

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

September 7, 2012

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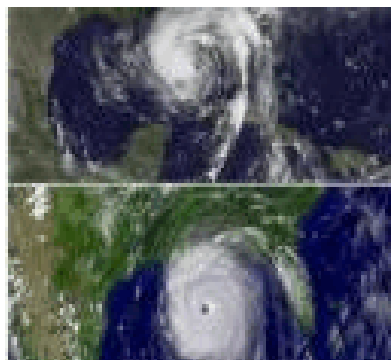
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Visit the ARRL's Web Site at
<http://www.arrl.org>

Hams Heed the Call to Help As Isaac Makes Landfall, Downgraded to Tropical Storm

from:
ARRL Letter for August 30, 2012

Seven years to the day that Hurricane Katrina smashed into New Orleans, Hurricane Isaac came calling. But instead of making landfall right at New Orleans like Katrina (a Category 3 storm) did on August 28, 2005, Isaac veered slightly to the west of the city. Through it all, hams at WX4NHC -- the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida -- and those supporting the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) and the VoIP Hurricane Net, along with various nets within the ARRL's Delta Division, relayed reports to their served agencies on Isaac's progress and the damage the storm created in its wake.



This combination of satellite images shows Tropical Storm Isaac (eventually Hurricane Isaac) (top) on August 27, 2012 and Hurricane Katrina (bottom) on August 28, 2005. [Images courtesy of NOAA]

“Even though Isaac has made landfall and is currently tracking slowly up Central Louisiana to Arkansas, hams in the Delta Division are not done,” explained ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ. “We had quite a few nets running as Isaac came ashore, and some are still going on, relaying damage reports and assisting with health-and-welfare traffic. As the American Red Cross and other served agencies venture out in the field within the next few days to assess the damage created by Isaac, hams in the Delta Division are ready to assist these teams with whatever communications support is necessary. Just because Isaac itself is over, we know that storms like this can bring tornadoes, power outages and other weather events in their wake, and we are prepared to continue to provide any support that is needed.”

The HWN ceased its operation on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 29. According to Stan Broadway, N8BHL, the HWN received numerous reports of heavy winds and flooding from hams in the affected areas, and in turn, relayed these reports to the NHC. “We were in contact with several Emergency Operation Centers and other safety service locations,” he told the ARRL. “The majority of our reports were from ham operators who were weathering the storm, yet who took the time to keep us informed. In the ham radio spirit of readiness, many of the stations we contacted were on stand-by generator power, some with temporary or storm-related antennas and most with quality weather measuring instruments. Many more stations stood by silently, waiting to relay if needed, and listening for the reports.”

Broadway said that the HWN was activated a total of 47 hours for Isaac, including a 31 hour continuous activation during the storm’s path toward landfall: “We are extremely grateful for those operators who provided reports and for those who showed us great courtesy by moving off frequency, or just allowed a clear slot for us to use. Thanks also to the nets that regularly used these frequencies for accommodating us.”

Isaac continues to weaken as it tracks to the northwest over Louisiana, and could be downgraded to a tropical depression on Thursday, August 30. Since Isaac is moving very slowly, the storm will continue to produce floods, rainfall, isolated tornadoes -- especially in Mississippi, Eastern Louisiana, Southeastern Arkansas, Southern Alabama and the far Western Florida Panhandle -- and gusty winds.

According to the NHC, Isaac should steadily weaken over the next 48 hours as it continues to move over land, and should become a

tropical depression by Thursday night. At 8 AM (EDT) on Thursday, August 30, Isaac's center was located about 35 miles southeast of Alexandria, Louisiana and about 125 miles northwest of New Orleans. According to the NHC, Isaac is a slow moving storm with a speed of about 8 miles per hour. Isaac should make a turn to the north-northwest, moving over Louisiana later on Thursday, followed by a turn to the north toward Arkansas on Friday, August 31 and then move over Southern Mississippi that night.

