

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

October 3, 2012

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<http://www.arrl.org>

Wisconsin ARES/RACES' Busy Summer

from:

ARES E-Letter for September 19, 2012

Two Wisconsin ARES/RACES teams in opposite corners of the state had major incidents to deal with this past summer. Milwaukee County ARES/RACES stood up three times, deploying their communications van for the tragic shooting incident in Oak Creek on Sunday, August 5, 2012. And in another corner of the state, the Douglas County ARES/RACES team assisted with communications for their neighbors in Duluth and surrounding counties in Minnesota and northern Wisconsin during the severe flooding in the June 17 to 20 period.

The Milwaukee County ARES/RACES communications van staged once and deployed twice in support of public safety agencies for the tragic shooting incident in Oak Creek that sad Sunday. The team owns and operates the van with equipment that is able to link different public safety radio networks together by employing a Raytheon ACU-1000 network cross-connecting device. This force multiplier allows police, fire, and other emergency services with radio systems using different technologies to communicate with each other. That Sunday, the team was alerted on MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) with instructions to stage the van, ready to deploy, at the Greenfield Fire

Department. Even though most ARES members from Milwaukee and Waukesha County were in Whitewater providing communications support for the MS150 Bike Ride, the team was able to respond with two hams -- James Langer, WI9FF, and David Lofy, KC9TGE -- who were able to get to the van, and get it prepped and ready to roll in just 30 minutes from the time of the initial request from Emergency Management.

On Tuesday, August 7, Milwaukee ARES/RACES received a call from Emergency Management requesting the van roll to Oak Creek to assist with communications support for the community's National Night Out and Prayer Vigil being held for the victims of Sunday's shootings. The mission again was to patch radios together for public safety agencies

L-R - Dave Lofy, KC9TGE; Paul Gruettner, WB9ODQ; and Bob Goldstein, K9KJT. (Photo by Phil Rebensburg)

coming in from Madison, Dane, Racine and other surrounding counties. WI9FF and Phillip Rebensburg, KC9CI, staffed the van and reported to the Oak Creek Police station. High profile officials were coming to attend the Prayer Vigil, including the Governor, a U.S. Senator and Representative to Congress. Brian Jansen, KC9GMW, a Milwaukee County AEC, and lead COML for the State, assisted in setting up a communications plan and the ARES van remained on standby at the Oak Creek Police Station through the entire event.

A memorial event was held on Friday, August 10, and again ARES/RACES was involved with van and communications support. The Milwaukee group's van provides tremendous service for multiple public safety agencies and recognition of that fact came by the calls made during this tragedy of violence.

Superior/Duluth Flooding

In June, Superior, Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota roads and bridges were washed out, and five feet of standing water was left in low-lying areas. Water rescues were effected, entire neighborhoods were evacuated, highways were cut off, and Internet and cell service was gone on the North Shore of Minnesota. Members of the Douglas County ARES/RACES team went to work. Douglas Nelson, AA0AW, and Garry Hooghkirk, KD0DHB, organized an effort to staff the Douglas County EOC, provided mutual aid across the border to the St. Louis County EOC and the National Weather Service's Duluth office. It took many hours to get the Lake County, Minnesota EOC open, due to road closures. This team worked with many local radio amateurs to collect information on road closures and damage reports from throughout the area. They also provided the only link to the outside world for Lake and Cook counties in Minnesota, established contacts with Life Flight services for the Grand Marais Hospital, handled traffic for doctor exchanges on the North

Shore and provided support for Emergency Management in the region. Upon receiving the news of service restoration for the North Shore, the crews at the EOCs stood down. Many of the members of the Douglas County, Wisconsin ARES/RACES team live right across the border in and around Duluth. The cooperation across state lines is tremendous on both sides of the border.

