

# Mich-A-Con RF

**Iron Mountain, Michigan**

**November 2010**

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

## Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

Another successful Veterans Day Special Event is in the log. Over 400 hams in the U.S and around the world logged special Event station K8V. The weather cooperated during setup and takedown. There were a few snow flurries on the last day but they were brief and didn't present a problem for our hearty crew.

We operated on 40, 30, 20, 15, and 17 meters. Several countries, including Japan, Iceland, and South Africa, were worked on CW, SSB, and RTTY. All of the equipment worked flawlessly. Well, we lost a laptop screen early in the operation but a replacement laptop was garnered from Barry (KC9NFT) and the 40 SSB station was back on the air.

We had several non-ham visitors this year. We even received over \$20 in donations.

I would like to thank the following club members for their participation and donations of food and pop: Tom Heyboer (KC8LKO), Burt Armbrust (WB8EBS), Barry Perron (KC9NFT), Randy Zandt (KB9ZES), Scott Jarmusch (KA8TFF), Bob Meyers(WA8FXO) and Mike Bray (K8DDB). Thanks also to Terry Moriarity (K9TRY) for the use of his laptop.

I have received confirmation that we will again be issued K8V for next year's Veterans Day operation November 10-12, 2011.



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.

**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 Amateur Radio Club**

## **Minutes of the November 9, 2010 Meeting**

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

### **Secretary Report**

The minutes of the October 12 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurer Report**

Balances as of November 1, 2010:

Checking - \$235.74

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

Repeater Savings - \$779.93

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

### **Repeater Report**

No problems to report.

### **ARES**

Tom Martin provided an inventory of homeland security equipment. The EC will have to coordinate the installation of the equipment with Pete Schlitt.

### **Old Business**

#### **Club Trailer -**

To make the trailer road worthy, brakes need repair (\$500), need break-away switch and battery (\$100), need receiver hitch and ball (\$100). Schultz Equipment is willing to donate \$400 toward brake repair. In light of the additional cost, a motion was made by Barry Perron and seconded by Tom Heyboer to keep the trailer for storage and reevaluate after a year. The motion passed with a lone dissenting vote from Mike Boileau.

#### **Veteran's Day Special Event -**

Equipment setup will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday. Operation will take place from Wednesday noon to Friday noon. Tom has arranged publicity with The Daily News, TV-6 and Aaron Harper on the radio.

### **New Business**

#### **Equipment -**

Paul Schultz had some equipment from the Khoury auction to give away.

### **Club Election -**

Scott Jarmusch made a motion to open nominations for election. Nominations were:

Tom Martin, President  
Scott Jarmusch, Vice President  
Burt Armbrust, Treasurer  
Mike Bray, Secretary

Hearing no further nominations, a motion was made by Burt Armbrust and seconded by Scott Jarmusch to close nominations.

The above nominees were elected for 2011.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted by Mike Bray

### **Attendees**

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President  
Mike Boileau, N9NBN  
Tom Heyboer, KC8LKO  
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES  
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ  
Art Costa, KD8GLO  
Barry Perron - KC9NFT  
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY  
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK  
Nate Mieras, KD8GLP  
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President  
Paul Schultz - KD8KUF  
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer



## *Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for December 2010*

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

### **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.

<b>OUTPUT</b>	<b>OFFSET</b>	<b>PLTONE</b>	<b>CALLSIGN</b>
<b>146.850</b>	<b>Minus</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>WA8FXQ</b>
<b>444.850</b>	<b>Plus</b>	<b>100 Hz</b>	<b>WA8FXQ</b>

Repeater Specifications:

The 146.85 repeater is a Melco Hi Pro (built from a kit in the 1970s) with 25 watts output. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 feet

Links

ARRL WEB PAGE: <http://www.arrl.org> QTH.COM: <http://www.qth.com/>  
ARRL MICHIGAN: <http://www.arrl-mi.org/> QRZ.COM: <http://www.qrz.com/>  
US REPEATERS: <http://www.usrepeaters.com> Ehamnet.com: <http://www.eham.net/>  
MICH-A-CON : <http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb>  
Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts:  
<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html> U.P. Skywarn: <http://kcra-mi.net/skywarn/>  
FCC Universal Licensing System: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

## ARRISS Aiming to Raise Its Educational Profile

from:

### ARRL Letter for November 24<sup>th</sup> 2010

NASA, the US space agency, will assume more direct sponsorship of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARRISS) program as an educational project. Among its activities, ARISS oversees the project that enables schoolchildren to speak via ham radio with astronauts aboard the International Space Station. NASA also will embrace ARISSat as an educational project for the ISS National Lab. A



reconfigured, yet-to-be-named education planning group will pick up the mission of the ARISS Communications Council (ACC). These changes were among the outcomes of a meeting of NASA and ARISS-International officials, who gathered November 12-13 at ARRL Headquarters.

