

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

August 2006

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ARES MEMBERS TAKE FEMA TRAINING

Steve Skaug KD8CCP

What do you get when you put a bunch of HAM operators from all over Wisconsin and Upper Michigan in a hospital conference room with the County Emergency Management Director? FEMA training of course.

Dennis, K8SWX, the Dickinson County Emergency Coordinator and myself, (Asst. Emergency Coordinator) drove to Oconto Falls Wi this past month and participated in the IS-100 and IS-700 FEMA Training. Steven Haskell, the Emergency Management Director for Shawano County Wi (KC9JRL), gave up his Saturday and went through the Incident Command System with us.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardized management concept system. It is designed for on site use, and allows everyone to work together without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

Homeland Security also implemented the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and identified steps for improved coordination of Federal, State, local and private industry response to incidents. It also described the way these agencies will prepare for such a response.

What does all this mean for HAMS? The training gives us a complete overview of what the organizational structure looks like during an "incident". By understanding how a response is organized during an event, we as HAMS can join in the effort and be in the right spot at the right time. It is very important to check into all incidents and remember to check out too. Incident Command or any of it's

Section Chiefs will direct our resources to the proper location for optimal use. It is most likely that we, as HAMS, would be used by the Logistics Chief to support the ongoing incident.

Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Presidential Directive -5 require Federal departments and agencies to make the adoption of NIMS by State and local organizations a condition for Federal preparedness assistance such as grants. It is very obvious that a well-coordinated response to an incident is needed and Amateur Radio usually plays a very important part of any response... so we need to know how the system works!

Dennis and I took the test along with the rest of the group and should have our certificates within a few weeks. Steven Haskell said he would be able to do more training in the future too. This training and testing is also available on the Web. I liked the class concept of these courses. The discussions made everything fit together... you can almost say the day came together as a plan.... without incident.

Thanks again to all the people that helped make the class happen including Steve, KC9JRL, Jim, KS8O (the food was great), and Pete, AB9PJ just to name a few.

Words from the President:

TOM MARTIN W8JWN

How many of you out there have a Living Will? Well, actually a “Living will” for all of your radio gear? In the past several weeks, I have been actively involved in gathering, researching, advertising, cleaning, packing, and shipping equipment for the relatives of two deceased hams from the area. It has been a real job! I didn’t realize how much work it would be to sell items for the estate.

One of the biggest chores was to haul out 80-100 pound transmitters and receivers...real “boat anchors” from 1955-1960. Thanks to Gary, K4FMX, we were able to, with the help of a dolly, remove the gear from one QTH and deliver it to another without a subsequent visit to the chiropractor. I haven’t even started to haul two heavy linears from W9QFL’s place in Florence.

The work has just started after the equipment has been removed. Next, you have to visit various web sites on the Net to find the value of the gear. Google has been a great help in finding present or past selling prices for radio gear. Also, QRZ.com, eHamnet.com, and (my personal favorite) QTH.com. are great sites for listing ham radio equipment I avoid Ebay. Prices always seem to be inflated. Of course, you can also use our club web page.

After deciding on a price for the item, you can list it on one of the four mentioned sites. I have had excellent success with QTH.com. Scott, KA9FOX from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, has a beautiful site. It comes highly recommended by many hams. I have sold five pieces of gear in the past week on that site. He only asks for a donation of 2% of the final

price if you sell the gear.

Once the item has been sold and the money order is in hand, packing and shipping become the next labor. I have been using FedEx rather than UPS. They are open during the day and there is no waiting in line. Shipping charges have been reasonable as well. Fortunately, I haven’t had to ship any of the heavy pieces. They were purchased locally. I also might have to meet a fellow ham from the Lower Peninsula at “The Bridge” to deliver a “boat anchor”.

Having gone through efforts, I have realized that it would have been a great help for me if the SK had left a list of equipment with the possible value for each item and where the manuals for each piece of gear were stored. This list could be updated each year. Also, on the list should have been directions for the surviving family as to who should help them sell the gear. Fortunately, George had told Jackie to call me. In the case of Dr. Steinke’s gear, a local librarian gave the doctor’s daughter my name.

I have not yet followed my own advice. I’ve been too busy selling gear! I have, however, told my XYL to call Mike Bray, Lee Michaud, or Gary Schafer in the event of my passing on to that “great shack in the sky”! I will work on my “Living Will” once the last piece of gear in my garage has been shipped. It just seemed like yesterday that we cleaned out that garage!!!

www.QTH.com

www.qrz.com

www.eHamnet.com

AUGUST MEETING A REAL PICNIC

The August club meeting was actually the annual picnic this year. Everyone brought their own food and snacks and we simply had a great time meeting many of the other family members of the local Hams. The weather was even great... I hear that is a first!

