

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

October 2010

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

Editors Note: The following is reprinted from the November 2007 Mich-A-Con RF . The Dates are set for this years Veterans Day Special Event. Operation is set to start November 10th. More Information will be announced as final plans are communicated.

VETERANS DAY SPECIAL EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS!

Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

Well, the Veterans Day special event is now history. I'm sure that those that participated found the experience to be very enjoyable and memorable. The many on the air comments from veterans was uplifting and heartwarming. We received several compliments from hams and the media during our operation at the U.P. Veterans Memorial.

I have been receiving QSL cards and requests for a certificate almost every day, since the event. Since there was some confusion about the availability of a certificate for our event, Mike Bray, K8DDB, and I decided to design a possible certificate for K8V. Mike handled the layout with photos taken by Art Costa, KD8GLO, and myself. I provided the text. A draft of the certificate is found in this newsletter. The club will vote on the certificate and QSL design at the next meeting.

A special thanks goes out to the Baker family! Scott, KB9AVX, Beth, KC9KVP, and Jessica, KB9KIZ, kept K8V active on 20 SSB. They put a JA in the log. This was just one of the many DX stations that contacted K8V.

Again, Lee, N8LT, was there with his trusty wrist rocket! The 80-meter dipole was stretched from the short tower on the balcony to a tree on the east side of the ski jump scaffold. Unfortunately, high winds broke the antenna the day before the operation was to begin but it was quickly repaired and returned to service.

Too bad that 80 meters didn't provide many QSOs. It seems that devotees of 75 meter SSB enjoy their nets and roundtables more than contacting a special event station. At one point, I was working a few Minnesota stations and a fellow ended the contact by wishing me luck until 1600 UTC. A Minnesota net started at that time and I was to move off frequency.



Mike, K8DDB making contacts on Vets Day! (2007)

It was the complete opposite on 40 meters. Scott, KA8TFF, and Terry, KB9ZER, had steady pileups on 40 SSB. Over 800 contacts were made on 40. Bruce, KB8RJV, came down from Negaunee and was at the mike for a long run. Burt, WB8EBS, also handled logging duties on 40 and climbed the tower to set the mast for the one element "beam". Again, thanks to Scott for the FT-1000 and Butternut vertical antenna.

Mike Bray gave out many CW contacts on 40-15 meters. Many of the QSLs that I have received have thanked Mike for the CW operation.

Tom, W8JWN, on RTTY and Randy, KB9ZES, on PSK31 provided many digital contacts on 20 meters.

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

Bob, KC8TWG, and Dennis, K8SWX, helped log, Nate, KD8GLP, operated 80 SSB, and Mike, N9NBN, and Steve, KD8CCP, escaped work for a short time and stopped by to lend

moral support. Lou, KG8NK, a member of our club and the president of the Hiawatha ARC in Marquette, stopped by to check our operation.

As of this date, December 1st, the qrz.com site for K8V as had 3,064 hits. I have updated the information a few times for hams interested in reading about our event.

Since our special event had excellent support from club members and there was interest in repeating the activity in 2008, I applied for K8V as soon as I got home from the club meeting. I received the call sign the next day! So, hopefully, we will be back on top of Pine Mountain on Veterans Day, November 11th, 2008.

DX Code of Conduct

Editors note:

This is from a link sent by Tom Martin W8JWN via email:

<http://dx-code.org/#code>

HOW You Can Help Improve Ethical Conduct

It is no secret that the on-the-air behavior of hams, especially in pileups, has gotten worse in the last few years. Unpleasant, uncivil, impolite behavior of our fellow hams reduces the enjoyment of our hobby.

It does not have to be that way nor should it be. Impolite behavior is counter-productive and simply inconsistent with the aim of our hobby, to have fun.

Just as we work to improve our technical skills, we should all aspire to hold ourselves to the highest ethical operating standards. This Code is a reminder of the high ideals of which we are all capable.

We invite you, your national society, your DX Club, and your friends to join in and publicize this effort.

I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.

I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

I will not trust the cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.

I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.

I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.

I will always send my full call sign.

I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.

I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.

I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.

I will not transmit when the DX station calls other geographic areas than mine.

When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.

I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.

I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

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 ea.
If ordering by mail please include a SASE along with
your payment.



Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for November 2010

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Meeting</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>VET'S</i> <i>DAY!</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>BREAK</i> <i>FAST</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <i>ARES</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</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 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	PLTONE	CALLSIGN
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 repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet

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

Wanted:

**YOUR ARTICLES, IDEAS AND INPUT! SEND IT IN NOW
TO:**

kd8ccp@arrl.net

Words from the President:

Tom, W8JWN

Well, it's been a few issues since I've had my "words" of wisdom shared with the members. I have had a dry spell, when it comes to putting my thoughts in print. So, here goes for this issue of the newsletter:

Just like a few years back, I have had computer issues. Last time my laptop drive went "south". A few weeks ago, the main computer in the shack started to slow down and freeze. It was frustrating to try and work DX on RTTY with a faltering computer. So, thanks to my daughter, I have a new HP Vista Business loaded computer. I have spent many, many hours loading my radio software programs to the new computer. The old XP OS programs didn't work at first. I had to do a lot of "right clicking" to get the Vista system to allow and accept the software. I sure miss XP!

Another problem is the lack of serial ports on new computers. I have six USB ports and one serial port. My SO2R system needed at least four serial ports. I still haven't hooked up the second radio. It doesn't like the USB-Serial adapter. I just might have to purchase a serial port box to add the extra ports. Also, I had a duo monitor card in the old XP computer. It won't work in the small platform HP computer.

At least I have had the Icom PRO II CW and RTTY interfaces working well with the new computer. I finished the setup just as the four new PJ countries came on the air on October 10. I have worked PJ2 (Curacao), PJ4 (Bonaire), PJ5 and PJ6 (Eustatius and Saba) and PJ7 (St.Maarten) several times on CW, SSB, and RTTY.

As you can see in the minutes of the last meeting, we are moving along with the new club trailer. Once we get it outfitted for storage, all of our equipment will be in one place. Well, probably not all. Gary will still store a few tower sections and assorted antenna elements. Also, we haven't secured a definite insurance policy. By the next meeting that should be completed.

By the way, the election is held at the next meeting at the Dickinson County Library on November 9th. Please try to attend that meeting!!!

At the meeting we will be finalizing plans for Veterans Day. Our operation begins on November 10th at the U.P. Veterans Memorial.

Finally, we will have the A.R.E.S equipment to install at the Corrections Center. I will pick up the radios, antennas, cable, etc. at Lou Gembolis'. Later, we will have a work bee to install the antenna and run the coax. Hopefully, this will happen before the snow is covering the roof!

That's it for now. See you at the next meeting!!!

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the October 12, 2010 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the September 14 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of October 1, 2010:

Checking - \$239.14

Regular Savings - \$1,871.04, \$334.42 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$779.93

Petty Cash - \$15.10 from sale of club patches.

Repeater Report

No problems to report.

ARES

Attendance at weekly nets has been down. Tom Martin will contact Jim Rye to see if he will pick up the Dickinson County emergency radio equipment at Kincheloe on October 23rd

Old Business

Club Trailer –

Paul Schultz donated two file cabinets. Quote for insurance from The General Agency was \$192. Paul will shop around for a better price. Jim Riverside reported that permission has been granted to keep the trailer next to the Civil Air Patrol building at the Ford Airport. Mark Capra donated a 2 meter Cushcraft antenna to the club.

Veteran's Day Special Event –

Tom Martin organized the various activities for the special event. Tom will contact WalMart for a donation of food etc.

New Business

Packet –

Email from Jerry Groenevelt, N0MR: We have set up a local BBS at Dennis's house. You can access by connecting to kb8hhq. The bbs is connected to the internet so if you send a message to me addressed to n0mr@kb8hhq it will forward to my packet station. You can also address to any of the local users with just the callsign command. If your packet system is on and someone leaves you mail at kb8hhq, it will forward automatically to your mailbox. Same for all local users. With the loss of packet network nodes, this is the new way of doing packet. If there is interest and this BBS works good, I'll write a newsletter article describing the use.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees discussed their recent activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary

Art Costa, KD8GLO

Barry Perron – KC9NFT

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President

Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer

Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

Skip Caswell, KE9L

Paul Schultz – KD8KUF

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Call Sign: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____
ARRL Member? Yes _____ **No** _____

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.

V.E. TESTING:

11/06 **Iron Mountain:** 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, (906) 776-1553. 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802.

12/11 **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

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 KA8TF
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer:
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS
(906) 774-8383
wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2010 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 November Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue Nov 9th, 2010. It will be held in the

MICH-A-CON RF

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

