

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

September 2007

In This Issue:

Veterans Day Special Event Set
Words From The President
Repeater Equipment Moved
Minutes of the Sept 11th Meeting
Michigan Hams Activated Due to Storms
Rep Bart Stupak Supports Amateur Radio: HR 462
FCC Issues Citations Concerning Power Line Noise Case
ARRL and Background Checks
VE Testing
Calendar and Activities
ARRL Continuing Education
Dayton ARA Looking to Honor Silent Keys
ARRL Receives MARS Call Sign
Get Ready for the Second Annual ARRL On-Line Auction
Hams Named to Key NASA Positions
Links, Repeaters & Membership Forms
Meeting Times & Reminders
Club Officers

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

Veterans Day Special Event Set for November 9th - 12th 2007

Tom Martin, W8JWN announced at the September Mich-A-Con meeting a Veterans Day Special Event Station will be operated on November 9th thru November 12th. The event will be held at the Veterans Memorial on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain. The event is designed to honor Veterans Day and the men and women who defended our country



Location for K8V Special Event Station 2007

and those now engaged in defending freedom. He noted the Station call Sign will be K8V. This special event will include set up on November 9th and operation throughout the weekend. Tom, W8JWN will act as control operator when we use the call sign.

Tom was pleased to note the Kiwanis Ski Club has agreed to let us use their building on Pine Mountain for the event.

Tom said that we will need your help for the weekend with setting up antennas, operating, food and drink, QSL and certificate design and publicity.

Mike Boileau, N9NBN is in charge of this event and looks forward to your participation and commitment. Please call Mike at (715) 251-3137 or email him at n9nbn@uplogon.com.

**Words From The President
Tom Martin, W8JWN**

First, I would like to begin this month's "Words" by thanking the following for their repeater breakdown work last Sunday afternoon: Scott Baker, Art Costa, Lee Michaud, and Mike Bray. The building will now be empty for WE to replace the structure with a brand new building for our repeater system.

Has anyone noticed the proliferation of "baby" hams in the past year? I'm reading about a lot of 6-9 year old kids getting their tickets. A very large percentage of them are the sons and daughters of hams. I'm sure that these new amateurs will be using the proverbial "shack on the belt" to communicate with family and friends. I have mixed emotions about this but I guess a family that "hams together stays together."

I'm also a curmudgeon when it comes to vanity calls. I just can't get used to a new ham getting a 1 X 2 call. And, at the same time, not having to pass a CW exam! I must be getting old!

Speaking of getting old, I have noticed, in the various ham reflectors, guys getting nostalgic. They are sharing the equipment names and models of their first ham stations. I can vividly remember back in 1958, as a novice, trying to use a Heathkit AR-3 receiver that I built and a homebrew transmitter constructed from old junked TV parts using a 6146 final. The antenna was a long wire fed with 300ohm TV twin lead. I said TRYING because I couldn't copy any signals through the QRM. Selectivity wasn't built into that kit!

I begged my parents to buy me a decent receiver. They relented and I obtained a Hallicrafters SX-100 for \$100. That was a top of the line receiver in 1958. Today it sells for \$400-\$600 on Ebay. I should have kept it in storage for 50 years! Instead, I sold it in 1963 to pay for some college expenses.

Now, I could receive.

In 1959 I got my general. I passed a 13 wpm code test in Chicago. Now, I needed to get an AM rig. I purchased a used Globe Scout and, with a crystal for 3.910, I was ready to check in to the Indiana Phone Net. Life was good.

Eventually, the 60 watts of AM and crystal control were too limiting. I had a "rich" aunt (I thought she was rich!) who was recently widowed from her second husband. He had been a retired doctor. At the age of 16, I thought all doctors were wealthy! I suddenly became her favorite nephew. To make a long story short, she bought me a Johnson Viking Valiant transmitter. Now, I had power and a VFO! Let the Dxing begin. This is another rig that I should have kept!

My good friend Bart, K8IRC, a boat anchor collector in Minnesota, has the SX-100 and Valiant. I wonder if we can make a deal? Forget it! I don't have the room and I have enough gear around here gathering dust. Just ask my XYL!

