

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

August 2010

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

THE QMN: A Celebration of the First Traffic Net.

From:

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager : Dale R Williams, WA8EFK

The year 2010 will mark an important anniversary in the History of Amateur Radio: The birth of the first public service net and it happened here in Michigan.

Before the implementation of a net concept, radiogram traffic and emergency communications activity was conducted on a system of schedules and random contacts. Radiogram traffic moved across the country on "Trunk Line" networks staffed on a daily basis by "iron man" traffic handlers. From these key stations, traffic was routed to its destination via individual schedules, directional "CQ" requests, and similar techniques. The ARRL "Amateur Radio Emergency Corps," "National Traffic System," and similar programs had not yet emerged.

This all changed during the autumn of 1935 when members of the Detroit Amateur Radio Association (DARA) formed the Michigan Net and adopted the net call "QMN." The plan was simple and elegant in concept. Using the relatively new technology of crystal control, radio amateurs from throughout the State of Michigan would gather on a single "spot frequency" to exchange radiogram traffic and coordinate emergency communications response to disasters. A QMN Committee

standardized the procedures and created the familiar “QN-Signals” so familiar to generations of traffic handlers. With the creation of QMN, the modern traffic net was born.

This year, QMN will celebrate its Diamond Anniversary with a very special event! A 75th Anniversary Banquet will be held at Owosso, Michigan on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Activities include:

* A special event station on 7055 KHz and 3563 KHz using the call K8QMN. This special event station will use vintage equipment from the 1930s and '40s. Visitors will have an opportunity to sit down at the key and experience QSOs using 1930s era receivers.

* A presentation entitled “An Early History of Radio” will be featured along with a talk on the history of QMN.

* Long-time members will reminisce about their experiences in Amateur Radio.

* Vintage radio equipment will be on display for all to enjoy.

* A working Morse Telegraph Circuit will be available on site for those who would like to see land-line telegraphy and American Morse Code in use.

*A special commemorative booklet will be provided to each attendee. This commemorative booklet will include an excellent history of QMN written by the Don Devendorf, W8EGI (SK), along with an introduction covering the early history of Amateur Radio.

QMN members both past and present are invited to attend, as are all radio amateurs with an interest in the history of Amateur Radio and the history of public service communications. Those wishing to attend this event should request a registration form from James Wades, WB8SIW at the following e-mail: jameswades@gmail.com .

You don't want to miss this celebration to be held on October 23, 2010 at the Comstock Inn, Owosso, Michigan.

Wanted:

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

kd8cep@arrl.net

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the August 10, 2010 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the July 13 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of August 1, 2010:

Checking - \$287.97

Regular Savings - \$1,844.66, \$309.42 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$779.93

Petty Cash - \$15.10 from sale of club patches.

Repeater Report

No problems to report.

ARES

The ARES Net has been active, but attendance is down. The NWS in Marquette commented that they appreciate our participation in storm spotting.

Old Business

Field Day 2010 –

Tom Martin reported that the Field Day report has been submitted to the ARRL.

Club Trailer –

Tom Martin gave the trailer title to Burt Armbrust, our treasurer. Burt reported on work that has been done on the trailer.

Club Programs –

September – QSLing by Mike Bray and Tom Martin (remaining portion of presentation that was cut short at the August meeting.)

October - PSK review by Art Costa.

New Business

Veteran's Day Special Event –

The Special Event will take place at 1800 UTC (noon CST) on Wednesday November 10th though 1800 UTC (noon CST) on Friday November 12th. Setup will be in the morning of November 10th. Information has been provided to the ARRL for publication. Information will also be provided on the club website.

