

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

November, 2007

## In This Issue:

Veterans Day Special Event a Great Success!  
Words From The President

Editor Moves: Newsletter Delayed

Pictures From Pine Mountain on Veterans Day 2007

New Packet BBS Up and Running

ARISS Antennas Set to Launch on NASA Mission in December

Plan Today for Your School to have an ARISS Contact

500 kHz Experiment

Draft of Proposed Event Certificate is a Separate Attachment

Field Day Results

Calendar of Events

Links

Membership Application

Club Meetings

Club Officers

Reminders

Visit the ARRL's web site at <http://www.arrl.org>

## VETERANS DAY SPECIAL EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS!

Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

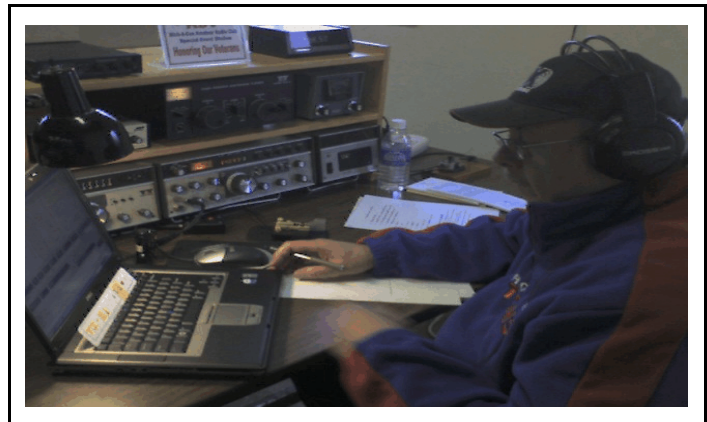
Well, the Veterans Day special event is now history. I'm sure that those that participated found the experience to be very enjoyable and memorable. The many on the air comments from veterans was uplifting and heartwarming. We received several compliments from hams and the media during our operation at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



Mike, K8DDB making contacts on Vets Day!

Too bad that 80 meters didn't provides 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.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

I moved.... Newsletter Delayed

Submitted by:

Steve KD8CCP

I am sure many of you were wondering if a November Newsletter was going to materialize. I now live in Ishpeming, Mi and started a new job! The move from Kingsford went well but with the change it took a while for me to get the computer going and all my stuff unpacked!

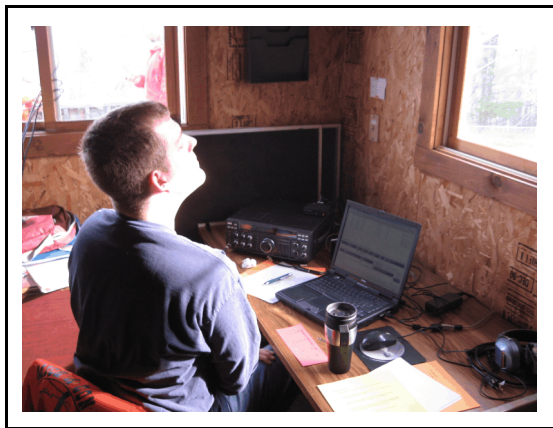
If you have an article to contribute please email me at [kd8ccp@arrl.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arrl.net).



This used to be 3 elements



Lou, KG8NK came in from camp for a visit.



Nate, KD8GLP checks for visitors



Tom, W8JWN



Bruce, KB8RJV making contacts across the U.S.



Working the World from Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, Michigan

## Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the November 13, 2007 Meeting

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

### Secretary Report

The minutes of the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved.

### Treasurer Report

Balances as of the end of September:

Checking - \$66.39  
Regular Savings - \$1,617.62 plus \$400 in the Trailer Fund.  
Repeater Savings - \$978.82  
Petty Cash - \$21.00

### Repeater Report

Tom, W8JWN, submitted a written request to Lyle Johnson of WE Energies for equipment space at the WE Energies Pine Mountain site. This was part of the process of getting a building permit for a new building there.

### ARES

There hasn't been many check-ins to the Net since the repeater has been out of service.

### Old Business

Special Event –

QRZ website for K8V has been updated. As of today, there were 2792 hits on the website. We had a total of 1076 contacts, about half of which were made on 40 meters. Thanks to Art Costa, KD8GLO, and others for taking photos. We will select the photos that will appear on the QSL card at the December meeting.

