League that as of June 7, nothing had been done to fix the severe line noise at his location, which he demonstrated over the telephone on several bands.

He said he especially enjoys getting on 40 meter SSB with a large roundtable of friends.

Commented Gruber: "There has been no activity by the utility in resolving this problem in over a year, and Mr Flynn's noise case now appears to be at a standstill." The League's involvement in the case goes back to January 2001, when Flynn requested the League's assistance. Gruber says the League's role is to provide technical information and guidance to utilities "to keep a complaint from reaching the point of a Citation."

In late 2005, Gruber had a chance to check the line noise at Flynn's QTH firsthand. He had taken RFI gear to a Florida ham radio convention for a talk and demonstration. Afterward, on his own time, Gruber--with help from ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dee Turner, N4GD--took some noise

measurements of his own.

Gruber submitted the results of his on-site inspection to the FCC. Personnel from the Commission's Tampa field office followed up with their own inspection before issuing the Citation, which lays the groundwork for a possible Notice of Apparent Liability proposing to fine the utility if the interference problem is not resolved.

"I hope this case serves as a precedent for FCC enforcement, where appropriate, in power line noise cases," said Gruber, who's compiled various reports and correspondence relating to the Lakeland Electric power line interference case into a booklet of approximately 60 pages. "While the League will work with amateurs in such cases for as long as it takes," he added, "we hope the FCC Citation will serve as a warning to electric utilities that it's not acceptable to take months or years to fix the problem causing the interference."

This article was taken from the ARRL Letter, June 9, 2006 with permission.

FCC Directs Manassas BPL System to Resolve Amateurs' Interference Complaints

In two strongly worded letters, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau has directed the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system to take appropriate steps to eliminate harmful interference to Amateur Radio operators. Several hams in the Manassas area have complained, some repeatedly, about severe interference from the BPL system, operated by COMTek on the city-owned power grid. The FCC minced no words in detailing what it wants the city and BPL operator COMTek to do to ensure its system complies with Part 15 rules governing BPL systems and even hinted that it may shut down all or part of the system. One of the FCC letters followed up on a complaint from Dwight Agnew, AI4IL, of BPL interference to his mobile operations.

FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey told the city and COMTek June 16 that within 20 days he wants a "detailed report on the actions you have taken and the progress you have made in resolving the interference complaint or reducing the emissions in the area referenced in Mr Agnew's complaint to 20 dB below the Part 15 limit," a level the FCC maintains generally is sufficient to eliminate BPL interference to mobile operations. Additionally, Casey said the Commission wants to know "the specific steps you will take to inform customers of a cessation of service in the event you are directed to cease operations, either in part or system-wide."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League is "especially gratified" that the Enforcement Bureau's Spectrum Enforcement Division has ordered the City of Manassas to take steps to prepare for a cessation of BPL services.

"Clearly, the FCC has lost patience with COMTek's reliance on misleading news releases as a substitute for meaningful solu-

tions to the ongoing interference," he said.

In an April 7 news release COMTek Vice President Walt Adams called the Manassas BPL system "a real success story" and said its testing showed "an almost identical" level of interference whether or not the system was in operation. It made a similar claim to the FCC in Agnew's case.

COMTek has indicated it expects emissions can be reduced to 20 dB below the Part 15 limit once second-generation BPL equipment is in place along the Virginia Business Route 234 corridor by the end of July. Casey said that's not good enough. "We note that a failure to respond until the end of July to any complaint alleging harmful interference in an effort to determine if the new equipment resolves the matter is not sufficient," he pointed out in a footnote.

Casey said Manassas and COMTek must address and "reach a resolution" with regard to Agnew's interference complaint "as soon as practicable."

Based on the engineering reports the FCC received from the city and COMTek in response to the Agnew complaint, Casey said, "it appears that the BPL system is not in compliance with the Commission's emission requirements at several frequencies," although none were in the amateur bands.

Manassas and COMTek must detail within 30 days steps taken to clean up the system as well as any additional actions necessary for the system to remain in compliance with Commission rules.

In a second letter, Casey requested Manassas and COMTek to examine and address specific longstanding interference complaints from George Tarnovsky, K4GVT; Donald Blasdel, W4HJL; Bill South, N3OH; Jack Cochran, WC4J, and Arthur Whittum, W1CRO. Manassas and COMTek must "take appropriate remedial steps to eliminate any instances of harmful interference" or reduce emissions in the areas cited in the complaints to 20 dB below the Part 15 limit, he instructed. He also reiterated his call for system compliance.

Casey said the FCC wants a report within 30 days on steps taken to address the five radio amateurs' specific interference complaints and eliminate excessive emissions.

Tarnovsky said the complainants are encouraged by the FCC's response to COMTek's reports and are looking forward to the results of the Commission-directed testing.

