

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

December, 2007

In This Issue:

A Great Year to Be a Ham!

By: Steve, KD8CCP

A Great Year to be a Ham

Sled Dog Race 2008 Dates
Announced

Want to get your Community
involved in Amateur Radio?

Foundation for Amateur Radio
Invites Scholarship Applications

Club Equipment List

New Pre-Fix for Bosnia-
Herzegovina Announced

Club Patches

Testing Dates and Times

Calendar of Events

Links

Membership Application

Club Meetings

Club Officers

Reminders

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

The past year has been another great time to be involved in Amateur Radio! I started the year off by exploring Echo link. I used my computer to talk to hams in Minnesota and Ishpeming even while our local repeater was down! What a great mode of communication!

January also saw the kick off of the Michigan District 8 ARES/RACES net. The net is held every Sunday on the Michigan Emergency frequency of 3932 Khz at 4:30 pm EST. Make sure you check it out!

The year 2007 also saw codeless testing for the first time. The elimination of the code requirement was controversial but everything seems to be going smooth. I even hear "codeless" hams saying they are learning the code because they want to learn another great mode.

February was a busy month for me again in 2007. I worked with Bruce, KB8RJV during the UP200 Dog Sled race again this year. This is a great event and the group really depends on the Amateur Radio community for help. I plan on helping out again in 2008 too!

Tom, W8JWN had the opportunity to operate the ARRL SSB DX contest from the "Farm" W0AIH's QTH in Fall Creek Wisconsin. Tom reported it was an awesome experience to operate from such a first class station!

April and May saw Storm Spotter Training again this past year. The National Weather Service office in Marquette tours the U.P. and provides spotters with the necessary training to do the job

right!

Field Day 2007 was another great success for the Mich-A-Con club. The group also had the annual picnic during the weekend. Everyone had a great time with many contacts on the several stations the group operated.

Late summer saw some much needed tower work performed by the club. Lee N8LT, Mike N9NBN, Burt WB8EBS and Dennis K8SWX all contributed to the repeater work and antenna maintenance.

Our repeater was taken down late in the year. The building housing the equipment is being replaced. The new building should be ready soon!

Veterans Day gave our group the opportunity to end the year with a bang. The Special Event Station K8V was several months in the making but the contacts numbered over a thousand and included stations from around the world! The group plans a repeat performance for 2008!

My new job is keeping me busy, but now that I am getting settled in I think 2008 may even allow me enough time to put a tower up in the back yard!!! Everyday Ham Radio offers new and exciting adventures, What a Great Hobby!!!

UPSDA 17TH ANNUAL SLED DOG RACE 2008

via an email from:

Lou Gembolis, KG8NK

Reminder: The dates for this year's sled dog race are Friday, February 15th – Sunday, February 17th.

Start times are 6:45 p.m. EST, Friday, February 15th for the U.P. 200 (Marquette Start) and 5:30 p.m. EST for the Midnight Run (Gwinn Start).

The Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association (HARA) is providing communication assistance for the UPSDA during running of both races. We have received commitments from many of you that helped during past races, but there are still Operator assignments that need to be filled for both races.

We would like to complete Operator assignments as soon as possible and will be sending out updated copies of all schedules and where help is still needed later this week. Wednesday, January 9th, is the next meeting of the UPSDA; and we hope to have final checkpoints established at this meeting. If you are still willing to volunteer to assist in the same location and have not yet done so, please email or call us immediately! A list which shows where operators have indicated they are willing to help this year, and slots where help is still needed will be sent to you shortly.

Also please check if your assignment is correct if you have already volunteered. Once again – THANKS!!!!

Lou Gembolis KG8NK lgembolis@chartermi.net

Sheree Gembolis KD8EDS sgembolis@charter.net

Or call us at 906 485-5442

If you know of other ham radio operators that are willing to help, have them contact us or send us their email address!

**Want to Get Your Community Involved in Amateur Radio?
Get Involved in Your Community!**

BY:

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU
MI Affiliated Club Coordinator

I often hear hams lament that their communities show little interest in amateur radio. While this may be true, hams have to realize that community involvement is a two-way street. To get communities involved in amateur radio, amateur radio needs to be involved with the community.

