

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

November 2005

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Visit the ARRL's web site at:

<http://www.arrl.org>

## Indiana Tornado "Like a Thief in the Night," Ham Radio Volunteer Says

NEWINGTON, CT, Nov 11, 2005--Amateur Radio volunteers continue to assist relief and recovery efforts in the wake of a November 6 tornado that left 22 people dead and hundreds injured. The twister, an F3 on the Fujita scale with winds of up to 200 MPH, originated within a line of thunderstorms that struck the region during the early morning hours. It cut a more than 40-mile swath through part of Kentucky and extreme southwestern Indiana, wiping out a section of a trailer park in Vanderburgh County where 18 of the fatalities occurred.

"It was like a thief in the night, striking and having no mercy for anyone or anything in its path," said Amateur Radio volunteer and police officer Bob Pointer, N9XAW. He said Amateur Radio initially assisted Red Cross emergency response vehicles (ERVs) in the field to communicate with their headquarters, a new facility where the communication system was not yet complete.

Pointer says Red Cross volunteer Terry Brooks,

AA9MM, took the first ERV to the scene. "En route he contacted other hams to report to the center to take over net control," he said. "This was in operation for two days until the Red Cross established communications with their field units via their own methods."

Since then, Amateur Radio volunteers have been supporting relief activities of The Salvation Army, at the request of Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) National Director Maj Pat McPherson, WW9E. The need was to set up communication between mobile field and canteen units and The Salvation Army headquarters in Evansville.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Mich-A-Con ARC November 8th Meeting Minutes

The business meeting was called to order by President Tom Martin, W8JWN, at 6:31 PM.

### Secretary Report:

The minutes of the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved.

### Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tom, W8JWN. As of this meeting we have \$90.36 in checking, \$1,892.87 in the savings account, \$1,368.71 (\$.53 interest) in the repeater account and \$26.00 petty cash. Transactions: WE Energies \$9.60, SBC \$25.28 (a new Long Distance charge has been added at a cost of \$2.00). Since the last

meeting, \$45 was deposited into checking for dues received. We have 41 members, including 16 new members, who have paid their 2005 dues. 9 members on last year's roster have not yet paid.

### Repeater Report:

Terry, KB9ZER, has three tower sections and Bob, WA8FXQ, has 40 feet of heliax available for temporary installation of the 2-meter repeater antenna. The antenna will be moved to the 80 foot level on the WE Energies tower next May. Bob gave Tom the annual paperwork for repeater coordination and requested that he send the \$5 fee to the Repeater Coordination Committee.

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## Words from the President

As I pondered over what to say in the “Words” for this month’s issue, thoughts of deer season rapidly took over. I had a vision of that BIG buck slowly approaching my blind from the dark swamp in front of me. His rack appears against the white background of newly fallen snow. I can’t believe the size of that rack! It has at least 12 points! I lift my rifle and peer through the scope. Indeed, one, two, three, four, five, six points on one side. The same count is made on the other side. This is a perfect, typical rack! I must be dreaming. This is the chance of a lifetime. Don’t blow it now. I place the crosshairs just behind the left shoulder and squeeze.....

Of course, the above is just a “vision”, the odds of that happening are slim and none at our camp. Heck, I haven’t seen anything over 7 points since 2000. Before that, a few 8 pointers graced our 80 acres with their presence but nothing to brag about. I guess that the old adage about being in the right place at the right time fits deer hunting and life’s experiences. From hunting, to DXing, to winning the lottery it is based on luck and chance. Of course, skill is necessary in some respects.

I have honed my DXing skills over 45 years as a ham. I have tried to get the best antennas and equipment that I can afford and assemble in the space allotted. I have operated in all modes and participated in all kinds of contests over the

years. I have used the computer the past six years to access DX clusters on the Net. These clusters show on what bands the DX is operating and times and modes. Of course, propagation is a big factor. If there isn’t good propagation to Jan Mayen from the U.P., it will be quite difficult to get JX in the log as a new country. I still need JX confirmed for country number 318. I worked them in the 70’s but never got a QSL card.

