

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

July 2010

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

Haiti Earthquake Disaster: Anything Goes in an Emergency?

From:

ARRL ARES E-Letter

July 14, 2010

Rick Palm, K1CE editor

The rules for the Amateur Radio Service don't say "in an emergency, anything goes." They say that in an emergency and no other services are available that Amateur Radio may be used to resolve an immediate threat to life or property. That's a big difference from opening up radios to out of service operations, etc, allowing other services to use the amateur bands. The starting point is that it is not legal under Part 97.113 to retransmit signals from other radio services on the amateur bands. So while other services may want to "plug" the amateurs into their "black boxes" for interoperability, it isn't legal to do the reverse on the amateur bands.

It is also significant to note that the US rules are very precise about when Amateur Radio can be used. Simply put, you use it to alleviate a specific life/death situation. It is not intended to be used for extended periods of time when other radio services are functioning and available again. It isn't an "overflow" service to "ease" traffic on other frequencies.

As far as what they did in Haiti -- I don't know how they reprogrammed radios for use in other services, but I do know that there were problems with some of

the type of traffic passed. There were times when "routine" emergency traffic was being sent via Amateur Radio. An example was a message where a well-meaning ham got another radio service station to operate on the amateur bands without authorization because in the ham's mindset "it's an emergency." The content of the message was "supplies were running low" in a particular town. Under the circumstances, supplies were running low everywhere: the entire country was having problems.

An analogy used in this discussion has been "the boat has to be sinking, water coming over the transom, no other radios are working and you better be able to explain how you survived." A bit Draconian perhaps, but it illustrates the point that a lot of what is transmitted as "emergency" traffic may not really be such -- and the amateur has to make a reasoned decision on the message. There is a difference between "emergency" (we need an Air-Evac helicopter for a patient who is in severe trauma) and "emergency" H&W traffic (we have 20,000 people in our town who need food and water.) It is a hard lesson, but a valid one to ponder.

The bottom line is, in a true emergency the FCC regulations would permit out of band operation: Section 97.405 says "(a) No provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station in distress of any means at its disposal to attract attention, make known its condition and location, and obtain assistance. (b) No provision of these rules prevents the use by a station, in the exceptional circumstances described in paragraph (a) of this section, of any means of radio communications at its disposal to assist a station in distress."

The Haitian government may have relaxed their rules for their specific circumstances. The FCC would probably do so, too, in a similar situation here, and 97.405 would allow "any means" (including the use of our radios tweaked for other services) for mitigation of the immediate/imminent threat. -- Dan Henderson, N1ND, Regulatory Information Manager, ARRL

[Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club](#) [Minutes of the July 13, 2010 Meeting](#)

[President Tom Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.](#)

[Secretary Report](#)

The minutes of the June 8 meeting were read and approved.

[Treasurer Report](#)

Balances as of July 13, 2010:

Checking - \$269.15

Regular Savings - \$1,832.84, \$299.42 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$779.93

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

We have 37 paid members as of this meeting.

[Repeater Report](#)

Nate Mieras has the 440 MHz radio for repeater linking and the packet radios and their TNCs.

Wanted:

Your Articles, Ideas and Input!

Send it now to:

kd8ccp@arrl.net

ARES

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

Old Business

Field Day 2010 –

Terry thanked all that took part. The equipment and antennas worked well and we had a good time.

Tom provided a statistical report: Our score was higher this year than last. We had a total of 479 QSOs and made contact with 48 of the 50 states and several Canadian Provinces. There was a discussion of other possible sites for next year including Bay College, Veteran's Memorial and Norway Mountain.

Club Trailer –

We bought the 8 x 28 foot construction office trailer from River Valley Bank for \$1,000. Another party had bid \$1,000 for it, so that was the lowest amount that the bank would accept. Thanks to Paul Schultz for all of his work in getting the trailer. We spent an additional \$150 for title and taxes. We have no word yet about the cost of insurance. Burt purchased matching lock sets for the doors, each came with 2 keys. The trailer is being temporarily stored at Schultz Equipment. Paul donated a tongue jack (\$25) and will get the running lights and brakes repaired at his shop. Barry Perron made a \$10 donation to the trailer fund.

Club Programs –

August – QSLing by Mike Bray and Tom Martin

September – RTTY by Tom Martin and PSK review by Art Costa?

New Business

Terry Moriarity will contribute \$50 to the trailer fund for 2 sections of Rohn tower belonging to the club.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Club Presentation

Gary Schafer made a presentation on Lightning and Grounding.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice
President
Mike Boileau, N9NBN
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Beth Baker, KC9KVP
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP
Barry Perron, KC9NFT
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Michael Byers, KD8OAH
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Al Poquette, K9ECG
Jim Rye, W8IFI
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration :

Beginning on **Friday, August 6, 2010:**
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
Level 1.

To learn more, visit the [CEP Course Listing page](http://www.arrl.org/online-courses) (<http://www.arrl.org/online-courses>) or contact the [Continuing Education Program Coordinator](mailto:cep@arrl.org). (cep@arrl.org)

FCC Rules that Amateurs May Participate in Non-Government-Sponsored Drills by Employers

from:

ARRL Letter July 15, 2010

In a Report and Order ([R&O](#)) released Wednesday, July 14, the FCC stated that under new guidelines, amateurs employed by non-governmental agencies, such as hospitals, may participate and operate in drills sponsored by their employer.

Specifically, the FCC will now permit Amateur Radio operators "to transmit messages, under certain limited circumstances, during either government-sponsored or non-government sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill."

