

MICH-A-CON RF

IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN

July, 2008

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Visit the ARRL's web site at
<http://www.arrl.org>

Words from the President for July

Tom, W8JWN

Another Field Day has come and gone for our club. It seems, as I get older, that the year just flies by. Also, as I get older, the hours spent operating after 0400Z become more difficult. Yet, I skipped my nap this year and kept at it because of the excellent propagation on 20 meter SSB.



Dennis K8SWX, Bob KC8TWG and Tom W8JWN

Signals were strong from all areas of the U.S. at 0700Z! I had some nice runs and kept the frequency for several hours.

After 20 died, I went to 40 meters and stayed there until 1130Z. Dennis, K8SWX, took over and I finally slept in my 4-Runner until 1400Z. It was easy to fall asleep, sitting in the front seat, after a long night of calling CQ Field Day. Even the many cups of coffee and colas didn't contribute to keeping me from nodding off.

A big surprise on Sunday was the 10-meter opening two hours before the end of Field Day. I worked over 190 stations in less than two hours! It was steady pileup! This opening reminded me of the time I was in Belize

for the 2005 ARRL DX Contest. Suddenly, a very quiet band erupted and hundreds of contacts were made to the U.S.

These contacts on 10 made up for the lack of my 75 meter operation this Field Day. The Cushcraft A3S worked very well at 40 feet. It was a perfect height for 10 meters to the U.S. Of course, propagation on 10 was still oriented to the south and east at that time of day.

If we had been monitoring 6 meters, I'm sure that we would have had many contacts on 6 as well. Next year we should have a six-meter station ready for action. Also, next year, we should have communication between the three stations to announce band openings and band changes by each station. In past years, it was easy to communicate because we were only 40 feet from each other.

Now, to the major issue of this past Field Day. My RTTY signal caused a great deal of interference to the third SSB station. Our CW station also complained of RTTY interfering with reception. These instances of interference mainly occurred when the three stations were operating on 20 meters. This issue was discussed at the last meeting. Next year, we must alleviate the problem. Antenna orientation must be considered and possibility a change in the location of the RTTY station. Unfortunately, moving me to the fairgrounds doesn't follow the ARRL Field Day rules!!!

I'm anxious to see the final results. Thanks to the lifts provided by Lofholm Lumber and Adam's Tree Service, the two beam antennas were at excellent heights for racking up points on SSB and RTTY. It's too bad that we don't have another CW operator. Come on guys get with the code! Mike, K8DDB, has had to handle the load by himself. Those double points could come in handy!



The GOTA Station Stays Busy!

Mich-A-Con ARC Field Day 2008

Field Day Call Used: KC8VC GOTA Station Call: W8JWN

Number of Participants: 15 Number of visitors (that signed log): 21

Number of transmitters in simultaneous operation: 3 (not including the GOTA station)

Entry Class: 3A ARRL Section: MI

Power sources used: Generator, battery, solar power for bonus points

Total CW QSO's: 301 X 2 = Total CW QSO points: 602
Total Digital QSO's: 116 X 2 = Total Digital QSO points: 232
Total Phone QSO's: 942 X 1 = Total Phone QSO points: 942

Total QSO points: 1,776

Power Multiplier: 2 (150 watts or less)

Claimed Score: 3,552

Bonus points claimed:	
100% Emergency power	300
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
WIAW Field Day Message	100
Formal NTS messages handled (# 10)	100
Natural Power QSO's Completed	100
Site Visited by invited elected official	100
Site visited by invited served agency	100
GOTA bonus	160
Submitted to ARRL via web	50
Educational activity	100

Total Bonus Points Claimed: 1,410

Total Score (if all bonus points are accepted by ARRL): 4,962

<u>Band</u>	<u>CW</u>		<u>Digital</u>		<u>Phone</u>	
	<u>QSO</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>QSO</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>QSO</u>	<u>Power</u>
160	0	---	0	---	0	---
80	40	20	0	---	74	100
40	114	20	0	---	138	100
20	96	20	116	50	372	100
15	42	20	0	---	43	100
10	9	20	0	---	195	100
6	0	---	0	---	0	---
2	0	---	0	---	0	---
1.25	0	---	0	---	0	---
70	0	---	0	---	0	---
33	0	---	0	---	0	---
23	0	---	0	---	0	---
GOTA	0	---	0	---	120*	100
Totals	301	CW	116	Dig	942	Phone

GOTA QSOs by Band:

<u>Band</u>	<u>QSOs</u>
80	65
40	55

We worked 49 of the 50 states, 6 Canadian Sections, Puerto Rico and Mexico. We missed Alaska, Virgin Islands, Newfoundland/Labrador, Manitoba and Northern Territories.