Repeater Linking –

Jim Rye and LeRoy Anderson reported on a Repeater Linking meeting that took place during the Escanaba Hamfest. It is desired that repeaters in Dickinson, Menominee, Florence and Iron Counties be linked for emergency communications purposes. Attendees of the meeting were: Jim Rye, LeRoy Anderson, Lou Gembolis, Pete Johnson and Dale Williams.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Club Presentation

Mike Bray made a presentation on QSLing. The presentation was interrupted due to the library closing at 8 p.m.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary
Tom Heyboer, KC8LKO
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP
Barry Perron, KC9NFT
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Michael Byers, KD8OAH
Jim Rye, W8IFI
LeRoy Anderson, N8WQG



Field Day 2010

Club Patches are available from:

Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
693 Cliff St.
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876
The patches are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3 ea.
If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with your payment.



Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for September 2010

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Labor</i> <i>Day</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> <i>Meeting</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <i>BREAK</i> <i>FAST</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		

Club Activities:

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

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and Prospective Members are always welcome.

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 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	OFFSET	PLTONE	CALLSIGN
146.850	Minus	-	WA8FXQ
444.850	Plus	100 Hz	WA8FXQ

Repeater Specifications:

The 146.85 repeater is a Melco Hi Pro (built from a kit in the 1970s) with 25 watts output. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet

V.E. TESTING:

09/11 **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.

10/09 **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.

10/09 **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.

11/06 **Iron Mountain:** 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library (conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 776-1553. 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.

FCC Reaffirms 2×2 Call Signs Are Only for Advanced, Amateur Extra License Classes

From:

ARRL Web Site: <http://www.arrl.org/news>

08/31/2010

In May 2010, John Gottschalk, KB1DDK, of Westwood, Massachusetts, requested a new call sign via the FCC's vanity call sign program. Gottschalk, a General class licensee, requested KK1CQ -- a 2×2 call sign -- and a waiver from the Commission allowing him to hold the call sign. The [FCC denied both requests](#) on Tuesday, August 31, 2010.



Per [Section 97.19\(d\)](#) of the Commission's Rules, an applicant may request a vanity call sign from only the group of call signs corresponding to the same or lower class of operator license held by the applicant, as designated in the sequential call sign system. Hence, Gottschalk is not eligible to hold a 2×2 call sign (a Group B call sign), as these call signs are reserved and assignable only to Amateur Extra Class and Advanced Class licensees. As such, he requested a waiver to hold the call sign; Gottschalk told the FCC that the previous holder of KK1CQ was a close friend of his whom he wished to memorialize.

“When the Commission implemented the vanity call sign system, it provided that no licensee could receive a vanity call sign corresponding to a higher license class, because this would be [unfair to other licensees who passed the examination for that license class](#),” the FCC stated in its letter to Gottschalk. “The Commission also concluded that it was reasonable to require the licensee to upgrade to the requisite license class in order to be eligible for the desired call sign. We conclude that grant of your waiver request is not appropriate because you have not shown that you could not or cannot upgrade to an Amateur Extra Class operator license. We also conclude that grant of the waiver would not be in the public interest because it would deprive other, eligible licensees of the opportunity to request this call sign.”

Youth@HamRadio.Fun: A 2010 Youth DX Adventure

From the ARRL Web Site: <http://www.arrl.org/news>

08/30/2010

*By Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM
ARRL Youth Editor
ku0dm@arrl.net*

I desperately wanted to go on a DXpedition before I turned 18. I know not many kids my age have had the opportunity to travel abroad, let alone travel abroad for the sole purpose of doing something you love. So when Don DuBon, N6JRL, first contacted me, informing me that there was a possibility that [I could accompany a group of young operators to Costa Rica](#), I was dumb struck. Having never left the country, the idea of going to Costa Rica was by itself exhilarating, and then Don dropped the bomb: We'd be operating from the TI5N superstation. He informed me that I would get to choose a chaperon to accompany me, and naturally I chose my uncle, mentor and friend Brian Short, KC0BS.

