

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

June 27, 2013

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

## Field Day the Simple Way

Charlie Pitchford, N4QET  
from:  
ARRL web site, June 21, 2013

A simple setup is enough for an enjoyable Field Day.

Normally in late June I celebrate my anniversary and travel for family vacations, but 2012 was different. As a recent retiree, every day is a vacation day and in 2012 my spouse was out of the country on family business. That being the case, I thought that I should see what Field Day was really all about.

I have been a ham for 25 years and prior to last year I had participated in Field Day only once — several years ago when my local ARES group gathered at a local park for the day. Therefore I had a very limited file of previous Field Day plans to draw from.

My first task was to check out the ARRL® website to learn what the different classification numbers and letters meant. I was very impressed with the extensive array of Field Day

information that was available, and the website presented it in clear and simple terms. As I got more comfortable with the rules, I could feel my excitement build and I began to formulate my plans.

With a basic 100 W HF radio, portable antenna and emergency generator on hand I decided to operate as Class 1B (one transmitter, portable). To keep it simple I set up at my own house and operated only SSB. Yes, I am considered portable, whether I have hauled my station and accessories 100 miles or 100 feet.

I brought the generator out of storage and located it 100 feet away from my operating spot. The distance of 100 feet was significant — it is the length of my extension cord. The antenna was a new Buddipole. I had purchased it with the intention of using it for an RV station during camping trips. So I placed my rig, microphone and foot switch on my deck and mounted the Buddipole in the dipole configuration nearby. That was my entire Field Day station.

### All Hams on Deck

My first log entry was made at 1815 UTC. I was quite pleased that I had completed setting up and was operating within 15 minutes of the start of Field Day. I was off and running on 40 meters.

Not surprisingly the band was saturated with signals. There was not a quiet spot on the entire SSB segment. The tuning dial became an extension of my fingers as I worked it back and forth across the band.

Three hours later I took my first break. Operating portable from one's own deck has its advantages. Food and water were right at hand and an air conditioned escape from the ever present Georgia heat and humidity were just a few feet away in my living room.

### Round Two

After being energized by the coolness of conditioned air and nourished from a quickly prepared meal of macaroni and cheese, I was back on the air. The 40 meter band was still packed from end to end with the sound of "CQ Field Day." I kept my antenna configuration the same. My fingers were repositioned back on the dial as I grabbed my log and pencil and listened for a new call sign. I worked the 40 meter band for a few more hours before I called it a night.

### Easy Up, Easy Down

The next day brought more of the same. With occasional breaks, I kept a

steady but casual and relaxing pace going until my 24 hour operating period was over. Packing up was as easy as setting up; 15 minutes and my teardown was complete.

I counted up my log sheets and found that I had made 74 contacts. While the "point hounds" may not be impressed because I didn't establish a heart pounding contact per minute rate, copy an ARRL bulletin, invite a dignitary or send a message to my section manager, I did accomplish my goal. I planned and successfully executed a portable Field Day station, made numerous contacts and had a blast with this wonderful hobby called Amateur Radio. I've already checked next year's calendar and confirmed that there won't be a conflict with our anniversary. Now I just have to wait through a whole year's anticipation!

## **Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the June 11th, 2013 Meeting**

President Tom Martin called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the May 14th, 2013 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurer Rep**

Checks were written to: 28.16 AT&T Phone

Balances as of June 11th, 2013:

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Checking:         | (\$3.56)   |
| Savings:          | \$2,433.28 |
| Trailer Fund      | \$1,850.70 |
| Repeater savings: | \$1,113.97 |
| Petty cash        | \$7.00     |

### **Repeater Report**

Working fine.

### **ARES**

The net hasn't been meeting every Thursday at 6:30 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

### **Old Business**

Discussed the EOC equipment. Suggestion from Sam (N8ATS) to purchase a Donner digital interface to replace the Rigblaster Pro. Tom will look into purchasing one.

The July meeting will be held at the EOC at 7:00 p.m. There will be a demonstration of the station.

Tom asked permission to use the club call for a few hours on Saturday, June 22 during Field day. He will operate 1D from his home station.

### **New Business**

Tom read an e-mail from Jerry (N0MR) concerning our lack of attendance at meetings. His suggestion was to create more interest in the hobby by appealing to the younger generation's interest in computers and modern technology. Our club membership, for the most part, is comprised of "ancient" fellows. We will contact the local schools and scouting groups this fall.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Tom Martin

### **Attendees**

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President  
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer  
Mike Bray, K8DDB  
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK  
Sam Holmes, N8ATS  
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY,  
Scott Dolatowski KC9ZBC

### **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/>

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

8/3 Iron Mountain: 9:30am central time, Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802. Examinees must be pre-registered. (906-776-1553).

9/14 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. You must pre-register by Tuesday preceding the test date. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net) or Greg KI8AF 906 225-1594 [ki8af@arrl.net](mailto:ki8af@arrl.net).