Equipment Moved:

Submitted by Mike, K8DDB

Last Sunday (Sept 16 th) we removed the temporary tower and antenna that was attached to our repeater building. We also removed all of our equipment from the building except the 2 meter repeater, the 440 repeater, the MIIMT packet equipment and the equipment rack. The equipment was taken to Lee's home. (N8LT).

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the September 11, 2007 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the August 14th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

No report. Dennis, K8SWX, was absent.

Tom, W8JWN, reported that we have earned \$400 toward the Trailer Savings Fund by the sale of donated equipment.

Repeater Report

WE Energies will be replacing the building that our repeater and packet equipment is in with a new building. They expect that there will be room for our equipment in the new building, but it may be some time before it is ready. Construction may begin as soon as 2 weeks from now. WE Energies will give us a one week notice. A club work party is scheduled for this Sunday at 4 PM, to take down the temporary tower and to remove some of the equipment. Mike, N9NBN, has offered to move the repeater to his QTH in Niagara while construction is in progress.

Mike, N9NBN, has offered to provide a tri-band vertical antenna (2 meters, 220 MHz and 440 MHz) to replace our antenna at the 80 foot level of the WE Energies tower. Mike would then operate his 220 MHz repeater from Pine Mountain.

A bolt was found to be missing from our backup repeater antenna at the 120 foot level during our tower work in August.

WE Energies will likely be charging us an annual fee for mounting our packet antenna on their Crivitz tower. Attendees agreed to pay the fee if it is similar to the fee for use of their Pine Mountain tower.

ARES

No report. Dennis, K8SWX, was absent.

Old Business

Repeater Signs – Steve, KD8CCP, reported that to participate in the Adopt a Highway program, we need to have commitment of 9 members and agree to pick up trash on our area 3 times a year. Steve will submit a design for the sign, but will not commit to participate until voted upon by the club.

Special Event – Tom, W8JWN, reported that we have obtained permission to use the K8V callsign for our Veteran's Day Special Event. Tom will act as Control Operator when we use the callsign. The Kiwanis Ski Club has agreed to let us use their building on Pine Mountain for the event.

Meeting attendees agreed to donate \$50 to their club for the use of the building.

New Business

A letter will be sent to Goodman Plumbing and Heating LLC acknowledging and thanking them for their donation of radios to the club. After some discussion, it was decided that it would be too expensive to convert the radios for use on the amateur bands and their disposition is to be determined by Randy, KB9ZES.

Congratulations to Nate Mieras for passing his Extra Class exam.

For The Good Of The Order

Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB ---Secretary
Mike Boileau, N9NBN --- Vice President
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Steve Skauge, KD8CCP
Tom Martin, W8JWN ---President
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Lee Michaud, N8LT
Skip Caswell, KE9L
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Beth Baker, KC9KVP

MICHIGAN HAMS ACTIVATED DUE TO STORMS AND TORNADO

from:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 35 August 31, 2007

On Friday, August 24 at 5:15 PM (EDT), the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning for Genesee County. This storm produced two tornados in the mid-Michigan area that caused severe damage to several towns. The greatest damage occurred in the City of Fenton located just south of Flint. The NWS confirmed that an EF2 tornado had touched down and had torn a path 26 miles long and up to 0.5 miles wide through Livingston, Oakland, Genesee and Lapeer County, damaging at least 250 homes and businesses. An EF2 tornado, using the Enhanced Fujita scale, is a wind estimate of 110-135 MPH in a three-second gust. More than 12,000 people lost power due to the storms.

