

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

August 2009

In This Issue:

Words from The President

Minutes of the July 14th 2009 Meeting

Club Patches

VE Testing

Minutes of the Aug 11th 2009 Meeting

Links

Radio Shack now The Shack

ARRL President Harrison Presents Leagues Views on Distracted Driving Laws to Safety Advocacy Group

Calendar of Events

Club Activities

Club Repeaters

ARRL Responds to FCC Proposed Allocation for Medical Devices in 70 CM Band

Club Meetings
Club Officers
Reminders

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

Words from the President for August

Tom, W8JWN

I just returned from a seven-day fishing trip to Canada. This year, we had seven days of cool, cloudy and WET weather. We wore rain suits every day. We even had a fire in the cabin four nights. Quite a change from 2007, when the temperature on the cooking deck was 114 degrees one afternoon. Give me the wet and cool weather any day! The fishing was very good for walleye. I caught a 27-inch walleye. It was the biggest of my fishing career.

The only damper on the trip was that my 78-year-old brother fell getting out of the boat and injured his back. He spent 5 days in camp nursing his injury doing light camp chores. He must have had 300 laps around the table, trying to “walk” off the stiffness. The inclement weather didn't allow him to take many walks outside. Trips to the outhouse were his only lengthy walks. Unfortunately his injury only allowed him a day and a half of fishing.

Let this be a reminder to us “old” guys. As we get older, our balance and agility is waning. Heaven forbid if this would happen on the roof erecting an antenna, or even just a few feet off the ground on a tower without a harness. A fellow ham from the 1970s used to climb his 96-foot tower in the dark. He used a belt and was secure. He never had an accident. One summer he was on a ladder on his deck painting the eaves and fell five feet. He broke both hips and almost died. It took one year to recover. You just never know.

Be careful out there, as fall antenna season begins.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the July 14, 2009 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the June 9 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of July 1, 2009:

Checking - \$381.45

Regular Savings - \$2,177.30, \$915.62 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$901.11.

Petty Cash - \$0.00.

We now have 36 paid members.



Repeater Report

There is some noise on the 2-meter repeater.

Painting of the interior of the building is mostly done. The building needs cleaning.

The MIIMT packet node is in operation. Jerry, N0MR, will burn new EPROMs for the Crivitz TNCs.

ARES

The Thursday night nets are going well. Tom, W8JWN, asked if any of the new club members were interested in joining ARES.

Old Business

Field Day 2009 -

We worked 46 of 50 states and 68 of 79 ARRL sections. Scoring is as follows:

CW - 168 points

Digital - 116 points

Phone - 327 points

Total QSO Points - 611, with a multiplier of 2 = 1222

Bonus Points - 990

Total Score = 2212

A laptop hard drive crash resulted in the loss of ~ 78 logged phone QSOs. We didn't obtain bonus points for traffic handling this year. The club will provide traffic handling training before next FD.

Jay Jennings' Tower -

Tom, W8JWN, contacted Dan Weaver at ManorCare about removing the tower and beam antenna. Tom will come up with a date for a working party and Paul, KD8KUF, will try to obtain a bucket truck.

New Business

Jay Jennings' Radio Equipment -

Jay's son is donating Jay's radio equipment to the club. Tom, W8JWN, brought some of the equipment to the meeting and described what else was available. The equipment will be sold for donations to the club's Trailer Fund.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

For The Good Of The Order

Attendees discussed their recent radio related activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary
Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice President/Treasurer
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Beth Baker, KC9KVP
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK
Gary Schafer - K4FMX
Cliff Haycock - KD4ZBP - visitor

Club Patches are available from:

Mike Boileau, N9NBN
1106 Cleveland St.
Niagara, Wi. 54151

The patches are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3 ea. If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with your payment.

V.E. TESTING:

08/15 **Iron River:** 9:00am central time, at the Beef-A-Roo Restaurant in Iron River. NOTE: Pre-registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9GJ at 906 265-4240 or e-mail: dmwaters@ironriver.tv.

09/12 **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.

10/10 **Houghton:** 8:30am eastern time, V.E. Exams at Michigan Tech. University in Houghton, MI will be held in the ballroom of DHH (Douglass Houghton Hall at Michigan Tech). Free Parking in Lot #14, front of DHH, across from Wadsworth Residence Hall. Use door #9 on the South-East side of DHH. Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 if you have questions.

10/10 **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 Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

11/07 **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.

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.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club **Minutes of the August 11, 2009 Meeting**

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the July 14 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of August 1, 2009:

Checking - \$358.54

Regular Savings - \$2,177.30, \$915.62 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Wanted:

**YOUR ARTICLES, IDEAS AND
INPUT! SEND IT IN NOW TO:**

kd8ccp@arrl.net

Repeater Savings - \$901.11.
Petty Cash - \$0.00.
We now have 37 paid members.

Repeater Report

The repeater has been quieter.
The building needs cleaning.

