

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

September 2009

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

Words from the President

Tom W8JWN

Some random thoughts as we enter the fall radio season:

Sunspots are still very much absent. The SFI (Solar Flux Index) is still bouncing back and forth between 67 and 69. Not much improvement over last spring. Still, DX can be worked on 20 and 17 meter CW.

I sent the Veterans Day Special Event announcement to *QST*. We will be operating from November 10th through the 12th on Pine Mountain. Operators are needed.

The club is now in possession of a Mosley Classic 33 tribander. This is a heavy-duty model with a 20 foot boom. We also have 40' of aluminum tower. Jon Wahoviak, Paul Schultz, and your president took down the tower and beam at PineManor a few weeks ago. If you ever run into Chuck Jennings be sure to thank him for the donation.

I've been trying to get rid of accumulated radio gear from various estates to donate to the trailer fund. I've had little success! Eventually, I will have to offer it to club members at a reduced price. Most of the gear is gathering dust in my basement and garage. The items include a National NC-183 receiver, a Collins 5J-3 receiver, a Heathkit Digital Frequency Counter, and an assortment of CW keys. The receivers are real boat anchors and I would hate to ship them.

If you have taken any gear in the past and haven't donated to the trailer fund, please do so ASAP.

73,

Tom W8JWN



Paul and Jon Remove Jay's Tower



Jon presents harness to Paul

U.P. Skywarn Website New and Improved

from an email by:

Mike Swiatkowski, AA9VI" aa9vi@yahoo.com

I did some work over the last couple of weeks on the U.P. Skywarn website and it is finally working like a charm now. It's at the same location as always:

<http://kcra-mi.net/skywarn/>

New additions:

- Improved compatibility with Internet Explorer. Looks better aligned. I tested it on Mozilla Firefox and it looks good there too!

- Auto loading on main page of latest NWS conditions for the 7 most populous U.P. cities: Escanaba, Houghton, Iron Mountain, Ironwood, Marquette, Menominee, and the Soo. Point and click for the local forecast for those towns (they're hyperlinks). You can still enter your city's forecast on the left menu.

- A little resizing of columns and font sizes.

- Auto reload of main page. You don't have to refresh it for the latest weather conditions or weather maps. It automatically reloads ALL of the page's data each time you go to the website. If you stay on the main page, it reloads every 15 minutes! Before you had to manually reload it to clear out cached versions of the page. It takes a little longer to load now, so that's why. Better to have up to date information. It's worth it

.

- Added in new storm reporting under "submit an observation and daily totals" left menu item. NWS MQT now has an online form. I've hyperlinked it. They do not use eSpotter yet. Most NWS offices like NWS Gaylord do.

I think you'll find the website more of a one place stop for your weather needs.

Mike, AA9VI

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the September 8, 2009 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the August 11 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of September 1, 2009:

Checking - \$404.43

Regular Savings - \$2,178.70, \$961.62 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$901.11.

Petty Cash - \$0.00.

We have 37 paid members.

Wanted:

**YOUR ARTICLES,
IDEAS AND INPUT!
SEND IT IN NOW TO:
kd8cep@arrl.net**

Repeater Report

The repeater has been quiet during the past month. Terry reported that other area repeaters have been experiencing the same trouble as we have with atmospheric noise occasionally rising to the level to break the squelch.

ARES

Dennis, K8SWX, has been conducting the weekly Nets. Tom, W8JWN, explained the difference between ARES and RACES.

Old Business

Jay Jennings' Tower –

The antenna, rotor and tower were removed from ManorCare by Jon Wahoviak of Jon's Signs, Paul Schultz and Tom Martin. The equipment, which consists of a Mosley CL-33 tri-band beam, 5 eight-foot sections of aluminum tower and a Ham II rotor, will be stored at Gary Shafer's farm.

Jay Jennings' Radio Equipment –

Tom, W8JWN, has placed the equipment for sale on QTH.com, but has had no inquiries as yet.

Towers and Antennas –

We should keep the 40 foot aluminum tower and a 40 foot steel tower for the club to use and sell the rest. Gary and Burt will remove the towers belonging to the club from the Lee Michaud property and bring them to Gary's farm.

We should keep the Mosley CL-33 tri-band antenna for club use.

Trailer Fund Donations –

Club members that have promised to make donations to the trailer fund in return for equipment obtained by the club from Silent Key estates, etc., should make their donations by the January 2010 meeting.

New Business

Veterans Day Special Event –

Our Veterans Day Special Event is planned for November 10, 11 and 12. The November club meeting will be held on Tuesday November 10th at the special event location. We hope to have the Kiwanis building atop Pine Mountain again this year, but we have not yet contacted the Kiwanis Club. Members are reminded that the election of club officers takes place at the November meeting.