Tom attended a Veteran's Meeting on Sunday night and the club received kudos for our operation at the Memorial.

We didn't receive coverage from TV-6 as scheduled, but WJNR aired an interview with Aaron Harper and Tom Martin, W8JWN. The Daily News ran an article a few days before the event.

Tom, W8JWN, will write a letter of thanks to the Kiwanis Ski Club and enclose a \$50 check for the use of their facility.

The club should attempt to make repairs to Scott's, KA8TFF, radio if possible to do in-house.

Improvements for next year: Mount the tower on the ground instead of on the balcony for better stability and possibly greater height. Separate the 40 meter antennas to allow operation on SSB and CW at the same time. We need hot food for the noon meal.

Tom, W8JWN, has applied to W5YI for the use of the K8V callsign again next year.

Adopt-A-Highway –

The Adopt-A-Highway idea was scrapped.

### New Business

Field Day 2007 – Mich-A-Con ARC placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 15 participants in the Michigan Section and 99<sup>th</sup> out of 278 participants Nation Wide for Category - 3A and Power Multiplier - 2.

Our generator's oil drain plug was damaged while trying to change oil. Bob, KC8TWG, will make repairs.

The following club officers were elected for 2008:

Tom Martin, W8JWN, President  
Mike Boileau, N9NBN, Vice President  
Mike Bray, K8DDB, Secretary  
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, Treasurer

### For The Good Of The Order

Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Submitted by Mike Bray

### Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB --- Secretary  
Mike Boileau, N9NBN --- Vice President  
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES  
Bob Uren, KC8TWG  
Tom Martin, W8JWN --- President  
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP  
Art Costa, KD8GLO  
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX --- Treasurer  
Stephen Skauge, KD8CCP  
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS  
Gary Schafer, K4FMX  
Lee Michaud, N8LT

New Packet BBS Up and Running.  
submitted by:  
Mike, K8DDB

I received an email from Pat, KC8EMF, this morning saying that he has a new Packet BBS operating out of his garage on Norway Hill. Jerry, N0MR, helped him set it up when he was in the area in early October.

The BBS, NWYBBS, can be accessed on our local Packet LAN frequency of 147.420 MHz. Pat says messages can be exchanged there.

Please be sure to "kill" your received messages on the BBS once you've read them to keep BBS memory usage at a minimum.

73,

Mike, K8DDB

## ARISS ANTENNAS SET TO LAUNCH ON NASA MISSION IN DECEMBER

FROM:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 47 November 30, 2007

Columbus, the laboratory built by the European Space Agency (ESA), is now packed inside space shuttle Atlantis' payload bay.

It is the culmination of years of design and engineering work aimed at creating Europe's primary component for the International Space Station (ISS). At 23 feet long and 15 feet in diameter, the cylindrical segment is designed to host specialized experiments examining how humans react to microgravity and the effect of space on various fluids and objects such as crystals.

Two Amateur-Radio-on-the-International-Space-Station (ARISS) antennas have been installed on the nadir side of Columbus.

NASA is currently planning on a launch date of Thursday, December 6 for Atlantis. According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, "The ARISS-Europe Team is holding weekly meetings to determine what the ARISS International Team should have for a station in the Columbus module.

The Europeans will need to begin fundraising for the multiple sets of equipment, such as the on-orbit equipment, the required back-up on-orbit equipment and the test equipment. Some portions of the equipment system can be purchased, but much of it would need to be built. Once the team purchases or builds the equipment, next comes the special testing (individual equipment tests plus an end-to-end test) for space (probably by ESA), getting the equipment certified (also probably by ESA) and finally manifesting the system for launch. All of that will take many months and help from ARISS volunteers from many countries.

The mission, STS-122, will bring seven astronauts to the ISS: Commander Stephen N. Frick, KD5DZC; Pilot Alan G. Poindexter; Mission Specialist Rex J. Walheim; Mission Specialist Stanley G. Love; Mission Specialist Leland D. Melvin; Mission Specialist Hans Schlegel of Germany, and Mission Specialist/Expedition 16 Flight Engineer Leopold Eyharts, KE5FNO, of France.

Earlier this week, ISS Commander Peggy Whitson and Flight Engineer Dan Tani, KD5DXE, installed the Centerline Berthing Camera System that will be used for visual cues in the installation of the Columbus module to the Harmony connecting node.

Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, is also on board. Tani is due to depart the ISS when Atlantis returns to Earth; Eyharts will take his place.

Earlier this year, the ARISS antennas successfully passed electrical and SWR tests, with one of the two antennas, Antenna 42, going through a final test -- a thermal test under vacuum. Based on modeling, engineers have no fear the antenna will pass with flying colors.

Columbus will house an additional Amateur Radio station, including the first digital Amateur Radio TV (DATV) station in space, as well as a ham radio transponder. The yet-to-be-built Columbus amateur gear will facilitate operation on new frequencies that will make it possible for ARISS to establish wideband and video operations for the first time and allow continuous transponder operation. At the ARISS International conference last year in San Francisco, Graham Shirville, G3VZV, speaking on behalf of ARISS-Europe, outlined plans for a mode L/S ham radio transponder as well as a DATV downlink on S1 band (2.4 GHz). "So, future ARISS contacts could have pictures as well as sound," Shirville told the delegates.

ARISS-Europe is looking at a 10 W transmitter and a signal bandwidth of from 4 to 8 MHz. Since the Columbus module will be some distance from the other two ARISS stations, parallel operation will be possible.

Atlantis' mission to the ISS is scheduled to last 11 days. On flight day 4, Walheim and Schlegel's main task will be to prepare the Columbus module for installation on Harmony. They will install the Power Data Grapple Fixture on Columbus, which will allow the space station's robotic arm to grab the module and move it from the shuttle's payload bay to Harmony.

On flight day 8, Walheim and Love will install two payloads on Columbus' exterior: SOLAR, an observatory to monitor the sun, and the European Technology Exposure Facility (EuTEF) which will carry eight different experiments requiring exposure to the space environment.

Funding to finish and install ham radio antennas on Columbus has been uncertain; however. ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, says donations from various sources covered a payment of 9000 Euros (approximately \$12,000) in March. Donations already have come in from the ARRL Foundation, AMSAT-NA and AMSAT-UK, among other organizations, as well as from many individual donors. According to Bertels, there is still a funding shortfall of 14,000 Euros (approximately \$20,000 USD). To help out, PayPal donations are being accepted.

## **Plan Today for Your School to Have an ARISS Contact:**

FROM:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 47 November 30, 2007

According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, a record number of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school contacts have been made in 2007 -- 74, to be exact.

This is nearly twice the highest number of school contacts the astronauts and the ARISS Team handled in previous years. "Though the ARISS Team's expectations are a little lower for being able to achieve this level of contact activity in 2008, this is a good time to file an application and begin making preparations for your school to have an ARISS contact," White said.

The 2007 Amateur Radio activity was led by the energetic participation of astronauts Sunita Williams, KD5PLB, and Clay Anderson, KD5PLA. They have significantly reduced the backlog of schools waiting for a contact. The ARISS Team plans to award a Certificate of Appreciation to Anderson. The astronaut set a new record for ARISS school contacts. White said, "A successful ARISS contact with a school in Quebec was the 39th contact made by Expedition 15 crew members, surpassing the record set by the Expedition 12 crew for the most contacts made during an ISS expedition."

The ARISS school application, as well as instructions for completing and submitting all necessary materials, can be found at the ARISS Web site .

<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/arissapp.htm>

You will find that one portion of the application asks for a few paragraphs about the robust educational activities that you hope to complete revolving around the school contact. These would be lessons the students would take part in before, during and after the school contact. If you need ideas, you can get lesson plans related to ham radio, technology and space from the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>, or you can contact ARISS volunteer Rita Wright, KC9CDL, via e-mail [wright1365@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright1365@sbcglobal.net) for space-related lesson plans.

## **500 kHz Experiment Charting New Territory:**

FROM:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 47 November 30, 2007

The evening of November 13 saw the first transatlantic contact on 500 kHz between amateur experimental stations.

US experimental station WE2XGR/2 (Jay Rusgrove, W1VD, in Connecticut) and GI4DPE (Finbar O'Connor, EI0CF, in Northern Ireland) communicated by standard-speed CW for about 15 minutes. On that same night, US experimental stations WD2XSH/12 (Mike Mussler, AI8Z, in Colorado) and WD2XSH/20 (Rudy Severns, N6LF, in Oregon) made the first contact in the western half of the USA.

Two days later, WE2XGR/2 and GI4DPE repeated their feat and WD2XSH/12 had contacts with WD2XSH/6 (Pat Hamel, W5THT, in Mississippi) and WD2XSH/13 (John Oehlenschlager, KOJO, in Minnesota).