Perhaps, this year will be different. This could be the chance of a lifetime! JX is active again after several years of inactivity. Hopefully, when I see JX9NOA on the computer screen, I will be able to “squeeze” the key and get lucky!

## VEC Testing at Iron River

The Iron Range Amateur Radio Club VEC makes exams available on a monthly basis on the 3rd Thursday of the month, prior to the start of their club meeting. Examinations must be arranged before hand. Exam time: 6:30 PM (Central), Place: Iron River Lutheran Church (on US-2 next to McDonalds), Contact: Dan Waters, AA9G, [dmwaters@ironriver.tv](mailto:dmwaters@ironriver.tv). (906) 265-4240

## Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for December 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 ARES	5	6 Tnn	7	8	9	10
11 ARES	12	13 Meeting	14	15	16	17 Breakfast
18 ARES	19	20 Tnn	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Tnn	28	29	30	31

### December Contests

(All dates and times are UTC)

ARRL 160 Meter Contest (CW)  
2200 Dec 2 to 1600 Dec 4

Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint  
(CW) 2000 to 2400 Dec 4

ARRL 10 Meter Contest  
0000 Dec 10 to 2400 Dec 11

RAC Winter Contest  
0000 to 2359 Dec 17

Lighthouse Christmas Lights  
QSO Party  
0001 Dec 17 to 2359 Jan 1

ARRL Straight Key Night  
0000 to 2359 Jan 1, 2006

### December Club Activities

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:00 PM Central Time every Sunday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz.)

Please join us for the Tuesday Night Net on the 6th, 20th and 27th at 6:30 PM on the 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz) Dennis, K8BAIT, is our Net Control Operator.

Monthly meeting on Tuesday the 13th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street in Norway. The meeting room is upstairs next to the sanctuary.

Saturday Morning Breakfast, 9:00 AM on the 17th at the Holiday Kitchen in Iron Mountain, on US-2 across from Econo Foods.

### Club Operating Activity

All club members are invited to use the club callsign to help the club attain WAS and DXCC. If you use the club call, please give information required for the log such as: station worked, date and time (UTC), frequency, RST sent and received, mode and power to Mike, K8DDB. Also give a description of the equipment you were using.

[mikebray@chartermi.net](mailto:mikebray@chartermi.net)

**License Study Materials  
Available from the ARRL:**

**Technician Class:**

*Now You're Talking* - 5th edition - Order No. 8810  
\$19.95

*ARRL's Tech Q&A* - 3rd edition - Order No. 8829  
\$12.95

*ARRL Technician Class Video Course* - 4th ed.

DVD Course No. 9116  
VHS Course No. 8837  
\$149 each + \$12 s&h

**General Class:**

*ARRL General Class License Manual* - 5th ed.

Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9205  
\$16.95

*ARRL's General Q&A*  
Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9213  
\$12.95

*Your Introduction to Morse Code* - Pass 5 wpm test  
Cassettes No. 8322  
Audio CD No. 8314  
\$14.95 each

*Ham University - Complete Edition* - Learn Morse code with this easy to use software. Includes a written exam quiz generator with all three question pools. CD-ROM for Win95-XP  
Order No. 8735  
\$39.95

Phone: 1-888-277-5289  
or

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/>

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/8330/>

<http://hamuniversity.com>

## Indiana Tornado "Like a Thief in the Night"

*(Continued from page 1)*

"This was set up in no time," Pointer recounted. "Local hams were quick to turn on their radios to listen for calls for assistance. It did not take long to start receiving offers to volunteer." Calls from as far away as New York and other states came in with offers to volunteer, Pointer said. "It was truly a rewarding feeling. Thanks to the ARRL for putting out the call so quickly."

Pointer says that within hours of setting up, ARRL Section Manager Jim Sellers, K9ZBM, called to offer assistance and got the ball rolling. ARRL Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator David Pifer, N9YNF, contacted ARRL Headquarters to spread the word.

"ARRL Headquarters even called to check on us," Pointer said. "Everyone made the same offer: 'Tell us what you need and what we can do for you.' You see, your membership is more than a magazine a month. It is hams from all over the world ready to support you."