I brought my daughter Molli. She tells me she wants to be an astronaut and I pointed out that most of the astronauts on the International Space Station right now are Ham operators. (Hint... Hint... get your license Molli.) Some people cooked out, some even brought salads to pass around... Molli and I simply stopped and picked up "ham" sandwiches, I figure that was the appropriate food for a "Ham" picnic. She told me everyone seemed really friendly. Take a look at the pictures Bob, KD8DJN supplied for this issue. Thanks Bob!



CLUB WEATHER SPOTTER REPORTS FUNNEL CLOUD

**Steve Skauge
KD8CCP**

Randy, KB9ZES, is a local weather spotter and was out one hot evening watching some wild weather roll through Wisconsin and towards Michigan. I had jumped into the action after work and started to ride around the area working with Dennis, K8SWX. I heard Randy talking on the 146.850 repeater telling Dennis that the clouds he was looking at definitely had spin or rotation. We were in contact with Tri-County SkyWarn on the 146.880 repeater too so the information was passed up the chain to both Green Bay Weather and Marquette Weather.

I had to stop home for a moment and continued to monitor the events... I turned the TV on and saw the red banner on the bottom of the screen warning of a Tornado! The tornado was seen by radar according to the weather channel. I then heard Randy reporting a funnel cloud at his location! Our weather spotter RANDY, KB9ZES, was able to confirm that this storm was indeed producing the funnel cloud the radar was showing. It should be noted that Randy correctly reported the storm as a funnel cloud because it was not low enough to the ground to be a tornado. I was very excited to be on the radio listening in as our team did its job. I can just imagine how Randy was feeling!

The storms dissipated before reaching the Iron Mountain area so we did not see the funnel cloud. I am glad the storms did not cause significant damage in our area and will continue to work with the local team to keep and eye to the sky .

WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING!

**Steve Skauge KD8CCP
Spotter ID: DK-04**

I took the 2006 SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training this year. The training consisted of a class here in Iron Mountain at the Dickinson County Sheriffs Office given by Matthew Zika, the Warning Coordinator Meteorologist from Marquette, Michigan. I was pleasantly surprised the class was filled with both Ham operators and just your everyday "person off the street" all interested in weather. (Hmm.... future Hams?)

The class was great! We were given a guided tour of how storms form and shown how they build into dangerous monsters and then dissipate back to nothing, sometimes building into large lines of storms traveling across many states and sometimes just popping up in our neighborhoods. We were shown the different types of clouds and how to determine what is threatening versus just unique shows mother nature puts on for our enjoyment.

Safety was emphasized. A good spotter always protects his life! Check your surroundings and plan ahead for escape routes. Do not get caught out in the open during a weather event! I now know that lightening can strike long before the storm arrives and long after it apparently passed.

Tornados and funnel clouds always get a lot of attention and discussion. I was amazed at the different ways tornados look and act, versus straight line winds that are equally damaging and dangerous at times. We even got to see the radar images of the last tornado that struck the Dickinson County area and it was interesting to note that all of the Upper Michigan Counties have had tornados at one time or another.... some even starting out as water spouts before hitting land and thus becoming a tornado!

Weather Spotters are needed to see what cannot be seen on a radar screen and to confirm what the radar is showing. Real time reports of hail and damaging winds along with heavy rainfall may save a life when passed along to the authorities.

I was happy to hear that as a spotter we notify the National Weather Service via radio or phone with a simple format that is short and to the point. Give the location... the event and time along with your spotter ID. Remember to use descriptive language that is actually useful... saying marble size hail just does not cut it.... marbles come in many sizes! Use phrases like "dime size"... "pea size"... "golf ball size" to convey a true and accurate picture of what is going on in your location.

I was surprised by the fact that here in Dickinson County are not covered by NOAA radio. The Green Bay service and the (...continued next page...)

(...weather spotter training cont...)

Marquette service just miss us. The web page www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt does offer updates as long as your computer is going. The NOAA Weather Service can also be heard on TV Channel 13 by setting your audio to SAP. (Secondary Audio Program). Amateur radio offers fast updates from the Marquette office on our local 146.850 repeater and the Green Bay office keeps us informed on the 146.880 repeater. Our two way communication keeps these offices on top of the weather from our perspective too!

Winter is coming.... so all you fellow spotters out there lets remember that we need to report rapidly accumulating snow (2" accumulations along with start and end times if possible). Freezing rain and sleet reports are needed to get the word out to the public. We should also report any ice accumulations, especially 1/4 inch thick ice or sleet amounts. Reduced visibilities of 1/2 mile or less in blowing snow will also help the public stay safe this winter. Winter weather also has its own safety concerns too... stay warm and dry by dressing for the season.

