

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

August 2007

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TOWER WORK!

STEVE, KD8CCP

The Mich-A-Con repeater antennas needed some work before winter so a crew consisting of Lee, N8LT, Mike N9NBN, Burt WB8EBS, Dennis K8SWX and myself, Steve KD8CCP headed up to the tower site. I have never been to the site and headed up right after work and found the project well underway. Mike and Burt were on the tower with Lee and Dennis acting as ground crew.

Lee monitored the repeaters as wires were taped and insulated, hardware tightened and an overall inspection was performed. He generated a low level signal on the system to see how different adjustments and repairs affected the repeater.

Burt and Mike noted that a bolt was missing from the antenna and therefore the antenna actually moves sometimes in the wind. The antenna movement is then causing noise in the repeater. This bolt will be replaced during a future tower climb and should really make the repeater quiet. The work done to the cable clamps and brackets should also help.

I monitored the 146.850 repeater on the way home and heard several Hams on the air reporting how much better the repeater sounds now.... Great Job Guys!



A Look at the Tower Holding the Mich-A-Con Repeater Antennas

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



Burt WB8EBS, Mike N9NBN, Lee N8LT



Burt, WB8EBS on the Tower



Mike, N9NBN climbs down the Tower



Dennis K8SWX

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 25TH

submitted by:
Matt Zika, KD8EFY

The National Weather Service in Marquette is having an Open House . The Open House is Saturday, August 25th from 10 AM to 4 PM EDT at the National Weather Service Office in Negaunee Township. Additional information is at this link:

<http://www.weather.gov/mqt/?n=openhouse>

We hope you can stop by and see us that day. Matt Zika Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Marquette.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for September 2007

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

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 EchoLink. (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 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 7:00 PM in 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 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?

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the August 14, 2007 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 6:59 PM.

Secretary Report
The minutes of the July 10th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances for the end of July:

Checking:	\$251.09
Repeater Savings:	\$965.35
Regular Savings:	\$1163.65
Petty Cash:	\$26.00

Money received from T-Shirt sales was deposited in checking.

Repeater Report

A defective diode was replaced in the 2-meter repeater.

N8LT, N9NBN, WB8EBS, K8SWX and KD8CCP will meet at the WE Energies tower on Sunday at 1 PM to install grounding on the 80 foot antenna mast and hardline and check WE Energies grounding braid on the tower.

ARES

Dennis, K8SWX, will attend a U.P. ARES meeting in Chippewa County on September 8. There was no ARES Net last Thursday because of the licensing exam held that night. Dennis will be attending Dickinson County Emergency Services meetings, which are now open to the public.

Old Business

Trailer Fund – No one brought club equipment to the UP Hamfest in Escanaba. Tom, W8JWN, handed out a list of items for sale that were obtained from Jack Fortier. All money received from the sale of equipment will be deposited in the club's trailer fund. Several meeting attendees offered to contribute money obtained from the sale of their excess gear.

Special Event - We plan to have a special event at the VA Hospital or the Pine Mountain Veteran's Memorial over the Veteran's Day weekend (November 9, 10, 11 & 12.) Tom, W8JWN, will check with the VA Hospital and Kiwanis Club to check on availability of facilities at those locations. Tom will also apply for the K8V callsign for the event.

Repeater Signs – Steve, KD8CCP, will check into the Adopt a Highway program for a way of displaying our club name and repeater frequencies.

New Business

Congratulations to Dennis, K8SWX; Art, KD8GLO and Jim, KC8CKX for passing their General Class exam.

For The Good Of The Order

Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB ---Secretary
Lee Michaud, N8LT
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Mike Boileau, N9NBN --- Vice President
Tom Martin, W8JWN ---President
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX ---Treasurer
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Steve Skauge, KD8CCP
Al Poquette, K9ECG
Jim Faulkner, KC8CKX
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Gavin Rogers, KC9KVQ
Beth Baker, KC9KVP

Contact: Children at Florida Hospital Talk to the International Space Station:

from:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 33 August 17, 2007

For 11 kids at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, Florida, July 17, 2007 was quite a memorable day. These children had the unique opportunity of questioning astronaut Clay Anderson, KD5PLA, onboard the International Space Station (ISS) via ham radio as it made a 9 minute 30 second pass over the United States.

This Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact was made possible due to the initial efforts of John Rothert, KC4IYO. After applying for the contact, John became ill and was unable to continue helping. Through the sponsorship of the Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society and combined efforts of Northern Florida Section Public Information Coordinator Mike Welch, KF4HFC; Bob Pollack, KF4IMF; Lou McFadin, W5DID; the Child Life Department of Arnold Palmer Hospital and many other supporters, the event went off without a hitch.

Just prior to the ISS pass, the Child Life personnel established phone contact with Will Marchant, KC6ROL, and Graham Lawton, G7EVY. These hams helped prepare everyone for the contact and coordinated the telebridge connection between the hospital and the ISS via W6SRJ, the host ground station located at Santa Rosa Junior College in Santa Rosa, California.

