

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

December 2009

In This Issue:

Sisu Ski Fest - Hams Needed

Webinar Offered for Hams

Words From the President

Minutes of the Dec 8th 2009 Meeting

Some Hams Go Overboard

First Chinese Amateur Radio Satellite Now in Space

Continuing Education Courses

Calendar of Events

Club Activities

Membership Form

Club Repeaters

Club Patches

Links

Club Meetings

Club Officers

Reminders

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

Sisu Ski Fest Marathon Planned: Ham Radio Operators Needed:

from:

Rick Kauppila, W8LHT
906-869-3100 cell
rickkauppila@gmail.com

The City of Ironwood is hosting the 1st Annual Sisu Ski Fest Marathon on Saturday, January 9, 2010, starting at 10AM CST. The race is 42K and 21K, which should last a maximum of 7 hours (control station). The start line will last a few hours, similar to the Noque. The race starts at the ABR cross country ski area, and ends downtown Ironwood.

We have 6 local hams that are planning the coverage, and working the Sisu, and we'll need roughly 18 to 20, depending on the need for a relief schedule which we've discussed, and are still working on. We are going to let the nearby Wisconsin clubs know, and probably Copper Country too. There are always a few hams that like to do these events in out of town areas. Radio operators will work in pairs, and should have their own radios.

Please refer to the website <http://sisuskifest.com> for more information on the ski marathon.

ALL ham locations are easily accessible by car without snowmobile, and I will be doing the sweep

on a snowmobile, same as the Noque. Main communications will be on the Hurley 2M repeater, with backup on the Ironwood repeater and Bessemer repeater. Hurley is easily accessible by low power on a hand held from anywhere on the race course. Al, WB9CAP, from Mercer, WI (check out his pictures on QRZ), will be setting up the control on the second floor of the Memorial Building (Finnish Line) downtown near a window for antennas. The Nordic Ski Patrol will be providing coverage on the race course, and will have radios supplied by Al on a separate frequency which the control station will be able to communicate with.

All hams will be fed lunch (method TBD).

The formal communications plan and schedule will be forthcoming.

Anyone interested in helping out, please contact me via cell phone, email, or on the area repeaters.

73, thanks,

Rick Kauppila, W8LHT
906-869-3100 cell
rickkauppila@gmail.com.

Webinar offered for Amateur Radio Operators

from: Randy, KB9ZES

(Editors note: The following is from the web site www.depiction.com)

Depiction, Inc. is a small software startup based just north of Seattle, Washington with a passion for making innovative technology easy and affordable. They are a diverse team that includes former Microsoft employees, a retired U.S. Navy Captain, fire fighters, computer science PhDs, amazing software developers and other folks committed to helping you answer your "what-if" challenges.

Amateur Radio Operators are invited to learn how to employ Depiction before and during emergencies to enhance their planning and response capabilities. David Friedman, KE7GOY, an Amateur Radio Operator and emergency response volunteer, and retired Navy Captain Kim Buike of Depiction, Inc., will demonstrate how Friedman used Depiction to coordinate rescue operations during 2008 winter floods in the Seattle area, as described in the November 2009 edition of QST magazine.

They will also show how Amateur Radio Operators can use the latest version of the software to do the same.

For more information use the following link:
<http://www.depiction.com/webinars/amateur-radio> .

**Words From the President:
Tom, W8JWN**

I had surgery on my left hand Tuesday. So, the Words are a repeat. Yet, they are timely in that I have had more computer problems. A few weeks ago, I had the infamous "Blue Screen"! I've been experiencing serial card issues. One of my Com ports is failing. I ordered another card. It should arrive shortly. I hope that the serial ports work in time for the ARRL RTTY Roundup on January 1st.

Words.....

Isn't technology wonderful? We have computers to make our daily life so much easier: word processing, Internet banking, tax filing, etc. The list goes on and on. Many of us even control our radios with the computer. We don't even need the old -fashioned photo album, thanks to the digital camera and our computer. Aim, shoot, and transfer to the hard drive. What a country!

All of the above is wonderful as long as the "technology" is cooperating. Open case, push button, and that wonderful Bill Gate's icon, Windows XP, appears on the blue screen. Well, in my case, this past two weeks, my laptop screen hasn't announced Bill's arrival! An ugly, grayish black screen with this cold message in white lettering appears, "Read Disk Error Hit Ctrl-Alt-Delete to Restart Your Computer."

Yes, the computer has crashed! No bank transfers, no Googling, no scanning the Detroit newspapers on-line, no Packet, and worst of all, no pictures to enjoy that were filed in my "electronic album". All of the Norton's in the world couldn't put this "Humpty" back together again!

