

MICH-A-CON RF

IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN

Aug 2008

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Visit the ARRL's web site:
<http://www.arrl.org>
The URL for the Mich-A-Con ARC web site is:
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

GULF COAST PREPARES FOR GUSTAV

from:
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 34
August 29, 2008

As of Friday, although Tropical Storm Gustav is still several days away from landfall on the US mainland, disaster preparations are being rolled out along the Gulf Coast. ARRL Leadership Officials, with the support of the ARRL Headquarters staff, are taking measures that will facilitate emergency communications among ham volunteers, among hams and served agencies such as the Red Cross, and among Leadership Officials during the expected emergency and in its aftermath. ARRL Section Managers in the Gulf Coast states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas are marshaling resources and setting up procedures that will take effect as the storm approaches the mainland.

Support from the ARRL Headquarters staff includes referrals from local and national media, shipment of Amateur Radio equipment via the Ham Aid program, Section Manager liaison and referral of inquiries from Amateur Radio operators. Two special Web sites are available for Amateur Radio operators looking for

information and volunteer opportunities:
<http://www.arrl.org/gustav/vol.html>.

In addition, news will be updated on the ARRL Web site over the weekend and early next week, as Gustav moves toward the Gulf Coast.

On Thursday, as Gustav was slamming into Haiti and heading toward Jamaica, WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, activated at 12 PM EDT (1600Z). The NHC requested all land based stations as well as ships at sea in the areas affected to send them weather data (measured or estimated) and damage reports.

A post to their Web site stated: "If you are in the affected area and normally monitor on a local Net on VHF, 40 or 80 meters, we would appreciate your checking into the HWN NET or EchoLink/IRLP Net once per hour to receive the latest Hurricane Advisories and to report your local conditions. Please do not venture outside during the hurricane to gather weather data."

In addition, the VoIP Hurricane Net activated Thursday at 11 AM EDT (1500Z), according to a post by Jim Palmer, KB1KQW, VoIP-WX NetScheduler.

Also on Thursday, FEMA posted a news release that said, in part: "The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating plans and preparatory activities of numerous federal agencies in close communication with state, tribal and local officials as Tropical Storm Gustav threatens to return to hurricane strength prior to impacting Gulf Coast states. All residents in the region are encouraged to

make personal preparations. Information is available at www.Ready.gov on how families and individuals can best prepare before the storm.

"FEMA and its federal partners are in close communications with states along its potential path in order to review plans, pre-station assets and personnel, and respond to any request for assistance. FEMA's work with states using a Gap Analysis tool to determine in advance of storms where federal assistance is most likely to be needed has helped federal and state agencies to develop pre-scripted mission assignments and other contingency plans to help improve response and recovery efforts."

The news release also provides details on preparations now underway by several other agencies, including the American Red Cross and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency for his state on Wednesday, and he activated 3000 National Guard troops, with more on call. The state of Mississippi declared a state of emergency on Thursday. Governor Haley Barbour stated, in part: "I urge all Mississippians to please take this storm seriously. One of the most important lessons we learned after Hurricane Katrina was that there is no substitute for awareness and self-help, especially in the days before the hurricane is predicted to hit."

<http://www.arrl.org/gustav> and
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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/>

Simulated Emergency Test October 4-5

from:

The ARES E-Letter
August 26, 2008

Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor

The venerable ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is slated for October 4-5 this year, although ARES groups are free to conduct their exercises anytime between September and December for convenience. All can participate. The exercise is not limited to ARES, but also RACES, NTS, SKYWARN, SATERN, and other groups.

Testing your plans and capabilities is mission critical, and the annual SET is designed specifically for this purpose. Make sure to participate. Individual operators should contact their ECs for schedules and plans.

See September 2008 QST, p. 82 for more information.

[See the September issue also for its theme of Emergency Communications! The staff did an excellent job on this one - do not miss it. - K1CE]

Fee for Vanity Calls going up .

from:

Weaver's Words

August 28th 2008

James Weaver, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

The cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. The fee will increase effective September 25. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the August 12, 2008 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the July 8th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

End of July balances:

Checking - \$469.87

Regular Savings - \$2335.40, including \$810 in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$897.43

Petty Cash - \$21

Repeater Report

Power has been installed in the new building. The Repeater Committee will work with Skip, KE9L, to coordinate the painting of the inside of the building and the installation of equipment.

ARES

The DEC for Michigan's 8th district is trying to obtain a grant to equip all emergency control centers with 2 meter, 440 MHz and HF radios.