Last Year vs This Year:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
GOTA Points (including bonus points)	201	280
CW Points	476	602
Phone Points (not including GOTA)	424	822
Digital Points	<u>64</u>	<u>232</u>
Total score including bonus points	3180	4962

New This Year:

More separation of stations

Used Lofholm's lift and Adams bucket truck for beam antennas - new contributors.

Screened enclosure for food – Norway Springs was a new contributor.

Media coverage from The Daily News, The Current, The Advertiser and WLUC TV-6

Mentor for all GOTA QSOs gave us double bonus points for the GOTA station.

Educational Activity - Tom's Digital Demo earned us another 100 bonus points

Had rainy weather on Friday for erection of wire antennas and rainy, cold, windy weather Saturday night and Sunday. First time in the last 5 years that the weather was bad.

Minnesota Tornadoes Response

From:
The ARES E-Letter
July 18, 2008
Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor

The Southwest Minnesota ARES Team responded to a June 11 storm front, which moved through southwest Minnesota bringing wind and two tornadoes. The tornadoes touched down in and around Fulda. The ARES group is comprised of local county ARES teams from Murray, Cottonwood, Nobles, and Jackson counties. Southwest Minnesota District 5 EC Dan Anderson, KD0ASX, was spotting along with nine ARES members during the severe weather with direct communications to the Murray County Sheriff's department. Provided were real time reports and accurate information on storm events and what was happening in the area. The Sheriff's department commented on how the ARES team was a real service to the community in spotting for severe weather that day.

Two newspapers cited the team, which is SKYWARN trained. Due to its communications and training, the local Murray County Medical Center hospital was able to make decisions on what to do with their patients and securing the hospital from the severe weather. This was done by having one of the nurses on duty (holder of a Technician class license) monitoring team communications on the 2-meter repeater located in Slayton, Minnesota, using her hand-held radio. She stated

that the ARES team had provided faster up to date information than the local radio or TV stations from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, could provide. -- Kevin Haney, KC0YKX, NREMT-B, Murray County, Minnesota Emergency Coordinator

<http://www.MurrayCountyARES.org>

KANSAS HAM, SON, ELECTROCUTED WHILE ERECTING ANTENNAS

From:
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 28
July 18, 2008

While putting up backyard antennas on the afternoon of Sunday, July 13, Edward Thomas, KC0TIG, of Kansas City, Kansas, and his son Jacob were electrocuted. Edward, 65, was pronounced dead at the scene. Jacob, 27, was rushed to the hospital but died later that day. Initial reports suggest that the antenna they were installing came in contact with 7620 V power lines. Neighbors reported a "loud popping sound" and the electricity went out on the block.

Jacob's 7 year old daughter witnessed the tragedy and ran to the neighbor's yard, calling for help. Byron Kirkwood and another neighbor attempted to perform CPR on the men; the neighbor also called 911. Robert Mullendore, a spokesman for the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU), was quoted by Kansas City television station KSBH as saying it is rare to survive a shock as

strong as the two men received:

"There are people who will survive -- they're lucky by the grace of God, it's high energy, it's dangerous, that's why it's up in the air -- you just have to be careful. Even those who survive have pretty wicked wounds and they are lifelong wounds." In the power business for more than 30 years, the spokesman said these accidents are "really rare," saying that he only sees something like this "every two or three years. If you're doing any kind of work like this, you just really, really need to be aware of your surroundings."

Chuck Kraly, K0XM, used to work for KCBPU; he built and maintained the substation that fed the circuit going to the Thomas home: "This is nothing to take chances with. In my almost 30 years as a ham -- and 27 years in the power utility field -- I have seen way too many 'accidents.' Stop and look. If it is close or seems that way -- don't. Find another place. High voltage lines are not forgiving. Your life depends on it. Please follow the warnings. Anywhere close is too close."

