

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

June 2010

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

## Amateur Radio Preemption or PRB-1: What is it and where did it come from!

Here is an update on the PRB-1 legislation.

The following is taken from the web site:

<http://www.prb1michigan.org/index.htm>

**PRB-1 UPDATE.** The effort continues with a slight revision to the bill offered by **Rep Steven Lindberg (N8UZP)**. This will make the bill more palatable to municipal officials without diluting the intent.

**PRB-1** cited as "Amateur Radio Preemption, 101 FCC 2d 952 (1985)," is a limited preemption of local zoning ordinances. It delineates **three rules** for local municipalities to follow in regulating antenna structures:

(1) state and local regulations that operate to preclude amateur communications are in **direct conflict** with federal objectives and **must be preempted**;

(2) local regulations that involve placement, screening or height of antennas based on health, safety or aesthetic considerations must be crafted to **reasonably accommodate** amateur communications; and

(3) such local regulations must represent the **minimum practicable regulation** to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose.

The heart of PRB-1 is codified in the FCC Rules [97.15(e)]. Of course, what is "reasonable" depends on the circumstances.

## The Problem :

The proliferation of cell phone towers built since the 1980's has caused many county and city governments to pass zoning laws that unintentionally restrict the ability of radio amateurs to install effective antenna systems. In 1985, at the ARRL's request, the Federal Communications Commission issued Memorandum Opinion and Order PRB-1.

In PRB-1 the FCC pre-empted local zoning laws that did not make "reasonable accommodation" for amateur radio stations regarding antenna restrictions, radio frequency power limits, etc. The PRB-1 pre-emption has been used effectively to change zoning laws all over the country, but it has required significant effort on the part of radio amateurs who have had to deal with this issue one jurisdiction at a time. Many local zoning boards do not give FCC regulations adequate consideration when making zoning decisions, and across the county amateurs have found that state laws are a more effective tool for influencing local zoning regulations. So beginning in the 1990's, amateurs began lobbying for legislation that would place PRB-1-type language into their state laws.

Today 27 states have passed PRB-1 type legislation. We need to work hard to get the PRB-1 legislation passed in Michigan. Your support is crucial to this effort.

## Benefits of PRB-1 Legislation

Thank you for visiting the Michigan ARRL PRB-1 Committee web site. The following is a summary the basis for and the benefits of the proposed legislation -- [Michigan House Bill # 5556, An Amendment to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act of 2006](#):

This bill would codify PRB-1, a 1985 declaratory ruling establishing the policy of the Federal Communications Commission with respect to the power of state and local land use authorities to restrict the siting of antenna and antenna support structures constructed or used by federally licensed amateur radio operators.

According to PRB-1, local zoning authorities cannot **preclude** amateur service communications, but must **reasonably accommodate** those facilities and enact the "**minimum practicable regulation** to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose." [47 C.F.R. Section 97.15(b)]. Local governments can regulate land uses based on health, safety and aesthetic concerns, but the regulations cannot be so restrictive that they preclude communications by amateur radio, fail to reasonably accommodate such antenna structures, or impose more than the minimum practicable regulation of such structures, under PRB-1.

For technical reasons related to radio frequencies used by amateur radio operators in support of federal, state, and local emergency communications, training for such operations, and standard modes of intrastate and interstate communications used by federally licensed amateur radio operators, any regulation that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting an antenna support structure less than 70 feet in height will preclude or unreasonably hinder such communications by licensed amateur radio stations.

The following 27 states have codified PRB-1: [Alaska](#), [California](#), [Florida](#), [Idaho](#), [Indiana](#), [Kansas](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire](#), [New Mexico](#), [North Carolina](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#), [Utah](#), [Vermont](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#), [West Virginia](#), [Wisconsin](#) and [Wyoming](#).

Six of those states, [Alaska](#), [North Carolina](#), [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Virginia](#), and [Wyoming](#) specify

heights below which local governments in those states may not regulate.

By establishing consistent statewide unrestricted airspace for federally licensed amateur radio antennae, this bill protects those municipalities that might otherwise prohibit or unreasonably regulate such structures from the litigation that would occur because of the preemptive effect of PRB-1.

