

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

August 2011

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

## Hams from North Carolina to Maine Provide Communication Support Before, During and After Hurricane Irene

from:

The ARRL web site:

<http://www.arrl.org>

09/01/2011

Hurricane Irene -- the first major hurricane of the 2011 hurricane season -- left extensive flood and wind damage along its path through the Caribbean, the East Coast of the United States and as far north as Atlantic Canada. Beginning on August 20 as then-Tropical Storm Irene [headed toward Puerto Rico](#), radio amateurs were already on alert.

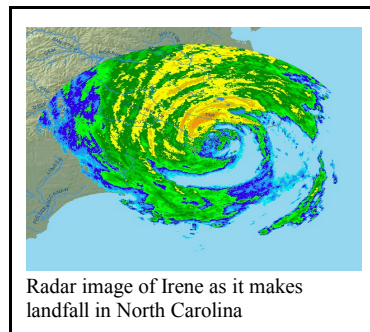
### W1AW

Irene first made landfall in the US as a Category 1 storm on the morning of Saturday, August 27 on North Carolina's Outer Banks. In preparation, ARRL Emergency

Preparedness Manager

Mike Corey, W5MPC, activated the ARRL HQ Emergency Response Team (HQERT). On Tuesday, August 23, this team of ARRL HQ staffers began monitoring various nets and providing support to the affected Field Organizations from [W1AW](#), the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. Two days later, the HQERT went into active mode.

Radio amateurs at W1AW provided reports to the Hurricane



Watch Net ([HWN](#)) and the Voice over Internet Protocol Weather Net ([VOIPWX](#)), who in turn relayed these reports to [WX4NHC](#), the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. W1AW also checked in to nets run by the *Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network* ([SATERN](#)) and the East Coast Amateur Radio Service ([ECARS](#)). Hams at W1AW were also active reporting into the National Weather Service office in Taunton, Massachusetts.

“We began monitoring Irene and communicating with Section leadership several days before the storm made landfall,” Corey said. “The level of preparedness from the amateur community was quite high. Hams were ready to go when called on to assist their communities.”

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q said that activity at W1AW was centered on the voice nets that were active on 80, 40 and 20 meters: “In addition, W1AW was connected to the ‘WX\_TALK’ EchoLink weather net. We also monitored the 2 meter Connecticut ARES net, and W1AW’s EchoLink conference server -- normally used by hams to monitor the station’s daily broadcasts -- was made available to those in the ARRL Field Organization who were in Irene’s path.”

Carcia said that W1AW’s IRLP node, D-STAR and Winlink were also monitored during the storm, but saw no traffic. W1AW was on the air for 31 hours, from 7 AM on Saturday, August 27 through 2 PM the next day, utilizing all three studios. The ARRL is still in the process of gathering reports from the affected 17 Sections.

“I would like to thank all of those involved in the response to Irene. The ARES® members, Field Organization leaders, net control stations and the amateurs assisting our served agencies all did an amazing job,” Corey said. “I also have to say thanks to those that helped staff W1AW over the weekend. They made it possible to stay in touch with those in the field and assist locally as Irene impacted Connecticut. Thank you all for a job well done.”

## **New York**

In Greene County, New York -- located about 25 miles south of Albany, the state capital -- hams are currently active, providing communication support to the County Emergency Operations Center. According to Greene County Emergency Coordinator Len Signoretti, N2LEN, Irene “took out” portions of the towns of Prattsville and Windham. “We’ve seen a tremendous amount of property damage throughout the county,” Signoretti told the ARRL. “With the help of hams from Greene, Ulster, Rensselaer, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, we are supporting the Greene County Emergency Services.”

Signoretti explained that when the County Emergency Services activated the Greene County ARES® group, he called Tom Cody, WE2G, to ask if he could borrow the Ulster County ARES® emergency communications trailer. “We have that trailer in Greene County, supporting command centers in the towns of Jewett, Ashland and Lexington, as well as in the village of Tannersville” he explained. “We expect to be providing support through Sunday, September 4.”

## **North Carolina**

North Carolina ARRL Section Manager Bill Morine, N2COP, told the ARRL that his home was a mere 60 miles west of the eye of the storm: The storm passed us by about 4 AM on Saturday. We lost power at that point for about five minutes, but by morning, 54 percent of homes in Wilmington had lost power. Irene made landfall as a Category 1 storm near Morehead City, North Carolina, which is about 90 miles northeast of me. There is considerable flooding and damage 100-200 miles northeast of me. North Carolina ARES was used minimally, as most County Emergency Operations Centers kept power and commercial communications. Irene is my

eighth hurricane in the 20 years I've lived by Wrightsville Beach, where many a Weather Channel reporter does their reports.”