The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 19 active stations. Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, serves as experimental project manager for The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio: <http://www.500kc.com/>.

**FIELD DAY 2007 RESULTS**  
**for**  
**Michigan Section, Category – 3A, Power Multiplier – 2**

<b>Call</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Cat</b>	<b>QSOs</b>	<b>Mult</b>	<b>GOTA Call</b>	<b>Sect</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Club</b>
W8TNO	8930	3A	3018	2	K8IY	MI	32	OCARS
W8HP	5846	3A	1801	2	N8AE	MI	43	Hazel Park ARC
K8CHR	3870	3A	1188	2	WA8WPI	MI	27	Eaton Co ARC
N8SL ARC	3460	3A	899	2		MI	15	South Lyon Area
<b>KC8VC</b>	<b>3180</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>N8LT</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Mich-A-Con ARC</b>
W8YDK	2956	3A	966	2	K8ZKJ	MI	31	Milford ARC
W8ACW Radio Club	2470	3A	650	2	WA8MY	MI	8	Genesee County
K8ESQ	1952	3A	494	2	N8CAK	MI	5	FPL Group
K8NOW	1592	3A	451	2		MI	11	Metropolitan ARC
W8JXN	1508	3A	327	2		MI	15	
K8PA	1442	3A	384	2	W8CX	MI	13	Thunder Bay ARC
W8HIB ARC	1414	3A	372	2		MI	10	Presque Isle Co
N8OE RC	1166	3A	188	2	KB8QOI	MI	10	Big Rapids Area
W8EEJ	840	3A	234	2		MI	11	TCARAUS
W8GDW	772	3A	211	2		MI	14	Gladwin Area ARC

Mich-A-Con ARC placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 15 participants in the Michigan Section and 99<sup>th</sup> out of 278 participants Nation Wide for Category - 3A and Power Multiplier - 2.

**Draft of Proposed Event Certificate:**

The proposed Special Event Certificate is attached to the email announcing this months newsletter.

The extra attachment is the best way to view the certificate.... it is awesome!

<b>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for Dec 2007</b>						
<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUE</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THUR</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> <u>Meeting</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> <u>BREAKFAST</u>
<u>16</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>24</u> <u>Christmas</u> <u>Eve</u>	<u>25</u> <u>Years Eve</u> <u>Christmas</u> <u>Day</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> <u>ARES</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u> <u>UPSN</u>	<u>31</u> <u>New Years</u> <u>Eve</u>					

**CLUB ACTIVITIES:**

**The Upper Peninsula 2-meter Social Net (UPSN) is conducted every Sunday at 7:00 PM Central Time on the 146.850 repeater. Dennis, K8SWX will facilitate the link from our repeater to the other participating stations via EchoLink. (Note: Dennis is currently working on a problem with the Link and therefore the net may not be held on our local repeater.)**

**ARES Nets are conducted at 6:30 PM Central Time every Thursday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz).**

**Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Dickinson County Library. 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 in the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Avenue (US-2) in Iron Mountain, across from Econo Foods. Why not enjoy a good meal and camaraderie with your fellow members?**



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/>

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 (second 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., do not worry about format, that is the editor's job.

Send to:  
[kd8ccp@arrl.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arrl.net)

(906) 779-5720

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.

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

Please remit dues to :

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX

612 Balsam Street  
Kingsford, Mi 49802

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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.

\*\* If you are in an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater Only Membership.

# **MICH-A-CON RF**

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

## **Club Meetings:**

**The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!**

**The URL for the Mich-A-Con ARC web site is:**  
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

**Previous editions of Mich-A-Con RF can be accessed by a link on the news page.**

**The ARRL DX Bulletin on the Upcoming Activities page is updated each Thursday and the contests section is updated on a monthly basis.**

## **Club Officers:**

**President:**  
**Tom Martin, W8JWN**  
**(906) 774-5463**  
[\*\*tmartin@chartermi.net\*\*](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:**  
**Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX**  
**(906) 771-1996**  
[\*\*dbeurjey@msn.com\*\*](mailto:dbeurjey@msn.com)

## **Reminders:**

**Club dues for the year 2007 were payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form in this newsletter when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX, at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!**

**The monthly meeting for December is on Tuesday the 11th at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.**



