

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

June 2011

Field Day 2011

by:
Steve, KD8CCP

In This Issue:

Field Day 2011

Words from the President

Generally Speaking

VE Testing

Club Patches

Calendar of Events

Club Activities

Club Repeaters

Minutes of the June 14th 2011 meeting

Any Help Appreciated

Status of HR607

Home Brew Challenge Issued

Club Meetings

Club Officers

Reminders

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

Bruce, KB8RJV and I traveled to Field Day in Norway Michigan again this year. The Mich-A-Con radio club has been hosting a Field Day Event for many years now and it was great to hear they were planning another one for this year!

We arrived in the early afternoon and noted some final set up and testing was still taking place.

The location for the Mich-A-Con Field Day is Marion Park and this could not be a better site. The gazebo offers a nice shelter for the main location. Tom was set up here this year and the GOTA station was also located here. A battery ran one radio that seemed to be struggling to make contacts when Bruce and I were in attendance.

Terry, K9TRY brought his rig and camper again this year and was on 20 meters making contacts when we talked to him. I am sure as the day went on many more contacts would be made on the different bands.



I had the opportunity to talk to a couple of visitors that stopped in to see what Ham radio was all about. Our club sets up a nice display of pictures and literature explaining the hobby. It is always fun to talk to someone about our hobby and see the enthusiasm build in their faces as I tell them how many different areas of everyday life is touched by Amateur Radio. Just part of the fun of Field Day!



Terry, K9TRY Making Contacts



Field Day Setup 2011

Words from the President

Tom W8JWN

Field Day 2011 has come and gone. A few comments are below:

We had 417 contacts on the two main stations and 76 contacts with the GOTA station. Joe Ferris had 52 of them! He stayed up most of the night with Burt and me.

Not much interference this year. Terry had some at times and it wasn't from my RTTY signal!

I had 116 CW contacts, way short of Mike Bray's (K8DDB) past efforts. Eight of them were on 6 meters! We had a nice 6-meter opening to the east coast.

10 meters provided 57 contacts this year. 47 of them were on CW.

After charging a battery for one week, with a solar panel, NO contacts were made this year because the battery never got above 6 volts! We need a better panel, or a better battery.



Tom, W8JWN plans his field day strategy

I will provide the final score at the next meeting. I'm still working with the computer logs.

Thanks to the following for their participation during the Field Day weekend:

Dana Bey (KD8POR), Perry Amicangelo (KD8QEX), Terry Moriarity (K9TRY) Dave Thomas (KG9Y), Burton Armbrust (WB8EBS), Joe Ferris (KC9TQR), Tom Heyboer (KC8TH), and Randy Zandt (KC8ZES)



“Generally” Speaking!

By:

Steve, KD8CCP

I decided to become a Ham Radio Operator a long time ago. I actually got my technician license on September 13, 2005. Since that date I have been enjoying the hobby and learning something new practically everyday!

I decided to become a “General” almost immediately. I started by listening and practicing Morse Code. The code was still part of the General License requirement and I thought this would be a great mode to know anyway. Suddenly things changed when the requirement for the Code was dropped, now all I had to do was pass the written portion! I was excited but like most people I did not dedicate myself to the task until very recently.

Bruce, KB8RJV and I studied a few times this spring. I could tell I needed more practice and decided to try Ham Test On Line. www.hamtestonline.com. I did the free practice portion and decided to “go for it” when I read that when the question pool switched in July of this year my purchase was still good, I would be updated to the new question pool!

Ham Test On Line is great! The program presents the information in easy to understand terms with a logical order to it and thru “links” it allows you to delve deeper into the subject as needed. The information is repeated and drilled showing the user their weaknesses.

I had some serious family issues come up this spring that interrupted both my studies with Bruce and Ham Test. The June final test date loomed ever closer and I decided I would have to put in extra time if I wanted to give the General a shot. I used my Motorola Droid 2 to study every chance I had, I was learning a lot but I did not know if I was learning fast enough to meet the deadline!

The test day arrived, an early Saturday morning in Negaunee, Michigan, this would be my chance to get the General privileges or get sent home to study the new material in the updated question pool. Ham Test On Line “told” me I was getting closer but still needed more time to study, so... why take the test?? I wanted the experience I told myself, I actually hoped I had enough knowledge to pass!

