

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

October 2009

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

*Editors Note: The following is reprinted from the November 2008 Mich-A-Con RF . The Dates are set for this years Veterans Day Special Event. Antennas will be set up on November 9<sup>th</sup> with operation set for November 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup>. More Information will be announced as final plans are communicated.*

## 2008 VETERANS DAY SPECIAL EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS!

Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

The 2009 Veterans Day special event is now history. I'm sure that those who participated found the experience to be very enjoyable and memorable. The many on the air comments from veterans was uplifting and heart warming. As I go through the many QSL and certificate requests, I see many comments from veterans thanking us for the event.

Media coverage was again very good this year. We had a photo on the front page of the *Borderland Journal* and a photo in the *Florence*



*Mining News*. The only negative was that I was identified as Tom Carlson. Karen's Studio of Niagara took the pictures and submitted them to the papers. She also sent the club a CD with the photos. Thanks Karen.

The second day of the event qrz.com took down our site because of an FCC ruling that only allows one database for 1X1 calls. W5YI is that major database. I moved the K8V info to my call on qrz.com. It looks like that move didn't stop contacts from sending QSL cards and certificate requests. I have over 51 certificate requests so far. My mailbox is loaded everyday!

Again, 80 meters was the poor band for contacts. See the minutes of the last meeting for more details. We worked some excellent DX on 20 meter RTTY: Reunion Island, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa. My A3S was superb on 20. Now, if we can keep it in one direction! The high winds on top of Pine Mountain kept blowing it to a different bearing.

Scott, KA8TFF, again had steady pileups on 40 SSB. Over 800 contacts were made on 40. The majority of QSLs received have been for 40-meters.

Burt, WB8EBS, also handled logging duties on 40 and climbed the tower to set the beam in the right direction.

Barry Perron logged and helped set up the 40 meter vertical. Again, thanks to Scott for the FT-1000 and Butternut vertical.

Terry, KB9ZER, logged on 40 meters and delivered pop to the thirsty operators.

Mike Bray, K8DDB, gave out many CW contacts on 15, 20, 20, and 40 meters with only 20 watts. He didn't make as many contacts as last year but he kept at it.

Gary, K4FMX, again loaned the club one of his towers for the event. Thanks, Gary.

The Baker family came through again with donuts and Beth and Scott operated 20 SSB.

Barry and Mike also provided donuts and Burt brought some great Sloppy Joes. We ate BBQ for three days!

Mike Boileau, N9NBN, erected antennas before work and helped raise the tower.

Art Costa, KD8GLO, brought his PSK rig and portable 20-meter antenna but couldn't make any contacts.

If I forgot anyone, please accept my apology. I am relying on my memory and you all know what happens when you're over 65!

At the monthly meeting held at the K8V site, we decided to hold the Veterans Day event in 2009. We will limit the operation to three days. Since Veterans Day falls so closely before the

Michigan deer season, a five-day operation proved to be too much for us Old Timers! Our XYLs will also be a lot happier. HI!

We will have the K8V call again for next year.

## **National Weather Service Winter Presentations**

**from:**

**National Weather Service Web Page**

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt>

With one of the most weather active seasons soon upon us, residents of Upper Michigan have to be prepared for changeable and severe winter weather conditions. Average yearly snowfall ranges from around 60 inches to over 200 inches in some of the lake effect snow belt regions. Snowfall can occur in as many as eight of the twelve months during the year. The significant snowfall combined with bouts of dangerously cold air and windy conditions result in Upper Michigan Winters being very harsh compared to other parts of the country. Thus, Upper Michigan is a unique and challenging location for winter weather, for both residents and weather forecasters.

If you are interested in learning more about winter weather and snow spotter reporting, you are encouraged to attend an upcoming winter presentation by the National Weather Service. The presentations are **FREE** and open to the public. The presentations will last about 90 minutes. These presentations are also a wonderful learning opportunity for anyone who may be interested in weather.

