

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

October 2008

Veterans Day Special Event Set for November 8th - 11th 2008

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Set for Nov 8th, 2008

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

The Mich-A-Con amateur radio club will again operate the Special Veterans Day Event. It will be located at the UP Veterans Memorial on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Tom, W8JWN was pleased to announce the Kiwanis Ski Club has agreed to let us use their building again this year. The Station will use the call sign K8V and will be operating on November 8th - November 11th. Tom, W8JWN will act as control operator again this year when we use the call sign.

The event is designed to honor Veterans Day and the men and women who defended our country and those now engaged in defending freedom. The setup for the event will take place starting at 7:00 a.m. on November 7th, this includes the installation of antennas at the K8V site on Pine Mountain. K8V will be operating November 8th - November 11th. The antennas and gear will be removed on Wednesday November 12th starting at 8:00 a.m., the group will also clean up the Kiwanis Ski Club facility at that time.

If you need additional information on this event you can contact Mike Boileau, N9NBN at (715)251-3137 or via email at n9nbn@uplogon.com. Tom Martin (W8JWN) can be reached at (906)774-5463: tmartin@chartermi.net. The information is also on www.qrz.com. Type in K8V in the call sign lookup.

The U.P. Veterans Memorial atop Pine Mountain at Iron Mountain Michigan, our operating site, also has a great web site: <http://www.exploringthenorth.com/veterans/memorial.html> be sure to check it out!

Words from the President... Tom, W8JWN

“It is finally up!” This is what I shouted on the afternoon of October 16th, after my 72-foot tower, beams, and wire antenna lines were finally in place. Thanks to Mike Bray, Gary Schafer, Jon Wahoviak, and Craig Sorenson, I’m back on the air after a six-month absence.

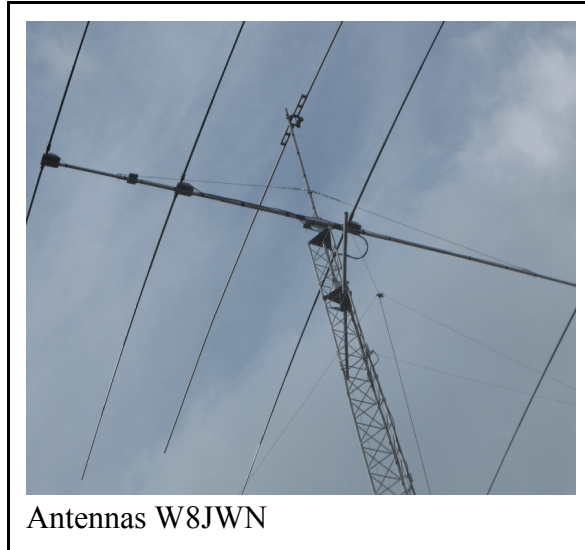
Jon’s Signs provided the bucket truck for antenna installation and Sorny’s Crane service lifted the complete system from ground level to 72 feet. The installation went very well. There was a slight hang up removing the sling but I got out of the bucket at 32 feet and climbed up to remove the crane’s sling. At \$200 an hour, I wasn’t going to prolong the agony of trying to figure out a way to unsnap the crane’s hook.

The SteppIR went together easily. The color coded 16 conductor cable for control wiring gave me some problems in determining “crème” from tan but finally, with the use of an magnifying glass, I figured it out.

I decided not to put the two-element 40-meter beam above the SteppIR because of fears of overloading the tower. I just installed the driven element as a rotating dipole. I may regret that loss of gain but I will sleep better, knowing that I have a safe wind load.

On the air results with the SteppIR have been fantastic. The 180-degree feature really saves on the rotor. I just push a button and I’m beaming the opposite direction.

Again, thanks to Gary and Mike for their expert assistance and advice.





Tom to the Rescue



Tom removes the sling



Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for November 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 ARES	7 Set-up 7am Pine Mnt	8 K8V on the Air!!
9 K8V on the Air!!	10 K8V on the Air!!	11 Meeting and K8V at Pine Mtn	12 Clean up & removal of equip 8 am	13 ARES	14	15 Club Breakfast
16	17	18	19	20 ARES	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30						

Club Activities:

Setup for the K8V Special Event Station begins at 7:00 am on November 7th including antennas installation.