Before the tornado hit, Michigan's Genesee County ARES and SKYWARN were activated due to a severe thunderstorm watch. The storm moved into the county with such heavy rain that visibility dropped down to zero at several points. Funnel clouds were seen in the western part of the county, but these could not be confirmed. The NWS issued a Tornado Warning based on confirmed sightings in the adjacent counties to the west, as well as reports from their Doppler radar. As spotters continued to watch the storm, Randy Bond, N8VDS, spotted the funnel heading for Fenton and reported it to the NWS via his ham radio; Fred Moses Jr, W8FSM, confirmed the sighting. Moments later, the Genesee County 911 central dispatch center received a call that the roof on the brand new Tractor Supply Company store in Fenton had caved in and that the tornado had touched down. About half of the Fenton Community Center's roof was blown off, and debris from the building blew across the road to Fenton United Methodist Church.

Genesee County 911 called out the fire departments and activated their Fire Coordination Plan. Ham radio spotters have an agreement with Genesee County fire departments to provide supplemental communications for the departments. Hams were providing communications via the SKYWARN net and the Fire Coordination net. As the county's fire departments started to move toward the building collapse in Fenton, hams were already on the scene. Bond and Mike Schafer, KB8RVP, shifted gears from weather spotters to Fire Coordination operators. At the request of the fire chief at the scene, Bond went to the Fenton City fire station and, using ham radio, assisted their dispatch center; the storm had damaged their radio fire communications tower, so Bond and Schafer started working dispatch for them using their ham radios until the dispatch center was able to resume normal fire communications.

Jerry Baker, KD8AYL, was next to arrive on the scene at the collapsed building and after meeting with the Incident Commander, Baker was assigned the task of setting up radio communications with more ARES volunteers in the Flint region. As more reports of damage came in, the Fenton City and Township Fire Department became overloaded; their crippled communications tower did not help matters. ARES Emergency Coordinator for Genesee County Greg Ybarra, N8HXQ, coordinated the response during this incident and put out a call for help to District 3 Emergency Coordinator Greg Allinger, WA8OGJ. Allinger contacted other ARES units in the state, and Amateur Radio operators from nine Michigan counties responded to the Fenton area to help. Evaluation of the damage started immediately after the storm. Baker was reassigned to a relief shelter to aid the Red Cross. What would normally have been a drive of less than 10 minutes took almost an hour due to trees and power lines down everywhere. "Trees as much as 36 inches in diameter and more than 100 years old had been ripped out of the ground by the storm; regular electric power was out and the damage reports just never seemed to end," he said.

The Genesee County Office of Emergency Management activated their Mobile Command Unit. The MCU has an Amateur Radio station in it, as well as radios for all public service organizations. The city set up a command post in the parking lot of the Fenton City fire department and began operations from there. Michigan State Police responded to the area and instituted an 8 PM curfew for everyone. State and local police set up road blocks. Access was restricted to police, fire, National Guard, Red Cross, Salvation Army or ARES. ARES volunteers worked with all aspects of the incident. Damage reports and assessments continued until 1:30 AM Saturday when the Incident Commander determined everyone should break until 5:30 AM to get some rest.

US Congress Considers Emergency Communications, Interference Issues

from

The ARES E-Letter August 15, 2007

Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor

Editor's Note: Michigan Rep Bart Stupak also signed on to co-sponsor this bill on July 17th. Thanks Bart for your support of Amateur Radio!

In January, Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-Arkansas), introduced HR 462, the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007." It calls on the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL technology and report its findings back to Congress. It has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

In June, Senator Mark Pryor (D-Arkansas) introduced S1629, "The Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007." This bill is currently pending in the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

The ARRL Board of Directors voted in July to support HR 2743, "The Military Affiliate Radio System Emergency Communications Act of 2007." This bill would permit the continued use by the MARS and SHARES programs of frequency-stabilized Amateur Radio equipment that meets FCC Part 97 technical standards. Otherwise, volunteers in these programs might be prevented from using their regular station equipment.

FCC ISSUES TWO CITATIONS IN LONGSTANDING POWER LINE NOISE CASE

from:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 35 August 31, 2007

The Federal Communications Commission's Dallas Field Office issued Citations on July 25 to two utilities in a longstanding power line noise case in Lubbock, Texas. Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, of Lubbock, first reported the interference concerning the two involved utilities, Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) and Xcel Energy, as early as 1994. The record shows that the FCC Dallas Field Office clarified the FCC rules with regard to power line noise for LP&L as early as 1998, and issued three letters to LP&L in 2003 and 2004. Xcel Energy was first issued an FCC letter in 2004.

