

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

December 2010

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

Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

Procrastinate –v.i., to put off till some future time.

Before I “put it off”, let me wish you all a very Happy 2011. May the New Year bring a plethora of DX and ham goodies to each of our members.

There is a ham myth, concerning antenna installation that says, “Antennas work best if installed in a raging blizzard, or sub freezing temperatures.” (My quotes.)

This is, of course, a fallacy. The statement just gives credence to laziness, or to define it in a

much kinder and gentler term, “procrastination”. We had a chance to install that antenna back in September, or during the summer. We kept finding other things to do and just “put off” the operation.



Cluttered Shack!

This reminds me of the famous “Family Circle” cartoon. In the cartoon, the family is setting up a campsite. The little boy is sent to gather firewood. On this way, he finds a few stones to skip across the creek; he chases a squirrel up a tree; he becomes enthralled with all of his surroundings in the woods. Eventually, he remembers his task and returns to camp carrying ONE small stick!

I can relate. When I was teaching, I’d “put off” grading essays until Sunday evening. I’d sit in my recliner, with papers in my lap, and red pen poised. Suddenly, I would remember that I hadn’t put the clothes in the wash. Off I’d go to do that task. On the way to the basement, I’d spot the empty cat dish and fill it. It was no matter that the cat had just eaten and was snoozing against the register. Now, to the laundry room I’d go, checking my watch to see how much time I had left to do my grading. Clothes were then sorted and stowed in the washer. I’d head back upstairs, flop back into the recliner, and start reading an essay. Wait! Was there a football game on TV? A Red Wing game? I’d hit the remote and surf the channels. To make a long story shorter, I’d finish the essays at 2 a.m. and be tired and out of sorts the next day.

In the “Cluttered Shack” photo, there is a “new” computer to be set up for just my radio programs (good old Windows XP), a crate full of QSL and certificate requests for K8V that have to get out by January 4th, and my prized RTTY RU plaque, received just before Christmas, for winning the Great Lakes Division High Power category. It **will** eventually go on the shack wall.

In the “The beam is waiting” photo, the Cushcraft A3S is covered with snow. It has been in the trailer since our Veterans Day operation. It was to go on the tower before December 1st. Now, it will be a struggle to get it up before the RTTY RU on January 8th.



I haven’t changed much over the years. I still procrastinate. Eventually, all of my goals get accomplished but at a cost. There is undo stress, an overly tired body from lack of sleep, and, many times, a feeling of remorse.

Why do I put myself through all of this? I’m human, I guess.

The Year in Review: 2010

Steve, KD8CCP

Wow! Another year has come and gone and it has been a busy one for the Mich-A-Con Club.

We started off in January celebrating Tom's 50th Anniversary in Ham Radio! (W8JWN) Tom noted he had "to wait an interminable time to find out if you passed the exam." back then. Well, Tom did pass the exam and went on the air immediately changing his life and the life of fellow contacts, friends and club members forever. Tom gave a glimpse into the past but just think what the next 50 years of his Ham career will bring to his adventure in radio!

February is one of my favorite times to be a Ham. The U.P. 200 Dog Sled Race in 2010 was awesome! The race requires an enormous amount of effort by a huge amount of people. Ham radio is an essential part of the event. Operators spread out over the entire course for the entire weekend and helped by providing our needed communications from remote areas of the course. We got a chance to practice our emergency procedures and nets while promoting Ham radio. We kept track of the sleds and were available for emergency situations requiring communications. A great event that showed off our skills and equipment to the entire community!



Mich-A-Con has a long tradition of participating in Field Day. The year 2010 Field Day was a huge success. Bruce, KB8RJV and I (Steve, KD8CCP) traveled from our home in Marquette County to attend the event. Scott, KB9AVX had some great demos going on with PSK and Dave, KG9Y was helping some visitors even make contacts across the U.S.! Rob, KD8KMT brought his semi-truck to demonstrate that Ham radio goes everywhere! Terry, K9TRY organized this year's Field Day and with the help of the guys mentioned above and many other hams in the club Field Day was a fun day for everyone! Tom, W8JWN and Mike, K8DDB are always dependable in operating and of course the essential setup and break down Field Day requires. Many more hams also participated in various capacities, too many to mention here but you know who you are and how much the club appreciate your time and effort! What a great way to get the word out on what Ham Radio is all about!

