

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

July 2009

Words From The President

Tom, W8JWN

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

Another Field Day has passed by and each one has been a different experience for our group and for each member participating.

The highlights:

Scott Baker's (KB9AVX) efforts to display a nostalgia station, Heath gear and a Swan 350 were well received and contacts were made. The SB-200 amp was NOT used during FD operation. HI!...Solar contacts were made on 10 meter SSB using 2 watts... two 11 year old YIs made contacts on the GOTA station. Hopefully, this experience planted a seed. Future Hams? Despite the rain during the day Saturday, at least the all night operation wasn't hampered by cold weather. The heater wasn't even used this year. Newly licensed members Corissa (KD8KUG), Rob(KD8KMT), and Joey(KD8KWP) operated the GOTA station and then operated Station #2 to get their feet wet for future FD operations.... Antennas stayed in the air and rigs worked flawlessly. The generator hummed along and was barely heard.... there was NO interference from RTTY. The beam was placed in a perfect location to avoid transmitting into the other antennas. No stubs were used at any of the stations. There was nearly a 24-hour operation. The two stations were manned all night. W8JWN actually got t sleep for three and a half hours this year.

The Low lights:

A hard drive crash on the Station #2 computer lost the entire log with 74 contacts. A backup computer was used for the remainder of the event...CW contacts were very much down from FD 2008. Mike's (K8DDB) expertise was

greatly missed this year. Your president needs to renew his copy skills! GOTA contacts were also down from last year. We need more operators in the future for this station. Bonus points were missed because traffic wasn't passed.

The final score has not been tabulated at this writing. The results will be revealed at the next club meeting. At the July meeting, we will take suggestions for next year. Some thoughts for members to ponder are as follows:

Should the location be changed? Do we want to change the number of stations? Do we want to have a picnic again? We provided our own food this year. Do we want to treat Field Day as a REAL emergency exercise? In other words, there would be no Friday antenna erection and all stations and antennas would be set up at 1:00 on Saturday. Traffic would be created and passed to an appropriate Net. Or, does the club want to take a year off to re-charge the batteries?

I hope to see you all at the July meeting.



Beth KC9AVP

SOLAR UPDATE

from:
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 27
July 10, 2009

Tad "If it happens the Sun is shining bright" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Finally, some sunspot activity to report -- and not one of those phantom spots that appear one day and vanish the next. Sunspot group 1024 first emerged a week ago on July 3 with a daily sunspot number of 17 and the magnetic signature of a new Solar Cycle 24 spot. Over the next few days, it grew more rapidly and became larger than any sunspot group in the past two years. Today, July 10, it should pass over the Sun's western limb and disappear. Sunspot numbers for July 2-8 were 0, 17, 24, 26, 23, 21 and 18 with a mean of 18.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.5, 67.3, 71, 71.6, 68.9, 71.3 and 70.8 with a mean of 69.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 3, 6, 4, 5 and 6 with a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 3, 2, 4, 3, 3 and 3 with a mean of 2.9. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html> To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the WIAW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by T.S. Eliot's "The Song of the Jellicles" <http://poetry.poetryx.com/poems/787> .



Scott, KB9AVX and The Swan

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration

from:
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 27
July 10, 2009

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, July 26, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, August 7, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> Or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator cce@arrl.org .

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/>

Wanted:

**YOUR ARTICLES, IDEAS
AND INPUT! SEND IT IN
NOW TO:**
kd8ccp@arrl.net

July Meeting Minutes:

This months newsletter is being sent out early at the request of Tom W8JWN.
The July minutes will appear in the August Newsletter.

H.R. 2160

from:
Weavers Word's
Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
ARRL Great Lakes Division
k8je@arrl.org

Members told the ARRL Board of Directors they want us to do something to overcome the effect of Codes, Covenants and Restrictions (CC&Rs) in private contracts. CC&Rs are the part of property contracts that prevent a great many hams from putting up outdoor antennas. ARRL has taken the first step toward this goal. Now it is time for members to do their part.

What has ARRL done? We have worked with members of the US Congress to introduce and co-sponsor US House Bill H.R. 2160. This bill is the first step toward nullifying the effect of CC&Rs on amateur antennas.

We need you to help yourself and your fellow amateurs . . . now. Please write letters to your US Congressman. For information on writing, go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818>. A draft letter is available through a link at this site as is special information concerning where to send your signed letter (to the ARRL Legislative Liaison in Washington, DC, please).

The name of your US Congressman -- or Congresswoman -- is shown on the left side of the Members Only opening page (click on Members Only at the top of the www.arrl.org web opening screen).

Use your US Representative's name and address on the letter, but please be certain to send a signed copy of the letter to John Chwat in DC. He will hand carry the letters he receives to the offices of your US Representatives. Doing this will make your letter more effective.

HR 2160 is titled the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. It is sponsored by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas. It has eight co-sponsors at present. Co-sponsors from the Great Lakes Division are Mary Jo Kilroy of Ohio District 15 and Brett Guthrie of Kentucky District 2.

Please remit dues to :

**Mike Boileau, N9NBN
1106 Cleveland St
Niagara, Wi. 54151**

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.**

VE TESTING

08/01 **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.

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.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for Aug 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 ARES	7	8
9	10	11 Meeting	12	13 ARES	14	15 Club Breakfast
16	17	18	19	20 ARES	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 ARES	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 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.