10/5 Hancock: 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@arrl.net](mailto:wa8qnf@arrl.net) if you have questions. You can now take a Hamexam "Anytime". Contact Glenn, WA8QNF at (906)482-7743 for details.

7/13 Gladstone: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Dave Palmgren N8DP, (906) 428-2271, [n8dp@dcars.org](mailto:n8dp@dcars.org) Vec: ARRL/VEC Location: 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

## **Renowned Storm Chaser Tim Samaras, WJØG, SK**

from:

***ARRL Letter, June 20, 2013***

Professional storm chasers Tim Samaras, WJØG, his son Paul Samaras and fellow investigator Carl Young died May 31 near El Reno, Oklahoma, when an EF3 tornado suddenly changed paths and slammed into their vehicle, and they were unable to escape.

In his biography on The Weather Channel website, Tim Samaras said that he always carried along Amateur Radio equipment when he chased storms. "I chase the most powerful storms on the planet," Tim Samaras said in a video on his personal website. "At times I have mixed feelings about chasing these storms. On one hand they are incredibly beautiful; on the other hand, these powerful storms can create devastating damage that change people's lives forever." The TWISTEX tornado research team that Tim Samaras founded has been featured on The Discovery Channel's "Storm Chasers."

# July 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue          | Wed | Thur       | Fri | Sat             |
|-----|-----|--------------|-----|------------|-----|-----------------|
|     | 1   | 2            | 3   | 4<br>ARES  | 5   | 6               |
| 7   | 8   | 9<br>Meeting | 10  | 11<br>ARES | 12  | 13              |
| 14  | 15  | 16           | 17  | 18<br>ARES | 19  | 20<br>Breakfast |
| 21  | 22  | 23           | 24  | 25<br>ARES | 26  | 27              |
| 28  | 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 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 Repeaters:**

*The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain (Elevation 1650 ft) 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.***

**Repeater Specifications;**

***The 146.85 repeater is a GR Master Pro, 40 watt output repeater. The 440 repeater is a GE Master Pro, 80 watt. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 ft.***

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Call Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Annual dues are Payable January 1st.**

**Dues for New Members are Pro-rated.  
Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single  
membership or \$2.50 per month for a  
Family membership.**

## **Words from the President Tom W8JWN**

I mentioned at the last meeting that I would like to operate in the June Field Day with the club call (KC8VC) to continue our tradition of Field Day operation. I thought that I could put in a little time on Saturday afternoon, since I wasn't going to be home on Sunday. Well, an unexpected guest dropped by and I didn't get anytime on the radio. I did operate Saturday evening for 1 ½ hours before I gave up. QRN and very poor propagation caused me to shut down.

If I had trouble copying stations and getting the call understood by others, using my home station with 100 watts and a 4-element beam and wire antennas, it would have been really difficult at a portable site! I had many "Call?" repeats. Signals were rarely above the noise.

I made 14 CW contacts on 40 meters, one RTTY contact on 40 meters, and 5 RTTY contacts on 20 meters. Wow! Even the RTTY signals were difficult to copy.

Also, at the last meeting it was suggested that we not use the RIGblaster Pro for digital modes at the EC office. The Donner Digital Interface is being used by other counties because it is more of a "Plug and Play" type of device. I said that I would order one and submit the bill to the county for reimbursement. I researched the Donner unit and found that a USB-Serial adapter cable is needed when using a laptop computer. The total cost would have been over \$70 with shipping. I asked a county official about submitting the bill and the chance of getting my money back. The reply didn't make me feel too confident. I didn't order the interface.

I am going to try to setup the RIGblaster Pro. If it doesn't work, we'll go to plan "B". If I'm not successful, plan "B" will be divulged at the next meeting at 7:00 pm. On July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Dickinson County Sheriff's Department.

Well, that's about it from this end. Enjoy, or hope that you enjoyed, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

73,

Tom W8JWN

**VE Testing Update for Iron Mountain:**  
**Our next sessions are scheduled for Aug 3rd and Nov 2nd for 2013. We also will schedule a special session as needed by calling Mark Lewis N8UKD at 906-774-1553, or Mike Boileau W9MB at 906-282-3569. We are very flexible about extra sessions as needed. Most of our testing has been that lately.**

## **Club Meetings:**

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dickinson County Library at 6:30 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:**

Paul Schultz KD8KUF  
(906) 774-8900  
[pauls@schultzequipment.com](mailto:pauls@schultzequipment.com)

### **Treasurer:**

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

## **Reminders:**

Club dues for the year 2013 are 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 Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on:**

**Tuesday July 9 , 2013. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at **6:30 PM****

## **Wanted:**

**Your Articles, Your pictures  
and your Input for the  
Newsletter!**

**Send them to:**

**[kd8ccp@arri.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arri.net)**