

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

September 27, 2013

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

## **Public Service: "Amazing Help" -- Hams Play Critical Role in Colorado Flood Evacuation**

from:

ARRL Letter: September 26, 2013

Amateur Radio volunteers assisting with communications in the aftermath of the devastating Colorado flooding came in for high praise recently for their role in helping to safely evacuate youngsters and others from a mountain environmental education center threatened with being cut off by road washouts. In an Op-Ed piece last week in the Longmont Times-Call, Sandra Harem, the executive director of the JPPI Outdoor Lab in Estes Park, Colorado, cited the "amazing help" from hams and others in getting the students, school staff and Lab staff out of harm's way on September 12.

"The staff of the JPPI Outdoor Lab would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers of the Mountain Emergency Radio Network [MERN] and so many others who helped the seventh-grade students, chaperones and staff of St Vincent De Paul Catholic School and staff of the JPPI Outdoor Lab get home safely to their families," Harem said.

On September 12, Harem called the Larimer County Sheriff's Office to inquire about road conditions. Because of the heavy rainfall, she and

the school's assistant principal were getting a group of seventh graders ready to leave as soon as possible. "The sheriff's office said Highways 34 and 36 were closed," she recounted. "We worked on alternative routes."

An hour later, the director of the affiliated High Peak Camp told Harem that they needed to relocate in case power went down. The sheriff's office advised relocating to a Red Cross evacuation center in Allenspark, which subsequently invited the group.

Hearing the call, MERN volunteer Karel Kosman, KDØRFT, contacted fellow MERN member Steve Coles, KDØRFQ, that the group needed help evacuating. Coles deployed to the JPPI Outdoor Lab and helped relocate the students, staff and chaperones safely, Harem said.

After Coles left to help others, communication was cut off, so the assistant principal and Harem drove to the Allenspark Fire Station and to the Estes Park Police Station hoping to get better information. "It took us until 9 PM to return to our group at Highlands [the shelter site] by hiking and a few helpful car rides, because Highway 7 had ruptured in two places," Harem said.

Early the next morning, Coles was back to help with communication with the Boulder County Office of Emergency Management. According to Harem, Coles advised the OEM to ask the Colorado Department of Transportation if it might be possible to take buses on the Peak to Peak Highway. A plan evolved to have the buses meet the group at the point of a highway washout near the junction of Highways 72 and 7, then walk the students across the compromised road to the buses. The Archdiocese of Denver, the superintendent of Catholic Schools and the Boulder County OEM okayed the plan.

That afternoon, buses arrived on Highway 7. "We transported the students, chaperones, St Vincent staff and JPPI Outdoor Lab staff to the meeting point, and all students were reunited with their families at St Vincent De Paul Catholic School that evening," Harem said.

Among others, Harem praised Coles for "his tireless patience, persistence and care of all of the students, chaperones and staff," and Kosman "for radioing on our behalf to Steve Coles." She also thanked all MERN members "for making it possible to have such effective communication during an emergency."

ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jack Ciaccia, WMØG, says MERN is an Amateur Radio repeater system built by members of the Boulder County (BCARES) group and was the brainchild of BCARES Emergency Coordinator Allen Bishop, KØARK.

"The two MERN ham radio operators that were involved in this rescue, Steve Coles, KDØRFQ, and Karel Kosman, KDØRFT, are two of some 60 mountain residents who attended the ham radio classes put on by BCARES members in the mountain communities over the last year and were recently licensed after taking the FCC exam given by ARRL Volunteer Examiners who are also members of BCARES," Ciaccia pointed out.

He notes that the hams at the Boulder OEM and the EOC were BCARES operators who were monitoring all traffic from the MERN repeaters as well as from other EOCs on the air from flooded counties along the Front Range as well as communications from the state EOC. "The

hams who happened to be monitoring at the Boulder EOC at the time were George Weber, KAØBSA, and Dave Sharpe, KIØHG," Ciaccia said. "These two hams, coincidentally, had been Steve and Karel's MERN ham radio license instructors and Volunteer Examiners as well as part of the BCARES group who built and installed the MERN repeaters."

Ciaccia said it was Weber and Sharpe who coordinated with the Boulder OEM and Transportation Group to arrange for the buses, then got them on their way by relaying communications from the MERN radio operators in the flood-stricken zones.

## **Words from the President**

Tom, W8JWN

The government shutdown has affected ham radio activities! Personally, I hadn't been too concerned

by the dysfunction in Washington resulting in a "shutdown" for a few days. I hadn't planned on going

to any national parks, or applying for food stamps. Now, if K9W is canceled, I'll really be upset! I

need Wake Island on a few bands.

**Due to the U.S. Government shutdown, the Wake Island K9W Forgotten 98's Commemorative DXpedition is now on hold pending a revised schedule. We will announce new dates for the DXpedition as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.**

**The K9W Wake Management Team(from the K9W web site)**

For those of you needing to do business with the FCC, "forgetaboutit". They are only open for emergency situations. Processing a vanity call isn't an emergency.

***10/01/2013***

**In the aftermath of the congressional failure to reach agreement on a new budget or on a continuing resolution to keep the federal government in business, the [FCC](#) is telling consumers that it is closed. This includes all functions at the Commission's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, facility, which handles all Amateur Radio licensing transactions, including new, renewal and vanity call sign grants. (from ARRL.org)**

Well, hopefully by the time you read this, all is well in Washington and there's a lot of "huggin and kissin" going on.