Donation of a Climbing Harness to the Club –

Jon Wahoviak of Jon's Signs donated a climbing harness to the club.

Ham Radio Class –

Tom, W8JWN, asked if there would be a ham class again this winter as there has been some interest in having one.

Field Day 2010 –

Terry, K9TRY, volunteered to coordinate Field Day next year. He would like to once again include a club picnic. We hope to reserve Marion Park for the event. Tom, W8JWN, stated that we should try to obtain more GOTA operators by face-to-face invitation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 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
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK
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/>

QRZ.COM: <http://www.qrz.com/>

Ehamnet.com: <http://www.eham.net/>

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

V.E. TESTING:

10/17 **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.

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.

12/12 **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.

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.

South African Amateur Radio Payload Reaches Orbit

from:

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 37
September 18, 2009

After several delays, South Africa's SumbandilaSat satellite <http://www.amsatsa.org.za/SZASAT.htm> finally blasted to orbit aboard a Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on September 16 <http://www.russianspaceweb.com/baikonur.html>

The main payload is a multi-spectral imager, but the satellite also carries an Amateur Radio component consisting of a 2 meter/70 cm FM repeater.

After SumbandilaSat is fully commissioned, the repeater will be activated with an uplink at 145.880 MHz and a downlink at 435.350 MHz; there will also be a voice beacon at 435.300 MHz. The transponder mode will be controlled by a CTCSS tone on the uplink frequency. The CTCSS tone frequencies have yet to be announced.

SumbandilaSat was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and was built at SunSpace <http://www.sunspace.co.za> in cooperation with the Stellenbosch University.

University's radiation experiment and software defined radio (SDR) project, an experiment from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a VLF radio module from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration

from:

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 37
September 18, 2009

Registration remains open through Sunday, October 25, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009:

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1;
Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction;
Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor.

Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient.

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

National and Michigan Simulated Emergency Test

from:

Monthly Michigan Section News Summary

Sept 17th 2009

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK

wa8efk@arrl.org

October 3, is the date for the national and Michigan's Simulated Emergency Test. The ECs met on the State ARPSC Net on September 13 to discuss much of the overview for the exercise.

Anyone desiring to participate is encouraged to contact their EC and monitor their local ARES/RACES net frequencies the morning of Oct 3 to be prepared to mobilized as part of the local scenario.

Each local jurisdiction can opt for a specific plan to test their individual skills and abilities. State NTS nets will be active as will the State EOC on 3932 kHz. Schedules will be posted on the Michigan NTS and ARPSC web pages.

<http://www.mi-nts.org/> and <http://www.mi-arpesc.org/> A listing of counties and Emergency Coordinators is available at <http://www.mi-arpesc.org/> so you can contact your local EC to get more information. Follow-up discussions will continue on the State ARPSC Net each Sunday until the SET. This net meets on 3932 kHz at 5:00 PM local time.

State of Michigan Recognizes Menominee Ham Program

from:

Monthly Michigan Section News Summary

Sept 17th 2009

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EFK

wa8efk@arrl.org

It was just announced Tuesday (September 15th) that the K8DAR ham radio program in Menominee received an "Outstanding Program" award from the State of Michigan, matched with a similar one from the State of Wisconsin. All this happened within the space of just a few months.

The DAR Boys and Girls Club of Marinette and Menominee sponsors a stellar program for amateur radio. This is just another of their continued success stories, demonstrating how youth in our communities can be introduced to this hobby. You can check the DAR club out at <http://community2.webtv.net/dx2100/16thAve/>

Our congratulations to everyone and to Ed KG8CX who coordinates the effort.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for October 2009

<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 Club Breakfast
18	19	20	21	22 ARES	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 ARES	30	31

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	Offset	PL Tone	Call Sign
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.

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.

11th Annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference: Oct 31-Nov 1, 2009

from:

ARES E-Letter for September

September 16th 2009

Rick Palm, K1CE editor

The conference will be held Saturday, October 31, and Sunday, November 1, 2009, at the Hotel Mead and Conference Center, Wisconsin Rapids. Talk-in - 146.790 MHz - PL114.8.

This year's conference is intended for everyone interested in ARES/RACES, including EMs, NWS and other emergency/disaster response personnel.

Lunch/brunch and refreshments will be provided both days. Saturday is the general conference and Sunday is designed for leadership personnel. The Conference will be ghoulishly good this year, not only because it is taking place on All Hallows Eve and All Saints Day, but we will take advantage of the allegedly haunted past of the Hotel Mead and are working to arrange an exercise/public service event built around Wisconsin Rapids' Trick or Treating. -- Wisconsin ARES/RACES

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 Oct Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tues Oct 13th 2009.

MICH-A-CON RF

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