### **Massachusetts**

The Emergency Operations Center for the City of Boston requested assistance from radio amateurs. According to ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Official Emergency Station Mike Neilson, W1MPN, this is the first time ever that this has happened in a storm situation. Neilson told the ARRL that WX1BOX, the Amateur Radio station at the NWS office in Taunton, was active during the storm.

“The SKYWARN operations at the Taunton NWS office was secured on Sunday, August 28, as were three ARES® operations -- in Bridgewater in Southeastern Massachusetts, one on Cape Cod and another in Brookline, just outside of Boston,” he said. “Eastern Massachusetts ARES® remained in a stand-by status until Tuesday, awaiting deployment to Western Massachusetts.”

Neilson told the ARRL that hams in the ARRL's Eastern Massachusetts Section supported shelters operated by the American Red Cross in Salem, Dedham, Attleboro, Weymouth, Bridgewater, Falmouth and on Nantucket Island, as well as seven shelters on Cape Cod and another shelter at Otis Air Force Base.

### **Looking Ahead**

Throughout its path, Irene caused widespread destruction and at least 54 deaths. But close on Irene's heels, forecasters are keeping an eye on Hurricane Katia, currently a Category 1 storm. As of 11 AM EDT on Thursday, September 1, Katia is located about 1050 miles east of the Northern Leeward Islands; it is moving west at 18 MPH, with maximum sustained winds topping 75 MPH with higher gusts. No coastal watches or warnings are currently in effect. Forecasters say that they expect Katia to strengthen in the next 48 hours and could become a major hurricane by this coming weekend. The NHC defines a hurricane as a major hurricane when it reaches Category 3.

## **Special Event Stations Mark Tenth Anniversary of 9/11**

from:

The ARRL Letter

September 1, 2011

08/30/2011

In remembrance of those who died in the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, several Amateur Radio Special Event Stations are being planned.

The Pentagon Amateur Radio Club, K4AF, will be on the air 7 AM-9 PM Saturday, September 10 (1100-0100 UTC, Saturday, September 10 through Sunday, September 11). Active operating frequencies will be posted during event on the K4AF website. (<http://www.k4af.org/>) This Special Event is to honor all those lost on September 11, 2001, with special remembrance of the 184 people who lost their lives at the Pentagon and on board American Airlines Flight 77.

The Blair Amateur Radio Society, W3PN, will be operating N3U/FLT93 from September 8-15 in memoriam of United Flight 93 that crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This year's activity will take place during tenth anniversary and the Memorial Dedication for the Victims of United Flight 93. To receive a QSL card, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Blair Amateur Radio Society, W3PN, 112 E Wopsonnock Ave, Altoona, PA 16601.

The Northeast Wireless Radio Club, N2WC, will be on the air Sunday, September 11 from 12 noon until 6 PM EDT (1700-2300 UTC). NWRC members will be operating in the General class bands on Phone, CW and Digital; please check the clusters for frequency updates. You can receive a Special Event QSL card when you send a \$2 donation to Northeast Wireless Radio Club, 213-37 39th Avenue, Suite 175, Bayside, NY 11361.

The Kings County Repeater Association, KC2RA, will be on the air 9 AM-5 PM EDT (1300-2100 UTC) on Saturday, September 10. Look for KC2RA on 7.250 and 14.295 MHz, as well as EchoLink node 132967 (KC2LEB-R) and the KC2RA repeater at 146.430 (CTCSS 136.5). KC2RA members will be offering a special QSL card for the event. To receive a card, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to KC2RA 9/11 Memorial Event, PO Box 280288, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0288.

The Symbol Technologies Amateur Radio Club, W2SBL, will be on the air September 10-11 on the following frequencies: 3.911, 7.240, 14.070 and 50.135 MHz, as well as D-STAR REF10C. STARC members will read the name of a person killed in the attacks with every QSO. A Special Event QSL card is available when you send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Symbol Technologies Amateur Radio Club, W2SBL, One Motorola Plaza, B-13, Holtsville, NY 11742.

The dates, times and frequencies of these Special Event Stations are listed as they were reported to the ARRL, and as such are subject to change. This list will be updated as more Special Event Stations notify ARRL HQ of their plans. We recommend that you bookmark this page and check back periodically for any additions. For a listing of all Special Event Stations, please see the

[ARRL Special Event Stations web page. \(http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations\)](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations)



**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 each.

If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with your payment.