Topics on the agenda include:

The science of snowstorms and lake effect snow

Proper snow measurement and how to report to the National Weather Service

The changing U.P. climate

The upcoming winter outlook

Presentation dates and times:

**October 28<sup>th</sup> - 600 PM EDT: Ontonagon High School Cafeteria (Ontonagon, MI)**

**November 4<sup>th</sup> - 600 PM EST: Houghton County Courthouse - 5th Floor (Houghton, MI)**

**November 10<sup>th</sup> - 600 PM CST: Gogebic County - Grand View Hospital Conference Room (Ironwood, MI)**

**November 17<sup>th</sup> - 630 PM CST: Dickinson County Library (Iron Mountain, MI)**

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming presentations, please contact the National Weather Service in Marquette at 906-475-5212.

## **Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the October 13, 2009 Meeting**

President Tom Martin, W8JWN, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the September 8 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurer Report**

Balances as of October 1, 2009:

Checking - \$381.42

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

[Contributions to the trailer fund at tonight's meeting bring the total to \$1,231.62. K8PT bought the Collins radio for \$200 and W8JWN brought a check for \$35 for the frequency counter. ]

Repeater Savings - \$901.11.

Petty Cash - \$0.00.

We have 37 paid members.

### **Repeater Report**

Mike, N9NBN, reported that an anti-kerchunking filter has eliminated some of the interference on the 2-meter repeater. Bob Meyers will be adding a PL tone later.

### **ARES**

No net activity has been heard.

### **Old Business**

#### **Club Radio Equipment –**

The following equipment has been moved to Gary Schafer's farm:

Jay Jennings' tower

Two towers that were stored at Lee Michaud's home

2-meter Cushcraft beam

Aluminum tubing for antennas.

The following equipment is for sale:

NC-155

NC-183

Hustler antenna

5/8 wave 2-meter antenna

30 foot tower.

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](mailto:kd8ccp@arrl.net)

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#### **Veterans Day Special Event –**

We will set up antennas on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Ham Radio Class –**

We have not yet determined if there will be a class this winter.

#### **Field Day 2010 –**

Anyone interested in participating should email Terry. We need a list of antennas and the layout plan used last year.

#### **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**

### **Club Programs –**

Volunteers are needed for an 8 to 10 minute program for our monthly meetings:  
Tom will do a Power Point presentation on traffic handling before next Field Day  
Art will do a presentation on PSK.  
Burt will do a presentation on soldering.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 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  
Art Costa, KD8GLO  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF  
Adam Hull, KD8LQK  
Scott Baker, KB9AVX  
Beth Baker, KC9KVP  
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP  
Barry Peron, KC9NFT  
Skip Caswell, KE9L  
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY  
Gary Schafer, K4FMX  
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS  
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

### **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.dxinfoentre.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/>

## **The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks, The Issues**

from:

*Ares E-Letter*

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

Rick Palm, K1CE (Editor)

At the end of September, the ARRL adopted a statement of policy with respect to the use of Amateur Radio entitled [\*\*The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks, The Issues\*\*](#) .

[www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL\\_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf)

The document offers guidelines to assist radio amateurs and anyone wishing to use the capabilities of Amateur Radio in understanding the FCC Rules that prohibit communications in which the amateur has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. From the document's introduction:

"From its founding in 1914 to the present day, the American Radio Relay League has fostered Amateur Radio public service and emergency communications activities. The League encourages organizations engaged in disaster relief to make appropriate use of Amateur Radio. Further, the League welcomes new, public-service minded licensees from all occupational and professional backgrounds. The ARRL believes that the Amateur Radio Service and our

emergency communications activities flourish best in an atmosphere of respect for and compliance with the FCC's Rules. These Rules provide for more flexibility than is typical of other radio services. They guide our operations and assist us in protecting the spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service from encroachment by commercial interests.