The final result: I passed!!! It was not easy or pretty but I made it! I am keeping my call sign, KD8CCP, it seems like an old friend now and something I have definitely worked hard to obtain!

Next up: I need a rig and a shack to get me on the air using the General privileges!

Thank-you to all my fellow Hams and friends for the encouragement and knowledge you continue to pass along to me, what a truly great hobby we have, Ham radio opens up the world to us in so many interesting ways, one contact at a time!!!

V.E. TESTING:

08/06 Iron Mountain: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 396-5519 - 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

09/10 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.

10/8 Houghton: 8:30am eastern time, The Zion Lutheran Church, 400 Ingot St Hancock, Mi. Go north on hwy 41 (Quincy Hill) near the lookout. Turn left on Ingot up about one block. The church is on the left hand side of the street. This is a barrier free entrance for the handicapped Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 or email: wa8qnf@arrrl.net if you have questions.

10/8 Gladstone: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Howard St. John (906) 428-9476 email: hsj99@charter.net Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$15.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc. Note: If you have been assigned a FRN from the FCC you must use it on all forms rather than your SSN.

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.



Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for July 2011

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 ARES	8	9
10	11	12 Meeting	13	14 ARES	15	16 BREAKF AST
17	18	19	20	21 ARES	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 ARES	29	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 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.

Club Repeaters:

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

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

OUTPUT	OFFSET	PLTONE	CALLSIGN
146.850	Minus	-	WA8FXQ
444.850	Plus	100 Hz	WA8FXQ

Repeater Specifications:

The 146.85 repeater is a Melco Hi Pro (built from a kit in the 1970s) with 25 watts output. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the June 14th, 2011 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

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

Treasurer Report

- Membership Dues Received: \$ 10.00
- Checks were written to: AT&T for \$23.51
- Balances as of June 1st, 2011:
- Checking - \$ 30.41

Regular Savings - \$1,994.81 of which \$361.82 is in the Trailer Fund. \$1,600.00 was also subsequently deposited into the trailer fund from the trailer sale.

- Repeater Savings - \$ 1,157.22
- Petty Cash - \$ 16.00
- We now have ? paid members for 2011.

Repeater Report

No problems to report.

ARES

No NET on 6/9/2011

Old Business

Paul Schultz, KD8KUF sold the club's trailer for \$1,600.00 which deposited into the club's trailer fund.

After discussion a vote was taken to amend

Article VII of the constitution detailing removal of members. Motion by Burt Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS, Support by Paul Schultz. Motion passed 7 to 1.

The Dickinson County Emergency Coordinator, Pete Schlitt is looking for trained storm spotter volunteers in the event any are needed in an emergency. Attendees below with a "Y" after their call sign volunteered. Let President Tom know if you want to be added to the list.

Homeland Security: All the club's items were removed from the Sheriff's Dept. and moved to the club's storage box. A grant in 2005 paid for the club's generator. The club is responsible for the generator and all items in our possession. The HF radios and all items at the courthouse that were also provided by a homeland security grant are not the responsibility of the club.

Sat. June 25th & Sunday June 26th **FIELD DAY: THERE WILL NOT BE A PICNIC UNLESS SOMEONE VOLUNTEERS TO ORGANIZE IT.** Motion by Burt Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS and support by Red Maxwell, KC9KWS unanimous to spend up to \$50.00 for food for field day.

Randy Zandt – KB9ZES will pick up and return the lift donated by Lofholm's lumber.

Antenna setup will be at 1:00pm on Friday June 24th at Marion Park in Norway, MI. Perry Amicangelo, KD8QEX will bring the pneumatic tennis ball cannon antenna launcher.

Equipment: We now only have one HF radio which will be provided by President Tom Martin, W8JWN. If Terry Moriarity, K9TRY comes then we'll have two radios. We also need an HF radio for the GOTA station.

President Tom will pick up the visitors Table from Mike Bray, K8DDB.

A small dead battery with a solar panel is needed for extra points.

Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN – President, Y
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF-Vice President
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES, Y
Perry Amicangelo, KD8QEX
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR, Y
Red Maxwell, KC9KWS
Burt Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS---Treasurer, Y
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Paul Schultz – KD8KUF- Secretary, Y

Burt Armbrust contacted the General Agency and cancelled our trailer insurance and put insurance on the storage box.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. which is also the summer closing hours for the library.