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 Call Sign	Offset	PL Tone	
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 444.85 repeater is a GE Master Pro with 30 watts output.

The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet.

To use the Auto Patch, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch ON code and let up on your mic. You will then hear a dial tone. Key your mic and dial your number. The phone should then ring. When you complete your call, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch OFF code and the phone call will terminate. Club members will be given Auto Patch codes on request.

**ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTE: "IT IS ELEMENTARY, IT IS
ADVANCED, IT IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE"**

from:
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 27
July 10, 2009

Four sessions of the ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology wrapped up in June.

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html> These sessions -- in Tucson, Arizona; Rocklin, California; Viera, Florida, and Berrien Springs, Michigan -- saw 52 educators complete the four day course. The California and Arizona sessions were held simultaneously, marking the first time that the ARRL has offered simultaneous sessions of the popular summer program for teachers. According to Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, the addition of two new TI instructors made it possible to hold two sessions at the same time. "With Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, and Nathan McCray, K9CPO, on board," Spencer said, "we are able to hold more sessions, and in turn, involve more teachers in the process of bringing wireless technology into their classrooms."

Tucson, Arizona -- June 15-18

At Pueblo Magnet High School in Tucson, Enriquez led a group of 16 local teachers through the four day curriculum that includes basic electronics, the science of radio, space in the classroom, microcontroller programming and basic robotics. The class included nine math teachers from Pueblo, three special education teachers from Pueblo, one 4th grade teacher from a feeder elementary school to Pueblo, two graduate students/teaching assistants in fields involving electronics from University Medical Center (University of Arizona teaching hospital) and one University of Arizona employee commissioned to work with area

schools and recruit high school students into space, science and mathematics programs at the University of Arizona.

"The majority of the participants had expressed an interest in learning electronics," Enriquez said. "In the coming year, I plan on following up the introduction they received at the TI by teaching electronics as part of a professional development program."

Enriquez said that each of the teachers will refer students whom they believe will be interested in ham radio to his "Radio, Space and Wireless Technologies" class he will begin teaching this fall: "Several teachers who have that period as their planning period also stated they would drop by to see the students in action and perhaps even help teach!"

Enriquez said that there are 16 "really excited teachers in Tucson right now. I intend to do everything I can to get them all involved in the application of the knowledge and procedures they learned this week. The only way we can really make the Teachers Institutes ultra successful is to coordinate a cadre of teachers who understand and apply the knowledge and tools the Teachers Institutes provides. Teacher collaboration is essential toward this endeavor."

Rocklin, California -- June 15-18

Spencer conducted the Teachers Institute held at the Parallax facility in Rocklin. "This group is more geographically diverse than the Tucson group," he said, "with teachers from nine states from coast to coast."

Since the Tucson and Rocklin sessions were held at the same time, Spencer said "we tried to connect the teachers in the Tucson session with the teachers in the California session via an AO-27 contact; satellites are part of the space in the classroom unit. Unfortunately, this was not successful due to unforeseen complications with accessing the satellite; however, a later attempt to demonstrate ham radio space technology was successful."

Viera, Florida -- June 23-26

Fourteen educators took part in the Teachers Institute in Florida, also led by Spencer. "This group was predominantly from the Southeastern US, but a few participants joined the group from Missouri and Virginia," he said. "The class was evenly split between male and female teachers. All grade levels were represented and six participants were either old-time hams or recently licensed in preparation for the Teachers Institute."

Spencer said to make the AO-27 satellite contact, they used call sign W1AW/4. "The weather even cooperated, and though hot and humid, the fox hunt outdoor activity went off without a hitch -- including a tornado warning that occurred the morning of the outdoor activities," he said.

"Thanks for everything. It was elementary it was advanced, it is something for everyone," one educator told Spencer. "I know I will be incorporating many of your topics into the classroom."

One of the participants summarized the experience simply: "This was the best in-service course that we have ever attended -- and we have attended a lot!"

Berrien Springs, Michigan -- June 29-July 2

McCray led 10 educators through the Teachers Institute at the Berrien Regional Education Service in Michigan. "I had a class that was half men and half women," he said. "Most were from the Midwest, but we did have two from New York State, one from California and one from South Carolina. We had representatives from all walks of the education world: Two elementary teachers, five junior high teachers, two high school teachers and one college professor. Only four were hams and two of them have expired licenses. The electronics knowledge level was low, but they were motivated and proved to be a joy to teach all week."

McCray said that the highlights of the week included a successful AO-27 contact and multiple contacts on 2 meters with local children who were attending a camp. "The work with the VOMs, protoboard and building the boe-bots were also big hits," he said. "We also went quite deep with the 'What's a Microcontroller?' unit."

One of the teachers told McCray that the Teachers Institute has changed the way she will present her curriculum. "I have been inspired to pursue my Technician license and to add more hands-on electronics activities into my 9th grade physical science class," the teacher said. "I would also like to set up a ham station in my school."

Another teacher called the Teachers Institute a "most rewarding experience. There is so much I learned about robotics, weather and ham radio operation. I have so much information to take back to the classroom and share with my students and fellow staff members. Thank you for this opportunity!"

A session of the ARRL Teachers Institute wrapped up Thursday, July 9 in Dayton, Ohio. The last session will take place at ARRL Headquarters on July 27-30.

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.

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n9nbn@uplogon.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2009 are 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, Mike Boileau, N9NBN at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The Aug Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tues Aug 11th 2009.

MICH-A-CON RF

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

