

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

September 8, 2013

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

## Words from the President Tom W8JW

We had a very good attendance at the last meeting: thirteen local hams, including Gary (K4FMX), were at the library. Not bad for a Tuesday night in August.

At our next meeting at 7 :00on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, we will again discuss the meeting change for next year. Starting in January, if approved at the December meeting, our meeting night will be the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00. Summer meetings, as long as they are at the library will begin at 6:30.

On a sad note, Al Poquette (K9ECG) became a Silent Key on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Al attended many meetings and helped at several Field Days. He will be missed.

With several thunderstorms rolling through the area this summer, many members have kept their antennas disconnected. Now, as fall approaches, it is time to connect them to try and work several new Dxpeditions that will soon be active.

3B9EME, Rodrigues Is. should be on from 9-1/9-9

XW, Laos, 9-6/9-16

XZ1Z, Myanmar, 9-18/9-23 JH1AJT will focus

on North America this time. I didn't hear him on his last visit in early August. I need him for new country #337.

VK9LL, Lord Howe, 9-22/9-29

K9W, Wake Is, 10-1/10-30

XR0ZR, Juan Fernandez, 10-8/11-20

S2, Bangladesh, 11-19/11-29

**Remember that the September meeting will be at 7:00. Winter library hours will be in effect.**

73,

Tom W8JWN

**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes of the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting**

President Tom Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Secretary Report**

Minutes of the July 9th meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report**

Balances as of July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013:

Checking - \$ 39.34

Regular Savings - \$ 2,230.28 of which \$ 1,850.70 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$ 841.97

Petty Cash - \$ 7.00

**Repeater Report**

Seems to be working fine lately.

**ARES**

Inconsistent nets with poor turnout. Item will be removed from the agenda because it's not a club activity.

**Old Business**

President Tom reported Field Day conditions were poor.

President Tom spoke with Bill Bertoldi at the Kingsford High School about fox hunting activity that the rocket club is involved in. Our club used to do fox hunting on 80 meters using a loop

antenna years ago which was a lot of fun. The El Paso, TX club used 10 meters for their Fox Hunting with a loop antenna. 2 meters would have about a 5 mile range. Jim Riverside and Sam Holmes will volunteer to lead a discovery group. Goal would be to do a fox hunting adventure before winter. Additional volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Terry Moriarity & Sam Holmes gave an update on the repeater antenna issue. The goal is to get a better antenna at minimal expense for better range to get more interest in the club and more local repeater contacts. Motorola 100 watt. G7 Hustler would be 60 DB gain. Co Phased Dipoles or a Station Master.

Trailer Money Fund: What are we going to use it for? Should we continue to hold it for a trailer or use it for general expenses? Consensus was to leave the money in the trailer fund. Motion by Scott Jarmusch to leave the trailer fund money in the trailer fund and not spend it on anything else, Second by Tom Heyboer. All Yes's, No no's.

K8V Veterans Day Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>: We have to notify QST if we're going to have a club activity this year. Six members expressed interest in attending a Veterans Day activity. President Tom will check with Kiwanis about using the building.

### **New Business**

The Marquette, Negaunee, Minnesota and Keweenaw area Hams would like to change the packet frequency to 145.01 which is a common frequency per Mike Bray. Previous frequency was a UHF link on 400. Motion by Mike Bray to change the frequency, Support by Tom Heyboer. All Yes's, No No's.

President Tom: The newsletter mentioned that our Tuesday meetings have poor turnout. Would it help attendance to move our meetings from the second Tuesday of the month to the second Wednesday of the month? Wednesday nights are better for the library due to fewer meetings. We need to get more input from members if they agree with this change or not. We will have a vote at the December meeting and if passed will take effect in January per the constitution to give time to announce the change. **Reminder: Starting in September, meetings will begin at 7:00pm.**

Gary Schafer mentioned Hams in Florida are modifying modems for direct line of sight chained communications with an antenna.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 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  
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer  
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF – Secretary  
Mike Bray, K8DDB  
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
Jim Riverside, K8ABS  
Tom Heyboer, KC8TH  
Gary Schafer, K4FMX  
Joe Komblewicz, KB8ETK  
Scott Polatowski, KC9ZBC  
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY  
Sam Holmes, N8ATS

<b>Balances as of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	
Checking	\$ 39.34
Regular Savings	\$2230.28
Trailer Fund	\$1850.70
Repeater Savings	\$ 841.97
Petty Cash	\$ 7.00

### **Special Addition to the Minutes : Digital network From Gary Schafer via email to Tom Martin**

Hi Tom,  
Here are some links to some information on the digital ham networks using modems and special software that I was talking about at the last meeting.

It is called HSMM MESH (high speed multi media)  
I can't find the web site for the west Palm Beach guys that I was telling you about. It is around here somewhere and I will run into it sooner or later.

The links below give some info on what it is.  
<http://www.arrl.org/wedothat-page3>  
[www.hsmm-mesh.org](http://www.hsmm-mesh.org)

73  
Gary

### 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/>

U.P. Skywarn: <http://kcra-mi.net/skywarn/>

## V.E. TESTING:

11/2 Iron Mountain: 9:30am central time, Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802. Examinees must be pre-registered. (906-776-1553).