The Citations to the Lubbock utilities said that due to an investigation conducted by the FCC's Dallas office May 22-25, 2007, they found that both LP&L and Xcel "caused harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications to amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas," and that "Section 15.209 sets the general radiated emission limits for intentional radiators. The limit for the band 30 to 88 MHz is 100 micro-volts per meter measured at 3 meters. The attached list of strong electrical arcing points appears to exceed the value allowed even for intentional radiators." The list, attached to each Citation, included 44 separate "strong electrical arcing points" that were found near Edwards' home.

The FCC directed both LP&L and Xcel, pursuant to the Commission's Rules, to provide documents and information within 10 days of their respective Citations. "Because the source of harmful interference is emanating from more than one power company and past attempts have not resolved the problem, you must submit a written plan describing the

planned resolution of this case," including LP&L's coordination with Xcel Energy and Xcel's coordination with LP&L, according to the Citations. Also, each company is "directed to provide a report every sixty (60) days, of work completed to resolve the interference until your distribution system is in compliance."

Each Lubbock utility was warned that "violations of the Act or the Commission's Rules may subject the violator to substantial monetary forfeitures, seizure of equipment through in rem forfeiture action, and criminal sanctions, including imprisonment." In rem is a civil forfeiture proceeding as opposed to a criminal forfeiture proceeding. In its undated Response to the FCC's Citation, LP&L stated that it "does not admit to and specifically denies any violation of the [Communications] Act [of 1934] or any rule pertaining thereto," but "in order to comply with the...Citation, the City of Lubbock files this response." As a result of the Citations issued by the FCC, LP&L's Response stated that representatives from "Lubbock Power & Light met with Paul Leonard, P.E., Area Engineer with Xcel Energy to discuss the alleged findings regarding harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications by amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas."

Xcel's Response pointed out that the Citation acknowledges "that the source of harmful interference to amateur licensee W5KFT is emanating from more than one power company." Xcel also alleges that it "has been working with amateur W5KFT for a number of years in an effort to identify the source of, and a possible resolution for, the harmful interference he is experiencing. Xcel Energy has a good working relationship with the licensee and has coordinated with him on numerous occasions in attempting to resolve his interference problems." Xcel goes on to assure the FCC that it will "retain an outside technical consultant to provide an unbiased assessment of whether the harmful interference to W5KFT is attributable to Xcel Energy's power system and if so, what corrective measures would be required."

Edwards reported that on Thursday, August 30, he received a phone call from Paul Leonard, head of Xcel Energy in West Texas. Edwards said he was told that Xcel has contracted with Mike Martin, K3RFI, to come out to Lubbock in October to work on the line noise. "Leonard said they tried to get LP&L to participate with them and Mike, but they refused to do so," Edwards said. Martin owns and operates RFI Services, a firm dedicated exclusively to RFI locating and training. He has been locating interference sources for more than 25 years, solving an average of 500 complaints a year, according to the ARRL Lab. Martin has also given power line interference workshops at ARRL Headquarters.

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, said, "I am pleased to see the FCC taking a strong enforcement step in this case. It has gone on for a long time, and this Citation should serve to finally get things resolved. It is unfortunate that some of the power line cases the ARRL is handling can't be resolved without the FCC taking formal action, but I expect that electric utilities across the country will now take notice of this case." Most power line noise sources in fact can be located quickly and economically, Gruber said; many utilities in fact handle power line noise complaints as a matter of routine maintenance. "All it takes is a properly trained RFI investigator with modern noise locating equipment. By using noise signature techniques, the utilities would have had only to address those sources actually contributing to the problem. The message to utilities here is clear. Don't ignore power line noise complaints! Don't make the FCC get involved!"

For more information on this story, as well as links to the ARRL report, the FCC's Citations and the utilities' Responses, please see the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/30/100/?nc=1>.