-- Thanks to Larry Staples, W0AIB, and others who contributed to this story

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.

Club Clothing:

Randy, KB9ZES reports that 5 more items are needed before Shirt Tails will begin printing.
If you are interested in having a shirt or jacket with the Club Logo please contact Randy at the next meeting.

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/>

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for Aug 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 UPSN	4	5	6	7 ARES	8	9
10 UPSN	11	12 Meeting	13	14 ARES	15	16 Club Breakfast
17 UPSN	18	19	20	21 ARES	22	23
24 UPSN	25	26	27	28 ARES	29	30
31 UPSN						

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 Echo Link. (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 on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz.)

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at 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 at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the July 8, 2008 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Report

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

Treasurer Report

No report, treasurer absent.

Repeater Report

The new building is up, but there is no power.

ARES

No report.

Old Business

Jay Jennings' Radio Gear -

All of Jay's radio equipment will be donated to the club.

Club Insurance -

No report from Dennis.

Club Equipment -

Swan 350 - Scott, KB9AVX, is attempting to acquire a new power supply.

Drake Twins - Transmitter blows fuses, receiver is ok.

Field Day -

Mike, N9NBN, stated FD 2008 was a success.

Special thanks to:

Beth Baker - Food coordination

Randy Zandt - Installation and take down of equipment

Scott Baker - Providing motor home

Terry Moriarity - Providing motor home

Mike Bray - FD Paperwork and log submittal to

ARRL

Field Day Donors:

Adams' Tree Service - Bucket truck

City of Norway - Operating site

Best Buy Discount Liquor Store - Cases of pop

Craig's Corner Market - \$25 gas card

Ebeling's IGA Super Market - \$40 in goods

LaFaive Oil - \$40 in fuel

Lofholm's Building Center - Lift

Marcouiller's Food Court - \$25 in goods

Norway Springs - Water and cooler

Peterson Electric Service - Refrigerator if needed

Tom & Jo's Drive-in Liquor Store - Beer, pop and ice

Zawada Lumber - Rope and hardware if needed

Critique:

FD organized better than in the past

Food coordination, presentation, screened enclosure, availability after hours - Great!

Lifts for beam antennas saved work and were safer than the tower.

Need to label antenna lead-ins.

Restroom was locked Saturday night.

Select new site next year?

Need to resolve interference from the digital station. Consider going back to class 2A operation.

Need to provide training for N3FJP software.

Need additional CW operator(s).

New Business

Tour de Dickinson -

Volunteers are needed to provide communications for the event, which takes place on August 16, 2008 beginning at 9 a.m. CDT. Contact Erika Justus 776-5790, Erika.Justus@dchs.org

Pine Mountain Veterans Memorial Park -

Motion made by Randy, KB9ZES, and seconded by Mike, N9NBN, to donate \$50 to American Legion Post #50 toward the park construction. Motion carried.

Charlie Dickinson's Radio Gear -

The club will help with the disposition of Charlie's equipment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary

Art Costa, KD8GLO

Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice President

Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

Beth Baker, KC9KVP

Scott Baker, KB9AVX

Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER

Randy Zandt, KB9ZES

Keith Stahley, Guest

**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.

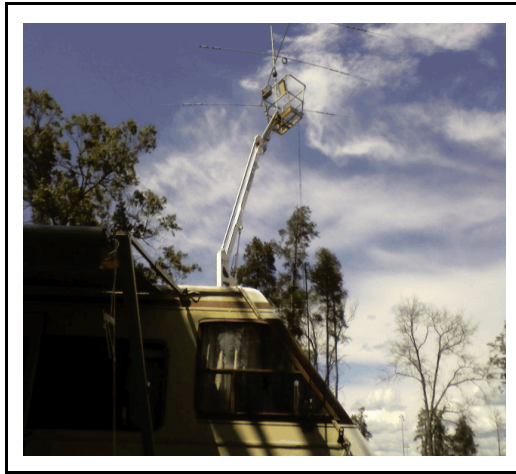
Please make check payable to Mich-A-Con ARC

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.



MICH-A-CON RF

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

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

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

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2008 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 Aug is on Tuesday the 12th at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.