Let me give you an example.

In early 2006, I decided to become more involved in community service. On a road trip to the Marshall Hamfest, one of the guys in our club--Jack, WT8N--mentioned that he was a member of the Ann Arbor Rotary Club. I told him that I would be interested in joining, and he agreed to sponsor me.

I joined the club in March 2006. Shortly after I joined, the executive director of the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum (www.aahom.org) spoke to our Rotary Club. The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is a science museum that gives kids (and adults, too) real, hands-on experience with science and technology. There are, for example, exhibits that help kids learn about electricity, springs, weather, and other topics in science and technology.

As the director was speaking, the thought occurred to me that the museum would be a great place for an amateur radio station. I discussed my idea with Jack, and he agreed to work with me on the project. We then approached the museum director, who is also a Rotary Club member, and met to discuss our idea.

As we discussed the idea, he became very enthusiastic about the possibilities. Our original idea was to set up a permanent station there, but as they were in the process of remodeling, this wasn't immediately possible. Instead, we operated a series of special events throughout the fall of 2007. These events have been very successful, and now we are discussing how and where to set up a

permanent station at the museum. We expect this to happen some time in 2008.

We even have a vanity call sign for the station already--WA2HOM. A2 stands for Ann Arbor; HOM stands for Hands-On Museum. Look us up on QRZ.Com.

I'm sure that my involvement with the Rotary Club was a big part of the enthusiastic response to our proposal. Membership in the Rotary Club, and other community service clubs, such as Kiwanis or the Optimists, give one, if not instant credibility, at least some measure of it. There's no doubt in my mind that my involvement with the Rotary Club was a factor in the museum deciding to become involved with amateur radio.

Are you working on a community-service project or have questions about setting one up? Let Dan know! You can e-mail him at kb6nu@w8pgw.org or phone 734-930-6564.

Foundation for Amateur Radio Invites Scholarship Applications

from:

The ARRL Letter

Vol. 26, No. 49 December 14, 2007

The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) is now accepting applications for 55 academic year 2008-2009 scholarships to assist radio amateurs pursuing higher education.

The deadline to apply is March 30, 2008. FAR fully funds three of scholarships and administers 41 others without cost on behalf of various club and individual donors; grant income funds the remaining 11 awards.

Amateur Radio licensees pursuing a full-time course of study beyond high school and accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school are eligible to apply.

Scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$3000, and preference in some cases goes to applicants living in particular geographical areas or pursuing certain studies. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. FAR encourages clubs -- especially those in California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin -- to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on their Web sites.

More information and an application form may be requested by letter via e-mail scholarships@farweb.org or by sending a QSL card postmarked prior to March 30, 2008, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. Headquartered in Washington, DC.

FAR consists of more than 75 area Amateur Radio Clubs. FAR is devoted to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

CLUB EQUIPMENT LIST

TOM MARTIN W8JWN has custody of the following club equipment:

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 ft).

3/16 Single Braid Dacron rope (200 ft).

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.

Hygain tri-band beam antenna.

G5RV antenna.

Club banner.

MIKE BRAY K8DDB has custody of the following club equipment:

40 foot light tower, guy ropes, anchor stakes, drive-on tilt base.

Lafayette 80 - 10 meter tube type VFO #99-2501 with operating manual.

J-38 Morse code straight key.

Lambda model LT-2095A-1583 power supply 0 to +32VDC, 2 amp (rack mount).

Multi-meter ME-26D/U (old military type) by Sentinel Electronics, Inc.

Power supply (partially built - home brew).

Duplexer (rack mount - home brew) TX and RX cans- possibly 440 MHz.

LEE MICHAUD N8LT has custody of the following club equipment:

Multi-band wire antenna - Paul Hint's old antenna.

Sheriff's Office Garage has the following club equipment stored:

Honda EM 3800 Generator SN EAMC 1004814 with battery
Gas Can

Auto Battery Charger/Maintainer

2 - 80 foot extension cords

Sta-Bil Fuel Stability

1000 watt light stand kit

Astron RS-35M DC power supply

RIGrunner RR/4008/C outlet strip

Isobar-8 Ultra Premium surge protector.