ARES

Tom, W8JWN, will bring forms and take photos at the September meeting for anyone wishing to become a member of ARES.

Old Business

Field Day 2009 –

All required information has been submitted to the ARRL.

Jay Jennings' Tower –

There will be a work party on Monday, August 17th at 4:00 pm at ManorCare to take down the beam and tower. Paul, KD8KUF, will provide a bucket truck.

Jay Jennings' Radio Equipment –

Tom, W8JWN, donated \$25.00 to the Trailer Fund in return for some of Jay's equipment. Gary, K4FMX, brought some of Jay's equipment to the meeting, asking for donations to the Trailer Fund. A few of Jay's items will be offered for sale on Ebay.

New Business

Lighthouse Operating Event –

Pete Treml, K8PT, invited us to participate in Lighthouse Weekend, August 15-16 by operating from the Marquette Lighthouse.

Contact Pete at k8pt@arrl.net.

Information for Lighthouse Weekend is on <http://ILLW.net>

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

For The Good Of The Order

Attendees discussed their recent radio related activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF
Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice
President/Treasurer
Bob Uren, KC8TWG
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES

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/>

RadioShack Rebranding Itself as The Shack:

from:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 32 August 14, 2009

In early August, a RadioShack Corporation news release touted its new branding: THE SHACK.

The stated purpose: THE SHACK is friendlier-sounding and less "corporate" than RadioShack.

ARRL PRESIDENT HARRISON PRESENTS LEAGUE'S VIEWS ON DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS TO SAFETY ADVOCACY GROUP

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 32
August 14, 2009

To ensure that Amateur Radio is not an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written a letter to the National Safety Council(NSC) <http://www.nsc.org> highlighting issues regarding the use of Amateur Radio emergency communications devices in vehicles <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf>.

Many states have outlawed the use of cell phones while driving; some states with these laws have ambiguous wording (such as "mobile communication devices" or "mobile electronic devices") concerning the use of Amateur Radio while driving.

According to their Web site, the NSC is "on a mission" to "alert the American public that different kinds of distractions have different levels of crash risk. Talking on a cell phone and sending text messages are much higher risk activities that occur for longer durations and with more people than most other actions engaged in while driving." They also seek to "lead a change in our nation's cultural norms, so people come to view cell phone conversations and text messaging while driving as unsafe and socially unacceptable. Calling for a legislative ban on these activities is the first step in a long-term process to educate Americans to their risk and change the culture" <http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/distracted_driving.aspx>.

Harrison explained to NSC President Janet Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, it boils down to the difference between simplex -- when only one message can be sent in either direction at one time -- and duplex -- a communications mode, such as a telephone system, that provides simultaneous transmission and reception in both directions. Harrison, citing Sumner's 40-plus years of experience as an Amateur Radio operator, puts it this way: "Simplex, two-way radio operation is simply different than duplex, cell phone use. Two-way radio operation in moving vehicles has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that."

Harrison attached a copy of the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation

to the letter to the NSC. "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles," the Policy Statement reads. "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times. See the Policy Statement on the ARRL Web site:

<<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>>

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for September 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 ARES	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8 Meeting	9	10 ARES	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 ARES	18	19 Club Breakfast
20	21	22	23	24 ARES	25	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.

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 Call Sign	Offset	PL Tone	
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 444.85 repeater is a GE Master Pro with 30 watts output.

The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet.

To use the Auto Patch, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch ON code and let up on your mic. You will then hear a dial tone. Key your mic and dial your number. The phone should then ring. When you complete your call, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch OFF code and the phone call will terminate. Club members will be given Auto Patch codes on request.

ARRL RESPONDS TO FCC'S PROPOSED ALLOCATION FOR MEDICAL DEVICES IN 70 CM BAND

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 32
August 14, 2009

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, on behalf of the ARRL, filed comments on August 11 regarding a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 09-36, issued by the FCC in March 2009 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf>.

In the NPRM, the FCC proposed to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices -- called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators -- would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). These devices would be used on the 70 cm band on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Data Radiocommunication Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules. The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

Researchers with the Alfred Mann Foundation -- a leading medical research organization located in Santa Clarita, California <<http://www.aemf.org/>> -- have developed a wireless medical micro-power network to tie together tiny devices implanted in victims of paralysis, creating an artificial nervous system to restore sensation, mobility, and function to paralyzed limbs and organs. "The Mann Foundation argues that the frequency range just above 400 MHz is optimum for their application, which requires no more than 1 mW of RF spread across about 5 MHz of bandwidth," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote in "It Seems to Us," published in the June 2009 issue of QST <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/06/01/10784/>>. "However, recognizing the presence of a variety of incumbent radio services in that range, specifically including the amateur service, they have proposed four channels for flexibility in avoiding localized interference. Two of the four channels are 426-432 and 438-444 MHz; the other two are above and below the 420-450 MHz band."