**V.E. TESTING:**

**11/05 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.**

**09/10 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 906 249-3837or e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net).**

**10/8 Houghton: 8:30am eastern time, The Zion Lutheran Church, 400 Ingot St Hancock, Mi. Go north on hwy 41 (Quincy Hill) near the lookout. Turn left on Ingot up about one block. The church is on the left hand side of the street. This is a barrier free entrance for the handicapped Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 or email: [wa8qnf@arrl.net](mailto:wa8qnf@arrl.net) if you have questions.**

**10/8 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](mailto:hsj99@charter.net) Vec: ARRL/VECLocation: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave Gladstone, Mi. 49837.**

**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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting**

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

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurer Report**

Balances as of July 31, 2011:

Checking - \$ 6.90

Regular Savings - \$ 3,604.81 of which \$ 2,021.82 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$ 1,157.22

Petty Cash - \$ 44.20

### **Repeater Report**

The power company reported that 40' of feed line to one of our antennas is flopping in the wind and is in poor condition. Treasurer Burt made cable ties which need to be installed. A volunteer climber is needed to do this. President Tom will contact Bob Myers to discuss the issue.

## **ARES**

The net has been meeting regularly every Thursday at 6:30pm on 146.850 repeater.

### **Old Business**

Secretary Paul reported the final vote count for the two proposed amendments to the club's constitution under Section 6, removal of members. 18 Yes votes, 0 No votes, 17 didn't vote, 35 voting members. Therefore the motion passed by majority vote.

Field Day: Terry Moriarity suggested the Florence County fairgrounds be considered for next year. The site committee will visit it.

Treasurer Burt displayed excellent organizational skills by demonstrating a 40 meter dipole antenna wrapped on a spool and tremendous thrift ability because the whole thing cost \$0! The goal is to organize all dipole antennas on spools. Terry Moriarity and Treasurer Burt will build a new 40 meter bazooka antenna.

Secretary Paul reported on the availability of a CPR class. Those expressing interest in attending an October class were Jim Riverside along with four Civil Air Patrol cadets and Tom Heyboer.

Reminder: Herb Pahlow, KD9SY from Dunbar, WI is visually impaired and is looking for a used HF rig with audio frequency read out, etc. Herb wants to get back into Ham radio and any help would be greatly appreciated. He can be reached at 715-324-5325.

### **New Business**

November 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day operator volunteers are Terry Moriarity, Treasurer Burt, Vice President Scott (?), Tom Heyboer and Joe Ferris which will be at Pine Mountain.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

### **For the Good of the Order**

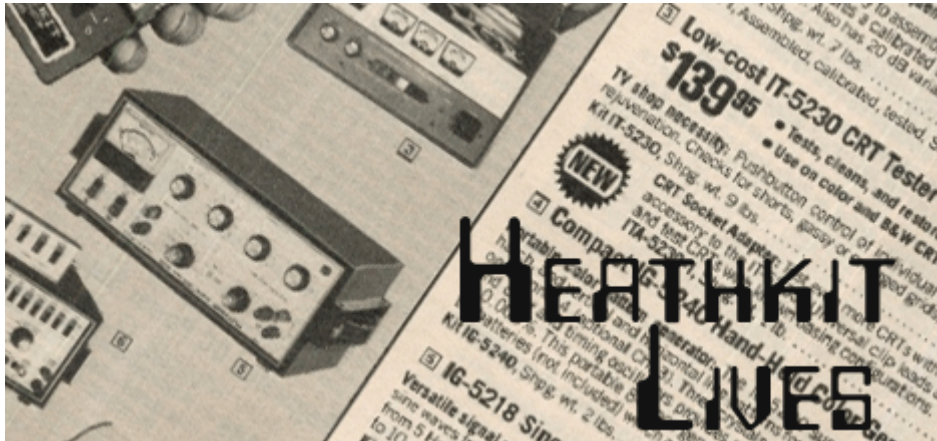
Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Paul Schultz

### **Attendees**

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President  
Burt Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer  
Paul Schultz – KD8KUF - Secretary  
Dana L Bey, KD8POR  
Gary Schafer, K4FMX  
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY  
Jim Riverside, K8ABS  
Tom Heyboer, KC8TH  
Nate Meiras, KD8GLP

**Heathkit Lives:**  
From:  
An email sent in by Nate, KD8GLP



Although now it's impossible for a DIY nut to build electronics for less money than a factory, this wasn't always the case. For 45 years, Heathkit produced inexpensive kits for just about everything. Heathkit closed its kit business in 1992, but [now they're back](http://heathkit.com). (<http://heathkit.com>) They're starting out with a few DIY kits at first, namely an ultrasonic garage parking assistant and a wireless swimming pool monitor.

Heathkit is calling all builders to submit their ideas for future kits. While this comeback rings of [some other outlets](#) with a rich heritage, Heathkit is still remembered fondly; Barry Goldwater jetted out to the Heath HQ [twice a year](#) for kits. Not many people are that attached to Realistic and Optimus gear.