If you missed the Spotter Class this year look for the next class next year in the spring. If you have been to a class before... come back for a refresher ... at least every couple of years after all... weather is with us everyday... whether we like it or not!

Wanted: Your Article, Ideas and Input!!!
Send it now to: kd8ccp@arrl.net

**Hiawatha Amateur Radio Club
International Lighthouse Weekend
Special Event Station
K8G**

The Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette County participated in the International Lighthouse Weekend. The K8G Granite Island Light Station was scheduled to be operating August 19,2006 0001 UTC through August 20th, 2006 2359 UTC.

The clubs web site , <http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/graniteisland.html> reports that a group of hams were very fortunate to have been granted access to this privately owned island. Owners of the island, Scott and Martine Holman, have renovated the lighthouse and allowed the club this unique opportunity. The group believes that this is the very first time either the island and/or the light has been activated.

This was a great opportunity for both U.S. Lighthouse and U.S. Island chasers to pick up a rare one.

The lighthouse designator is USA-333.
The US Island designator is MI-080L.

While only a handful of hams will have the opportunity to visit Granite Island in person you'll have the opportunity to visit it via the [Granite Island Light Station website](http://www.graniteisland.com/). <http://www.graniteisland.com/> This is a must see website as it offers so many interesting articles about the island, it's location, and it's history past and present as well as loads of photos of the island and lighthouse.

The K8G hoped to work SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31 and should have been on most HF bands as conditions permit. The group also hoped the six-meter band would be open for operation as well.

As of press time the group scheduled to operate on the island included Greg K18AF, Pete K8PT, Bruce WB8NJP, Rod KB8DNS and Jim NH6CN.

(From the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette County Web Site <http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/graniteisland.html>)

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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). The cost is \$2 for the Standard Plate (the blue one) or \$7 for the Graphic plate (the "bridge" 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, the 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 am applying this month for my call sign and hope to make some extra contacts while traveling.

Dennis, K8SWX, also has the application available...so give him a call on the 85 repeater or at home and tell him you need a copy.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for September 2006

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUE</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THUR</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> <u>MEETING</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> <u>BREAKFAST</u>
<u>17</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>

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. This is to replace the Tuesday Night Net which did not have much activity. Dennis, K8SWX, will facilitate the link from our repeater to the other participating stations via EchoLink.

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:30 PM Central Time every Thursday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz).

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Avenue (US-2) in Iron Mountain, across from Econo Foods. Why not enjoy a good meal and camaraderie with your fellow members?

Exam Schedule

City: Iron Mountain
Location: Dickinson County Library
Room: Conference Room
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time
Contact: Mark Lewis, N8UKD
Telephone: (906) 774-6598

Exam Date: Nov 4, 2006
Exam Date: Feb 3, 2007
Exam Date: May 5, 2007

Examinees should bring 2 pencils, a pen for the official paperwork, the originals AND copies of any previous credit that you have earned (Certificates of Successful Completion or current license), 1 photo ID (usually a drivers license) and 1 other ID (usually a birth certificate or SS card), a calculator if needed (make sure your memories are cleaned out), and the test fee. (2006 fee is \$14).

This-N-That:

BIG UPGRADE on 147.000

1. Submitted by KS8O on Tue, 2006-08-08 05:19.

The [Marinette & Menominee Amateur Radio Club](#) has just completed a major upgrade of their repeater system. The 147.000 repeater with a PL of 107.2 now has a commercial 4 Bay Comprod antenna at about 400 feet. New 7/8 feed line was also installed on August 6th, 2006.

Initial tests indicate a very substantial improvement in coverage and we have spoken to places we have never heard from before. Needless to say that club members are very enthusiastic about this upgrade and because of the quality of equipment used, many years of great service is expected.

(From the ARRL Michigan Section Website. <http://www.arrl-mi.org/>).

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CLUB JACKETS

Are you interested in getting a MICH-A-CON club jacket? If you are new to the club or simply need a new club jacket please contact me Steve (KD8CCP) or Dennis, K8SWX. I plan to get updated prices including any price breaks. Fall is just around the corner so new jackets would be "fitting".

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2006 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST: GAME ON FOR OCTOBER 7-8

The 2006 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is scheduled for October 7-8. ECs are planning an event to include all radio amateurs, especially ARES, RACES and NTS members. Served agencies will also participate, of course. Whether you're a new licensee or a veteran, the SET is a good opportunity to learn or practice skills in traffic handling, net operation and emergency communications. The SET is a demonstration of Amateur Radio's capabilities and readiness.