Now, what will really get me angry is if the Myanmar Dxpediton is canceled in November because of a civil war. Those factions will be using live ammo. That's a real shut down!

73,

Tom W8JWN



**A Tribute To The 98 U.S. Civilian Contractors From Morrison-Knudsen Company Who Lost Their Lives October 7, 1943 On Wake Island**

**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club**  
**Minutes of the September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting**

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

**Secretary Report**

Minutes of the August 13th meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report**

Balances as of September 2 2013:

Checking - \$ 39.34

Regular Savings - \$ 2,230.83 of which \$ 1,851.15 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$ 872.22

Petty Cash - \$ 7.00

**Repeater Report**

Seems to be working fine lately. Some ducting noticed.

**Old Business**

Nothing new on the Fox Hunt activity.

Nothing new on a better antenna for the repeater.

K8V Veterans Day Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>: QST has been notified..President Tom sent a letter to the Kiwanis Ski Club, after talking to their president about using the building. Vocal approval so far.

Mentioned the meeting change to the second Wednesday of the month vote will be at the December meeting and if passed will take effect in January per the constitution to give time to announce the change.

**Reminder: meetings will now begin at 7:00pm.**

**New Business**

The generator needs to be tested before winter.

The membership list will be updated. Delinquent members will be contacted to see if they want to rejoin the club

**Adjournment**

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

**For the Good of the Order**

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Tom Martin

**Attendees**

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President  
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS -  
Treasurer  
Mike Bray, K8DDB  
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
Jim Riverside, K8ABS  
Gary Schafer, K4FMX  
Dana Bey, KD8POR  
Scott Polatowski, KC9ZBC and his son  
Shelby  
Skip Caswell, KE9L

<b>Balances as of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	
Checking	\$ 39.34
Regular Savings	\$2230.28
Trailer Fund	\$1851.15
Repeater Savings	\$ 872.22
Petty Cash	\$ 7.00

## 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).

12/14 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

## Links

ARRL WEB PAGE: <http://www.arrrl.org>

FCC Universal Licensing System:  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

ARRL MICHIGAN:  
<http://www.arrrl-mi.org/>

QTH.COM: <http://www.qth.com/>

US REPEATERS:  
<http://www.usrepeaters.com>

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

MICH-A-CON :  
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb>

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

Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts:  
<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

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

<b>October 2013</b>						
<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>5</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Meeting	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Breakfast
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>			

***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.**

# **FCC: “We Regret the Disruption.” Commission Shutdown Now Appears Complete**

from:  
ARRL.org

10/01/2013

The FCC appears to have ground to a complete halt for all intents and purposes beyond emergencies, as the Federal Government shutdown continues. This includes functions at the Commission’s Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, facility, which handles all Amateur Radio licensing transactions, as well as the FCC’s main website and the Amateur Radio call sign database (ULS).

“We regret the disruption, but during the Federal Government-wide shutdown, the FCC is limited to performing duties that are immediately necessary for the safety of life or the protection of property.” a message on the FCC website says. “FCC online systems will not be available until further notice.” The Commission refers anyone calling regarding an emergency “affecting the safety of life or the protection of property” to a Washington, DC, number, 202-418-1122, or an e-mail address.

Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, said earlier today that the FCC appeared to have accepted “a small number” of modification and renewal applications, apparently as the shutdown was in process, but it took “far longer than usual” for that to happen. The ARRL VEC did not attempt to file additional applications, and it will hold for filing any applications resulting from Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner-administered examination sessions.

“We have not submitted any VE sessions, which require batch filing and are assigned an FCC filing number,” Green added. “At this point, we are unable to file any applications with the FCC, because it has shut down its servers. We do not expect the FCC to resume granting applications until it reopens.” Green stressed that the ARRL VEC remains open for business and continues to monitor the situation. The ARRL VEC also is still processing International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) applications.

While the FCC has stopped processing new, renewal or vanity call sign applications for the duration, it is still possible to reserve a 1 × 1 special event call sign, since that is not an FCC function.

Radio amateurs whose licenses expire between October 1 and the day after normal FCC operations resume may continue to operate until then, even if they have not yet filed a renewal application. Pending an official FCC announcement that states otherwise, renewal applicants should apply no later

than one day after the FCC reopens, if they want to continue to operate.

Amateur Radio applicants who passed an upgrade examination may still operate with their new privileges, even if their applications have not been accepted for filing by the FCC. Applicants must have a Certificate of Completion of Examination (CSCE), issued by the VE team. When using their new privileges, such applicants should continue to identify by appending the appropriate designator to their current call signs, ie, /KT for Technician, /AG for General and /AE for Amateur Extra, as noted on the back of the CSCE.

If the closing date for comments on a open proceeding falls during the shutdown, comments will be considered timely filed on the day after the Commission reopens for business.

In late September the FCC posted a “Plan for Orderly Shutdown” in the event of a federal government shutdown. Only a handful of the FCC’s 1754 employees were scheduled to remain on duty, including eight employees “retained to conduct interference detection, mitigation and disaster response operations.” Only one “senior management official” in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau — which oversees Amateur Radio — was scheduled to be on duty for the extent of the shutdown. The Commission emphasized earlier that it would not be open for normal operations “during any government-wide shutdown.”



**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](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 October 8 , 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)