

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

July 2011

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

## NASA's Space Shuttle Program to Come to an End

from:

*ARRL Letter, July 21, 2011*

07/20/2011

When *Atlantis* once again touches the Earth in Florida on Thursday, July 21, an era will come to an end. This era saw dreams realized when men and women could go into space on a craft -- the space shuttle -- that could be used again and again. NASA's space shuttle fleet has set dreams aflight since its first launch on April 12, 1981, starting with *Columbia* and continuing with *Challenger*, *Discovery*, *Atlantis* and *Endeavour*. These crafts have carried people into orbit repeatedly, launched, recovered and repaired satellites, conducted cutting-edge research and transported materials to build the largest structure in space, the International Space Station.

Barely 30 months after *Columbia* first lifted to the skies, radio amateurs around the world were excited about another first: a ham in space. It was 1983 -- the third year of the space shuttle program -- and Mission Specialist Owen Garriott, W5LFL, was on board *Columbia* for mission *STS-9*. NASA had given Garriott permission to attempt radio contact with Amateur Radio operators on Earth during his free time.

"On the morning of Wednesday, December 7, 1983, Garriott's voice and call sign was plainly heard over Florida and Georgia as the space shuttle *Columbia* came across Florida and up the East Coast of the United States on orbit 144 of the mission," remembered Pat Lightcap, K4NRD, of Madison, Florida. "At 7:58 AM, W5LFL confirmed a

contact with Jimmy Brooks, WA4BEV, in Georgia. Jimmy was at his home in Valdosta and used a homemade antenna for the transmissions on 145.550 MHz. Garriott was using a 5 W handheld transceiver with a temporary antenna taped inside a shuttle window. During the contact, the spacecraft was approximately 160 miles above the Earth.”

According to Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, Garriott's antenna was designed specifically for his use on STS-9. "It was designed and developed to meet NASA flight standards so that it could fit the contours of a specific window [on the shuttle]," he told the ARRL, "I believe it was built by Lou McFadin, W5DID. The radio was a Motorola commercial unit. For several reasons, it was decided to use a commercial handheld transceiver that could be flight certified quickly, rather than a ham radio handheld transceiver that would require a long NASA qualifying process."

In 1983, the Goddard Amateur Radio Club team provided around-the clock space shuttle retransmissions from its WA3NAN club station. These retransmissions provided the international ham radio community up-to-the-minute information during Garriott's flight and subsequent Space Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment ([SAREX](#)) flights; SAREX was the precursor to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program. In the days prior to the Internet, these real-time bulletins and frequent orbital element updates could only be obtained through Amateur Radio.

"The first contact Owen made from Columbia was with Lance Collister, WA1JXN (now W7GJ), of Frenchtown, Montana, while approaching the US Pacific coastline," Pasternak told the ARRL. "This in itself was kind of an oddity because there were thousands of California hams vying to be the first contact and after that first CQ, 145.55 MHz sounded like 20 meters during a rare DXpedition."

The series of two-way radio transmissions from STS-9 were so successful that Amateur Radio has been a significant part of the space shuttle program ever since. Amateur Radio has offered multiple educational opportunities between the astronauts on board the space shuttle and the International Space Station with students and campers, allowing young people to communicate directly with the astronauts as they circled the Earth. As the space shuttle program comes to an end, the many memories associated with space flight will remain with those who have grown up with the excitement of our men and women blasting off in to space -- the new frontier. -- *Thanks to Pat Lightcap, K4NRD, and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for some information*

**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 each.

If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with your payment.



**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes of the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting**

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

**Secretary Report**

The minutes of the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report**

Membership Dues Received: \$ 0

Checks were written to ATT for \$23.51

Balances as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011:

Checking - \$ 37.10

Regular Savings - \$ 3,604.81 of which \$ 2,021.82 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$ 1,157.22

Petty Cash - \$ 16.00

We now have 36 paid members for 2011.

**Repeater Report**

Repeater is working fine. Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF reported hearing some kertchinking this morning with music in the background. Other members report hearing the same thing periodically.

**ARES**

The net has been meeting regularly every Thursday at 6:30pm on 146.850 repeater.