At the same time, this policy will **enhance and preserve** the operation of federally licensed amateur radio communications and will ensure its continued role in serving as an integral resource during times of emergency for Michigan and its communities. These reliable emergency communications are provided at **no cost** to the State or municipal governments.

Indeed, amateur radio operators provided almost **\$2,000,000** in manhours by Amateur Radio Emergency Service [ARES] members in support of Public Service and Emergency Communications during calendar year 2008. [[See ARES Report -2008](#)]

eMail Comments to: [info@PRB1Michigan.org](mailto:info@PRB1Michigan.org)

## Words from the President

by: Tom, W8JWN

### Mich-A-Con ARC Trailer Update

Paul, KD8KUF, purchased a used (2007) jack from from Jack on Lake Elwood for \$25.00 cash - it's nice & works well -his donation to the club. He'll have his shop install it on the trailer - Schultz Equipment donation to the club. 0

Schultz Equipment's painter Ryan Ellis's grandpa was a ham radio operator and so Ryan will donate his time this fall/winter to help us paint the trailer. We'll use their shop. Ryan can get a price on the paint if we tell him the colors.

Ryan recommended X-cell Graphix to purchase the vinyl graphics (Ryan Doda, 282-7232, [xcellgraphix@ymail.com](mailto:xcellgraphix@ymail.com)). We might be able to get a better price if we call. We'll have to come up with a design idea and he'll draw it up and email it to us.

Paul has two 4' x 8' x thin stainless steel sheets that he'll donate to secure the graphics to because the side of the trailer is corrugated and may not take graphic stickers.

Trailer takes a 2 3/16" ball. Paul has one to pull his camper so he can move it. He, also, can loan the hitch for someone else to move it. His pickup is 1/2 ton which he uses to pull his camper which weighs about 5,000 #'s which is about a ton more than our trailer; so, it should be easily pulled but does require a receiver hitch with light connection.

Priority based on our ability to use the trailer will probably look something like this:

1. Install jack.
2. Fix tail lights.
3. Purchase ball w/ receiver hitch (to be stored inside the trailer).
4. Fix brakes.
5. Remodel inside.
6. Install new door knobs & locks.
7. Tower ??
8. Patch hole in wall.
9. Ramp or hoist for generator.
10. Paint.
11. Graphics.
12. Put it in the 4th of July parade!



The above was an edited e-mail from Paul Schultz. He has grabbed the bull by the horns and exerted a great effort to acquire and to outfit our club trailer. Now, we as a club, must come forth with some physical labor to make his "priority" list a reality. Also, we must decide where we will store the trailer, after all of the refurbishing has been complete.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Field Day Update

Reports came to me after Field Day that there were no problems with inter-station interference. Could that be because RTTY was not used this year? Were the SSB and CW ops pleased that your president was in Las Vegas Sunday? The Hex-beam and loop worked well. Mike made five QRP solar powered contacts very quickly at the start of the event on Saturday. A couple visitors requested more info on the club and ham radio.

There will be a complete report at the next meeting on Tuesday, July 13th.

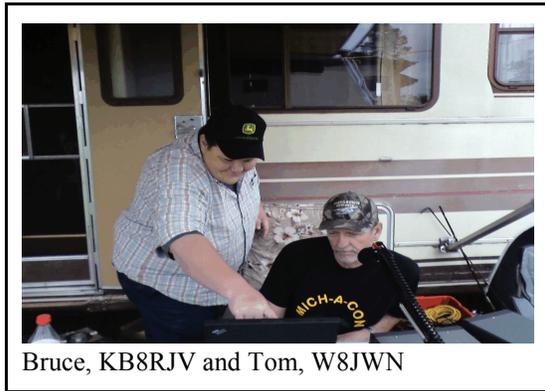
.Field Day 2010 Photos: More to come in the months ahead!



Scott, KB9AVX , Demonstrates PSK



Dave, KG9Y, helps Chris make his first Contact!



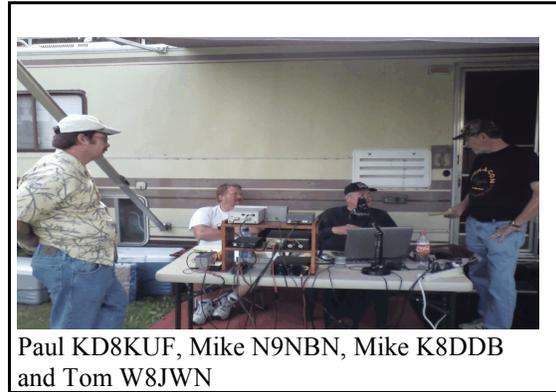
Bruce, KB8RJV and Tom, W8JWN



Rob, KD8KMT, Mobile Field Day !