Old Business

Club Radio Gear -

No equipment has been sold.

Club Insurance -

Dennis, K8SWX, is in the process of obtaining a quote for club insurance from the ARRL.

Club Equipment Repair Status -

Swan 350 - Scott, KB9AVX, is attempting to acquire a new power supply.

Drake Twins - Transmitter blows fuses, receiver is ok.

Field Day -

Clarification - To obtain the 100 bonus points for Message Origination to Section Manager, the message must be sent from the Field Day site during the Field Day period.

Pine Mountain Veterans Memorial Park -

A \$50 check was written to American Legion Post #50.

New Business

Veterans Day Special Event -

The K8V call sign has been reserved by Tom, W8JWN, for the special event. Effective dates are Saturday, November 8 through Wednesday, November 12. The special event committee will consist of the same members as last year. Plans will be finalized at the September and October club meetings.

License Class -

Randy, KB9ZES, requested that the club provide a class for upgrading to a General Class license.

Trailer Fund -

Randy has pocket tee shirts with club logo printed on the back. The shirts are available for a donation of \$20 to the Trailer Fund and come in various sizes and colors. See Randy for details.

A donation of \$40 was made by Gary, K4FMX, for two technical

books from Lee's estate. A donation of \$10 was made by Mike, K8DDB, for one technical book from Lee's estate.

New Member -

Rob Filipczak, KL2MK, has joined the club

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary
Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice President
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF
Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Beth Baker, KC9KVP
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX---Treasurer
Skip Caswell, KE9L
Sheila Caswell, KD8DJJ

V.E. TESTING:

09/18 Iron River: 7:00 pm central time, Iron River Lutheran Church (after Club Meeting)

Note: Pre-Registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9JG, at (906) 265-4240 or email dmwaters@ironriver.tv

09/13 Marquette: 8:30 am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00 am) Marquette County Health Dept. Bld, U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at (906) 249-3837 or n8gba@chartermi.net

10/04 Houghton: 8:30 am eastern time, Room G04 in the basement of Wadsworth Residence Hall at MTU (Michigan Technological University). Free parking is available across Hwy U.S. 41 from this building. Contact Glen at (906) 482-7743 or by email: wa8qnf@arrl.net.

11/01 Iron Mountain: 9:00 am central time, (arrive by 8:30 am) in the Dickinson County Library conference room. Contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 396-5519, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

11/11 Gladstone: 9:00 am eastern time at the Gladstone Public Library. Testing begins at 9:00 am. Contact Howard W8HSJ at (906) 428-9476 or by email: w8hsj@dcars.org

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to allow time for application processing. Testing applicants should bring two pieces of I.D. including one photo I.D. Original license and a clear copy of their license if applicable and a completed form 605 will also be needed. (Form 605 will be provided if needed.) Please bring pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individuals listed to confirm dates, times and locations.

ARRL'S "BIG PROJECT" MAKES A BIG IMPACT ON YOUTH

from:

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 32
August 15, 2008

Since 2001 when the Education & Technology Program -- also known as the "Big Project" -- started, ARRL has expanded the scope of its educational outreach programs by providing grants of station equipment and instructional resources for professional development to more than 300 schools (with more schools added each year) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>

The Education & Technology Program has expanded the highly successful teacher development program in electronics, robotics and space -- the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>.

From humble beginnings in 2003, a single gathering of 12 educators came together at ARRL Headquarters to become the Teachers Institute, with the goal to promote wireless technology literacy. Since then, the Teachers Institute has provided teachers from elementary schools to the university level with the basic tools and teaching strategies to introduce the science of radio, space technology, weather, microcontroller basics and robotics in their classrooms. In 2008, the Teachers Institute program has expanded to six four-day sessions that now include ATV and radio astronomy, more hands-on instruction of project kits -- such as a seismometer, a 24-hour clock and A BOT Instructor's Board -- to enhance the teachers' ability to instruct basic robotics, a fox-hunt activity and satellite contacts.

Each year, the League receives gratifying reports from the schools that participate in the Education

& Technology Program. The schools tell us that the resources we offer are bearing fruit -- both in terms of licensing students and teachers and engaging them in wireless technology, both in the classroom and in after-school activities.

"The Education & Technology Program is truly one of ARRL's most significant projects," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "The contributions of ARRL members make a direct connection to teachers and their students, opening the door to Amateur Radio and other exciting areas of science."