**Old Business**

Constitution: The 7 to 1 vote in favor of amending Article VII of the constitution detailing removal of members taken at the last meeting was invalid due to Article VII of the constitution which reads in part "This Constitution or the Bylaws may be amended by a favorable vote from a majority of the total membership". 7 votes did not constitute a majority.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that secretary Paul Schultz, KD8KUF would email all voting (Full) members a vote ballot with results to be collected via email. With 36 voting members 19 favorable will be required for the vote to pass.

**Field Day: Statistics:**

Year	Total Points	Bonus Points	CW	RTTY	SSB
2011	2,044	710	125	52	336
2010	2,424	1,030	136	82	281

We didn't have a solar panel QSO due to a dead battery, missed the ARRL Field Day message, and we didn't have any law enforcement visitors which reduced our bonus point count this year.

Suggestions for next year were that we need a GOTA radio that's easy to use and we need a computer with logging program on each radio. Also, check all antennas & cables in November after Veterans Day and we need more weight on the antenna launcher tennis ball.

Alternate locations were discussed for next year since it was reported by Mike Bray, K8DDB that the parking lot and tennis courts at Marion Park will be under construction next year. Locations suggested to visit and review were Bay West College, Pine Mountain, Lake Antoine Park (parking permits req'd), Fumee Lake West Parking Lot and Iron Mountain City Park. Some members felt that an area with a lot of pedestrian traffic would be best to promote amateur radio to the general public.

Club Trailer: Burt Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS cancelled the insurance on the club trailer that was sold and applied for insurance on the club storage box. Insurance cost for the storage box is expected to be less.

Purchase of another trailer was discussed. It was agreed that a tilt-up tower trailer would be best vs. a cargo or camper trailer. Motion was made by Perry Amicangelo, KD8QEX and seconded by Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF, Vice President, to purchase a used single-axle or tandem-axle boat trailer and modify it for a tilt-up tower & to carry the generator or to build a tower trailer from scratch with mostly used components with the cost not to exceed the amount in the trailer fund. All Yes, no No's.

A winter class was discussed and more interest was shown in a General vs. a Technician class.

#### New Business

Paul Schultz, KD8KUF, Secretary will look into a CPR class.

Herb Pahlow, KD9SY from Dunbar, WI is visually impaired and is looking for a used HF rig with audio frequency read out, etc. Herb wants to get back into Ham radio and any help would be greatly appreciated. He can be reached at 715-324-5325.

#### For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Paul Schultz

#### Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President  
Burt Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer  
Paul Schultz - KD8KUF - Secretary  
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK  
Perry Amicangelo, KD8QEX  
Mike Bray, K8DDB  
Red Maxwell, KC9KWS  
Dana L Bey, KD8POR  
Gary Schafer, K4FMX  
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
Cliff Haycock, KD4ZBP  
Herbert Pahlow, KD9SY

### THE AMATEURS CODE

via an email from:

Scott, KA8TFF

the radio amateur is :

CONSIDERATE ..... never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL..... offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE.....with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY.....slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. these are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED.....radio is an avocation, ever interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

## **Newsletter Size Limited!**

By:  
Steve, KD8CCP

I had some issues sending out the June Mich-A-Con RF newsletter. I sent out my usual amount via email and had a few “bounce” or get returned as usual. These are usually the emails of club members that have changed or are in the middle of changing their internet provider so I do not worry about that issue too much. I do get a few people that “bounce” because they “do not like sender.” These people have had the newsletter go to the Spam Folder for one reason or another. Sometimes the security is set too high or they just did not recognize my email address and sent it over there at one time or another.

June was another “issue”, excuse the pun! I suddenly realized that every email address that used Charter as the provider “bounced”. I resent several of the people that had a problem the newsletter again, this time individually, just in case something was going on with the Spam levels. The emails bounced again. I suddenly remembered that Charter has a very low limit on how big of an attachment they allow a customer to receive. I called a friend of mine to confirm this issue. My friend confirmed that Charter only allows a customer to get an attachment of 10 megabytes.

Ten megabytes used to be huge. Now most digital cameras take pictures that are at least that large! My phone even takes one megabyte pictures so it does not take long to get to the limit! Sure enough, the June issue had several pictures in it from Field Days that put me “over the top”. I had to re-do the newsletter for all practical purposes in order to get it to the proper size. Each picture had to be deleted, re-edited and then saved and re-inserted into the newsletter! Bottom line, some people got a larger edition to the newsletter, but in picture size and page size only.