Even though Isaac and Katrina landed approximately in the same place and at the same time, though seven years apart, according to the Associated Press (as reported in The Miami Herald), the storms are quite different:

Maximum Sustained Winds

Katrina: Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 28, 2005 as a Category 3 storm with maximum sustained winds near 125 miles per hour.

Isaac: A Category 1 storm, Isaac had maximum sustained winds near 80 miles per hour as it came ashore in Southeast Louisiana on August 28, 2012.

Size

Katrina: Katrina was a large storm with hurricane force winds extending outward up to 125 miles from its center.

Isaac: Isaac has been much less organized with a less-defined eye. As it neared Louisiana's coast, Isaac's hurricane-force winds extended outward only about 60 miles from its center.

Storm Surge

Katrina: The 2005 storm brought devastating storm surge of 15-20 feet as it came onto land.

Isaac: The worst of Isaac's storm surge was about 6-12 feet.

Evacuations

Katrina: Evacuation orders were issued for millions around the region -- including the city of New Orleans -- ahead of Hurricane Katrina. Many did not heed the evacuation order and later had to be rescued from flooded homes.

Isaac: As the storm closed in, tens of thousands were told to evacuate. Some decided to leave, while others have decided to hunker down and ride out the relatively weaker storm.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate said weather conditions continue to worsen in the

Northern Louisiana, delaying storm damage assessments, power restoration and relief efforts. The Red Cross-- already housing 5000 evacuees in 80 Louisiana shelters -- is preparing a prolonged recovery. "Were going to be there for weeks," said Red Cross Vice President Charles Shimanski. "We need to know what we're recovering from before we know what recovery looks like."

**Words from the President
Tom W8JWN**

How about this summer's weather? Hot and dry. Lawns, that were green and lush in April, are brown and dusty. I've saved on gas for the lawnmower. I hope that the fall brings much cooler temperatures and some needed rain. If the first week of September is any indication, we might be in for a continuation of August.

With the fall, comes DX season. There are a lot of DXpeditions in the offing for us DX chasers. Unfortunately, for a few of us in the club, there is nothing we need for a new country. I have to wait until 2014 for Heard Island. Hope I'm still here. HI!!! Below are a few of the DXpeditions for September and October:

Swains Island NH8S 9/5-14

Conway Reef 3D2C 9/24-10/5

Chad TT8TT 10/1-31

Sable CY0 10/8-17

Rodrigues Island 3B9DX 10/16-23

West Kiribati Island T30PY 10/16-25

Papua New Guinea P29NI 10/24-29

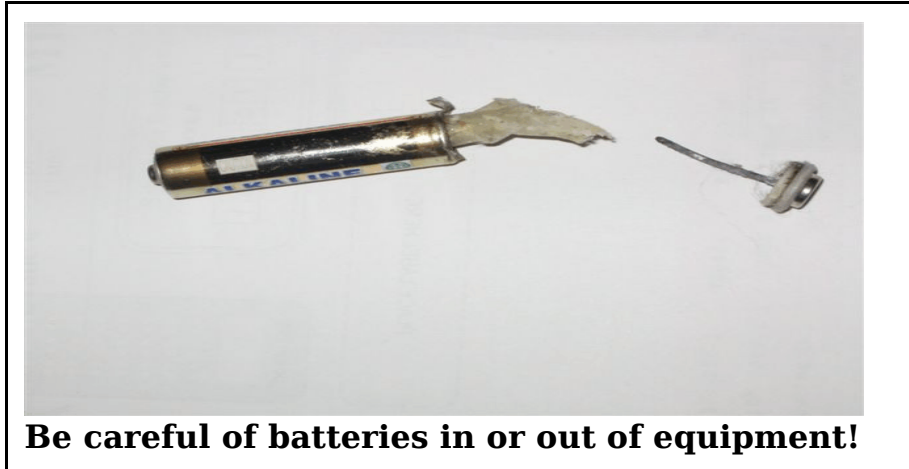
I need Chad for a new one on RTTY. Also, I need many of those countries on 30, 80, and 160. There will be a lot of low band opportunities; so, get those wire antennas up.