After hours of scanning, "DOSing," rebooting, and praying, the inevitable was realized. All is lost; there is no recovery. Play "Taps." It's enough to make me contribute to the Ludite Foundation!

So, it's back to Step One, reformat, and start over. All files, programs, and Belize pictures are toast.

I have learned a lesson from all of this. BACKUP! If that photo of Aunt Minnie is important, save it to another disk. Stick drives, Thumb Drives, Memory Sticks, whatever, use them. I did (thank the computer gods) save my V31TR DXpedition logs to a 64 MB "Quick Drive."

73,

Tom W8JWN

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the December 8, 2009 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the November 11 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of December 1, 2009:

Checking - \$298.44 – checks written included: Kiwanis, \$50; WE Energies Tower Rental, \$30; Phone Co.

Regular Savings - \$2,465.15, \$1,231.62 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$901.11.

Petty Cash - \$0.00.

We have 37 paid members.

Repeater Report

There have been no significant problems.

ARES

There has been no Net activity for a couple weeks.

Tom had asked the sheriff why we haven't been included in emergency drills. The Scott Cellelo said the Sheriff's Dept doesn't coordinate the drills and there has been a lack of coordination by those that do so.

Scott, KA8TFF, asked that the preamble to the ARES Net be made available to all members so they could step in when the normal Net Control Operator is absent. Paul, KD8KUF, will get the preamble to Mike, K8DDB, who will post it on the club website.

Old Business

Club Radio Equipment –

The following equipment is for sale:

NC-155

NC-183

Two 30 foot steel towers.

Two telephone poles. (Gary Schafer was interested in the poles and Burt made a motion, seconded by Terry, that the poles be given to Gary in return for storing the club's equipment at his farm. Paul will deliver the poles to Gary's farm for a \$50 donation to the Trailer Fund).

Veterans Day Special Event –

Tom has reserved the K8V callsign for next year. We will have one setup day and two operating days next year.

Certificates requested for this year's operation were filled out at the club meeting. There have been approximately 70 requests for QSL cards thus far.

Ham Radio Class –

Tom informed the person interested in becoming a ham of the club website and invited her to our club meetings. The club will offer classes every two years. If anyone is interested in studying on their own, the club will try to provide a mentor.

Field Day 2010 –

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

Tom provided a summary of how our 2009 Field Day operation compared to other Michigan clubs.

Club Programs –

Burt will do a presentation on soldering after the January 2010 business meeting. Gary Schafer will do a presentation on AM/FM/SSB. Dates for other presentations have not yet been set.

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

Tom bought a grab-bag of parts from Randy for a \$5 donation to the Trailer Fund.

Nate, KD8GLP, is trying to obtain a storage building for the club from Systems Control.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Members discussed their recent activities

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Skip Caswell, KE9L
Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President
Burton Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary

Wanted:

**YOUR ARTICLES, IDEAS AND
INPUT! SEND IT IN NOW TO:**

kd8ccp@arrl.net

Tom, W8JWN sent over the following via email entitled:

Ham Operators Sometimes go Overboard!

**FOR SALE - DODGE COLT - \$500.00,
HAM RADIO ACCESSORIES \$25,000.00.**



Amateur Radio in Space: First Chinese Amateur Radio Satellite Now in Space

from:

ARRL Letter December 17, 2009

AMSAT China (CAMSAT) <http://www.camsat.cn/> reports that at around 0230 UTC on December 15, China launched its first Amateur Radio satellite -- named XW-1 -- into space. The micro satellite -- a secondary payload aboard the CZ-4C rocket launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center -- was launched into a Sun-synchronous orbit with an apogee of approximately 1200 kilometers. XW-1 successfully reached orbit at 0253 UTC. Members of the XW-1 launch team reported they received a beacon from the satellite shortly after the satellite deployed.

In the first few days, the XW-1 team will work on the satellite's FM and store-forward transponder mode and its linear transponder mode. Once those tests are complete, they will upload a new flight program to set up the payload schedule.

The satellite's communications payload includes a beacon and three cross band transponders operating in FM, SSB/CW and digital modes. Uplink and downlink frequencies can be found on the CAMSAT web site. For the latest Keplerian elements for XW-1 and other satellites, check out the [W1AW Keplerian Bulletins](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/kep/). (<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/kep/>)

Continuing Education Courses

from:

ARRL Letter, December 17,2009

Registration remains open through **Sunday, December 27, 2009**, for these on line 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: <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator via email: cce@arrl.org.

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for January 2009

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

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

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 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.

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.



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://kcra-mi.net/skywarn/>

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 KA8TFE
s_jarmusch@yahoo.com

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

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

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2010 are 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 January Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue Jan 12th 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**

