

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

November 2011

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

WORDS from the President

Tom, W8JWN

It is the time of the year for those “newsy” Christmas letters from family and friends that we always enjoy reading. Right? So, my “Words” for this month will be my letter to all of you.

The Mich-A-Con ARC had a very interesting and productive 2011. We voted to sell the construction trailer and accept a storage van donation from Mikes Furniture of Norway.. The majority of our “stuff” is now stored in the van located at Schultz Equipment. We will continue to discuss a small trailer to be used for emergencies and Field Day.

Our constitution By-laws were amended this year. Members had better mind their “Ps” and “Qs”. We can now remove you from the club. HI!

Field Day was successful. We placed third in Michigan as a 2A entry. Thanks to the ten members who participated. Imagine our score if we had a CW op! There's talk of moving Field Day in 2012 to Florence. More on this in future issues.

We finally installed antennas and radios at the Dickinson County Emergency Coordinator's Office. A little “tweaking” needs to be done on the Hustler vertical but we are ready to operate from there if needed.

Rob Thomas, K9RJT, volunteered to climb our repeater tower to correct a noise issue. He also will climb member's towers. It's nice to have someone, under the age of 65, available for that kind of work!

Four members of the club took part in a CPR and First Aid class taught by Al Schultz of MJ Electric. The class was well received and came in handy a week later, when Paul Schultz witnessed an accident in Norway.

It looks like your president won't have to continually beg members for a radio and laptop for club events like Field Day and Veterans Day. The club voted to spend \$1,500 on these items. I will make the purchase before June of 2012.

The year ended with another Veterans Day activity on Pine Mountain at the Upper Peninsula Veterans Memorial. Because of the weather and a manpower shortage, we didn't use the club beam and tower. Many contacts were made on 10 meters with the G5RV. I applied for K8V for next year's Veterans Day.

Veterans Day QSL and certificate requests for K8V are really very little this time. I have received by direct mail only eight requests. At this time last year, I had over 40. It may be time to evaluate any future Veterans Day operation.

If I don't get to see you before Christmas, may you all have a wonderful holiday and a great New Year!



Youth Movement at Veterans Day



The Storage Unit

The Youth Movement pictured above includes Kristina, KC9UHW, Corissa, Kd8KUG, Joe KD8KWP and Rob, K9RJT.

<i>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for December 2011</i>						
<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
				1 ARES	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 ARES	9	10
11	12	13 Meeting	14	15 ARES	16	17 BREAK-FAST
18	19	20	21	22 ARES	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29 ARES	30	31 New Years Eve

Club Activities:

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

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Dickinson County Library at 7:00 PM. Visitors and Prospective Members are always welcome.

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

Club Repeaters:

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain (Elevation 1650 ft) in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

The range of the 2 meter repeater is about 40 miles under normal conditions, depending upon terrain. The 440 MHz repeater has a range of about 25 miles.

OUTPUT	OFFSET	PLTONE	CALLSIGN
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 repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 ft.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the November 8th, 2011 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the October 11th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Checks were written to: AT&T for \$23.72

Deposits of \$72.00

Balances as of November 1st, 2011:

Checking - \$ 54.37

Regular Savings - \$3,515.74 of which \$1,807.23 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$993.10

Petty Cash - \$14.00

Repeater Report

Rob Thomas, K9RJT climbed the tower and repaired the feed line problem. A link to the Marquette repeater is being researched for feasibility. The 440 antenna will be used for this. This antenna needs a larger U-Bolt which Rob will work on this weekend.

ARES

The net has been meeting regularly every Thursday at 6:30pm on 146.850 repeater.

Old Business

Field Day – Florence, WI site: The trees there are shorter than the trees at Marion Park in Norway however there are some taller trees close by.

The CPR class was held as previously detailed. 7 attendees of which 5 were club members with the balance belonging to the CAP. Paul Schultz, KD8KUF discussed an auto accident he witnessed a week after the class and detailed how the training helped to respond correctly to assist the victim. Thank You to MJ electric and Al Schultz for the class!

A ground rod was installed at the Sheriff's department. The Hustler antenna needs to be adjusted and a rig blaster pro needs to be set-up for digital however a laptop computer is needed to do this but there is no word from the county on a computer.

Veterans Day setup will be Thursday November 10th at 9:00am. Operators will be Barry Perron, KC9NFT, Joe Ferris, KC9TQR, Tom Heyboer, KC8TH, Rob Thomas, K9RJT, Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ. Barry and Tom H. will help with tear down on Saturday at 8:30am. Callsign will once again be K8V which Tom M. will apply for next year.

In 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010 having the meetings at the V.A. Hospital was discussed. Brad Nelson from the VA communicated that the construction is expected to be completed next Spring which may free-up a room on the 6th floor for the club to have a classroom/meeting room. They'll have more information for us in the spring.