ARRL Board Adopts Policy on Background Checks

from

The ARES E-Letter August 15, 2007

Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor

A major concern at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting last month was the topic of served agencies and background investigations. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers was critical for ARES to function.

The Committee chairman, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, proposed that the Board adopt a policy with regard to Memoranda of Understanding with the various served agencies. The Board adopted a policy that "communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations of any kind," but notes that criminal background checks--performed by law enforcement agencies--are "generally acceptable."

The policy continues, "It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. In negotiating or renegotiating Memoranda of Understanding that commit the League to provide volunteer emergency communications support, the League must be assured that these volunteers will not be required by the partner organization to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports."

V.E. TESTING:

10/20 Iron River: 7:00pm central time, Iron River Lutheran Church (after club meeting)

NOTE: Pre-registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9JG, at 906 265-4240

or e-mail: dmwaters@ironriver.tv

12/10 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

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

10/08 Houghton: 8:30am eastern time, Room G04 (In the basement) of Wadsworth Residence Hall at

M-T-U (Michigan Technological University) Parking available (free) across Hwy U.S. 41 from

this building, contact George Thurner W8FWG at 906 337-2542 or e-mail w8fwg@arrl.net

11/05 Iron Mountain: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library

(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802

10/08 Escanaba: 9:00am arrival time with testing beginning at 9:30am, at Bay De Noc Community

College. Contact Les, WA8LE at 906 789-1543 or wa8le@uplogon.com for info.

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one),

pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change.

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

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for October 2007						
<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUE</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THUR</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> <u>Meeting</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20 BREAKFAST</u>
<u>21</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>			

CLUB ACTIVITIES:

The Upper Peninsula 2-meter Social Net (UPSN) is conducted every Sunday at 7:00 PM Central Time on the 146.850 repeater. Dennis, K8SWX will facilitate the link from our repeater to the other participating stations via EchoLink. (Note: Dennis is currently working on a problem with the Link and therefore the net may not be held on our local repeater.)

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

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Dickinson County Library. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Avenue (US-2) in Iron Mountain, across from Econo Foods. Why not enjoy a good meal and camaraderie with your fellow members?

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration:

From:

**The ARRL Letter
Vol. 26, No. 38 September 21, 2007**

Registration remains open through Sunday, October 7, 2007 for these online courses beginning on Friday October 19, 2007:

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002);

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2);

Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005);

VHF/UHF - Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011).

To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

Dayton ARA Looking to Honor Silent Keys:

From:

**The ARRL Letter
Vol. 26, No. 38 September 21, 2007**

If you know of a ham who has died in service during the conflicts in Afghanistan or Iraq, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association would like to honor them. DARA is looking to publish a memorial page in the Hamvention 2008 program listing these SKs, with their name, call sign, branch of service, rank and unit.

For more information, please contact Ed Collins, N8NUY <n8nuy@arrl.net>.

ARRL Receives MARS Call Sign

From:

**The ARRL Letter
Vol. 26, No. 38 September 21, 2007**

The ARRL now has a new Emergency Communications tool in its toolbox -- MARS call sign AAN1ARL.

According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, "The call sign was requested to reflect both the holder of the license (ARRL) and the various MARS services (Army, Air Force and Navy)." The MARS station will be housed at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, said, "The establishment of an ARMY MARS call sign for W1AW begins a relationship with the Military Affiliate Radio System and the ARRL. Our two organizations are working toward the near-term establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding. Additionally, the League and MARS will utilize each other's personnel and technical capabilities to further enhance our emergency preparedness and response capabilities."

The MARS program consists of licensed Amateur Radio operators who are interested in military communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications. MARS has a long and proud history of providing worldwide auxiliary emergency communications during times of need. The combined three service MARS programs (Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps) volunteer force of more than 5000 dedicated and skilled Amateur Radio operators is the backbone of the MARS program.

There are Army MARS stations in Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Panama, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Central America, Africa, Germany and the continental United States. MARS responders operate on specially assigned military radio frequencies in voice, teletype and packet modes of communications.