Terry, K9TRY and Mike, K8DDB



Paul KD8KUF, Mike N9NBN, Mike K8DDB and Tom W8JWN

<b>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for July 2010</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 ARIES	2	3
4 Happy 4 <sup>th</sup>	5	6	7	8 ARIES	9	10
11	12	13 MEETING	14	15 ARIES	16	17 BREAKFAST
18	19	20	21	22 ARIES	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 ARIES	30	31

### Club Activities

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

**Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and Prospective Members are always welcome.**

**Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.**

**Club Patches are available from:**

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

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

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



### **V.E. TESTING:**

09/11 **Marquette:** 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am) Marquette County Health Dept. Bldg,U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 or e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net).

07/10 **Houghton:** 8:30am eastern time, V.E. Exams at Michigan Tech. University in Houghton, MI will be held in the ballroom of DHH (Douglass Houghton Hall at Michigan Tech). Free Parking in Lot #14, front of DHH, across from Wadsworth Residence Hall. Use door #9 on the South-East side of DHH. Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 if you have questions.

7/10 **Gladstone:** Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Howard St. John (906) 428-9476 email: [hsj99@charter.net](mailto:hsj99@charter.net)  
Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

08/07**Iron Mountain:** 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 776-1553. 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications.

Testing applicants should bring the following items with them:

Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$15.00.

Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individual(s) listed to

## **Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the June 8, 2010 Meeting**

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

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the May 11 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurer Report**

Balances as of June 8, 2010:

Checking - \$252.30

Regular Savings - \$3,068.86, \$1,531.91 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Funds received for trailer fund included in above total:

Gary Schafer - \$50 for delivery of poles.

Scott Jarmusch - \$25 for purchase of tower section.

Repeater Savings - \$779.93

Petty Cash - \$9.00 from sale of club patches.

We have 34 paid members as of this meeting.

### **Repeater Report**

No problems to report.

### **ARES**

The ARES Net has been active 3 of the last 4 weeks.

### **Old Business**

#### **Field Day 2010 –**

Field Day setup will start on Friday June 25 at 2:30 p.m. at Marion Park.

### **Club Donation –**

Paul Schultz has located an 8 x 28 foot construction office trailer that we could use for storage of club equipment. The trailer is owned by River Valley Bank. Tom and Paul will check out the trailer. They have been authorized by the club to offer up to \$1000 for it.

### **Club Programs –**

July - Lightning and grounding by Gary Schafer

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

QSLing

Logging

### **New Business**

Jim Rye, the newly appointed EC for Iron County, reported on his efforts to integrate ARES into the local emergency response organizations.

### **For the Good of the Order**

Attendees discussed their recent activities.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by Mike Bray

### **Attendees**

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President

Jim Rye, W8IFI

Barry Perron, KC9NFT

Michael Byers, KD8OAH

Terry Moriarity, K9TRY

Gary Schafer, K4FMX

Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer

Scott Baker, KB9AVX

Beth Baker, KC9KVP

Paul Schultz, KD8KUF

Bernie Moores, K9KLM - visitor

### **Wanted:**

**YOUR ARTICLES, IDEAS AND  
INPUT! SEND IT IN NOW TO:**

[kd8ccp@arrl.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arrl.net)

### **Club Repeaters:**

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain (elevation 1,650 feet) in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

The range of the 2 meter repeater is about 40 miles under normal conditions, depending upon terrain. The 440 MHz repeater has a range of about 25 miles.

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

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

**Annual dues are due in January.**

**Please make check payable to Mich-A-Con ARC**

**Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 \_\_ \* Family \$30 \_\_ Repeater Only \$10 \_\_\*\***

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

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

## Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Club Meetings:**

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

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

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

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

**Club Officers:**

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

Vice President:  
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF  
[s\\_jarmusch@yahoo.com](mailto:s_jarmusch@yahoo.com)

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

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

**Reminders:**

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

**The March Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue July 13th 2010. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM**

**MICH-A-CON RF**

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