### The Major Becomes a Ham Radio Fan

Pointer said the first day was fraught with "the usual confusion" and getting organized. "Local hams called on the repeater to offer assistance and were soon assigned to field stations," he said. "This was a good exercise in trying out the grab-it-and-go kits."

Three Salvation Army mobile kitchens and three field units have been deployed in Vanderburgh and Warrick counties, and Amateur Radio is supporting their relief activities. The daily routine involves moving food from a warehouse to mobile kitchens to feed tornado victims as well as the hundreds of volunteers deployed in several locations across a wide area. "Traffic consists of requests for supplies, messages to workers and important notices to all staff volunteers," Pointer reports.

With electricity out everywhere in the area, Pointer said, mobile operation became the norm. "As time goes on," he added, "relief workers will be utilized to give existing crews a break, and to allow newer hams a chance to participate and learn."

Pointer says even though The Salvation Army teams had cell phones available to them, Ama-

teur Radio's communication capabilities won them over. "In at least two locations of the field units, there was no cell phone coverage," he pointed out. "In locations where cell phones worked, the circuits were often busy and unreliable." The Salvation Army workers could simply give a message to the Amateur Radio volunteer on duty and it would get sent quickly and reliably.

"Without hams they had to look up cell phone numbers on hastily written notepapers, remember who was where and when they worked, and try to dial it on a tiny keypad," Pointer said. He recalled one incident where a Salvation Army major was trying to contact a field unit but could not get through. The ham radio net control op volunteered to try, and with one call the unit answered and the traffic was handled.

"The major was a believer after that," Pointer said.

### "The Technical Stuff"

"Our initial station was my grab-it-and-go kit: A dualband transceiver, a deep-cycle battery, a homemade dualband J-pole, military surplus mast and a 100-foot roll of RG-8X," Pointer recalled. He erected an antenna on the lawn of the Evansville Salvation Army headquarters, guyed with bright yellow nylon cord, and the coax was routed through a side door.

"The radio was set up in a briefing room and, presto!, you have a station set up in 30 minutes," Pointer continued. "It didn't take long to remember to dig out the headphones while they were having a meeting. Our club had talked about such portable field equipment and had encouraged everyone to have it ready. Well, it sure worked out!"

Pointer said each member who called in initially could report to a location, set up and be handling traffic within 20 minutes of arrival.

One problem: The club's wide-coverage repeater was taken out last year when a wind shear incident brought down the state police tower where it had been mounted. The back-up repeater, a low-power unit on the roof of a local hospital, would not fill the needs of the wide geographical area involved, and handheld transceivers "were out of the question," Pointer said.

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## From the GY3CC Memorial QRP SITE

The QRP world heard of the passing of Frank G3YCC - who most know of from the masses of information he put at our disposal through his website. Frank put a lot of time & effort into this and it would be a great pity if that work was lost.

Permission to reproduce his site has been granted by Frank's wife who is pleased that he can be remembered in this way by the hobby he loved.

K3HRN

### LIGHT EMITTING DIODES

Light emitting diodes, ( commonly known as LEDs ) are CURRENT operated devices. They are semiconductor devices which emit light when current flows through them in the forward direction.

The colour of the light, generally ranging from infra red to blue, depends upon the materials used for their construction.

The typical forward current of an LED is 10 milliamps, and severe damage can result if this figure is grossly exceeded. Remember, they are CURRENT operated devices, and any circuit devised for illuminating an LED \*\*\*MUST\*\*\* have current limiting component(s).

The most common method of limiting the current is a series resistor.

Before we can calculate the value of the resistor, we need to know 3 parameters:

1) The forward voltage of the LED. Like all diodes, the LED has a voltage drop when current is passed through it. Forward voltages of LEDs vary from typically 1.8 Volts for a red LED, 2.1 Volts for a green LED to 3 Volts for a blue LED. Manufacturers data sheets should supply this information.

2) The forward current of the LED. Again, manufacturers will supply this very important parameter.

3) The maximum voltage of the circuit. This parameter is decided by the user.

### Example:

An LED is required to indicate the presence of voltage on the output of a 13.8 Volt d.c. power supply.