See you at the next meeting.

**73,
Tom W8JWN**

Tom, W8JWN sent the following via email:

This is a photo of a 1.5v AA battery that exploded on my desk. It wasn't in any device. It was just lying on the desk. I have no idea how it happened.



**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the August 14th, 2012 Meeting**

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the July 10th meeting can be found on the clubs website.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of July 1st, 2012:

Checking - \$ 52.91

Regular Savings - \$ 2,217.25 of which \$ 1,827.64 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$ 1,075.54

Petty Cash - \$ 6.00

Repeater Report

Seems to be working fine with only slight noise.

ARES

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

Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS recently attended a meeting at the Sheriff's dept. and reported that they have two shorted coils on their Hustler antenna due to a mfg. problem. President questioned whether or not the Hustler coils were bad. There is another antenna in use by some counties that needed to be replaced. Tom will check with Pete and Lou to clarify the antenna situation.

Old Business

Field Day: President Tom received a letter from the Florence County Fairgrounds with a check of \$75.00 returned from our \$100.00 security deposit. \$25.00 was deducted to clean up the sand remaining from the telephone pole removal. They also noted that RV's weren't supposed to be connected to the water or electricity. In the future they will charge for the use of water and electricity.

President Tom hasn't heard anything from the ARRL on our Field Day score. We did very well for the first time at that location.

No members heard any follow-up regarding the request of Jim Faulkner, KC8CKX from Foster City. He attended June's meeting and said he's looking for an Elmer to help him setup his HF equipment and get on the air. If you can help, please give him a call at (906) 246-3884. Jim is retired. President Tom may take a ride up there when he gets back from vacation in a couple of weeks.

New Business

Veterans Day – We'll discuss at a future meeting when it gets closer to November.

Burton Armbrust Sr. reported that Public Safety is in the process of switching to all new narrow band radios in the near future so their older radios may become available. A local rural Fire Department donated their used radios to the ReStore a month ago which have all now been sold. VHF & UHF has to be changed out. The used Motorola radios are programmable with a computer. Software cost about \$50 and cables cost about \$20. 25-50 watts depending on the model. 4-16 channels.

ReStore is a good place to donate old electronic equipment because it's sent away and recycled.

Burton Armbrust Sr. also reported on the recent repeater meeting at Hamfest in Escanaba. Coordination is now going down to 90 miles from 120 miles to allow for more repeaters and all new coordination will require tone encoded access because many operators don't use minimum power levels causing interference. Any new repeater coordination will be subject to these new rules.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Paul Schultz

Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN – President
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF – Secretary
Dana Bey, KD8POR
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR
Joe Komblevich, KB8ETK
Jim Rye, W8IFI
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Jared Paul, ND8M - ** Welcome new member!
Michelle Larsen, KD8SZA - ** Welcome new member and congratulations on your
new technician license!

FCC Releases Congressionally Mandated Study on Amateur Radio

from:

ARRL Letter for August 23, 2012

08/23/2012

On August 20 -- in response to a Spring 2012 Congressional directive -- the Federal Communications Commission released its findings on the Uses and Capabilities of Amateur Radio Service Communications in Emergencies and Disaster Relief: Report to Congress Pursuant to Section 6414 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

This report contains the FCC's " review of the importance of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications relating to disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property in the United States; and recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio operators in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in the planning and furtherance of initiatives of the federal government." It also required "that the study identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications and provide recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments."

"There are many positive things included in the FCC report to Congress," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "We are pleased that the Commission highlighted the existing Amateur Radio infrastructure to provide disaster and time-critical communications. They also recognized the flexibility of the Amateur Service in working with federal, state, local and tribal emergency service agencies to supplement existing communications.