At approximately 2:28 PM, Bill Hillendahl, the operator at W6SRJ, began calling, "NA1SS, NA1SS, this is W6SRJ." Soon, applause erupted from the hospital conference room as a voice over the speaker answered, "NA1SS, over!" This began a lively 9 minute question-and-answer session between eager children and Anderson. By the end of the pass, the children had asked 33 questions, possibly setting a record for any ARISS contact.

"We're very excited about ARISS bringing their program to our patients as it will be a fun activity that will lift their spirits," said Sheri Mosely, child life manager for the hospital. "Talking with an astronaut is definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity and one we hope they'll never forget."

Once the contact was finished, local media from three television stations, one newspaper and one radio station began interviewing the children and hospital personnel, adding greatly to the excitement of the day. This was truly a successful ARISS contact that will not be soon forgotten by the children at Arnold Palmer Hospital.

Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, supported by the Arnold Palmer Medical Center Foundation, is a 158-bed facility dedicated exclusively to the needs of children. It offers comprehensive, specialized programs and services for children including acute care, adolescent medicine, a Congenital Heart Institute in partnership with Miami Children's Hospital, pediatric intensive care, emergency medicine, nephrology, neurology and trauma services. -- Some information from David Jordan, AA4KN

HARA Club Celebrates 75th anniversary

From:

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK wa8efk@arrl.org

The Hiawatha ARA in Marquette celebrated its 75 anniversary on August 2, 2007. They began in 1932 as the Marquette Amateur Radio Assn. and the following year chose the new name of Hiawatha ARA of Marquette County. Their newsletter, *The Standing Wave* will be highlighting the major events of the club since its inception.

The Michigan Section congratulates the Hiawatha ARA on this memorable event!

What a wonderful milestone and we recognize them as being among the oldest continuously active radio clubs in Michigan!

Words from the president.....

This has been a busy week for me with a golf tournament over the weekend, preparing for our annual trip to Vegas, and selling radio gear for the trailer fund; so, these "words" will be short and sweet:

I applied for K8V last Tuesday evening but haven't had a confirmation or reply from the W5YI-VEC 1 X 1 call sign coordinators. I filed an online request for the special call to be used for the Veterans Day special event.

I'm still waiting for a return call from the Kiwanis Ski Club, concerning the use of their building next to the Veteran's War Memorial on Pine Mt. More later on this issue.

The radio gear that was donated to the club by Jack Fortier has been advertised on our web page and QTH.com. I have potential buyers for the following items: AEA CP-1 computer interface, Heathkit grid dip coils, and the Heathkit SB-610 station monitor scope. These buyers were contacted through QTH.com.

Thanks to Scott Baker (Heathkit Signal Tracer) and Scott Jarmusch (B & W Coax switch) for purchasing items from the list.

Gary purchased the homebrew amps that weren't listed. They didn't have power supplies but Gary has enough expertise to get them operating. Now, if he can only finish the dozen other projects he has going around the farm before he heads back to Florida!

Is it ever going to rain? Parts of Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Lower Michigan are under water and we don't get enough to fill a bucket! We need a good downpour to clean the power line insulators in my neighborhood. I have S9 plus noise on all bands. Of course, with the way band conditions have been, there's nothing to hear anyway.

Well, I'm heading to the airport in a couple of hours.

73,

Tom W8JWN

**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.**

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/>

CLUB EQUIPMENT LIST

TOM MARTIN W8JWN has custody of the following club equipment:

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

MIKE BRAY K8DDB has custody of the following club equipment:

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

LEE MICHAUD N8LT has custody of the following club equipment:

Multi-band wire antenna - Paul Hint's old antenna.

Sheriff's Office Garage has the following club equipment stored:

Honda EM 3800 Generator SN EAMC 1004814 with battery
Gas Can
Auto Battery Charger/Maintainer
2 - 80 foot extension cords
Sta-Bil Fuel Stability
1000 watt light stand kit
Astron RS-35M DC power supply
RIGrunner RR/4008/C outlet strip
Isobar-8 Ultra Premium surge protector.
Furman M-8D Power Conditioner.

Future Testing Schedule Upper Peninsula

V.E. TESTING:

09/08 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 906 249-3837 or e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net

09/08 Houghton: 8:30am Eastern time, Room G04 (In the basement) of Wadsworth Residence Hall at M-T-U (Michigan Technological University) Parking available (free) across Hwy U.S. 41 from This building, contact George Thurner W8FWG at 906 337-2542 or e-mail w8fwg@arri.net

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 \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change.

Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc.

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 editor's hands by club meeting day (second Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition. Please consider writing an 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 format, that is the editor's job.

Send to:

kd8ccp@arrl.net

(906) 779-5720

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.

REPEATERS:

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

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

<u>Output</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>PL Tone</u>
146.850 MHz	minus	-----
444.850 MHz	plus	-----

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 member use only.

MICH-A-CON RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Stephen Skaug
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 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.ql.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
mikebray@chartermi.net

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2007 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 11th at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.

