

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

November 2009

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

## Words from the President November 2009

By: Tom W8JWN

Our Veterans Day Special Event was completed early on November 12<sup>th</sup>. There wasn't much activity on 40 SSB and Mike, K8DDB, was struggling to make many CW contacts. I guess that we have worked everyone that wanted a QSL or certificate from K8V.

20 meter SSB was especially poor this year. Only a few contacts were made; so, 20 meter RTTY was the order of the day. Over 190 RTTY contacts were made and more than half were DX. I expect a lot of DX cards through the W8 bureau in the future.

The A3S, on two sections of tower, did very well. Next year we have to get a small rotor to control the beam headings. The "Armstrong" method is getting old!

Speaking of next year, I applied for K8V again for Veterans Day. Hopefully, there will be some new stations on that would like to work us.

Kudos to the following club members:

Scott, KA8TFF, brought his FT1000 and Butternut vertical. The vertical works very well on Pine Mt.

Burt, WB8EBS, handled logging duties for Scott and also operated the 40 SSB station. His (?) Bar- B- Q was again a welcome treat. He also helped with raising the beam and tower. Thanks, also, for the portable "indoor plumbing".

Barry, KC9NFT, helped erect and take down antennas and provided some treats.

Terry, K9TRY, provided a computer for logging, and also brought some pop.

Scott, KB9AVX, brought some nourishment for the operators and also operated the 20 meter station. He also helped remove antennas before leaving for work.

Randy, KB9ZES, operated 20 meter RTTY and PSK for hours! Hopefully, he will get his General soon. He seems to really like those modes. He also brought lunch for the group and helped with the antennas.

Mike, K8DDB, patiently worked CW. Again, it was a slow three days for him. Next year, we have to consider higher power for the CW station. It would be more enjoyable for him to have more activity. His donut selection, on the first morning, was excellent!

Joey, KD8DJK, Corissa, KD8KUG, and Rob, KD8KMT, stopped by to visit and lend moral support.

Thanks again to all that worked on the 2009 Special Event. See you next year!

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Other bits....

I would also like to thank Mike, N9NBN, for serving as vice-president and treasurer. His work ethic has always been appreciated.

Congratulations to the new officers for 2009-2010.

The club programs will start in January. I'm looking forward to them.



**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 December 2009***

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 ARES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Meeting</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 ARES</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 ARES</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Club Breakfast</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>25 Christmas</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Years Eve</b>		

***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 P.M. Visitors and Prospective Members are always welcome .***

***Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain.***

**Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club**  
**Minutes of the November 11, 2009 Meeting**

President Tom Martin, W8JWN, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Secretary Report**

The minutes of the October 13 meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report**

Balances as of November 1, 2009:

Checking - \$358.44

Regular Savings - \$2,463.70, \$1,231.62 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

[Tom received a \$30 check from Burt for the Trailer Fund. Tom used the money for the K8V Special Event, so \$30 needs to be transferred from checking to the Trailer Fund.]

Repeater Savings - \$901.11.

Petty Cash - \$0.00.

We have 37 paid members.

**Repeater Report**

There have been no reported problems.

**ARES**

The Net has been meeting regularly.

**Wanted:**

**YOUR ARTICLES, IDEAS AND  
INPUT! SEND IT IN NOW TO:  
[kd8ccp@arrl.net](mailto:kd8ccp@arrl.net)**

**Old Business**

**Club Radio Equipment –**

Burt, WB8EBS, purchased the Hustler antennas for \$30.

The following equipment is for sale:

NC-155

NC-183

Two 30 foot steel towers.

**Veterans Day Special Event –**

Antenna setup went well on Monday. Band conditions have not been great. Not as many contacts have been made as in the past years. Tom will request the K8V callsign again next year.

**Ham Radio Class –**

Tom received another call from the person interested in becoming a ham. We have not yet determined if there will be a class this winter.

### **Field Day 2010 –**

Tom will get a list of club antennas and last year's layout diagram to Terry.

### **Club Programs –**

Volunteers are needed for an 8 to 10 minute program for our monthly meetings:

Burt will do a presentation on soldering after the January 2010 meeting.

Tom will do a Power Point presentation on traffic handling before next Field Day

Art will do a presentation on PSK.

### **Trailer Fund Donations –**

Club members that have promised to make donations to the trailer fund in return for equipment obtained by the club from Silent Key estates, etc., should make their donations by the January 2010 meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Donation –**

Paul Schultz donated two 60 foot telephone poles to the Trailer Fund.

### **Club Elections –**

Vice President: Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF, nominated by Burt, WB8EBS and seconded by Tom, W8JWN.

Treasurer: Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS, nominated by Terry, K9TRY and seconded by Mike, K8DDB.

There were no volunteers for the office of President or Secretary, so Tom and Mike agreed to another term.

A motion was made by Terry, K9TRY, and seconded by Mike, K8DDB, to close the nominations.