Having chosen a suitable device, e.g. a red LED with a forward current of 10 milliamps, and a forward voltage of 1.9 Volts, we now have to calculate the value of resistor which is required to limit the current.

Starting with our supply voltage of 13.8 Volts, subtract the forward voltage of the LED from this ( 13.8 - 1.9 = 11.9 Volts ).

Using Ohm's Law,  $R = V / I$ , the resistance =  $11.9 / 0.01 = 1190$  Ohms.

This is not a generally available value, so go to the nearest available value ABOVE the figure calculated. In this case it is 1200 Ohms.

Therefore a resistor of 1200 Ohms ( or 1.2 kilohms ) would be a suitable value to place in series with the LED for operation at 13.8 Volts d.c. and a forward current of 10 milliamps.

### Important

Reverse voltage above about 3 Volts will irreparably damage the LED, so ensure the LED is connected the correct way. The anode of the LED goes towards the most positive part of the circuit, likewise, the cathode of the LED must be connected to the most negative part of the circuit.

### TOWER WORK

A ham writing a letter to his insurance company explaining a recent misfortune..... "I am writing in response to your request for additional information in block No. 3 of your Accident Reporting Form. I submitted "poor-planning" caused the accident. You say in your letter to explain "more fully". I trust the following information will prove to be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was at work on the top section of my 100 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that, over the course of many trips up and down the tower, I had brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now-unneeded tools down by hand I decided to lower them using a small barrel and my "gin pole" still attached to the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up the tower and filled the barrel. I then went back to ground level and untied the rope, holding it tightly, to insure a slow descent of the 300 pound load. You will notice in block No. 11

(Continued on page 8)

### Club Equipment List

Tom, W8JWN, has custody of :

- Gin Pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
- Small TV type rotor and control.
- Dipole antennas for 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
- Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy)
- RG8X with double shield (100 feet)
- 3/16 inch single braid Dacron rope (200 feet)
- 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters)
- 6 PL259 silver connectors
- 4 T-adapters for stubs
- 4 UG-176 silver sleeves
- 3 right-angle connectors
- Tri-band beam antenna
- Club banner

Mike, K8DDB, has custody of :

- Lafayette 80-10 meter tube type VFO and Operating Manual.
- J-38 Morse key
- Power supply 0 to +- 32 VDC, 2 amp (rack mount)
- Duplexer (rack mount home brew) 440 MHz?
- Power supply (home brew partially built)

Bob, KC8TWG, has custody of :

- 40 foot tower (in process of refurbishing)

The list can be accessed by a link on the Membership page of our web site:

<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

If you have custody of any club equipment, please notify Mike, K8DDB, of what you have. Also, notify Mike when you give custody of the equipment to another member.

Email: [mikebray@chartermi.net](mailto:mikebray@chartermi.net)  
or  
Phone (906) 563-7020

**Packet Racket**

**New Route to Negaunee**

Steve, N8MLI, has been sending packet directly from his system to MIIMTB in Metropolitan. I was able to access N8MLI-1 using MIIMTB and leave a message with no problem. I tried reaching him via MIIMT on Pine Mountain and was able to access N8MLI-1, but the connection wasn't reliable enough to get a message through.

**#CMX Node Down**

I have received word from George, W8FWG, that the #CMX node in Calumet will be down until repairs can be made to their Motorola Mitrek transceiver. #CMX is the 446.30MHz backbone node between Herman and CMXLAN in Calumet.

The problem with the node was brought to the attention of George by Le Roy, N8WQG. Testing by George showed that the transceiver produced less than one watt into a dummy load. Because of lack of documentation for the rig, the club will have it repaired by the Motorola repair shop in Marquette.

I had been experiencing intermittent problems in getting through #CMX for some time and should have mentioned it to George. Thanks to Le Roy for taking the initiative.

**Status Quo**

The MIIMTB node and associated backbone will remain at the Metropolitan site until at least the May 2006 time frame. We hope to solve the problem with the 2-meter repeater before moving the packet system to Pine Mountain.