Background is presented in the article, "2005 Simulated Emergency Test

Results," July 2006, QST, pp. 97-99. Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms will be posted on the ARRL Web page at :

<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms>>.

Although October 7-8 is the SET weekend, the exercise may be conducted any time between September 1 and November 30. Check with your local EC for the exact date in your area.

The ARRL is an affiliate of Citizen Corps, an initiative within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enhance public awareness and safety. Your SET may involve the local representatives of Citizen Corps, its many affiliates, and the Citizen Emergency Response Team. For details on these programs, visit <<http://www.citizencorps.gov>> and <<http://www.citizencorps.gov/programs/cert.shtm>>.

ARRL's longstanding relationships with several served agencies will be tested, including the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the National Weather Service, the National Communications System, the Association of Public Safety Officers - International as well as Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT), and the Civil Air Patrol. Related MOUs may be found at <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/>>. -- Steve Ewald, WV1X, ARRL HQ

(From the ARES E-Letter , Aug 16,2006 Rick Palm K1CE, Editor)

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SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. This year, ARRL is once again a coalition member. National Preparedness Month 2006 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The agency will work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation. More information is available at <<http://www.ready.gov>>.

The August issue of ARRL's "CONTACT!" features a wealth of information on September's National Preparedness Month and how to

promote ARES in local media outlets. See <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/#current>> and click on the August 2006 issue.

(From the ARES E-Letter , Aug 16,2006 Rick Palm K1CE, Editor)

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NEW EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BILL INCLUDES ROLE FOR HAMS

A bill to enhance emergency communication at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) includes Amateur Radio operators as part of an overall effort to provide interoperability among responders. The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006 (HR 5852), an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, passed the US House and has gone to the Senate. Its sponsor, Rep David G. Reichert (R-WA) who chairs the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology -- says his legislation is designed "to improve the ability of emergency responders to communicate with each other" -- interoperability.

His measure also would require the DHS to improve emergency communications. HR 5852 calls for Amateur Radio operators to be part of a "Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group" (RECC Working Group) that would be attached to each regional Department of Homeland Security office. The RECC Working Groups would advise federal and state homeland security officials.

According to the bill, the RECC Working Groups would assess the survivability, sustainability, and interoperability of local emergency communications systems to meet the goals of the National Emergency Communications Report. That report would recommend how the US could "accelerate the deployment of interoperable emergency communications nationwide." HR 5852 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. -- ARRL Letter

(From the ARES E-Letter , Aug 16,2006 Rick Palm K1CE, Editor)

CLUB EQUIPMENT LIST

TOM MARTIN W8JWN has custody of the following club equipment:

- 2 Gin pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
- 4 Small TV type rotor and control.
- 6 Dipole antennas for 80,40,20,15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
- 8 Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy).
- 10 RG8X with double shield (100 ft).
- 12 3/16 Single Braid Dacron rope (200 ft).
- 14 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters).
- 16 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters).
- 18 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters).
- 20 6 PL259 silver connectors.
- 22 4 T-adapters for stubs.
- 24 4 UG-176 silver sleeves.
- 26 3 right-angle connectors.
- 28 Hygain tri-band beam antenna.
- 30 G5RV antenna.
- 32 Club banner.

MIKE BRAY K8DDB has custody of the following club equipment:

- 34 40 foot light tower.
- 36 Lafayette 80 - 10 meter tube type VFO #99-2501 with operating manual.
- 38 J-38 Morse code straight key.
- 40 Lambda model LT-2095A-1583 power supply 0 to +32VDC, 2 amp (rack mount).
- 42 Multi-meter ME-26D/U (old military type) by Sentinel Electronics, Inc.
- 44 Power supply (partially built - home brew).
- 46 Duplexer (rack mount - home brew) TX and RX cans- possibly 440 MHz.

RE-PRINT PERMISSION

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain. Items for Mich-A-Con RF should be in the editors hands by club meeting day (2nd Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition. Please consider writing and article related to Amateur Radio to share with your fellow members. Send the article in plain text and attach any photos, etc., do not worry about the format, that's the editor's job.

Send to: sjsace@sbcglobal.net
(906) 779-5720

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REPEATERS

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PI Tone
146.850 MHz	Minus	----
444.850 MHz	Plus	100

Both repeaters have an auto patch with a toll restriction. The auto patch on the 2-meter repeater can be used with permission. The 440 auto patch is for club use only.

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 checks payable to Mich-A-Con ARC
Annual dues are 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 or \$2.50 per month for a Family membership.

****If you are 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
945 Woodward Ave Apt 5
Kingsford, Mi. 49802-4438

Club Meetings:

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. 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@borderlandnet.net

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

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2006 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 September is on Tuesday the 12th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street Norway Michigan. (Upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)