Michigan Section Convention

from:

Weaver's Words

August 28th 2008

James Weaver, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

Final arrangements for the Michigan State Convention are coming into shape quite nicely. The ARRL HQ representative will be one of ARRL's crucial staff leaders, Dan Henderson, N1ND our Regulatory Information Manager.

The Convention and Hamfest will be October 12 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and Fairground. Forums, food, DXCC QSL checking, VE testing, door prizes and free parking. A Convention banquet featuring awards and a presentation by Mr. Henderson will be at 1 PM. Admission is \$5.00. Camping as well as hotel housing is available. Information is available at:

www.KalamazooHamFest.com

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for September 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 ARES	5	6
7	8	9 MEETING	10	11 ARES	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 ARES	19	20 Club Breakfast
21	22	23	24	25 ARES	26	27
28	29	30				

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.

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

**ARRL MICHIGAN SECTION HAS A WEB
PAGE.**

**This is the place to go for information about
amateur radio in the state of Michigan.**

<http://www.arrl-mi.org/>

You asked: study of FCC rules

from:

Weaver's Words

August 28th 2008

James Weaver, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

A few members asked the purpose of the study of FCC rules the ARRL Board authorized. It is to determine if ARRL should consider recommending a petition to change improve the rules regarding wideband transmissions. Any petition that would be considered would provide a win-win situation for everyone. The study will determine if changes in rules might possibly facilitate greater use of broadband digital operation while simultaneously reducing interference to other modes.

A problem with operating on the ham bands is interference between two or more QSOs. It happens all the time. There may be no QRM as a QSO begins but often creeps in as propagation changes. It also happens as we try to squeeze "too many" signals into "too little" space. The situation is further complicated especially with digital operation because of the difficulty in simultaneously monitoring the frequency for other modes.

QRM can result even though all stations involved operate legally. There is no FCC rule that prohibits all forms of interference -- just intentional interference.

I'll make certain you have the opportunity to cuss, discuss and comment on any proposal.

LETTERS: What is a Ham?

from:

The ARES E-Letter

August 26, 2008

Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor

I saw an interesting poster at the recent Duke City Hamfest. It was an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper on which was printed the following: "Echolink is a nail in the coffin of amateur radio!" Juxtapose that with Bob Bruninga's fascinating article in the September, 2008 QST, entitled Maximizing the Mobile Motorist Mission. As he talks about all the gear and will be buying a Kenwood 710 this week), the aggregation of wired and wireless communications to facilitate amateur communications is breathtaking.

These two divergent opinions exemplify the debate

about what our hobby is and should be.

There are self-described purists who still believe that we should withhold operating privileges from those who can't demonstrate Morse proficiency. They share our precious bandwidth with people who can communicate internationally on a hand held via IRLP. So here's my definition of a Ham:

With Fay bearing down on my kids in Florida, I'm listening to the hurricane net on 14.325 (nothing heard), watching the Ham generated spotting information pop up in real time on my WXSpots application and listening to Amateur manned EOCs talk to the NHC on the WX_TALK conference room on Echolink. Licensed Amateurs are donating their time, talent and treasure via all of these applications. And as the technological arts continue to evolve, Hams will likely be at the forefront, even as the radio-only crowd contends that anything that doesn't involve an RF carrier isn't Amateur Radio.

We are Communications Solutions Specialists who serve the public good by deploying robust, survivable telecommunications systems in time of need.

What does this mean? It means that when disaster strikes, Amateurs are among the first on the scene to set up emergency FM repeaters, long range low band (and satellite) communications systems and wireless broadband networks to seamlessly interconnect emergency services personnel and impacted citizens with the critical resources they need to ensure health and welfare. We are the common communication mechanism that can interconnect diverse emergency services organizations. We can provide expertise on everything from proration to CAT-5 and we have a McGyver can-do spirit that keeps the information flow going, no matter what.

In almost all disaster situations, the traditional communications and utility infrastructure is compromised. Hams have the technology and the expertise to quickly deploy applications that can reconnect effected areas with the telecom grid. It may start with FM and HF, but our HSMM laptops can relay email, pictures, video, data and voice communications even more effectively, using interfaces that are familiar and easy to operate. As WB4APR reminds us, we have our own unique text messaging infrastructure that can mirror

the button punching we do on our cell phones. With an IGate, those messages seamlessly move from our spectrum to the light speed fiber optic networks that are the backbone of the Internet.