Here is a link that shows the infrastructure damage to the Duluth/Superior area including a major fiber optic cable conduit break affecting communications:

<http://www.wi-aresraces.org/counties/douglas-2.htm>

Many thanks for the fine efforts of these dedicated Wisconsin ARES/RACES teams from two opposite corners of the state. - Skip Sharpe, W9REL, Chief Radio Officer, RACES, State of Wisconsin; Paul Gruettner, WB9ODQ, Emergency Coordinator, Milwaukee County ARES/RACES; Dave Miller, W0NWO, Emergency Coordinator, Douglas County ARES/RACES; Gary Sorensen, W9ULK, Section Emergency Coordinator, Wisconsin ARES/RACES.

Words from the President Tom, W8JWN

After several Monday mornings at the EOC in the Dickinson County Sheriff's Department, the Hustler vertical is now tuned! Burt (WB8EBS) and Skip (KE9L) did the chilly roof work and I made SWR measurements with the MFJ 259 B in Pete's (KC8JRH) cozy office.

We got the SWR down to 2:1 on 3.930 kHz, and 1.6:1 on 7.230 kHz, the frequencies used for ARES and RACES. SWR is fine on 10, 15, and 20 meters.

There are still some tasks to complete before the station is 100% ready for emergency communications.

The Kenwood TS-2000 transceiver and the RigBlaster Pro interface must be programmed before we can operate digital modes.

Also, more room is needed for operators. I talked to Pete Schlitt about this issue. He will try to get shelves installed, or a computer desk with room for two operators.

Finally, a dipole for 75 meters should be installed to guarantee a good signal into Marquette and other U.P cities. I'm also convinced that our ability to contact Lansing would be improved by using a dipole rather than the

vertical. This has been brought to Pete's attention. We will make a proposal to the Dickinson County Board of Commissioners in the near future.

Thanks to Fred Broschart (KC9SBY) we now have a laptop computer for the EOC! He donated an e Machines E725 with Windows 7. I have loaded a few ham radio logging programs on it and they work well. Thanks Fred!!!!

I spent a few hours today, Tuesday, October 2nd helping Jim Faulkner (KC8CKX) assemble his Cushcraft A3S tribander. We also replaced trap caps that had deteriorated in the Florida sun. He will still need help installing coax and a rotor. If anyone would like to help us, before the snow flies, let me know. By the way, Jim has a lovely QTH near Foster City. What a spot for antennas! I'm jealous.

This past weekend, I played around in the CQWWRTTY Contest. I made 208 contacts in 5 hours of operating. Half of those were with 100 watts. I saved the Alpha for the big pileups. 10 meters was really open to Asia on Saturday evening. I worked South Korea (HL), Hong Kong (VR2), and Asiatic Russia (R0) with 100 watts.

I hope last weekend wasn't the solar peak!!! Monday morning the SFI was dropping and the A index was 35. I couldn't hear a signal on 10, 15, and 20 meters and the boys on 3913 were barely moving the S-meter on the TS-2000 at the EOC.

Those Northern Lights must have been beautiful, eh???

73,

Tom W8JWN



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.

<i>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for October 2012</i>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4 <i>ARES</i>	5	6
7	8	9 <i>Meeting</i>	10	11 <i>ARES</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 <i>ARES</i>	19	20 <i>BREAKFAST</i>
20	21	22	23	24 <i>ARES</i>	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 <i>ARES</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.

<i>OUTPUT</i>	<i>OFFSET</i>	<i>PLTONE</i>	<i>CALLSIGN</i>
<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.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the September 11th, 2012 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the August 14th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Membership Dues Received: \$5.00

Checks were written to: AT&T, \$25.96

Balances as of September 10th, 2012:

Checking - \$26.95

Regular Savings - \$2,298.75 of which \$1,828.65 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$1,081.21

Petty Cash - \$6.00

We now have 36 paid members.

Repeater Report

The repeater has been working OK but the controller for the new repeater needs to be installed.

ARES

The net has been meeting regularly every Thursday at 6:30pm on 146.850 repeater. We need a new net coordinator until Oct. 11th at which time Dennis will return.