The following nominees were elected into office for 2010:

President – Tom Martin, W8JWN

Vice President – Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF

Treasurer – Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS

Secretary – Mike Bray, K8DDB

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Submitted by Mike Bray

### **Attendees**

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary

Tom Martin, W8JWN---President

Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice President/Treasurer

Terry Moriarity, K9TRY

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF

Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS

Robert Thomas, KD8KMT

Corissa Thomas, KD8KUG

Joey Gerwig, KD8KWP

### **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://kera-mi.net/skywarn/>

**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.**



## ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration

from:

*The ARRL Letter*

November 19, 2009

Registration remains open through **Sunday, December 27, 2009**, for these [online course sessions](#) beginning on **Friday, January 8, 2010**: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the [CEP Course Listing page](#) or contact the [Continuing Education Program Coordinator](#).

## ARLX012 NCVEC to Release New Technician Question Pool to Public in January 2010

Special Bulletin 12 ARLX012  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT November 19, 2009

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is due to release the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010.

Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes – Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.

According ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are kept current with the latest amateur practice and technology, as well as addresses information relevant to that particular license class. "In the case of the Technician pool, the question set should provide for the new Technician licensee to be able to establish his station and operate it legally, courteously and safely. The Technician

### V.E. TESTING:

12/12 Marquette: 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am)  
Marquette County Health Dept. Bldg.U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 or e-mail: [n8gba@chartermi.net](mailto:n8gba@chartermi.net)

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants

should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and

one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$15.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc. Note: If you have been assigned a FRN from the FCC you must use it on all forms rather than your SSN.

question pool and exam are intended to be the beginning of the journey into the Amateur Radio Service. It prepares the person for the enjoyment of operating, and that of preparing to learn electronics, the cornerstone of the education needed to obtain the further enjoyment that can come with the higher license classes."

Green is a member of the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee. Other members of the QPC include Chairman Roland Anders, K3RA (Laurel VEC), Larry Pollock, NB5X (W5YI VEC), Jim Wiley, KL7CC (Anchorage VEC) and Tom Fuszard, KF9PU (Milwaukee VEC).

Green said that earlier this year, the QPC solicited input from Amateur Radio operators concerning the new question pool, accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as suggestions for changes or deletions: "The QPC must rely on members of the Amateur Radio community to suggest questions and answers in a responsible manner to preserve a high level of legitimacy for our radio service, so the NCVEC QPC seeks input from the amateur community concerning a revision."

The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

**Michigan House Bill 5556: An Amendment to the Michigan Zoning Enabling  
Act**  
from:

Monthly Michigan Section News Summary  
ARRL Michigan Section  
November 16, 2009  
Section Manager: Dale R. Williams, WA8EJK

Greetings Michigan Amateurs:

PRB-1: The ARRL Michigan Section PRB1 Committee would like to announce some developments in our efforts to get the PRB-1 exemption codified into Michigan Law. Representative Steve Lindberg, N8UZP,(D-Marquette) forwarded our proposed bill, the Michigan Emergency Communications Preservation Act to the Legislative Services Bureau to be drafted into the proper language for submission to the House.

The Bill has now been given the proper form, a new title and has been submitted to the Committee for Inter-Governmental and Regional Affairs, with Representative

Lindberg as Sponsor. It is now known as House Bill # 5556, an amendment to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. How did the Bill become a Zoning Act? Representative Lindberg felt that our proposed bill was in fact a Zoning Act versus a Communications Act. His plan is to modify an existing law, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. The Michigan PRB-1 Committee and yourSection Manager discussed this and determined that we would enthusiastically support Rep. Lindberg's strategy. The Bill now also includes a "height clause" (i.e. if we stay below the specified height, local governments would not allowed to challenge it except in unusual circumstances). A copy of Bill 5556 can be found at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id17.html>.

It is the PRB1 Committee's intention to introduce a similar bill through the Michigan Senate. We are currently seeking support from several potential Senate Sponsors. Should you have a solid connection with your Senator, we ask you to consider working directly with us to solicit the Senator's support for our Bill. If you would like to tackle this approach, please contact PRB-1 Committee Project Manager Len Todd, N8AGS, at [n8ags@arrl.net](mailto:n8ags@arrl.net). The process of getting PRB-1 codified is a long and involved one, but we are making headway. If you'd like to lend your services to the effort or to make a supporting contribution, please contact Len, N8AGS at the address above.

**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 CALLSIGN	OFFSET	PLTONE	
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 444.85 repeater is a GE Master Pro with 30 watts output.

The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet.

To use the Auto Patch, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch ON code and let up on your mic. You will then hear a dial tone. Key your mic and dial your number. The phone should then ring. When you complete your call, key your mic and dial the Auto Patch OFF code and the phone call will terminate. Club members will be given Auto Patch codes on request.

**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:  
Scott Jarmusch KA8TFF  
[s\\_jarmusch@yahoo.com](mailto:s_jarmusch@yahoo.com)

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

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

**Reminders:**

Club dues for the year 2010 are payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Mike Boileau, N9NBN at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

**The Dec Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue Dec 8th 2009. It will be held in the Dickinson County Library at 7 PM**

## MICH-A-CON RF

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