If you're wondering about the kind of stuff Heathkit offered, feel free to check out the [1984 catalog](#) that features computers with 128kB of RAM available for only \$1899.00 (yes, a very competitive price)

Tip 'o the hat to [Jeffrey Bail (N1BMX)].

# Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

My vacations have come to an end. Canada was very enjoyable, as usual. Lots of fish and card playing. Caught some nice fish but lost at cards. Las Vegas, was very, very good to me this summer. Had some great wins at video poker and came home a big winner! Now, to keep it!!!

Alpha amp update: Gary, K4FMX, came over and we checked the amp. Of course, it didn't go to FAULT in front of him! We found that there is nothing really wrong with the amp. I just have to make sure that, when I change bands, that I have the band switch contacts seated. ( I don't know if "seated" is the right term. It's the only thing I could think of at the time.) Anyway, if the amp continues to work on all bands, I will save approximately \$500 by not sending it to Colorado for repair.

GM Communications has installed the coax for the HF rig at the Dickinson County EOC. We have to assemble the antenna, connect the Kenwood TS-2000, and power supply and we're ready to go on the HF bands. The new Icom duo-bander will also be installed, as well as the new VHF antenna. This should be done before the snow flies.

K8V will be in operation November 10-13. Kiwanis Ski Club president Jim McHugh has given the club tentative permission to use their club house again. I wrote a letter to the ski club that stated our position on the veterans Day operation. It will be presented at their meeting on September 13. That is the same evening as our Mich-A-Con meeting.

Randy, KD9ZES, contacted me about the possibility of a ham radio class at the VA hospital. They have a new administrator that might be open to the class. More at the next meeting.

Now, that fall is just around the corner, Dxpeditons are planned for some exotic locales. Be sure to listen for the following DX countries:

Rotuma Island, 3D2CJ, located in the Fijan island group will be on in September.

Timor-Leste, 4W6A, located in the Indonesia island group, will be active in September.

Palau, T88UE, located 500 miles east of the Philippines, will be in September as well.

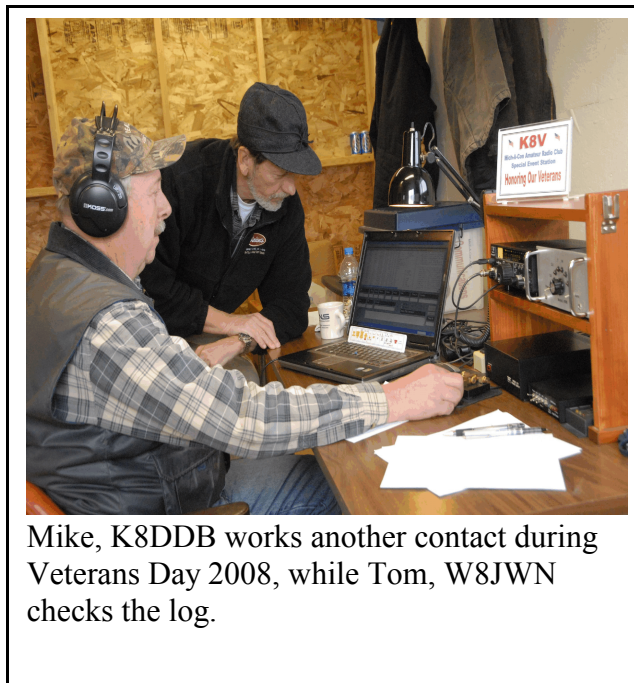
These won't be new countries for me but I need for different bands and modes.

There are now 341 entities on the DXCC list. I have worked 335 of them. I need Bouvet Island, Eritrea, Malpelo Island, Heard Island, Union of Myanmar, and Yemen to have worked them all. Malpelo and Heard will be activated in the next two years.

Skip has worked 340 but has missed North Korea. I have that one!

See you at the next meeting.

73, Tom



Mike, K8DDB works another contact during Veterans Day 2008, while Tom, W8JWN checks the log.



***Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for September 2011***

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

<b>OUTPUT</b>	<b>OFFSET</b>	<b>PLTONE</b>	<b>CALLSIGN</b>
<b>146.850</b>	<b>Minus</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>WA8FXQ</b>
<b>444.850</b>	<b>Plus</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	<b>WA8FXQ</b>

**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

### 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](mailto:tmartin@chartermi.net)

Vice President:  
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF  
[s\\_jarmusch@yahoo.com](mailto:s_jarmusch@yahoo.com)

Secretary:  
Paul Schultz KD8KUF  
(906) 774-8900  
[pauls@schultzequipment.com](mailto:pauls@schultzequipment.com)

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

### Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2011 were payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue September 13th 2011. 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**