"This document is not intended to discourage anyone from becoming an Amateur or to discourage any organization from promoting an interest in Amateur Radio among its employees and volunteers. Nor does it signal any change in the League's long-standing devotion to public service and emergency communications. Its objective is to educate both Amateurs and the organizations we serve about what is permitted under the FCC's current Rules and to assist Amateurs in making reasoned decisions about the appropriateness of services we may offer to organizations in our communities."

This document is a must-read: Please click on the link above and spend some time going over it with your ARES group.

<i><b>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for November 2009</b></i>						
<i><b>Sun</b></i>	<i><b>Mon</b></i>	<i><b>Tue</b></i>	<i><b>Wed</b></i>	<i><b>Thur</b></i>	<i><b>Fri</b></i>	<i><b>Sat</b></i>
<i><b>1</b></i>	<i><b>2</b></i>	<i><b>3</b></i>	<i><b>4</b></i>	<i><b>5</b></i> <i><b>ARES</b></i>	<i><b>6</b></i>	<i><b>7</b></i>
<i><b>8</b></i>	<i><b>9</b></i> <i><b>Antenna Set up for Vets Day Special Event</b></i>	<i><b>10</b></i> <i><b>Meeting Vets Day Special Event Begins</b></i>	<i><b>11</b></i> <i><b>Veterans Day</b></i>	<i><b>12</b></i> <i><b>Vets Day Special Event Ends</b></i>	<i><b>13</b></i>	<i><b>14</b></i>
<i><b>15</b></i>	<i><b>16</b></i>	<i><b>17</b></i> <i><b>NWS Winter Presentation 6:30 pm Dickinson Co Library</b></i>	<i><b>18</b></i>	<i><b>19</b></i> <i><b>ARES</b></i>	<i><b>20</b></i>	<i><b>21</b></i> <i><b>Club Breakfast</b></i>
<i><b>22</b></i>	<i><b>23</b></i>	<i><b>24</b></i>	<i><b>25</b></i>	<i><b>26</b></i> <i><b>Thanksgiving</b></i>	<i><b>27</b></i>	<i><b>28</b></i>
<i><b>29</b></i>	<i><b>30</b></i>	<i><b>27</b></i>	<i><b>28</b></i>	<i><b>29</b></i> <i><b>ARES</b></i>	<i><b>30</b></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 Amateur Radio Club Meeting will be held during the Veterans Day Special Event at the Event Location. 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.*

## **Canadian Mobiles must become Hands Free**

from:

*Weaver's Words*

October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009

James Weaver, K8JE

[k8je@arri.org](mailto:k8je@arri.org)

According to an alert from the Radio Amateurs of Canada (the Canadian National organization), a new law in the Province of Ontario requires all two-way radios in nearly all vehicles on Canadian roadways to be hands free. The requirement applies to all commercial, CB and amateur equipment. The only exception to the rule is gear in emergency response vehicles.

We can only assume at this time that the law applies to vehicles operated by visitors from the US as well as Canadian amateurs. The new law became effective October 26. Tickets for infractions will begin to be issued effective February 1.

## **Three People Killed While Erecting Antenna**

from:

*Ares E-Letter*

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Rick Palm, K1CE (Editor)**

A man, woman and their 15 year old son were killed while trying to erect a 50 foot vertical antenna at the home of the man's mother, Barbara Tenn, KJ4KFF, in Palm Bay, Florida. The deceased were not licensed amateurs.

"It happened in an instant," Palm Bay Fire Marshal Mike Couture said in a statement. "It is an unfortunate set of circumstances that led to the most tragic result."

According to police reports, Melville Braham, 55, Anna Braham, 49, and their 15 year old son Anthony were putting up an antenna -- Tenn's second -- at night when they lost control of the antenna and it crashed into nearby overhead power lines. The impact sent 13,000 volts of electricity through the pole the three were holding. A family friend, a 17 year old boy, was on the roof at the time of the accident. He and the couple's daughter, who was in the house at the time, were not injured.

The mother was pronounced dead at the scene. When paramedics arrived, the father and son were not breathing; rescue crews immediately tried to resuscitate them. They were transported to a hospital where they later died.