K8DDB

# Area News

In addition to publishing news from other clubs that may be of interest to our members, this column will also inform us of issues that other clubs are dealing with so we may benefit from their ideas.

From the  
**HARA Standing Wave**

Newsletter of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, *Editor: Greg Hanson, K18AF*

From George W8FWG in the Copper Country:  
**SKYWARN TIMES FIRST EDITION**  
**September, 2005 EDITION**  
**PHASE III: STARTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**  
**ANNOUNCING:**

1. **New Keweenaw County ARES Net**  
When? Each Friday night.  
Time? 9:00 Eastern Time  
Freq.? 147.315 MHZ (+) [100 Hz needed]  
Start Date: September 30, 2005  
NCS: Gary, K8YSZ  
For: All radio amateurs  
Details: TBA on initial transmission on 09/30/05

2. **REACTIVATION of the FRIDAY NIGHT SKYWARN NET**

**GOALS:**

1. What is the purpose of the Friday night **SKYWARN NET**?

Answer: To provide operator training on weather reporting procedures, and to allow our check-ins to report the current weather conditions from their area.

2. How often will we meet?

Each Friday night of the year, unless otherwise noted.

3. Designed to cover a five county area including the counties of: Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Marquette.

4. It was given approval by NWS of Negaunee.

5. It was also approved the Office of Emergency Measures of Houghton Co.

6. Our purpose was to find enough ham radio operators who would be willing, in times of severe weather to join a net sponsored by NOAA weather of Negaunee, with names and calls signs of hams in each county whom they could rely on, to provide them with local conditions in the 5 counties.

7. To serve as a reminder of when the "Spotter Training" sessions would be held here, in the U.P. of Michigan.

8. To serve as a training ground of "what to report"...."when to report"....and "what kind of information" is needed by the NWS.

9. To allow the local radio hams of these five counties to interact, that is report what is happening (weather-wise) in their particular county, at the present time.

10. To mention several ways that information can be sent to the NWS:

- A. Telephone
- B. Amateur Radio (Voice or Data) (FM & Packet Radio)
- C. Internet, using the E-Spotter System, provided by NOAA.

11. While not all check-ins may be certified as "spotter-trained" we encourage all check-ins to take the course of instruction, offered free of charge by the weather bureau once a year, and for those already trained to further their education by attending a refresher course at least once a year. These courses are offered in every U.P. county each spring.

12. We have the capability of providing NOAA weather with information provided by our observers with information we receive from the radio operators who check in. Most of the time the reports will remain here, and only in times of severe weather conditions will they be sent on to Negaunee.



# ARES NEWS

## Rendering Assistance via the Repeater

The 146.850 MHz club repeater auto patch is available to all club members (and others with permission). EMERGENCIES, traffic accidents, etc., should be handled by calling 911, which will connect you to the Dickinson County dispatch center. If you are calling to report an emergency in Wisconsin, the Dickinson County dispatcher will take the information and relay it to the proper authorities in Wisconsin.

To access the auto patch, ensure that the repeater is not in use then key your transceiver and say, "(your callsign) conducting auto patch". With your transceiver keyed, press the "\*" button and then release the PTT button. You should now hear a dial tone over the repeater. Press the PTT button again and dial 911 using the transceiver's key pad. Release the PTT button and wait for the dispatcher to answer the phone. Tell the dispatcher, "This is (your name and callsign) calling via the amateur radio repeater". Tell the dispatcher the location and nature of the emergency. The dispatcher may request that you maintain communications until help arrives at the scene. When your communication is complete, terminate the auto patch by keying your transceiver and pressing the "#" button. Then say, "auto patch is terminated, this is (your callsign)".

You may have the need to request assistance from the dispatcher for a NON EMERGENCY condition, such as requesting a tow truck for a disabled motor vehicle which does not present a hazard to traffic. DO NOT use 911 for non emergencies. The following telephone numbers should be used instead:

Dickinson County - 774-6262

Florence County - 1-715-528-3346

Marinette County - 1-800-924-3228

Keep this information with you and you will be ready to provide assistance if the need arises.