GET READY FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION!

From:

The ARRL Letter

Vol. 26, No. 38 September 21, 2007

The Second Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicks off October 24, running until November 2 on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/auction>

This is your chance to pick up one-of-a-kind Amateur Radio items. To see what the Auction will offer this year, be sure to check out the Auction preview that begins October 17. Last year, the Auction attracted more than 4300 bidders from 36 countries. While the majority of buyers were from the USA, Canada and the UK, there were buyers from Australia, Malaysia, Grenada and Tanzania.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's on-line auction was our first and it was a great success. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 104 items and we had raised just over \$37,000."

Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as creating instructional materials. This year's auction will include many products tested by the ARRL Lab for QST Product Review. These items include an ICOM IC-7800, a Ten-Tec Omni VII, a Palstar Auto Antenna Tuner, an MJF 974H Balanced Antenna Tuner and a Heil Traveler Headset. There will be many vintage items offered, including the antique transmitter featured in John Dilks' "Old Radio" column in the November 2007 issue of QST. Also, returning by popular demand will be five ARRL Lab unique "junque" boxes.

Hams Named to Key NASA Positions:

From:

The ARRL Letter

Vol. 26, No. 38 September 21, 2007

Veteran astronaut Ellen Ochoa, KB5TZZ, has been named Deputy Director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Ochoa has served as Director of Flight Crew Operations at Johnson. She will succeed Bob Cabana, KC5HBV, who was named Director of NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

Ochoa and Cabana have each flown in space four times. Ochoa flew on space shuttle missions STS-56 on Discovery in 1993, STS-66 on Atlantis in 1994, STS-96 on Discovery in 1999 and STS-110 on Atlantis in 2002, logging a total of 978 hours in space. She became Deputy Director of Flight Crew Operations at Johnson in December 2002 and Director of Flight Crew Operations in September 2006.

Cabana has logged more than 1010 hours in space. He served as pilot on STS-41 in 1990 and STS-53 in 1992, both on Discovery. He was mission commander on STS-65 on Columbia in 1994 and STS-88 on Endeavour in 1998, the first International Space Station assembly mission.

"Having friends in high places is always a good thing," said ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. "It is a great thing for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program to have Ellen and Bob in these high-level positions at important NASA facilities. They are familiar with Shuttle Amateur

Radio Experiment (SAREX) and ARISS; recalling good experiences the two programs have provided students over the years can be very helpful to the future of Amateur Radio in space."

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/>

REPEATERS:

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

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	-----
444.850 MHz	plus	-----

Both repeaters have an auto patch with a toll restriction. The auto patch on the 2 meter repeater can be used with permission. The 440 auto patch is for club member use only.

**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Membership Application/Renewal Form**

Please remit dues to :
 Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
 612 Balsam Street
 Kingsford, Mi 49802

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Call Sign: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone: _____

ARRL Member? Yes ___ No ___

Annual dues are due in January. Please make check payable to Mich-A-Con ARC

Annual dues for Full Membership - Single \$20 __ * Family \$30 __ Repeater Only \$10 __ **

If family membership, please list additional names and call signs:

* The dues for NEW members are prorated - you only pay for the remainder of the year! Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership or \$2.50 per month for a Family membership.

** If you are in an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater Only Membership.

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain. Items for Mich-A-Con RF should be in the editor's hands by club meeting day (second Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition. Please consider writing an article related to Amateur Radio to share with your fellow members. Send the article in plain text and attach any photos, etc., do not worry about format, that is the editor's job.

Send to:

kd8cep@arrl.net

(906) 779-5720

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of material found in Mich-A-Con RF unless otherwise noted, provided that proper credit is given to the author and Mich-A-Con ARC.

MICH-A-CON RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Stephen Skauge
945 Woodward Ave Apt 5
Kingsford, Mi. 49802-4438

Club Meetings:

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

The URL for the Mich-A-Con ARC web site is:
<http://www.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:

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2007 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form in this newsletter when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The monthly meeting for October is on Tuesday the 9th at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.