The affirmation of the value that Amateur Radio brings to the communities across the country is underscored by the suggestion that 'DHS work with state, local, and tribal authorities so they may develop disaster area access or credentialing policies for trained amateur operators, including a means for documenting their qualifications...'"

While the FCC did hold Amateur Radio in a positive light in its discussion of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications, the FCC report was not as favorable in the portion of the study that addressed impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications. In the comments provided to the FCC as they prepared the study, the ARRL -- as well as numerous individuals -- cited the proliferation of specific land-use restrictions, such as deed restrictions and homeowners associations covenants, that prohibit the erection of even modest Amateur Radio antennas.

The ARRL cited that such restrictions now apply to tens of millions of homes and condominiums. In communities across every state, these restrictions make finding suitable living arrangements that would also allow amateurs to participate effectively in providing support communications nearly impossible to find. The FCC disagreed with that assessment stating "...our review of the record does not indicate that amateur operators are unable to find homes that are not subject to such restrictions. Therefore, at this time, we do not see a compelling reason for the Commission to revisit its previous determinations that preemption should not be expanded to CC&Rs."

When considering any current rules that serve as impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, the report did agree with the ARRL's position, stating that "Commission rules that may be an impediment to enhanced Amateur Service emergency communications can, as the ARRL notes, be considered through the Commission's rulemaking process. Consequently, we do not believe that Congressional action is necessary to address any of these issues."

In the report, the FCC recommended that "DHS consult with the public safety, emergency management and Amateur Radio emergency communications associations and groups to identify training opportunities that will support better utilization of Amateur Radio operators for emergency communications, and to solicit views on how Amateur Radio capabilities could be further incorporated into response plans or initiatives. We also recommend that OEC include these recommendations in the NECP."

Henderson noted that it is significant "that the FCC recommends efforts be continued by DHS to facilitate the training and utilization of Amateur Radio across the emergency and disaster response spectrum -- from the public sector through to the various groups and organizations which provide support communications via the Amateur Service, including ARES, RACES, MARS or locally organized support groups. When served agencies and amateur groups plan and train cooperatively, it only enhances our abilities to serve our

communities and the public.”

With the delivery of the FCC’s report to Congress, the ARRL will determine its next step in its efforts to find relief for amateurs who live under unduly restrictive private land-use regulations. “Our review of the FCC report shows that there is a lot to be done if amateurs living in deed-restricted properties are to receive even the limited relief they enjoy under the Commission’s PRB-1 ruling or the limited relief given to deed-restricted properties given by the FCC’s OTARD ruling,” Henderson said. “This means continuing ARRL’s efforts on Capitol Hill and continuing to seek a Congressional directive to the Commission to extend those limited preemptions to include prohibition of effective Amateur Radio antennas and support structure that are imposed by private land use restrictions. The FCC report to Congress is not the final action in this fight. It merely lays the groundwork for the next steps to be taken by the ARRL,” he concluded.

V.E. TESTING:

11/3 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).

9/8Marquette: 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 or Greg KI8AF 906 225-1594 ki8af@arrl.net.

10/13 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@arrl.net if you have questions. You can now take a Hamexam “Anytime”. Contact Glenn, WA8QNF at (906)482-7743 for details.

10/13 Gladstone: Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time:10:00 AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Dave Palmgren N8DP, (906) 428-2271, 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

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for September 2012

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

OUTPUT	OFFSET	PLTONE	CALLSIGN
<i>146.850</i>	<i>MINUS</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>WA8FXQ</i>
<i>444.850</i>	<i>PLUS</i>	<i>100 Hz</i>	<i>WA8FXQ</i>

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 ft.

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

Name: _____
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 ____



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.

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:

Paul Schultz KD8KUF
(906) 774-8900
pauls@schultzequipment.com

Treasurer:

Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
(906) 774-8383 retary:
Paul Schultz KD8
wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2012 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 Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tuesday September 11th , 2012. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM

Wanted:

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

Send them to:

kd8ccp@arrl.net