

MICH-A-CON RF

IRON MOUNTAIN, MI

JUNE 2007

FIELD DAY 2007 IS HERE!

Words from the president:
by Tom W8JWM

Field Day 2004 is history, but the memories will linger for a long time. How could I ever forget the smell of plastic melting in the surge protectors, the cold, crisp breeze at 3 A.M. that drove Mike and I to our vehicles to get warm, the frustration of calling KP4 "umpteenth" times with no contact being made, and the glow of dawn as the sun came up directly in front of my operating position. It was a great experience! I didn't realize until late Sunday, after a very long nap, that I missed being a part of these events. My last FD was back in the late 70's. I would hope that many of the readers of this newsletter get to savor the FD experience in the future. Don't wait as long as I did.

Field Day 2007 Schedule

Friday June 22, 2007 2:00 pm : Meet at Marion Park in Norway to help put up some of the wire antennas.

Saturday June 23, 2007 8:30 am: Meet at Marion Park to set up any remaining wire antennas and the tower along with the radios.

Saturday June 23, 2007 11:00 am: Club Picnic begins and runs until 1:00 pm. Club is providing pop. Please bring your own meat, drinks and utensils and a dish to pass.

Saturday June 23, 2007 1:00 pm : Let the Fun Begin... Operations will commence and continue through 1:00 pm Sunday June 24th.

The above was from the July 2004 newsletter. It's Field Day time again and I am inviting all of our members to share the FD experience with me this coming weekend.

If you have wondered about digital communications such as RTTY and PSK, come to Marion Park in Norway and see for yourself how your computer can be used with a transceiver to communicate around the world.

If the code scares you, come to our FD site and see a real "pro" make CW contacts look easy.

If you want to learn about antenna erection, come to Marion Park early Saturday morning and see how those dipoles get above the ground.

Finally, if you want to be an active member of our club, participate in some way this weekend.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the June 12, 2007 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 7:03 PM.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the May 8th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances for the end of May:
Checking: \$ 195.06
Repeater Savings: \$1168.45
Regular Savings: \$1613.65
Petty Cash: \$26.00

Repeater Report

Bob, WA8FXQ, has turned over the new 2-meter repeater to Lee, N8LT. Lee plans to temporarily install it on Pine Mountain this Sunday.

ARES

We had a couple activations of the SKYWARN net.

Old Business

No action has been taken on the Old Business items of the May 8th meeting.

Trailer – Investigated suitability of a home made trailer that was for sale in the Pembine area. It was felt that the trailer was too heavy for our needs. We will wait and find a way to finance a suitable trailer. It was suggested that we rent a table at the Escanaba Hamfest on July 28th and sell some of our present equipment and any donations that we may receive. Tom stated that Jack Fortier has offered to donate equipment to the club.

Field Day

Equipment - Randy, KB9ZES, will obtain fuel for the generator and transport equipment located at Rocconi's to the Field Day site. Tom, W8JWN, will transport the items stored at the Sheriff's department. Mike, N9NBN, will bring the club's tower.

Wire Antennas - We will raise some of our wire antennas on Friday afternoon. Those able to help are asked to meet at Marion Park's small pavilion at 2 PM.

Club Picnic – The club will provide pop for the picnic.

New Business

Tower Donation – Edward Fry, N9MBG, of Pembine has offered to donate a tower to the club. It is approximately 30 feet high and similar to a Rohn 45. Randy, KB9ZES, was asked to obtain the tower and store it.

Donation of Radio Equipment – Randy, KB9ZES, has received a donation of radio transceivers and power supplies from a local business. The radios are single channel and can be converted to 2 meters. Randy will provide a list of the items and Mike, K8DDB, will send a receipt to the company.

Special Event Station – Mike, N9NBN, and Terry, KB9ZER, will investigate doing a club Special Event this fall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

For The Good Of The Order – Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB ---Secretary
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Beth Baker, KC9KVP
Mike Boileau, N9NBN — Vice President
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF
Art Costa
Bob Uren, KC8TWG
Tom Martin, W8JWN ---President
Lee Michaud, N8LT
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX — Treasurer
Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Gary Schafer, K4FMX

Make sure you check out the Michigan Section ARRL web page on a regular basis. This page lists many of the events Hams are involved in throughout the state and across the country. The best part about this page is that all of us can contribute. Simply register and your log in code will allow you to add an article for all of us to read. <http://www.arll-mi.org/>

Mich-A-Con Field Day 2007

by: Steve, KD8CCP

What could be better than a having a picnic on a sunny Saturday afternoon in the park with your friends? How about the opportunity to talk to the world? Field Day is here and the Mich-A-Con Club is again participating in the event!

My daughter Molli asked me what is Field Day? I told her that it is a time when the world of Amateur Radio Operators get together to demonstrate the skills and technology of Amateur Radio. Not surprisingly she did not jump up and down or do cartwheels with that kind of text book answer, after all....school is out for the summer!