Furman M-8D Power Conditioner.

ARLX008 New Prefix for Bosnia-Herzegovina Officially Announced

From:

Special Bulletin 8 ARLX008

ARRL Headquarters

Newington, CT.

December 27, 2007

To all radio amateurs :

In response to a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina in August, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) withdrew the call sign prefix allocation T9A-T9Z for Bosnia and Herzegovina and made a new allocation, E7A-E7Z. The change was made initially on a provisional basis under authority of the ITU Secretary-General and was confirmed by the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference to be effective November 17, 2007.

According to International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Ministry of Communications and Transport (BiH) held a press conference in Sarajevo on December 18 to formally announce the change. Minister Dr Bozo Ljubic explained the desirability of changing a prefix that initially was allocated during wartime and how it was now being replaced with one that has no connection to that troubled time; similar steps have been taken with regard to passports, drivers' licenses and automobile

registrations, he said. Ljubic also observed that the costs associated with the change were minimal compared to the benefits.

Amateur Radio station licenses bearing E7 prefixes will be issued beginning in January 2008, and the use of other prefixes will be phased out.

Sumner and IARU Region 1 President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, of Norway, were invited to speak at the press conference. Accompanying them was IARU Region 1 Executive Committee member Nikola Percin, 9A5W, of Croatia. They expressed congratulations and support for the change, eliminating an issue that has complicated relations among the radio amateurs of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Also invited to speak was Miroslav Nikse, President of the Union of Radioamateur Associations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (URAS), a recently formed umbrella organization of amateur radio associations based in different parts of the country. He thanked those involved in promoting the change. In his remarks, Dr Ljubic pledged support from the Ministry of Communications and Transport to the umbrella organization for the development of Amateur Radio repeater and digital networks that would cover the whole of the country, enhancing emergency communications capabilities.

Club Patches are Available From:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
612 Balsam Street
Kingsford, Mi 49802

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

V.E. TESTING:

01/12 *Escanaba*: 9:00am arrival time with testing beginning at 9:30am, at Bay De Noc Community College. Contact Les, WA8LE at 906 789-1543 or wa8le@uplogon.com for info.

01/17 *Iron River*: 7:00pm central time, Iron River Lutheran Church (after club meeting)
NOTE: Pre-registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9JG, at 906 265-4240 or e-mail: dmwaters@ironriver.tv

02/02 *Iron Mountain*: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library (conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802

03/08 *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

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 \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change.

Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc.

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain. Items for the 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 articles in plain text and attach photos, etc., do not worry about the format, that is the editor's job.

Send to:
kd8ccp@arrl.net
(906)486-8890

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Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for January 2008						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 ARES	4	5
6 UPSN	7	8 Meeting	9	10 ARES	11	12
13 UPSN	14	15	16	17 ARES	18	19 BREAKFAST
20 UPSN	21	22	23	24 ARES	25	26
27 UPSN	28	29	30	31 ARES		

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 on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz).

NOTE: DENNIS, K8SWX ANNOUNCED THE ARES NET WILL BE HELD ON SIMPLEX 147.555 UNTIL OUR 2-METER REPEATER IS BACK UP.

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

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Ave (US-2) in Iron Mountain, across from Econo Foods. Why not enjoy a good meal and camaraderie with your fellow members?

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.

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/>

REPEATERS:

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

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

<u>Output</u>	<u>Offset</u>	<u>PL Tone</u>
146.850 MHz	minus	-----
444.850 MHz	plus	-----

Note: Repeaters are currently off-air while a new building is being built on the tower sight.

MICH-A-CON RF

**Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Stephen Skauge
945 Woodward Ave Apt 5
Kingsford, Mi. 49802-4438**

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:
Mike Boileau N9NBN
(715) 251-3137
n9nbn@uplogon.com

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

Treasurer:
Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX
(906) 771-1996
dbeurjey@msn.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2007 were payable on January 1st. 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 January is on Tuesday the 8th at 7:00 PM in Dickinson County Library.