Old Business

President Tom reported that nothing is wrong with the coils on the Hustler antenna at the Courthouse, however it has to be tuned because the SWR is 16:1 on 75 meters and therefore we can't operate there. 40 meters was the best at 2.3:1 SWR. A laptop computer is still needed to operate digital.

President Tom also asked Louie Gembolis, President of Hiawatha Radio Club in MQT about the Rigblaster Pro. Not many counties have them set-up.

There was a brief discussion on Field Day. The Florence Fairgrounds was a success and we will likely go back there next year.

Veterans Day: President Tom spoke with their new President Nick Blagec and requested the use the Springer Haus again this year. Operators & equipment will be discussed in October.

New Business

Louie Gembolis said that Ely Township will have a new repeater on a tower donated by NMU that will link all of Baraga County.

There will be a meeting at the Courthouse to tune the antennas at 10:00 am Mon. September 17th. Volunteers are welcome.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 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
Skip Caswell, KE9L
Al Poquette, K9ECG
Fred Broschart, KC9SBY ** Welcome new member!

The Weather Channel to Begin Naming Winter Storms

From:

ARRL Letter for October 4th, 2012

Beginning this winter, The Weather Channel will begin naming what it calls “noteworthy winter storms.” As The Weather Channel explained on its website, “[a] storm with a name is easier to follow, which will mean fewer surprises and more preparation. In addition to providing information about significant winter storms by referring to them by name, the name itself will make communication and information sharing in the constantly expanding world of social media much easier.”

Unlike the National Hurricane Center -- which has named tropical storms and hurricanes since the 1940s -- the National Weather Service (NWS) does not name winter storms. “One of the reasons this may be true is that there is no national center, such as the National Hurricane Center, to coordinate and communicate information on a multi-state scale to cover such big events,” The Weather Channel’s website said. “The National Centers for Environmental Prediction’s Hydrologic Prediction Center does issue discussions and snowfall forecasts on a national scale, but it does not fill the same role as the NHC in naming storms. Historically, many major winter storms have been named during or after the event has occurred, such as ‘The President’s Day Storm’ and ‘Snowmageddon.’ Yet, until now, there has been no organized naming system for these storms before they impact population centers.” In Europe, forecasters have named winter storms since the 1950s, and many local television stations in the US name winter storms, as well.

According to The Weather Channel, a winter storm will only be given a name after a complete assessment of several variables, including snowfall, ice, wind and temperature, as well as taking into account the time of day (rush hour vs overnight) and the day of the week (weekday school and work travel vs weekends). The Weather Channel will only name a storm no more than three days before its anticipated impact.

For a list of names that The Weather Channel has selected for the upcoming winter storm season, please click here:

<http://www.weather.com/news/winter-storm-names-20121001> .

Michigan PRB-1 Bill Introduced

from:

Weaver's Words, September 30th 2012

Jim Weaver, K8JE

Director, Great Lakes Division

Michigan Section Manager Larry Camp, WB8R, reports "I have some good news on the PRB-1 front. Today, September 11, 2012, the PRB-1 bill prepared by the Michigan ARRL group was introduced into the Michigan Senate as SB 1244. This bill was sponsored by Senators Rick Jones (Primary), Bruce Caswell, Tonia Schuitmaker and James Marleau. The bill has been referred to Committee.

"We have some fine tuning of the language to do, but our primary sponsor assures us that that can be easily accomplished in committee. We are looking forward to getting the language adjusted and then on to an opportunity to testify before the committee and to turn the amateurs of Michigan loose in a letter writing campaign.

"We are feeling cautiously optimistic here in Michigan this afternoon."

Congratulations to Larry and his team for getting the bill introduced. Michigan amateurs should keep their eyes peeled for requests from the team to help promote its passage through committee and the floor of the Senate. I am sure SM Camp will appreciate hearing from any members who have particular relationship with state senators or representatives.

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).

12/8Marquette: 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@arrrl.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@arrrl.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/VEC Location: 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

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

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
October 9th . 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