I explained to Molli, that the world of Amateur Radio is huge. We talk to each other around the corner and around the world, we even talk to the International Space Station Astronauts. Hams can use almost any type of communication. We use morse code, voice and even send messages with computers! Amateur Radio Operators even broadcast a form of TV!

Now Molli looked more interested. I told her how exciting it is to call out and have some one answer from across the country or around the world. Molli sounded more intrigued now so I told her the best part.... she can even try it out on our GOTA station herself!

“GOTA What?” Molli questioned. I chuckled as I explained the Get On The Air program and reminded her that, yes we have some acronyms in Ham radio, but they are not half as hard to learn as the text message “codes” the kids use these days to communicate! LOL! (Text

message code for Laugh Out Loud for example).

I did tell Molli that this will only be my second Field Day. Last year I went and did not really know what to expect either. What I found was a great group of people working on all sorts of radio equipment eager to share the experience and hobby that is HAM radio!

Our Club even decided to have the Club Picnic as part of the event this year making it a true family event .

I think I have Molli convinced that Amateur Radio is a great hobby, a hobby that you can enjoy for a lifetime, a hobby that has so many avenues that it really does offer something for everyone, a hobby I hope she considers getting into.... not for me, but for herself! (Must be the dad thing.)

.....and Molli, being a 16 year old teenage kid.... well I hope that at least she just comes with me this year to take a look anyway!!!

Be sure to listen this Field Day for that station in Iron Mountain, Michigan... it may be Molli.

UP Hamfest 2007 July 28th in Escanaba

From:

<http://www.dcars.org>

The UP Hamfest for 2007 will be held on July 28th in Escanaba again this year. The annual event is sponsored by DCARS and Bay de Noc Community College. Events for this year include a Swap and Shop, meetings and door prizes.

(cont next page)

Set up time is Friday July 27th from 6 pm to 10 pm and Saturday from 7 am to 9am.

Doors open at 9:00 am

Hamfest hours are 9 am to 1 pm.

Tables are only \$5.00 and Admittance is the same low price of \$5:00.

If you want to reserve a table mail requests to:

Richard Thompson, N8OYR

N8OYR@DCARS.ORG

9560 Chaison N.5 Road

Gladstone, Michigan 49837

Phone (906) 428-2528.

Talk in on the 147.24 Repeater (107.2 Tone)

Directions:

The UP Hamfest will be located at the Joseph Heiman University (Building 9) center at Bay de Noc Community College. The College is on the North end of Escanaba along the combined highways of US 2 and 41 and M35. Directions form 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 form the South or West, US 2 and 41 combine with M35 in Escanaba, Take M35 North until passing under the via duct. Turn left at the first traffic light on to 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.

STORM SPOTTING

by: Steve, KD8CCP

The last few weeks of spring here in Dickinson County have been teasing us with strong storms approaching, only to break up at the last minute. Just a few days ago we had a line of storms approaching our area and then.... they mellowed out into a nice soaking rain.

Storm Spotting is a love - hate relationship. I find myself getting all fired up as the weather watches come out and the storms intensify. The 2 meter radio comes alive as hams across several counties and two states begin assessing the weather. Some of us ride through the streets. Others keep a watchful eye on the radar from a home base. A few operators can simply walk outside and get a fantastic view of what mother nature is unleashing. I here reports of all kinds being called in to both Marquette Weather and Green Bay Weather. I try to get a fix on where the storms are and how they are moving so I can stay out of the path of danger but still make useful observations. As I ride down the streets of Iron Mountain, Kingsford and the surrounding area I hope my efforts will make a difference.

The storms do dissipated so I head for home and rag chew with Dennis, K8SWX about what thankfully missed us. Reports of power outages and trees down south of us along with dangerous lightening and hail continue to be reported as I pull into the driveway at home. Dennis notes he got into ARES because of the tornado we had a few years ago in Dickinson county. The storm came up so fast that most people had little or no warning. Our area was lucky that no one was hurt during the event.

I have to admit I have always enjoyed watching big storms. Dennis and the other ARES members out spotting are a special breed, we watch and listen, follow and report all for the simple 73's we give each other when the night is over. Dennis has it right, he notes we do not want a damaging storm but we want to make sure that if we get one our reports will help the Weather Service warn the public about the approaching danger. A Storm Spotter report can save lives!

One of the first things I learned when studying to become a Ham is that a good operator spends more time listening than talking. Storm Spotting has a similar trait, we spend much of our time observing the usual in hopes of being prepared for the unusual!

The summer is just beginning and with the active patterns we have seen so far this year we may be out Storm Spotting a lot more. Mother Nature likes to keep us busy!



Getting Ready for Field Day 2006!