Bob Meyers will teach an 8 week Technician class beginning in January. He will contact Skip Caswell, KE9L and Nate Mieras, KD8GLP to see if they're able to help instruct again.

New Business

President Tom proposed that the club purchase a used HF radio, computer and tuner for use on Veterans Day, Field Day and other club events. A simple, easy to operate radio such as the Kenwood 430, 450 or 850 was recommended such as can be found on qth.com for around \$500.00 to \$700.00 The recommended laptop runs Windows XP and has a 14" monitor such as can be found on Ebay for around \$300.00 Bob Meyers motioned, Scott Jarmusch supported that the club purchase such radio, laptop computer and tuner for a total price not to exceed \$1,500.00 which will be paid from the club's savings account. All Ayes, No opposed. President Tom will make the purchases for the club.

Election of Officers: No opposition. Barry Perron, KC9NFT motioned and Red Maxwell, KC9KWS supported that the existing officers be re-elected for a one year term. All Ayes, No opposed. Suckers!

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Paul Schultz

Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF - Secretary
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR
Tom Heyboer, KC8TH
Red Maxwell, KC9KWS
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Rob Thomas, K9RJT
Joe Gerwig, KD8KWP
Corissa Stachowicz, KD8KUG
Barry Perron, KC9NFT
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK

+++ Scheduled Hamfests and Travel +++

from:

Weaver's Words, Thursday, December 1st, 2011

The following is the current hamfest schedule for the Great Lakes Division as well as travel plans by pending Vice Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK beginning January 1, 2012. Travel plans for the coming year are being made. If you would particularly like to have Dale or me attend your hamfest or other event, please contact us.

Jan 15 - Hazel Park 46th Annual Hamfest, Hazel Park, MI
Jan 15 - SCARF Hamfest, Nelsonville, OH
Jan 19 - Administration & Finance Committee Meeting, ARRL HQ - Jim
Jan 20-21 - ARRL Board of Directors Meeting, ARRL HQ - Dale & Jim
Jan 29 - Portage ARC, Randolph, OH
Feb 4 - HARA Swap & Shop, Negaunee, MI
Feb 5 - NOARS Winterhamfest, Lorain, OH
Feb 19 - Livonia ARC, Livonia, MI
Mar 17 - Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI
Apr 7 - ARGYL Hamfest & Computer Show, Lowell, MI
Apr 14 - Cuyahoga Falls ARC, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Apr 14 - Milford Swap & Shop, Milford, MI
Apr 29 - Athens Hamfest, Athens, OH
Jun 7 - Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council Meeting - Dale
Jun 14 - Mahoning Valley ARC Meeting - Jim
Jul 20-21 - ARRL Board of Directors Meeting, ARRL HQ - Dale & Jim
Jul 29 - Portage ARC, Randolph, OH
Aug 4 - Ohio State Convention, Columbus, OH - Jim

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.

New 5 MHz Band Rules to be Effective

from:

Weaver's Words
Thursday, December 1st, 2011

ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James E Weaver, K8JE
k8je@arrl.org

As reported on the ARRL web site, on 21 November the FCC announced new rules for Amateur Radio operators when using the five, 5 MHz (60 meters) frequency channels. As is customary, the new rules will become effective 30 days following their publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Watch for the effective date of the new rules on www.arrl.org and in announcements from ARRL.

To summarize, with the new rules, one channel presently assigned for amateur use will be exchanged for a different, more useable channel.

There will still be five channels in this band allocated for sharing by hams. Additional changes include increasing transmitted power from 50 w. PEP to 100 w. PEP and authorizing the use of two additional emission forms. The new forms are Data (e.g., PACTOR III), RTTY (e.g. PSK-31) and CW. The CW carrier must be set to the center frequency of the channel. USB may still be used.

A few special requirements are as follow:

- The 5368.0 kHz channel (carrier frequency 5366.5 kHz) is withdrawn and a new channel of 5358.5 kHz (carrier frequency 5357.0 kHz) is authorized. The remaining four frequency allocations remain unchanged.
- The effective radiated power limit in the 60 meter band is raised from 50 W PEP to 100 W PEP, relative to a half-wave dipole. If another type of antenna is used, the station licensee must maintain a record of either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.
- Automatic Control may not be used on Data and RTTY. A control operator must be able to control the station either locally or remotely.
- Data and RTTY may operate only on the center frequencies specified.

This may be done by following the same practice as on USB.

- CW signals must be set to the center frequency of the channel.

It is very important to know that the 5 MHz frequencies are shared with US Government communications services. As a result, it is critical that the rule regarding prompt cessation of amateur operations is observed when this is requested. Transmissions should be kept relatively short and ham operators should cease operation promptly if requested to do so by a Federal operator.

The changes in the 5 MHz allocation for amateurs came about through a petition filed by the ARRL in October 2006. The US National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) concurred in the petition.