Any Help Appreciated:

I have the following traps in a Hy-Gain vert ant, 873907, 873911, 873980, 877132; and 872804 on a 3 el beam.

Have NOT been able to identify the antennas in any literature I have or have access to.

They are older antennas that I am rebuilding.

Thanks Burt WB8EBS.

wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Submitted by Paul Schultz

The Status of HR607

from:

Weaver's Words

July 4th 2011

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director: James E Weaver, K8JE

k8je@arrl.org

HR 607 is titled the Broadband for First Responders bill. Unfortunately, one of the bill's clauses would take the amateur 420-440 MHz frequencies in achieving its otherwise excellent objective.

Upon being introduced into the House, the bill was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. To date, the subcommittee has taken no action. In addition, in a meeting with a group of amateur constituents the bill's sponsor, Rep. Peter King of New York, has stated he no longer favors taking the amateur frequencies. Finally, alternative bills having the same objective as HR 607, but that do not involve amateur frequencies, have been introduced into the House as well as the US Senate.

Considering the above facts, one can easily speculate that the present threat to 420-440 MHz may be over. Using only the letter generating utility developed by Rick Haltermon, KD4PYR, amateurs are known to have generated over 13,000 letters in opposition to the potential frequency grab. What a great response to the call for action!

As tempting as it is to speculate on victory, it is more important that amateurs keep an eye on HR 607 and other bills that could impact our frequencies. This is precisely what is being done by legislation watchers at ARRL.

For now, it is appropriate to sheathe our pens, but to keep them primed and handy to use if the need arises.

Homebrew Challenge Issued

from:

Weaver's Words

July 4th 2011

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director: James E Weaver, K8JE

k8je@arrrl.org

The art of homebrewing amateur equipment is not dead. To help keep it strong, ARRL sponsors homebrewing contests annually. The following information relates to the 2011 contest.

"The ARRL has sponsored two Homebrew Challenges in the past, designed to test our members' design and construction skills by making useful amateur gear at low cost -- and sharing their results with our members.

Our first ARRL Homebrew Challenge, announced in QST for August 2006, required the construction of a 40 meter, 5 W voice and CW



Sunrise at Field Day 2011, Norway Michigan (photo by Tom W8JWN)

transceiver built for less than \$50 of new parts. The Second Homebrew Challenge, announced in February 2009, resulted in a number of creative designs of low cost 50 W linear amplifiers to follow the transceiver -- two for about \$30, as well as a multiband amplifier with many features for somewhat more.

"For 2011, the ARRL has issued a challenge to build a transceiver in celebration of the (slow) return of sunspots. This challenge will be in two parts and hams can enter either or both options:

"Option 1: A single band 25 W SSB and CW transceiver for 10 or 6 meters, with a prize of \$200.

Option 2: A 25 W SSB and CW transceiver that can be switched between 10 and 6 meters, using one or two switches, with a prize of \$300.

"Instead of challenging entrants to make the transceiver at the lowest cost, the ARRL will instead challenge builders to provide the highest quality, best performance and most features within the cost target of \$150 for Option 1 and \$200 for Option 2. In addition to the cash prize, the winners of these challenges will have articles describing their designs in QST and will receive the usual page rate for the published articles. Additional entrants who meet the minimum requirements -- and have interesting design features -- may also be considered for QST or ARRL Web articles.

"Entries for either option must be received at ARRL Headquarters no later than November 1, 2011. To be considered, each entrant must submit a working transceiver that is suitable for testing in the ARRL Lab and for on-the-air judging by the ARRL staff judges. Documentation required includes a priced parts list indicating the source and purchase price of each part, an article draft including a design description, construction hints, alignment instruction, block diagrams and schematic diagrams. Photographs may be provided, but final magazine photos will be taken by ARRL staff.

"For more information, including specific requirements and evaluation criteria, please visit the ARRL Homebrew Challenge web page."

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

Vice President:
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

Secretary:
Paul Schultz KD8KUF
(906) 774-8900
pauls@schultzequipment.com

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2011 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue July 12th 2011. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM

MICH-A-CON RF

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