K8V Veterans Day Special Event begins on Nov 8th and continues through Nov 11th

Removal of equipment and Cleanup of the Kiwanis Club Building begins at 8:00 am Nov 12th

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! **Note: November Meeting will be held at the Kiwanis Club Building on Pine Mountain during the Veterans Day Special Event. This meeting will include the election of officers.**

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.

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/>

Wanted:
YOUR ARTICLES,
IDEAS AND INPUT!
SEND IT IN NOW
TO:
kd8ccp@arrl.net

V.E. TESTING:

11/01 Iron Mountain: 9:00 am central time, (arrive by 8:30 am) in the Dickinson County Library conference room. Contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 396-5519 , 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

12/13 Marquette: 8:30 am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00 am) Marquette County Health Dept. Bld, U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at (906) 249-3837 or n8gba@chartermi.net

01/10 Gladstone: 9:00 am eastern time at the Gladstone Public Library. Testing begins at 9:00 am. Contact Howard W8HSJ at (906) 428-9476 or by email: w8hsj@dcars.org

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to allow time for application processing. Testing applicants should bring two pieces of I.D. including one photo I.D. Original license and a clear copy of their license if applicable and a completed form 605 will also be needed. (Form 605 will be provided if needed.) Please bring pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individuals listed to confirm dates, times and locations.

**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 ___

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain. Send articles to: Steve Skauge
KD8CCP@arrl.net.

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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.

From:
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 43
October 31, 2008

**2008 Field Day Results Posted:
The results from this year's Field Day are now available online:**

<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/results/2008/FD/>>.

"The addition of the online ARRL Field Day Locator site was a huge success, as more than 1500 sites were listed in this first year of use," said ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "When you scan the Online Soapbox <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox>>, Field Day continues to be the most popular on-the-air event in Amateur Radio." You can find the results in the Members Only section of the ARRL Web site.

**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the October 14, 2008 Meeting**

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the September 9th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

The treasurer's report was presented by Tom, W8JWN. Balances as of the end of September:

Checking: \$219.54

Repeater Savings: \$984.98

Regular Savings: \$1906.82, of which \$810 is in the Trailer Fund.

Petty Cash: \$21.00

Repeater Report

Nothing has been done with the new building yet.

ARES

No report.

Old Business

Pine Mountain Veterans Memorial Park –

American Legion Post #50 will engrave a 'Mich-A-Con ARC' memorial brick for our \$50 contribution toward the park.

Veterans Day Special Event –

Last year's special event received kudos at a recent Dickinson County budget meeting.

The K8V info is available on QRZ.com

Antenna installation will begin on Friday morning, November 7th at 7:00 a.m. Volunteers are:

Tom, W8JWN; Mike, N9NBN; Mike, K8DDB; Burt, WB8EBS; Randy, KB9ZES; Herb, KD9SY and Barry, KC9NFT.

Club Station –

The Northern Michigan Bank building is not suitable for our club. The VA Hospital is our best possibility. Randy, KB9ZES, will pursue that option.

New Business

Election of Officers –

Election of officers will be held at the November meeting.

Change of Meeting Location –

Because of the ongoing Veteran's Day Special Event, the November meeting will be held at the Kiwanis Club building on Pine Mountain. Meetings will return to the library in December.

Trailer Fund –

Randy, KB9ZES, sold \$31.20 of 'stuff' at the meeting as a contribution to the Trailer Fund

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

For The Good Of The Order

Members discussed their current radio related activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary
Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice President
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS
Herb Pahlow, KD9SY - guest
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Barry Perron, KC9NFT
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Beth Baker, KC9KVP

OHIO HAMS DISCOVER, FIX "DITTERS" ON 40 METERS

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 43
October 31, 2008

Silent since the summer of 2000, "ditters" have been heard once again <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/2/> on 40 meters by hams in North Carolina. According to ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, hams in that state contacted him on October 22 complaining of hearing a continuous string of "dits" on 7.0574 MHz. "We informed the FCC HFDFing station of the situation and asked if they could locate the approximate area of the 'dits' so we could get this resolved as soon as possible," Skolaut said. "They responded promptly and said it was coming from Westerville, a town just north of Columbus, Ohio."