When Dennis Dura, K2DCD spoke to our hamfest banquet, The ARRL's Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager cautioned us that the frequencies we use are worth billions to a government who likes to sell our resources to the highest bidder. The foundation of our small foothold in this space, he said, is Amateur Radio's unparalleled record of community service.

This is the story we need to keep telling over and over.

Just as spark evolved to modulated carrier, Amateur Communications in the 21st century must inevitably become an ever expanding suite of wired and wireless applications, aggregated to best serve the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Our hobby has room for everyone and this definition should not stop you from banging the Vibroplex, if that's your passion. But we should change our mindset of who we are, from Amateur Radio to Amateur Telecom.

Hams have been connected with every technological innovation from CW to the Internet. We will invariably be at the forefront as the paradigms of amateur telecommunications continue to shift.

This is the magic that attracts new blood to the hobby. And it can be the secret sauce preserves and expands the five pillars that are the foundation of the American Radio Relay League: Public service, advocacy, education, fellowship (membership) and technology.

Just as our neighbors call us first for advice on how to set up the security on their Internet routers, they can also depend on us to be there with radios, routers, antennae, solar panels, batteries and brainpower, "when all else fails".

Scott Westerman, W9WSW

September is National Preparedness Month

from:

The ARES E-Letter
August 26, 2008

Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor

Sign up your ARES group now for National Preparedness Month. Groups and individuals can register to become members by visiting and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner. <http://www.ready.gov>

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said that more than 1,200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition. Sponsored by the department's Ready Campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses, and communities on emergency preparedness.

The Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps <http://www.citizencorps.gov> are specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps. These steps include: getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.

Allen G. Pitts, WIAGP, ARRL Media and PR Manager stated: "Linking up with the Ready.gov people and participating in September's National Preparedness Month is an easy win. All you have to do is sign up. Most ARES groups are already engaged in activities that fit into their structure, so why not get credit for your actions? Of course if you do something more with this opportunity, so much the better. Go to <http://www.ready.gov>, and click on the National Preparedness Month banner."

Help Promote These Bills

from:

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE
August 21, 2008

US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, finds FCC Violated Administrative Procedure Act in its BPL Decision. The Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the APA by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. The Court also agreed with the ARRL that the Commission erred in not providing a reasoned justification for its choice of an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems and in offering "no reasoned explanation for its dismissal of empirical data that was submitted at its invitation. This means the FCC doesn't have to retract BPL just that they need to redefine it. So, where does that leave us, the Amateur population? Needing some type of legislation before the FCC can change or make any new rules.

Senate Bill (S-1629): Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007. A bill to request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband Internet transmission over power lines. Sponsor Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR) cosponsor Sen. Michael Crapo [R-ID]. Also, House of Representatives (H.R. 462): Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007 To request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband internet transmission over power lines. Sponsor Rep. Mike Ross [D-AR] and cosponsors Rep. John Barrow [D-GA], Rep. Roscoe Bartlett [R-MD], Rep. Baron Hill [D-IN], Rep. Steve Israel [D-NY], Rep. Ron Lewis [R-KY], Rep. Michael McNulty [D-NY], Rep. Tim Murphy [R-PA], Rep. Sue Myrick [R-NC], Rep. Ronald Paul [R-TX], Rep. Collin Peterson [D-MN], Rep. David Price [D-NC], **Rep. Bart Stupak [D-MI]**, Rep. Timothy Walberg [R-MI].

People, who think members of Congress or the House of Representatives pay little or no attention to constituent mail, are plain wrong. Concise, well thought out personal letters are one of the most effective ways Americans have of influencing lawmakers. But, members of

Congress and the House of Representatives get hundreds of letters and emails every day. Whether you choose to use the Postal Service or email, here are some tips that will help your letter have impact. Most of the time, we as Amateurs, write our Senators or House of Representatives complaining that a certain Act or Bill will not be good for Amateur Radio. But, this time we all need to write and let our Representatives know that we would like them to support these Bills and that we appreciate the fact that they are looking into the future of the service of Amateur Radio. If you're not sure who to write then go to the leagues web site <http://www.arrrl.org> click on Members Only and a new page will pop up with the listings of the Congressman/Congresswomen, Senators and House of Representatives in your District.

There is also a sample letter there that is already written for you. Copy and paste it into an email and fill in the appropriate places with the Representatives name, then the place with your name and information in the proper places. We must make sure we can congratulate as well as complain. Remembering that no matter what way we do it we must do it with respect to them and in confidence. Here are some examples for writing a Senator, Congressman/Congresswomen or House of Representative.