Summer came and went and Dale R Williams, WA8EFK wrote a great article on the anniversary of the First Traffic Net. Dale pointed out the first Net actually took place right here in Michigan back in 1935 when members of the Detroit Amateur Radio Association

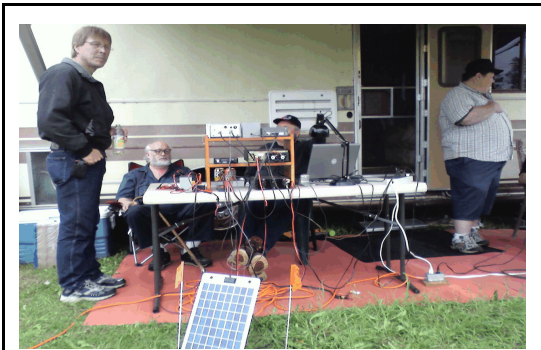
(DARA) formed the Michigan Net and adopted the net call “QMN”. The concept was simple and is still practiced today, gather on a single frequency and exchange radiogram traffic and coordinate emergency communications. The next time you see it is time for a NET take the time to check in and keep your skills sharp while providing new Ham’s the opportunity to experience the AWE of a Net!

The fall season of 2010 gave the Mich-A-Con club the opportunity to begin to explore linking our repeaters. Nate, KD8GLP began by looking at what the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Club is doing with it’s linked repeaters. The club continues to consider this move and the pros and cons such a connection would have on our repeater traffic.

The Veterans Day Special Event has to be one of the Mich-A-Con’s highlights for 2010. This event is more than just a participation, it is a salute to the service men and woman around the world in recognition of their service to our country. K8V receives requests for our unique QSL cards and requests for a certificate long after the event is over. This year the club operated on 40, 30, 20, 15 and 17 meters. All the equipment worked flawlessly this year and countries including Japan, Iceland, and South Africa were worked on CW, SSB, and RTTY! Barry, KC9NFT was on hand and provided the needed laptop backup keeping the 40 SSB on the air too! Tom, W8JWM thanked the many members that helped including Tom, KC8LKO, Terry, K9TRY, Burt, WB8EBS Barry, KC9NFT, Randy, KB9ZES, Scott KA8TFF, Bob, WA8FXO and of course Mike, K8DDB for all their efforts.



The year ahead, 2011 promises to be just as fun and exciting for the Mich-A-Con club! I am sure looking forward to more challenges and contacts! Looks like I better take advantage of the dues form in this newsletter and get my membership up to date!!! Happy New Year Everyone!



Solar Power!



Bruce, KB8RJV enjoys the chilli at Field Day.



Dave, KG9Y making contacts.



Paul KD8KUF, Mike N9NBN, Mike K8DDB and Tom W8JWN



Rob, KD8KMT and Terry, K9TRY



Rob, KD8KMT - Mobile Field Day!



Scott, KB9AVX, Demonstrates PSK



Dave, KG9Y, helps Chris make his first contact!

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.**

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for January 2011

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

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the December 14, 2010 Meeting

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

Secretary Report

The minutes of the November 9 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

We received \$120 in club dues and \$23 in donations during the Veterans Day Special Event. A \$50 check was written to the Kiwanis Ski Club and the repeater telephone bill was paid.

Balances as of December 1, 2010:

Checking - \$162.34

Regular Savings - \$1,910.31, \$334.62 of which is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$780.92

Repeater Report

No problems to report. Bob Meyers will check with Nate Mieras on the status of repeater linking.

ARES

The net has been meeting regularly. Lou Gembolis is sending letters to U.P. ECs asking for a status report on county EOC emergency equipment installation.

Old Business

Club Trailer -

Burt Armbrust will purchase insurance for the trailer from the Holmberg General Agency when he pays the premium for club liability insurance. Payment is due in February of 2011.

Veteran's Day Special Event -

Mike Bray will send a thank-you letter to the Kiwanis ski Club along with the \$50 check for the use of their facility.

Several errors were noted in logging. There will be a presentation on the N3FJP logging program before next year's event.

New Business

Randy Zandt and Bob Meyers brought items, asking for donations to the trailer fund.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB---Secretary

Tom Martin, W8JWN---President
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Art Costa, KD8GLO
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Barry Perron - KC9NFT
Jim Riverside, K8ABS
Tom Heyboer, KC8LKO
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF---Vice President
Paul Schultz - KD8KUF
Perry Amicangelo, Guest
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS---Treasurer

Changing a Tower Bulb at 1768 ft!

From an email forwarded by:

Mike, K8DDB

From: Tom Mortensen: landgraphics@wi.rr.com>

Subject: Changing a tower bulb at 1768 ft

Date: Thur, 9 Dec2010 21:58:20-0600

The tower that is climbed in this video is 1765 plus feet tall! No thanks - I'll keep my day Job!

<http://www.koreus.com/video/repairer-antenne-540m.html>

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.



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 KA8TFF
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 2011 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 11th, 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**