K8DDB

Rare DX worked by Tom, W8JWN, using the Club Call QSO logged 13 April 2004, 03:55 UTC, 20 meters, SSB, 100 watts



**BANABA DX-PEDITION**  
April 2004

**T33C**

Thanks to our sponsors:

TO RADIO : <b>KC8VC</b>				
DATE DMY	TIME UTC	FREQ MHZ	2-WAY	RST
13.04.2004	03:55	14	SSB	59

A joint operation of:  
AA4NN-AK0A-DF2IC-DL4KQ-DL50AB-F5CWU-GM4FDM-IK1PMR-K2LEO  
K3LP-K6ND-K6SRZ-KR40J-N6TQS-PA2R-PA3EWP-RK3AD-YT1AD-YZ7AA

QSL via buro or direct to: Flo Moudar, F5CWU, 25 Rue du Castel Salis, 37100 Tours, France

The T33C team of 19 operators activated Banaba Island, a "most wanted" entity in the Pacific, only reachable by sea, logging approximately 75,000 QSOs from April 4 to April 15, 2004. The team operated all bands from 6 through 160 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, and SSTV. This was the first operation from Banaba since 1999 and the largest ever DXpedition to Banaba.

Banaba is located some 420km southwest of Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati, and about 80km south of the equator. Eighty years of phosphate mining have eliminated more than 90% of arable land on the island. Today, the 300 residents of Banaba support themselves by fishing, by working small gardens, and by using money from a trust fund established by the United Kingdom in reparations for the damage done to their environment. Despite the hardships they have faced, the people of Banaba were gracious hosts and welcomed the team to their island.

The T33C team thanks all the radio clubs, DX foundations, and individuals for their financial support and encouragement. Team members also thank corporate sponsors for their loans and gifts of radio equipment. Logs, QSL information, and photographs from the DXpedition can be seen at: <http://www.dx-pedition.de/banaba2004/>



## Buy-Sell-Trade

### Wanted

Digital DC Voltmeter.  
Need to measure 0 to 1 volt.  
Need to have RS 232 output.  
Need it to attach a vintage infrared spectrophotometer to a PC.

Bob, K8RJ  
[bjarn@hotmail.com](mailto:bjarn@hotmail.com)

### Wanted

H.F. Rig - Looking for something like a Kenwood TS-940, TS-430, etc.; Yaesu FT-890, FT-990; most anything to use as a second rig. Would also consider a Tube Type transceiver.

Monte, K9DZD  
Channing, MI  
906 542-3802  
[k9dzd@ispwest.com](mailto:k9dzd@ispwest.com)

### For Sale

Ten Tec 6-meter FM Transceiver, model 1260, 5 watt output, microprocessor controlled w/15 memories, digital frequency display - \$100.00

ARX-2B Ranger II Cushcraft, 135-170 MHz - \$55.00

Swan 350 Transceiver and 117C Power Supply w/ speaker - Receiver receives (may need alignment), never tried transmitting - \$100.00 as is

Motorola 25 amp 13.8 volt Micor Power Supply - \$35.00

Bob Uren, KC8TWG  
[rjuren@chartermi.net](mailto:rjuren@chartermi.net)  
(906) 779-1708

### For Sale

Heathkit HW-16 transceiver with power supply - \$50.00

Paul, WB8SZI  
(906)563-8044

### Wanted

Hallicrafters sx-101 receiver (might consider National 300 receivers series also)  
Hammarlund HQ-170-180  
Collins KWM2 or 2A, or Collins receivers

Monte, K9DZD  
(906)542-3802  
[k9dzd@ispwest.com](mailto:k9dzd@ispwest.com)

## Indiana Tornado "Like a Thief in the Night"

*(Continued from page 3)*

Local radio amateur and electronics shop owner James Utley, KC9EMT, learned of the problem and pulled a Kenwood repeater from his inventory, programmed it and delivered it to the club for the volunteers' use. Pointer and Brooks took it to a remote receiver site and put it on the VHF antenna.