The ARRL VHF Band Plan Committee chaired by ARRL 2nd Vice President Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, will report a recommended plan for use of the 60M band at the January meeting of the Board of Directors.

The 60M band is open to use in the US to General, Advanced and Extra Class licensees, only. Before using 60M (or any amateur band), please be certain to understand the rules and regulations for its use. The FCC Report and Order is summarized more fully at <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-releases-new-rules-for-60-meters>.

Be a Star! Enter the Second Annual ARRL Video Contest

from:

The ARRL Letter for November 23, 2011

If you've ever wanted a way to show the world how exciting Amateur Radio can be, here's your chance: The ARRL is sponsoring its **Second Annual Video Contest!** Here's a chance to put that video camera to use: Shoot a ham radio-related video and send it our way. If you're video takes first, second or third place, we'll post it on the ARRL website for everyone to see. We're looking for a few good videos (but only one per ARRL member, please) on any tasteful subject relating to Amateur Radio. While you are welcome to submit a video on any theme, **we're especially looking for videos that illustrate the joy and excitement of Amateur Radio.**

Videos will be judged on overall quality and composition, and prizes will be awarded. This year, the ARRL will be offering two categories: Professional and Amateur. The Professional category is intended for entrants who are professional videographers, or who have access to professional-grade video equipment and software. Both categories -- Professional and Amateur -- will have prizes for first, second and third place.

Who can enter: The video author/producer must be an ARRL member; however, the people who appear in your video can be non-members. If you were one of the winners in our 2011 contest, you are ineligible to enter again.

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by February 29, 2012. Burn your video to a CD or DVD using the appropriate software and mail it to ARRL Video Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Do not attempt to send it via e-mail, as our e-mail system cannot accommodate large files.

Subject: Must be directly related to Amateur Radio and be in good taste. We'd like to see something that stresses the joy and excitement of Amateur Radio. Videos will be judged on overall quality and composition.

Specs

Maximum length: 5 minutes

Format: [AVI](#), [MPEG](#) or [WMV](#), 320×240 minimum resolution

Production equipment: We are looking for videos shot by amateur videographers using consumer-grade cameras and editing software/equipment. The use of professional-grade cameras, editing equipment or studios is not permitted. We reserve the right to reject videos that we suspect were commercially produced.

Miscellanea

Accompanying Information: All entries must include the following information: Where the video was recorded, a description of the subject of the video and the names and call signs of any persons shown. **If children appear, you must secure the permissions of their parents.** Include the permissions as separate documents when you send your video. Something along the lines of the following is sufficient: “I, John Doe, grant permission for my child, Jane Doe, to appear in a video titled *Two Reasons to Avoid Inserting Forks into ac Outlets* by Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW.”

Rights: The ARRL automatically owns non-exclusive rights to all videos submitted for the contest. This means that by sending a video, you are granting us the right to use your video in any lawful manner. *But* you still retain the original rights to your video and can do with it as you please -- even to sell or publish it elsewhere.

Music: If you add a music track to your video, make sure the music you select is free of copyright restrictions. For example, don't add music by Eric Clapton unless you have Eric Clapton's permission!

Judging: Videos will be judged on overall quality and creativity. The decisions of the judges -- composed of HQ editorial and production staff -- are final.

Prizes: The winning entry in each category (Professional and Amateur) will be awarded \$500, while the second-place winners will receive \$250 and the third-place winners will receive \$100. Winning videos will be displayed on the ARRL website.

Check out all the details -- including the fine print -- on the [ARRL Video Contest Rules and Guidelines Web page](http://www.arrl.org/video-contest).(<http://www.arrl.org/video-contest>)

Amateur Radio Dying? No Way!

From: Weavers Words Thursday December 1st 2011

According to FCC statistics, the number of active Amateur Radio licenses in the US has risen to 700,314. This is the highest number of US licensed amateurs . . . ever. This deserves repeating. This is the highest number of US licenses amateurs . . . ever.

ARRL as well as Amateur Radio is growing again. At the end of October, there were 156,347 League members. In neither instance are the growth numbers large, but they are increasing.

There is no reason to believe that Amateur Radio is dying. As is true of many things we hold dear in our lives, it is changing. Whether this is good or bad largely depends on us who nurture new hams and who get on the air and operate. Amateur Radio has not been the hobby "our fathers' new for decades.

Club Meetings:

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

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

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

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

Club Officers:

President:
Tom Martin, W8JWN
(906) 774-5463
tmartin@chartermi.net

Vice President:
Scott Jarmusch KA8TF
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

Secretary:
Paul Schultz KD8KUF
(906) 774-8900
pauls@schultzequipment.com

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2011 were payable on January 1st. Please use the Membership Application - Renewal form when paying your dues. Checks should be made payable to : Mich-A-Con Arc and sent to our Treasurer, Burt Armbrust WB8EBS at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue December 13th 2011. 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