Once the general location had been pinpointed, Skolaut called on ARRL Ohio Section Official Observer Coordinator Rick Swain, KK8O for assistance. Swain immediately alerted his team of Official Observers (OO) to check out the situation. "Neither I nor the OOs could hear the transmitter," Swain said in his report. "In a telephone conversation with one of the OOs near the target area, he suddenly stated that he could hear it, but that the signal was at the noise level, about S2 to S3. At just about the same time, I could hear it as well at my location [about 50 miles from the target area] -- just above the noise level -- for about five or ten seconds, then it disappeared."

Swain also placed a call to Assistant Section Manager Bill Carpenter, AA8EY. "Bill lives within the target area. I briefed him on the situation and he went right to his station," Swain said. "Bill checked the frequency and told me he was hearing [the 'dits'] at about S9. He said he thought he might know who it could be and that would make some calls."

Around 7:30 AM on October 23, Swain checked the frequency and found no signal. "I assumed that either Bill had found the transmitter or the owner came home, found it transmitting and turned it off," he said. "Later that morning, Bill sent me an e-mail saying that the signal was back on and about S7. I called Bill's house and left a message telling him I was on my way to Westerville to track down the signal. If he wanted to ride along with me while I looked for it, he was more than welcome to come." Skolaut said the signal was also heard in Newington that day.

When Swain arrived in Westerville, he had a list of the names and addresses of 172 licensees in the area, as well as a general idea of where the signal should be, based on the data from the FCC's HFDFing station. He also had his HF radio, an all-band screwdriver antenna, a GPS receiver and a VHF radio for information and directions.

"I drove around the area checking the signal and noted that it was about S9 and climbing," Swain said. He and Carpenter met up and continued the search together. About 15 minutes later -- with

Swain driving and Carpenter giving directions -- "we noted that the signal was 30 over S9 and Bill had me make a left turn at the next street, saying that there was an address on the list we should check out. We stopped at that address, but no luck."

Swain said he then injected 30 dB of attenuation and continued to drive in the same direction: "The signal was now reading 20 dB over S9 with the attenuator still on. We turned down the next street and the signal rose another 20 dB. I pulled into a parking lot and made a 360-degree turn as to determine the signal's direction. The turn indicated that we should proceed to a newly constructed housing area adjacent to the parking lot."

Swain and Carpenter then made their way over to the housing development and found that signal peaked. "Bill checked the list and found a ham lived on the street we were on, so we stopped and knocked on the door, but no one answered," Swain said. "We checked out the backyard and saw a 4-band trapped vertical antenna. We went next door and spoke to the neighbor and told him who we were and what we were trying to do."

With help from the neighbor, Swain contacted the ham at work and explained the situation. The ham told the neighbor how to get in the house and where they would find the transmitter. "We went in, found the transmitter in operation and turned it off," Swain said. "I noticed the ham had a large cat lounging near the transmitter and assumed the cat could have leaned up against the keyer paddle and started the transmitter. No other explanation could be possible without the owner hearing the transmit relay clicking."

When Swain and Carpenter left the house, they listened to the receiver and discovered the signal had disappeared.

"This was a great example of coordinated cooperation by the FCC and Oos to resolve a problem in a timely fashion," Skolaut said. "The Dfing station told us that hopefully the OOs could handle it as the FCC District Office was unable to work on the case at this time."

Calling this a "splendid example of cooperation," ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, echoed Skolaut's praise: "I believe the response to the situation was as fine an example of symbiotic relationship between member-staff-FCC-staff-field organization as one might find. Extremely well done by all hands."

MICH-A-CON RF

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

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 Beurjev, K8SWX
(906) 771-1996
dbeurjev@msn.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2008 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 Beurjev, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The monthly meeting for Nov is on Tuesday the 11th at 7:00 PM at the Kiwanis Club Building on Pine Mountain.