"I think I can speak for all parties in saying that we're looking forward to a BPL interference-free Manassas," he said.

This article was taken from the ARRL Letter, June 16, 2006 with permission.

A Mayonnaise Jar and 2 Cups of Coffee

When things in your lives seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the grains of sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things--your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else---the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand and pebbles."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

June 13th Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 1)

Old Business:

Tom, W8JWN, represented the club and ARES at the May 23rd Emergency Preparedness meeting with representatives of Michigan State Police, Dickinson County Emergency Services and the National Weather Service.

Tom, W8JWN, presented two designs for the magnetic signs to be provided by Dickinson County Emergency Services for ARES members. Members selected the design with the ARES logo and "Radio Communications" on it.

Mike, K8DDB, will turnover the newsletter editor's job to Steve, KD8CCP, next week.

New Business:

Dennis, K8SWX, was contacted by Pete Johnson, AB9PJ, DEC of Northeast Wisconsin, about taking the responsibility of EC for Florence County. Consensus of meeting attendees was that being EC for Dickinson County was enough responsibility.

The Tuesday Night Net on the 146.850 repeater will be discontinued due to a lack of participation. The Upper Peninsula 2-meter Social Net will take its place. The net meets every Sunday at 7:00 PM Central Time and Dennis, K8SWX, will provide an Echolink connection from our repeater to the net.

Tom, W8JWN, reported that George Toppe's, W9QFL, daughter would like to get her amateur radio license so she can keep George's call in the family.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

A Field Day planning meeting followed the business meeting.

Submitted by: Mike Bray

Attendees:

Mike Bray, K8DDB (Secretary)
Mike Boileau, N9NBN (Vice President)
Bob Uren, KC8TWG
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, (Treasurer)
Ed Armbrust, KD8DJO
Joe Schutte, KD8DKJ
Tom Martin, W8JWN (President)
Lee Michaud, N8LT

Cliff Haycock, KD4ZBP (guest)
Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER
Steve Skauge, KD8CCP
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES

U.P. Hamfest 2006

Make plans now to attend U.P. Hamfest 2006 on August 5th at Escanaba. The Hamfest is sponsored by the Delta County Amateur Radio Society and Bay de Noc College. Events include Swap & Shop, Meetings and Door Prizes.

The Hamfest will be located at the Joseph Heiman University center at Bay de Noc College. The college is on the North end of Escanaba along the combined highways of US2 and 41 and M35.

Directions from the North or East: After crossing the Escanaba River, turn right at the second traffic light (Danforth Road), travel one block and turn right into Parking Lot D.

Directions from the South or West: US2 and 41 combine with M35 in Escanaba. Take M35 North until passing under the viaduct, turn left at the first traffic light onto Danforth Road, travel one block and turn right into Parking Lot D.

GPS coordinates are N45 Degrees, 46.226 Minutes and W87 Degrees, 5.087 Minutes.

Talk-in on the 147.150 repeater.

Hamfest information can be found on the DCARS website: <http://www.dcars.org>

Contact Hamfest Chairman, John Anderson for information or table reservations at wd8rth@dcars.org

For Sale

- 2 Meter Mobile Transceivers:
- Icom IC-28A w/mic \$125
 - Kenwood TM-241A w/mic \$110
 - Kenwood TM-261 w/mic \$80
 - Kenwood TR-7400 w/mic \$95
 - Icom IC-2000H w/mic \$140

Bob Uren, KC8TWG
rjuren@chartermi.net
(906) 779-1708

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:
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
612 Balsam Street
Kingsford, MI 49802

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____
ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

Annual dues are due in January—Please make checks payable to Mich-A-Con ARC
Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 ____ * Family \$30 ____ * Repeater-Only - \$10 ____**

If family membership, please list additional names and call signs:

* The dues for NEW members are prorated - you only pay for the remainder of the year! Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership or \$2.50 per month for a Family membership.

**If you are 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 5, 2006
Exam Date: Nov 4, 2006
Exam Date: Feb 3, 2007
Exam Date May 5, 2007

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 (2006 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.

An ARES/RACES net is held on the 146.850 repeater every Thursday at 6:30 PM. Dennis, K8SWX is the net manager.

The UP 2-Meter Social Net is held on Sundays at 7:00 PM on the 146.850 repeater.

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:

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Vice President:

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n9nbn@borderlandnet.net

Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
(906) 771-1996
dbeurjey@msn.com

Reminders

Club dues for the year 2006 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form on page 9 of this newsletter. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con ARC and sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank you for supporting our club!

The monthly meeting for June is on TUESDAY the 11th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway, Michigan. (Upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)

Don't forget to set aside some time for Field Day on the weekend of June 24th and 25th.