More information will be posted on the ARRL Web site.

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://kera-mi.net/skywarn/>

NOAA Weather: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/>

Michigan License Plate Link: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/orderform_aro_24944_7.pdf

Michigan License Plates

Did you know you can get your Call Sign on a Michigan license plate at a very reasonable cost by filling out one easy application form? You simply stop by any Secretary of State office and ask for the ARO application form. (Currently MV-74). You can also print out the form from the following link:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/orderform_aro_24944_7.pdf.

The cost is \$2 for the Standard Plate or \$7 for the Graphic plate. A current license plate on the same vehicle can be used as credit for the registration fee so be sure to call the number listed on the form to determine the actual registration fee.

You will have to mail in the application for the plate with a copy of your Amateur Radio Operator License issued by the FCC along with Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance. The mailing instructions are right on the form. Once you have the ARO plate it can be renewed just like all the other plates via the internet, mail or in the Secretary of State branch offices.

I travel quite often and see many vehicles with antennas and wonder if they are Hams and if so what is their call sign. I think it would be great if we all had our Call Signs on our plates.

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.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for August 2010

<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 <i>ARES</i>	6	7
8	9	10 <i>MEETING</i>	11	12 <i>ARES</i>	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 <i>ARES</i>	20	21 <i>BREAK FAST</i>
22	23	24	25	26 <i>ARES</i>	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 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

AUTO PATCH PROCEDURES

Did you know our Club has an Auto Patch on both of our Repeaters? The 2-Meter repeater can be used with permission and the 440 repeater is for club use only. The auto patch can be used for making local phone calls from your radio. Remember that you can make calls for most things... even order pizza, but it is not to be used for business purposes. Here is what to do:

- **LISTEN.** If the repeater is open proceed.
- Key up the repeater and identify yourself.
IE: "This is KD8CCP Accessing Auto Patch."
- **Push the transmit key and pres the * key.**
This should give you a dial tone.
- Push the transmit key again and dial as normal. Talk as you normally would on air but remember to tell the person called you are on the air.
- Inform the called party to pause when you are talking because you will not be able to hear them while transmitting.
- When you are done with the conversation **push the transmit key again and push the # key.**
This releases the repeater.
-
- Identify yourself and release the repeater.

Now its your turn. Next time you are on the air and it seems quiet... experiment... try out the Auto Patch. It is important for all HAMS to be familiar with auto patch procedures for emergency use too!

V.E. TESTING:

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.

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 906 249-3837or e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net.

10/09 **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.

10/09 **Gladstone:** Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Howard St. John (906) 428-9476 email: hsj99@chartermi.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.



Mike, K8DDB and Burt WB8EBS Prepare the Banner for Field Day 2010

Two EF0 Tornadoes Confirmed in Dickinson County

from:

National Weather Service Weather
Forecast Office
(<http://www.crh.noaa.gov>)

Thunderstorms that moved across Upper Michigan on Tuesday evening, July 27th produced two tornadoes in Dickinson County.

The National Weather Service in Marquette conducted a ground survey of storm damage and analyzed aerial photographs provided by the Michigan DNRE. The result of the analysis and survey indicated that the storm damage in the eastern sections of Norway and one mile northeast of Vulcan was caused by tornadoes. Here is the [map](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/mqt/2010Jul27/Images/norway_vulcan_track.jpg) of the approximate track of the two tornadoes. (http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/mqt/2010Jul27/Images/norway_vulcan_track.jpg)

The same parent supercell thunderstorm produced both tornadoes. The first tornado touched down at 8:34 PM CDT on Tuesday, July 27th along 7th Avenue in the eastern sections of Norway. The tornado crossed US2 as it moved east northeastward towards Norway Mountain. The tornado was on the ground for about a third of a mile (.33 miles) and had an average width of about 100 yards. The maximum wind speeds were estimated at 70 mph, which made it an EF0 tornado on the Enhanced Fujita scale. Several trees were knocked down or snapped off from the tornado. Some minor damage also occurred to structures from falling trees and tree limbs.

The second tornado touched down around 8:40 PM CDT in a wooded area about one mile northeast of Vulcan. This tornado was on the ground for about a quarter (.25) mile and had a width of less than 100 yards. Numerous trees were uprooted and snapped off from this tornado. The maximum wind speeds

were estimated were estimated at 70 mph, which also makes it an EF0 tornado on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

Words from the President
Tom, W8JWN

I returned from my annual Canadian fishing trip last Friday morning to find the tower and antennas just as I left them. Although several trees had been uprooted and broken in the area, one right next door, the storm that came through the Dickinson County area last week left my site untouched. I'm glad that I wasn't home to watch the wind whipping through the neighborhood. Hopefully, you all didn't have any damage to your antenna farms.

I don't know if there was any lightning associated with the storm but we are all better informed after Gary's presentation on station grounding at the last meeting. I know that my eyes were opened to the effect that improper grounding techniques can have on our station.

Speaking of presentations, Mike gave me a sneak peek at his presentation on QSLing for the next meeting. It will be very informative.

We still need members to come up with more presentations for the meetings this fall. Send me an email, or mention it at the next meeting, if you are interested in giving a ham radio related presentation. There are lots of topics to be examined.

Also, it was brought to my attention, that a plain old Q and A session after a meeting would be good. If you have any question relating to the hobby and your particular interests, please feel free to ask it at the Q and A part of the meeting. I'm sure someone in the room might be able to answer you.

That's it for now, See you at the August meeting.

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

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2010 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 August Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue Aug 10, 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**