"That unit saved the day," Pointer said. "Solid copy from almost everywhere on a handheld. Now the field hams did not have to be tethered to their mobile units." One of the volunteers in the field who had to communicate over some distance configured a spare transceiver as a crossband repeater so he could move about his area using the mobile to link back to net control. "That is what Amateur Radio is all about," Pointer said, "using what you have to face the challenge and get the job done."

Pointer said he expected the Amateur Radio tornado relief support operation to continue at least through week's end and possibly longer. He said the hams have been checking in with the local Federal Emergency Management Office each day to provide updates and get information.

### **Communications Pool**

Pointer says local radio amateurs consider themselves to be a pool of communicators. "When someone calls for assistance, we--the local ham community--respond. Club affiliation is not considered. All local clubs help each other." Any organization that requests assistance receives help from all hams in the area.

"I am privileged to work with a great bunch of people down here," he concluded.

### **Kentucky Response**

Kentucky SEC Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, says SKYWARN was active as the storms approached early last Sunday. "I had our Amateur Radio net going with National Weather Service (NWS) Louisville and monitored those in the counties west of me as it approached," he told ARRL. SKYWARN nets were active in Daviess and Hancock counties.

On the Kentucky side, Breckinridge, Grayson and Meade counties west of Louisville were active with the linked Wide Area Repeaters Net (WARN) as the storms moved eastward, Dodson said. NWS Louisville's amateur station WX4NWS was staffed for three hours as the storms moved across counties on both sides of the Ohio River. "Their operators were Pete Womack, KF4VCC, and Mark Jarvis, KI4KGY, who both did an excellent job moving around the 2-meter and 440 bands to find info on the hot spots," Dodson noted.

"Any emergency manager can quickly see the advantage of Amateur Radio for both early warning and response," he continued. "It gave my county almost an hour to evaluate the threat, make decisions and then to alert personnel for pre-deployment in case of the worst. As the storms passed over, we had lots of trained eyes and ears on guard--amateur and public safety. You can't ask for more than that!"

## November 8th Meeting Minutes

*(Continued from page 1)*

### ARES:

Dennis, KD8AIT, reported the District 8 ARES/RACES meeting was cancelled.

### Old Business:

Bob, KC8TWG, reported that he suspended work on the Field Day tower because of an injury. Help will be needed to sand the tower and get it ready for painting.

Tom, W8JWN, has contacted Mark Frazee at the VA hospital. They are waiting for the 2006 budget to see if funds will be available for additional hospital renovation. If so, they won't consider giving up space until the renovation is complete. Randy, KB9ZES, suggested that we contact Greg Weiss to see if we could share space in the computer training room. Randy was asked to contact Greg.

### New Business:

Mike, K8DDB, read an email from QSL.net, our club website host, asking for donations. A \$25 donation would give us a chance at an Icom 756pro3 transceiver. Mike, N9NBN motioned that we donate \$25, seconded by Randy, the motion carried.

Randy announced that G.M. Communications, 1300 North Stephenson in Iron Mountain offers discounts to Hams on antennas, etc.

Mike, K8DDB, announced that he has free K7QO Morse Code Course CD-ROMs available to any club member wanting one.

Tom will check suppliers of safety belts and make a proposal to purchase a belt for repeater work at the next meeting. It was suggested that the money would come from the Repeater Savings Account.

Bob, WA8FXQ, reported that he has had a request for a license class and that he is willing to be an instructor. It was suggested that, if possible, we hold the class at the VA hospital. The club should supply instructor kits.

Election of club officers was held. Mike, N9NBN, nominated Dennis, KD8AIT, for Treasurer, the nomination was seconded by Randy and all voted in favor. Burt, WB8EBS, made a motion to retain those holding the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary. Bob, KC8TWG, seconded the motion and all

voted in favor.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM

Submitted by: Mike Bray

### Attendees:

Mike Bray, K8DDB (Secretary)  
 Mike Boileau, N9NBN (Vice President)  
 Randy Zandt, KB9ZES  
 Lee Michaud, N8LT  
 Dennis Beurjey, KD8AIT  
 Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS  
 Tom Martin, W8JWN (President)  
 Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ  
 Bob Uren, KC8TWG  
 Jim Riverside, K8ABS

## Tower Work

*(Continued from page 4)*

that I had given my weight as 150 pounds.