It's usually best to send letters to the Representative from your local Congressional District or the Senators from your state. Your vote helps elect them -- or not - - and that fact alone carries a lot of weight.

73

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Great Lakes Legislative Action Coordinator
Great Lakes Division

Dumbing down?

from:

Weaver's Words

August 28th 2008

James Weaver, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

I continue to hear amateurs say FCC licensing exams have become too easy. This increased easiness is blamed for a "dumbing down" of Amateur Radio.

I don't believe the licensing exams are the cause of any current problems and I'll tell you why. First, though, let's look back about 50 years ago.

Back when the Novice license was introduced, many older hams believed it would lead to the dumbing down of Amateur Radio. (Sound familiar?) In spite of their predictions, hamming continued to prosper for decades. Adding the Novice license simply made things different . . . not worse. It was a change. Many people resist change.

People who currently bemoan the dumbing down of Amateur Radio are largely the same people who benefitted from the supposedly "dumbed down" Novice license. Obviously, the dumbing down waited until after they -- and I -- were licensed.

Just how tough was this Novice (entry level) license so many say was harder than the current Technician exam? The Novice exam required four simple things. It required us to learn: how to use Ohm's law, how to calculate power, how to calculate the proper lengths of wire antennas, how to apply FCC rules pertaining to the Novice license, enough about electrical safety to avoid being electrocuted and just enough electronics theory to enable us to learn more if we wanted to learn more. This was far from being enough to earn an associate degree in electrical or electronics engineering.

We also learned how to draw the schematic for a Colpitts and a couple of other extremely simple oscillators. How many of us can still draw one of these? Moreover, who cares?

W didn't need to learn much to obtain an amateur license 50 years ago, did we?

Back then, the training manuals for the Novice, Technician and General licenses, each, were less than 1/4" thick with pages about 5 1/2" by about 7 1/2". These study guides were far from being encyclopedic in content. They contained relatively few study questions.

Compare the study guide of about 50 years ago with the study guides of today and a huge difference immediately jumps up and hits one in the face. Modern study guides are thicker than 1/2" with pages of about 8 1/2" x 11. This means even at first blush, that there is about four times as much material to study today than there was in "the good old days." A review of

the contents of current and old study guides confirms this first-blush impression is accurate.

For sake of discussion, let's assume Amateur Radio is dumbing down. Who is at fault? In my view, the main problem newbies face is a lack of knowledge of proper operating procedures, not a lack of technical knowledge (as compared with the requirements of 50 years ago). How did we OMs and OWs (Old Men and Old Women) learn proper operating? We learned them from experienced hams who took the time to guide us. We called these people "Elmers."

Elmering of newbie or wanna-be amateurs is largely a lost practice. The most unfortunate thing is that the FCC in its infinite wisdom has done nothing to help the situation under its newer rules. Still worse, too many of us old times do no more than sit back and complain about newly-licensed amateurs instead of reaching out to help them.

Rather than being a dumbing down of Amateur Radio, I suggest what we see today is a "letting down" -- a letting down of new people by us more experienced hams.

Adhering to the license manual is fine. Having 1-day crash courses for licensing is fine. I believe that what we ought to do, though, is to take the extra step needed to develop these book-taught amateurs into rounded operators.

If we do this, new inexperienced operators who have no concept of operating courtesy and ethics will become the type of new operators who had been coached by Elmers. The new people will still make mistakes, but so did we. We still do. The difference is that they as did we will understand they don't know everything and will be eager to continue to learn.

This is my opinion. What is yours?

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain. Send articles to: Steve Skauge KD8CCP@arrl.net. Permission is hereby granted for

**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.

Michigan ACC to present Webinar

from:

Weaver's Words

August 28th 2008

James Weaver, K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, will present a Webinar titled Kit Building. This Webinar will be on Monday, September 22 at 8 PM. This online session will provide an excellent introduction to kit building even for hams who are convinced kit-building is beyond their ability.

GLD members will receive an official invitation to the Webinar shortly. It will be hosted on Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar's (N3LLR) Webinar system that is graciously made available for Great Lakes Division use. Additional details of the Webinar content will also be distributed in coming days.

MICH-A-CON RF

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

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:
Mike Boileau N9NBN
(715) 251-3137
n9nbn@uplogon.com

Secretary:
Mike Bray, K8DDB
(906) 563-7020
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Treasurer:
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
(906) 771-1996
dbeurjey@msn.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2008 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 Sept is on Tuesday the 9th at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.