I was dreading the wait from when Don first contacted me in February to the actual trip date in July; I knew the time would just crawl by. With every e-mail or phone call with Don, I became more and more anxious for the date of the trip. Fortunately, between school and summer fun, the time flew by and before I knew it, we were checking in at Kansas City International airport for a flight to meet the team in Atlanta. Brian and I arrived in Atlanta right as our flight to San Jose was boarding, so when we reached the terminal, we only had a few moments to exchange greetings with our fellow team members before boarding for San Jose. The flights themselves are blurs, as I spent most of them fast asleep.

What stands out the most in my mind was landing in San Jose and stepping off the plane and realizing I wasn't in America -- the trip I had fantasized about was now reality. Our hosts, Keko and Sophia Diez, had arranged transportation from the airport to the station and I spent the entire car ride scanning the horizon for signs of ham radio. Finally, I caught sight of Keko's aluminum jungle and I slipped into a daydream of running pile-ups of Europe and Africa using the many beams and wires. The first afternoon there was spent settling in, looking around, making a smattering of contacts and enjoying a marimba band to open what would be a phenomenal few days.

Friday started off with some lessons in DXing by Keko. Having many years of experience, he had many good suggestions and operating tips to share before cutting us loose. He began with a word of warning that most of what we knew about propagation from the Midwest wouldn't help us in Costa Rica. While it may take a lifetime to truly understand propagation, Keko compressed everything he knew into 30 minutes. He taught us tricks for determining what band was open where, how to ride the grey line and how to make the best of bad conditions.

The first day was another flurry of activity, spent mostly setting up the equipment and getting everything running smoothly. There were a few moments that almost felt like Field Day, but as the Sun began to set, everything had started coming together nicely. I had been on 17 meters earlier in the day operating some CW, having fun working a handful of European stations mixed in with North Americans. The party really started as it grew dark and I hopped over to 40 meters. Keko has a 2-element delta loop beam on 40 that covers North America and Europe very nicely, and after a few CQs on CW, I was hit with a wall of Europeans. I had never heard so much DX at once, and had never operated a pile-up so big. The first few moments were rather clumsy; however, once I settled into a rhythm, I spent the next two hours working a steady pile-up of Eastern Europe and occasionally calling for North America.

On Saturday, we ventured into San Jose for a trip to the market and some site seeing. I didn't know what to expect, being in the capital of a foreign country, but it seemed to be similar to many of the big cities in America. I did, however, note many big differences, the main one being how pedestrian-friendly the city is. Almost everyone walks, with only a few streets for vehicles. The people are very friendly and very courteous, and although the city was packed being the weekend, it had a very calming atmosphere. San Jose is very beautiful city -- you're surrounded on all sides by beautiful buildings and there is always a view of the mountains in the distance.

We returned to the station around 2 that afternoon, and it was back to the grind stone! The team decided that we should construct a better operating schedule than what we had been doing (a very loose rotation), and we spent most of the afternoon and dinner figuring times out. Once we had that little bit of business out of the way, it was off to the races. Conditions were not the best; however, 40 meters was once again phenomenal for CW. Since we only had 24 hours of operating left, the radios were kept busy almost the entire time, including a few determined souls (myself not being one of them) who stayed up all night to operate.

Overall, it was an incredible experience. For my first trip abroad, Costa Rica could not have been a better destination. I fell in love with the people and lifestyle, and most of all the weather (when Brian and I left Kansas City it was 90 degrees at only 5 AM). It was also a very educational trip. Operating from a different location gave me a deeper understanding of propagation and Keko had some awesome pointers that I had never considered. I yearn to return to Costa Rica to take in the scenery, culture and most of all play radio. Operating from Costa Rica has whetted my appetite for travel and adventure, and taught me that wherever you go in the world, you will always find friends in Amateur Radio.

Thanks for reading, and hope you all have a great month!

73--

--Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM

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:
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer:
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
(906) 774-8383
wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2010 were 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, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The September Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue Sept 14th, 2010. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM

MICH-A-CON RF

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