Links

ARRL WEB PAGE: <http://www.arrl.org>
ARRL MICHIGAN: <http://www.arrl-mi.org/>
US REPEATERS: <http://www.usrepeaters.com>
MICH-A-CON : <http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb>
Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts: <http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>
FCC Universal Licensing System: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>
QTH.COM: <http://www.qth.com/>
QRZ.COM: <http://www.qrz.com/>
Ehamnet.com: <http://www.eham.net/>

CLUB EQUIPMENT LIST

TOM MARTIN W8JWN has custody of the following club equipment:

1. Gin pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
2. Small TV type rotor and control.
3. Dipole antennas for 80,40,20,15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
4. Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy).
5. RG8X with double shield (100 ft).
6. 3/16 Single Braid Dacron rope (200 ft).
7. 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters).
8. 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters).
9. 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters).
10. 6 PL259 silver connectors.
11. 4 T-adapters for stubs.
12. 4 UG-176 silver sleeves.
13. 3 right-angle connectors.
14. Hygain tri-band beam antenna.
15. G5RV antenna.
16. Club banner.

MIKE BRAY K8DDB has custody of the following club equipment:

17. 40 foot light tower.
18. Lafayette 80 - 10 meter tube type VFO #99-2501 with operating manual.
19. J-38 Morse code straight key.
20. Lambda model LT-2095A-1583 power supply 0 to +32VDC, 2 amp (rack mount).
21. Multi-meter ME-26D/U (old military type) by Sentinel Electronics, Inc.
22. Power supply (partially built - home brew).
23. Duplexer (rack mount - home brew) TX and RX cans- possibly 440 MHz.

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER: CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

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 (second 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., do not worry about format, that is the editor's job.

Send to:

kd8cep@arrl.net

(906) 779-5720

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Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for July 2007						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 UPSN	2	3	4	5 ARES	6	7
8 UPSN	9	10 Meeting	11	12 ARES	13	14
15 UPSN	16	17	18	19 ARES	20	21 BREAKFAST
22 UPSN	23	24	25	26 ARES	27	28
29 UPSN	30	31				

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. Dennis, K8SWX will facilitate the link from our repeater to the other participating stations via EchoLink. (Note: Dennis is currently working on a problem with the Link and therefore the net may not be held on our local repeater.)

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

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

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM 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?

EXAM DATES:

Upcoming Exam Schedule:

June 23, 2007

Sponsor: WVRA

Time: 2:00 PM (Walk ins allowed)

Contact: Gerald L Graebel (715) 842-9542

Email: w9glg@wvraclub.org

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Sunnyvale Park 72ND Ave & Packer Dr WVRA
Field Day Site

Wausau, Wi 54403

June 30, 2007

Sponsor: Tomahawk Repeater Assn

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk ins allowed)

Contact: Diane L Hamman (715)453-3908

Email: littelodge@newnorth.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Sacred Heart Hospital 401 W Mohawk Dr
Tomahawk, Wi 54487

Email: w9bhr@arrl.org

July 28, 2007

Sponsor: Tomahawk Repeater Assn

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk ins allowed)

Contact: Diane L Hamman (715)453-3908

Email: littelodge@newnorth.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Sacred Heart Hospital 401 W Mohawk Dr
Tomahawk, Wi 54487

Email: w9bhr@arrl.org

August 25, 2007

Sponsor: Tomahawk Repeater Assn

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk ins allowed)

Contact: Diane L Hamman (715)453-3908

Email: littelodge@newnorth.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Sacred Heart Hospital 401 W Mohawk Dr
Tomahawk, Wi 54487

Email: w9bhr@arrl.org

September 8, 2007

Sponsor: HARC/CCRAA

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk ins allowed)

Contact: George Thurner (906)337-2542

Email: w8fwg@arrl.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Michigan Tech University US HWY 41
Wadsworth Residence Hall Opposite Campus Radio WMTU
Room Number G04
Houghton, Mi 49931

September 29, 2007

Sponsor: Tomahawk Repeater Assn

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk ins allowed)

Contact: Diane L Hamman (715)453-3908

Email: littelodge@newnorth.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Sacred Heart Hospital 401 W Mohawk Dr
Tomahawk, Wi 54487

Email: w9bhr@arrl.org

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 drivers 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. (2007 fee is \$14). Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change.

REPEATERS:

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

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	-----
444.850 MHz	plus	-----

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 member use only.

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 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.

** If you are in an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater Only Membership

Club Patches are Available From:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
612 Balsam Street
Kingsford, Mi 49802

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

MICH-A-CON RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Stephen Skauge
945 Woodward Ave Apt 5
Kingsford, Mi. 49802-4438

Club Meetings:

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

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

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

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

Club Officers:

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

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

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

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2007 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form in this newsletter when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey. K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The monthly meeting for July is on Tuesday the 10th at 7:00 PM at the Dickinson County Library.