Due to my surprise at being suddenly jerked off the ground at such a rapid rate, I momentarily lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 50 foot level, I met the swiftly descending barrel. This explains my fractured collar bone. After momentarily slowing, I resumed my rapid ascent, not stopping until my hands were three knuckles deep in the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my composure and managed to hold onto the rope despite the excruciating pain. At about this time, however, the loaded barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Now, without the 300 pounds of tools, the barrel only weighed about 15 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block No. 11.

As you might imagine, I began a swift plunge down the side of the tower. Again, at about the 50 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for my two fractured ankles and the lacerations on my legs, thighs, and lower body. The barrel encounter slowed me enough to lessen my impact with the pile of tools and hardware and I was extremely fortunate to escape with only a fractured coccyx and three crushed vertebrae. I regret to report, however, that as I lay there on the pile of tools in excruciating pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel, 100 feet above me, that I again let go of the rope, and .....!"

### **Club Apparel:**

Our club apparel is supplied by:

Shirt Tails  
 408 S Stephenson Ave.  
 Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Phone: (906)774-3370  
 or  
 finleyd@up.net

### Prices:

Jacket with liner \$45  
 (Tall add \$5, 2X or 3X add \$5,  
 to add your name or call sign  
 on the front is \$5)

T-Shirt - \$10  
 (2X or 3X add \$1)  
 Sweatshirt - \$16  
 (2X or 3X add \$2)

If you wish to have the club logo printed on an item of clothing that you have purchased elsewhere, there is charge of \$6.

Club patches are available from:

Tom Martin, W8JWN  
 812 West B Street  
 Iron Mountain, MI 49801

They are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3.00 each. If ordering by mail, please include a SASE along with your payment.





Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club  
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please remit dues to:  
Dennis Beurjey, KD8AIT  
612 Balsam Street  
Kingsford, MI 49802

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

Annual dues are due in January—Please make checks 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.  
\*\*If you are an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater-Only-Membership.

Exam Schedule

City: Iron Mountain  
Location: Dickinson County Library  
Room: Conference Room  
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time  
Contact: Mark Lewis, N8UKD  
Telephone: (906) 774-6598

Exam Date: Feb 4, 2006  
Exam Date: May 6, 2006  
Exam Date: Aug 5, 2006  
Exam Date: Nov 4, 2006

Examinees should bring 2 pencils, a pen for the official paperwork, the originals AND copies of any previous credit that you have earned (Certificates of Successful Completion or current license), 1 photo id (usually a driver's license) and 1 other id. (usually a birth certificate or SS card), a calculator if needed (make sure your memories are cleaned out), and the test fee (2005 fee is \$14).

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain.

Items for Mich-A-Con RF should be in the editor's hands by club meeting day (2nd Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition. Please consider writing an article related to Amateur Radio to share with your fellow members. Send the article in plain text and attach any photos, etc., don't worry about format, that's the editor's job.

Send to:  
mikebray@chartermi.net  
(906) 563-7020

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of material found in Mich-A-Con RF unless otherwise noted, provided that proper credit is given to the author and Mich-A-Con ARC.

Repeaters

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	—
444.850 MHz	plus	100

Both repeaters have an auto patch with a toll restriction. The auto patch on the 2-meter repeater can be used with permission. The 440 auto patch is for club use only.

A club net is held on the 2-meter repeater every Tuesday at 6:30 PM except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

# Mich-A-Con RF

Mich-A-Con ARC  
c/o Michael F. Bray  
W3821 Waucedah Road  
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

## Mich-A-Con RF

### Club Meetings

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. 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@netnet.net

**Secretary:**

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

**Treasurer:**

Dennis Beurjey, KD8AIT  
(906) 771-1996  
dbeurjey@msn.com

### Reminders

The monthly meeting for December is on TUESDAY the 13th at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street, Norway, Michigan. (Upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary.)

Please support the club, its repeaters and packet system by becoming an active, dues-paying member. We can do more with your help!

Help to make us a better and closer knit club by becoming involved in club activities!