“Going forward this new group will provide oversight of educational objectives for the US [ARRISS] program,” said ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, who hosted the NASA-sponsored meeting, held at [W1AW](http://www.w1aw.org). She said the new education group would, among other goals, develop a new process for reviewing applications to the ARISS program from US schools and organizations.

Changes under consideration are a school QSO application process that includes a specific application window, development of a rubric to evaluate the applicant’s proposed educational plan, and — once an application is accepted — a scheduling commitment for the contact to occur within a specific time frame. An educational plan is a required part of all proposals.

“These changes are being crafted to provide more focus on educational activities planned to accompany an ARISS contact,” Johnson said. She says that in anticipation of the wider audience resulting from NASA’s promotion of ARISS under the revised regime, ARRL and AMSAT will be recruiting additional local volunteers in the Amateur Radio community to

support station setup for direct ham radio contacts with International Space Station crew members.

“The meeting provided an opportunity to share what we have been doing to support outreach from the Amateur Radio community to schools and an opportunity to share resources in the League’s Educational & Technology Program ([ETP](#)) with key NASA personnel responsible for education programs,” Johnson said.

The new arrangements will broaden ARISS’s emphasis on education. Those attending this month’s meeting also talked about possible synergies between the ETP and other League programs with NASA programs. “This may provide ways for us to distribute wireless technology literacy education more efficiently to a wider audience of schools and teachers,” Johnson added.

ARISS will continue to be an international educational initiative with ARRL, AMSAT and NASA as cooperating partners. The ACC was established in September 2009 to facilitate better communication among the ARISS sponsors in coordinating ARISS activities.

Cynthia McArthur, the wife of ISS veteran astronaut Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, will become the new head of the NASA Johnson Space Center Teaching from Space Office, which oversees ARISS. She has been program manager for the Teaching from Space Office.

Others attending this month’s session included Ed Pritchard, NASA deputy director for K-12 education; Deborah Brown-Biggs, a NASA contractor, who has direct program responsibility for ARISS among other projects; Mark Severance, N5XWF, ISS National Laboratory education projects manager; Mark Steiner, K3MS, ARISS-International vice chair; Barry Baines, WD4ASW, president of AMSAT; Rosalie White, K1STO, ARRL ARISS program manager and secretary of ARISS-International, and Dewey Rykard, KI4RGD, ARRL instruction and resource coordinator.

## **SKYWARN Recognition Day Set for December 4**

from:

ARRL Letter for November 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

The 12th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day ([SRD](#)) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 4, 2010. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service ([NWS](#)) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their [local participating NWS office](#), working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. “Since many of those storm spotters were also hams,” Floyd told the ARRL, “it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio.”

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. “At the end of the event, almost 16,000 QSOs were logged, with



contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries,” Floyd recounted. “The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year.”

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was “overwhelmingly positive” from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: “Many local club members who came to that first event had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology.” And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices -- almost 70 percent -- participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs.

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: “Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices participating with local ham clubs has increased; more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when -- thanks to and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area -- 1640 QSOs were logged!”

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Floyd said that some NWS offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign, “such as W3B in Brownsville or N0Y in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KC0SKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri.”

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: “Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, *Winlink* and the use of e-mail reflectors.” In keeping with the NWS setting, stations are [asked to include a weather report of their location](#) in their exchange.

In 2009, the Melbourne, Florida office (WX4MLB) reported the most QSOs -- 1373 QSOs -- than any other NWS office; the Des Moines, Iowa office (K0DMX), with 912 QSOs, placed second. Melbourne also contacted 77 NWS offices, the most reported. Lincoln, Illinois (WX9ILX) was close behind, with 72 QSOs to other NWS offices.

2010 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 4 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and more than 40 countries during the 24 hour event. Even if you make just one QSO to an NWS office, you are eligible to receive a certificate. Just submit a list of the station(s) you worked (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735. Many NWS offices also send out special QSL cards for this event. If you haven't yet joined in the fun of SKYWARN Recognition Day, make 2010 your year to do so!

*Editor's note:* The ARRL recommends its publication *Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio* as a resource for Amateur Radio operators seeking more information about severe weather reporting and SKYWARN. The book includes a state-by-state listing of SKYWARN Web sites. *Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio* (ISBN: 978-0-87259-090-8, ARRL Order No. 0908, retail \$22.95 plus shipping) is available from [ARRL publication dealers](#) and from the [ARRL Online Store](#) (telephone 860-594-0355, or toll-free in the US 888-277-5289; [www.arrl.org/shop](http://www.arrl.org/shop); [pubsales@arrl.org](mailto:pubsales@arrl.org)).

**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 2011 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, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

**The December Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue Dec 14th, 2010. It will be held in the**

Mich-A-Con RF  
c/o Steve Skauge  
213 Angeline St  
Ishpeming, Mi 49849