I am including the “Sunrise” picture Tom W8JWN sent over last month again this month. Since this is the only picture in the newsletter it should past the Charter test.

The other dilemma I had was in which version to send out to the people that get a printed copy. I decided to send the “Charter version” because this is the version that ended up on the web site and therefore a more official version.

Please ask around and find out if people are getting the newsletter if they want a copy. Once an email “bounces” I have no way of knowing the new address or even if the member wants a copy. Over the years Mike and Burt have done a fantastic job keeping me posted of changes they receive at the club level so keep your email address updated if you want communications from the Club. I can also delete anyone off the list too, just ask! I also send out a version where you are directed to the “Link Only” on our web page. This is a nice version if you do not want to have the entire newsletter download to your computer when I send it out.

I have been using Yahoo as an email service for many years now. The reason I switched was simple, I did not want my email to switch every time I switched providers. I am not doing a commercial here for dot Yahoo, but they do allow you to get up to 25 megabyte attachments!



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

**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 906 249-3837or e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto: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@arrl.net](mailto:wa8qnf@arrl.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](mailto: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.**

<i>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for August 2011</i>						
<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 ARES	5	6
7	8	9 Meeting	10	11 ARES	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 ARES	19	20 BREAKF AST
21	22	23	24	25 ARES	26	27
28	29	30	31	28 ARES		

**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 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

## CPR Classes Offered

via an email from:

Paul, KD8KUF

*(editors note: Paul, KD8KUF sent me this months minutes as usual and included the following note about a CPR class, what a great offer that could be life saving!!)*

Also, after a lot of searching I found the guy that teaches CPR classes locally here. Please put a note in the newsletter that I'd like to put a class together for the members sometime within the next few months. I've attached my notes for details. I will pay the \$20.00 tuition for anyone that can't afford it. [This guy](#) ( Stephan Schultz ) is not related to me but got me to thinking about taking a class. ( <http://www.uppermichiganssource.com/news/story.aspx?id=637750> )

Thanks,

Paul Schultz, KD8KUF

(Local CPR Class Information:)

7/14/11 Quinnesec, MI 49876, 906-295-0687, Sam Martiniz,

Teach class on demand. Cost is \$20.00, 2 year card, 3-4 hour class.

Also do AED - Automatic External Defribulator. Easy to use. More readily available. Don't care about class size - any size. Teach as young as 8 years old.

Can use Verso's training center or anywhere.

Have 15 days off/month so pretty flexible.

### **For Sale:**

from:

Carl, KD8MAE has the following items to sell.

ICOM 718 with DSP and a 250 hz filter

MFJ 993 auto tuner

\$500 or best offer.

Please contact Carl J Robare at the following email address:

[kd8mae@netzero.net](mailto:kd8mae@netzero.net)



## **Words from The President**

**by:**

**Tom, W8JWN**

I sure enjoyed the cool temps in Northern Ontario last week. While most of you were baking in 90-degree temperatures, I was in a cozy sleeping bag! We even had a fire in the wood stove two nights! Only two of the seven days reached 80. The rest were 68-75 and high 40s at night.

Our annual fly-in fishing trip was a lot of fun as usual. The fishing, on my end, wasn't as good as last year but I had a great time. I'll have to tell you my wolf and moose story in person. The MNR might be reading this. HI!

I got home early Saturday morning and after unpacking and putting fish in the freezer, I got on the radio and worked Southern Sudan on 20 meter RTTY for my self and the club. It only took an hour and a half for W8JWN and three calls for KC8VC. There was a 15 kHz spread!

Every time we go through International Falls, MN, I notice towers and beams on a local business called Sound North. There are now four towers on a city sized lot. It is the home of the WV00 repeater. Next year I'll take my 2-meter rig and see if I can talk to him.

I received an e-mail from Jim Rye (W8IFI), that they might have a problem with the Kenwood TS-2000. I don't have any trouble with our unit. Lou, KG9K, replied that it might be a filter setting. Can we replace the TS-2000 with a Kenwood 830S????

The new and improved club constitution will be on the website shortly.

See you all 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](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 2011 were 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 Tue August 9<sup>th</sup> 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**