In its comments to the FCC regarding the NPRM, the ARRL said it believes that the choice of frequency bands for MMNs as proposed is "unfortunate and unnecessary" and that "the WMTS [Wireless Medical Telemetry Service] offers a far more suitable solution than does the 413-457 MHz band for MMNs."

Sumner, in his editorial, said that the FCC's proposed rules raise two concerns: "First and foremost, the devices would be required to accept interference only from stations authorized to operate on a primary basis. The Mann Foundation has assured us that amateur stations will not cause its system to malfunction, so we see no reason why this cannot be reflected in the rules, even though our allocation is on a secondary basis. Second, while the Mann Foundation researchers appear to have done their homework, others who try to take advantage of the new rules may not be as rigorous."

The ARRL asserts in its comments that due to redundant interference rejection design, the devices developed by the Alfred Mann Foundation "appear to have some reasonable prospect of avoiding the disastrous consequences of RF interference to implanted MMNs." The ARRL stressed, however, that the FCC should not permit the marketing of MMNs or any similar device in the 420-450 MHz band: "(1) unless and until thorough RF interference susceptibility testing is conducted on the AMF devices relative to high power Amateur Radio equipment; (2) at parameters other than those inherent in the Mann system, which incorporates notably redundant interference rejection design characteristics; and (3) without very specific patient notifications and labeling of the body-worn MCUs [Master Control Units] and other portable components which provide firm assurance that the devices will not malfunction in the presence of RF fields from authorized radio services in the same bands."

The ARRL did acknowledge that it thought the Commission to be correct when it stated in the NPRM that "[g]iven the low transmitter power and duty cycle limits that would typically be used by either the implanted MMN device or the external MCU, we expect that the risk of interference from MMNs to incumbent operations in these frequency bands would be negligibly small." The ARRL pointed out, however, that no testing has been done to verify this conclusion and "such testing should be concluded and the results analyzed before this anticipatory conclusion can be relied upon."

In its comments, the ARRL made note of the fact that there is Part 90 spectrum above 450 MHz available for low-power biomedical telemetry, but "the Alfred Mann Foundation argues that bands between 450 and 470 MHz are unsuitable due to the fact that the band is 'congested and

populated with commercial, high-power transmitters that could preclude reliable operation of lower-power, wireless medical implant devices.' This, the ARRL said, "is a very worrisome contention, and not the argument that should be made by the proponent of a new service that is secondary to other incumbent licensees. ARRL contends that if the 450-470 MHz band hosts services that are incompatible with reliable operation of MMNs, then the 420-450 MHz band, and especially the segment proposed for MMNs at 438-444 MHz is equally incompatible with MMNs."

Pointing out that Amateur Radio television transmitters and repeaters and FM voice repeater input and outputs operate in this segment in particular, "the potential for interference to MMNs is on the same order, or worse, than would be the case if MMNs were to operate in the Part 90 biomedical telemetry band between 450 and 470 MHz," the ARRL told the FCC. "In the segment 426-432 MHz, amateur television stations transmit on a wide bandwidth basis. Amateur Radio stations are permitted to operate at power levels up to 1500 W PEP output, and the RF environment at 420-450 MHz, with primary government radiolocation facilities and highpower amateur facilities is no more conducive to reliable MMN operation than would be the 450-470 MHz band."

The ARRL also voiced concerns that nowhere in the NPRM does it mention what the allocation status of MMNs would be relative to the Amateur Radio Service. Though the Alfred Mann Foundation has proposed that MMNs would be secondary to incumbent licensed operations in the subject bands, the Amateur Service is presently secondary to government radiolocation in this band; this represents a cooperative sharing arrangement that is satisfactory to both government agencies and the Amateur Service, the League contends.

"While it is presumed that the proposal is for MMNs to be secondary to both government radiolocation and to the Amateur Service (as opposed to Amateur stations and MMNs being co-secondary) this is not clear from the NPRM," the ARRL maintained. "Because the interference susceptibility of MMN devices generally is not known, it would be improper to create a co-secondary allocation for MMNs anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band at this time. The Amateur Service has a practical inability to protect patients wearing RF susceptible MMNs from interference from ongoing amateur operations in the 420-450 MHz band, and therefore all MMN operation is going to have to be conditioned on the ability to withstand and operate in the presence of such high-power signals, and thus subordinate in allocation status to the Amateur Service. Unless this interference rejection capability is demonstrated by MMN proponents in advance, the devices should not be allowed to operate anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band."

Imlay and ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with the Alfred Mann Foundation in February 2009, but Imlay said that so far, they have not responded to the ARRL's request to "cooperate in a firm statement that their devices would not malfunction in the presence of nearby RF signals from Amateur Radio stations. Failing that, these comments reflect our continuing concern about the effect on implant patients from unpredictably close Amateur Radio station operations. Other radio services affected, both above and below the 430-450 MHz band, are taking similar positions."

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
mikebray@chartermi.net

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2009 are payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Mike Boileau, N9NBN at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The Sept Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tues Sept 8th 2009.

MICH-A-CON RF

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