9/14 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. You must pre-register by Tuesday preceding the test date. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net) or Greg KI8AF 906 225-1594 [ki8af@arrrl.net](mailto:ki8af@arrrl.net).

10/5 Hancock: 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@arrrl.net](mailto:wa8qnf@arrrl.net) if you have questions. You can now take a Hamexam "Anytime". Contact Glenn, WA8QNF at (906)482-7743 for details.

10/12 Gladstone: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Dave Palmgren N8DP, (906) 428-2271, [n8dp@dcars.org](mailto:n8dp@dcars.org) 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



**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.**

<b>September 2013</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Breakfast
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

***Club Activities:***

*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 1650 ft) 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.***

**Repeater Specifications;**

***The 146.85 repeater is a GR Master Pro, 40 watt output repeater. The 440 repeater is a GE Master Pro, 80 watt. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 ft.***

**Please remit dues to :  
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS  
693 Cliff St  
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Call Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Call Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ARRL Member? Yes**\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_

**Annual dues are Payable January 1st.**

**Dues for New Members are Pro-rated.  
Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single  
membership or \$2.50 per month for a  
Family membership.**

## "Ham Video" Transmitter is Now Aboard the ISS

from:

ARRL Letter for August 29, 2013

A Japanese cargo spacecraft has delivered an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) digital TV transmitter to the ISS. The equipment arrived August 9 and is being stored in the space station's Columbus module. Gear includes the transmitter, power supply, NASA-provided Canon XF-305 camera, and antenna cables, reports ARISS-Europe Chair Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, who says the DATV transmitter is being dubbed "Ham Video."

"Installation will be done by US astronaut Michael Hopkins, KF5LJG, who has been trained for the commissioning of the Amateur Radio digital video equipment," Bertels said in a report posted on the ARISS-EU website. The gear will be commissioned this fall, possibly at the end of October, when there are favorable passes over Italy. "[T]he test transmissions for the commissioning of the onboard equipment will be received by the ground station of the Centro di Geodesia Spaziale of the Italian Space Agency" in Southern Italy," Bertels explained.

Commissioning will involve a series of tests that will be performed over the course of three or four orbits. Bertels says it's possible that the transmitter will send a continuous signal between commissioning steps, offering Amateur Radio ground stations a chance to test and tune their receiving equipment. "The transmissions will be performed in automatic mode, without requiring crew time," Bertels said. "The camera, which runs on a battery, will not be used, and the ground stations will receive a black image." The 10 W EIRP S-band (2.4 GHz) Ham Video transmitter will use one of the L/S-band "patch" antennas installed on the Columbus module.

A preliminary "Experiment Sequence Test" (EST) is planned for August 28-29 involving ARISS ground station IK1SLD in Northern Italy. "IK1SLD, an ARISS telebridge station often used for educational ARISS school contacts on VHF, has been upgraded for S-band reception," Bertels pointed out.

Italian manufacturer, Kayser Italia has delivered a 1.2 meter dish, a down converter and precision tracking motors, all part of the ESA-funded equipment. "For the EST, the station will receive a DATV signal from a local, low-power S-band test transmitter," said Bertels. The decoded signal will be streamed over the web to the British Amateur Television Club server, to which BATC has offered ARISS free access. ESA investigators will evaluate reception via the streaming video. "The test transmissions at IK1SLD will cover the different frequencies and symbol rates available on the Ham Video transmitter," Bertels said.

Receiving the DATV signal will be the greater challenge, Bertels says. "A careful study of the link budget, conducted by Piero Tognolatti, IØKPT, shows that DATV decoding should be possible for a ground station equipped with a 1.2 meter dish, when the ISS is within a range of about 800 to 1000 km," he said in an overview paper on the project. He says this would limit the DATV reception window to about 3 or 4 minutes during a favorable pass. "ISS tracking will be far more demanding than it is for receiving VHF signals," he added. According to Bertels, Kayser Italia is to provide five ground stations in Europe.

Once the Ham Video transmitter becomes operational, it will be used for ARISS educational contacts with schools in Europe. There are no immediate plans to deploy downlink video for ARISS contacts with US schools, in part because no North American ground stations have been planned. Amateur Radio gear has been deployed in several locations of the sprawling ISS, which includes several modules. Two multiband, multimode transceivers are located in the Russian Zvezda Service Module. Additional VHF and UHF transceivers are operational in the ESA Columbus module. Several operational modes are automated for use by ground stations. In addition to VHF and UHF FM voice, modes include packet and SSTV (downlink only). The ARISS stations offer Amateur Radio a permanent presence in space for the worldwide ham radio community. — Thanks to ARISS-EU Chair Gaston Bertels, ON4WF; ARISS-EU; Kayser Italia



## **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 2013 are 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:  
Tuesday September 10, 2013. It will be held in the Dickinson  
County Library at **7:00 PM****

## **Wanted:**

**Your Articles, Your pictures  
and your Input for the  
Newsletter!**

### **Send them to:**

[kd8ccp@arri.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arri.net)