Neighbor Jim Vallindingham told television station WFTV that he called 911 when he saw the fire in the back yard and then he ran over: "I had no idea it was electrical until we got over there and saw the three people laying on the ground. So I called 911 a second time to tell them there were casualties. You know, there were people on the ground. So [the 911 operator] told me that's electric, you back away don't touch anything."

Couture said that night was not the best time to be attempting to put up an antenna. "It wasn't the best time, meaning it was night time. Obviously, in darkness, and trying to do something like this

and not being keenly aware of where the power line is in the backyard, [was not a good idea]," he said.

Neighbors said that Tenn, an ARRL member, used Amateur Radio to talk with her family in Jamaica. -- ARRL Letter.

### Region 3 IARU Conference ends

from:

*Weaver's Words*

October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009

James Weaver, K8JE

[k8je@arrrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrrl.org)

Region 3 of the International Amateur Radio Union held its triennial conference in Christchurch, New Zealand October 12-16. Major actions taken by the delegates included affirming obtaining allocation of an amateur 500 kHz band during WRC-12. The conference also firmly stated its dedication to strengthening its protection of amateur frequencies against intruders by strengthening the Region 3 Intruder Watch.

Ten member national societies sent delegates. Three more were represented by proxy. ARRL represents amateurs in US territories and possessions in the Region III. These include American Samoa (KH8) and Guam (KH2).

The conference accepted the invitation of the Vietnam ARC to hold its 15th Triennial Conference in Ho Chi Minh City in 2012.

<p>Please remit dues to :</p> <p>Mike Boileau, N9NBN 1106 Cleveland St Niagara, Wi. 54151</p> <p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____</p> <p><b>City, State, Zip</b> _____</p> <p><b>Call Sign:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Email Address:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Phone:</b> _____</p> <p><b>ARRL Member? Yes</b> _____ <b>No</b> _____</p> <p>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 __ **</p> <p>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.</p>
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## Area 2 Meter Repeaters

Escanaba	147.150 +	100
Escanaba	145.130 -	No PL
Gladstone	147.240 +	100.0
IRPL 4013	147.550 S	100.0
Crooks	146.700 -	No PL
Grand Marais	147.195 +	No PL
Gwinn	146.640 -	100.0
Iron Mountain	146.850 -	No PL
Iron River	145.170 -	107.2
Ishpeming	146.910 -	No PL
Marquette	146.970 -	100.0
Marquette	147.270 +	100.0
Menominee	147.000 +	107.2
Munising	145.410 -	No PL
Newberry	146.610 +	127.3
Newberry	147.090 +	114.8
Republic	147.090 +	No PL
Trenary	147.030 +	No PL
Wetmore	146.790 -	No PL

## Wisconsin Repeaters

Abrams	146.835 -	107.2
Crivitz	145.470 -	107.2
Egg Harbor	146.730 -	107.2
McAllister	146.880 -	136.5
Green Bay	147.120 +	107.2
Green Bay	147.270 +	107.2
Green Bay	146.685 -	107.2
Green Bay	145.490 -	100.0
Sister Bay	147.180 +	107.2
Sturgeon Bay	147.210 +	107.2

### V.E. TESTING:

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 906 249-3837or e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto: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.

**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:  
Mike Boileau N9NBN  
(715) 251-3137  
[n9nbn@uplogon.com](mailto:n9nbn@uplogon.com)

Secretary:  
Mike Bray, K8DDB  
(906) 563-7020  
[mikebray@chartermi.net](mailto:mikebray@chartermi.net)

Treasurer:  
Mike Boileau N9NBN  
(715) 251-3137  
[n9nbn@uplogon.com](mailto:n9nbn@uplogon.com)

**Reminders:**

Club dues for the year 2009 were 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, Mike Boileau, N9NBN at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

**The Nov Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Wed Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 2009. It will be held during the Veterans Day Special Event at the Event Location.**

**MICH-A-CON RF**

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



