

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

December 2011

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Visit the ARRL's Web Site  
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## Words from the President

Tom, W8JWN

Boy, did 2012 arrive quickly. It just seemed a few weeks ago that we had the Veterans Day event and deer season! December just flew by. Now, it's time to think about those New Year's resolutions. I haven't made resolutions in several years. I usually break them and feel pangs of guilt for at least 24 hours.

This year, though, I'm going to try and keep some resolutions in regards to ham radio. Those should be easier than quitting smoking, or denying myself the daily joy of eating a bag of potato chips and drinking a coke, or two, as I watch HBO.

Here goes:

I resolve not to jump into a pile up for a KP4 with my Alpha tuned to the max.

I resolve to check my transmit VFO first, before calling any DX working split.

I resolve to check the mic gain and compression, before using SSB.

I resolve to never send "LID" on CW or RTTY, when someone fails to use the correct VFO.

I resolve to read QST the month I receive it, rather than two months later.

I resolve to answer bureau QSL cards at least every three months.

I resolve to clean the shack at least once a month.

I resolve to hang contest awards from 2009, 2010, and 2011, before they collect too much dust.

I resolve to do antenna work this coming summer, rather than waiting until December.

I'll let you know how my resolutions are panning out in future "Words".

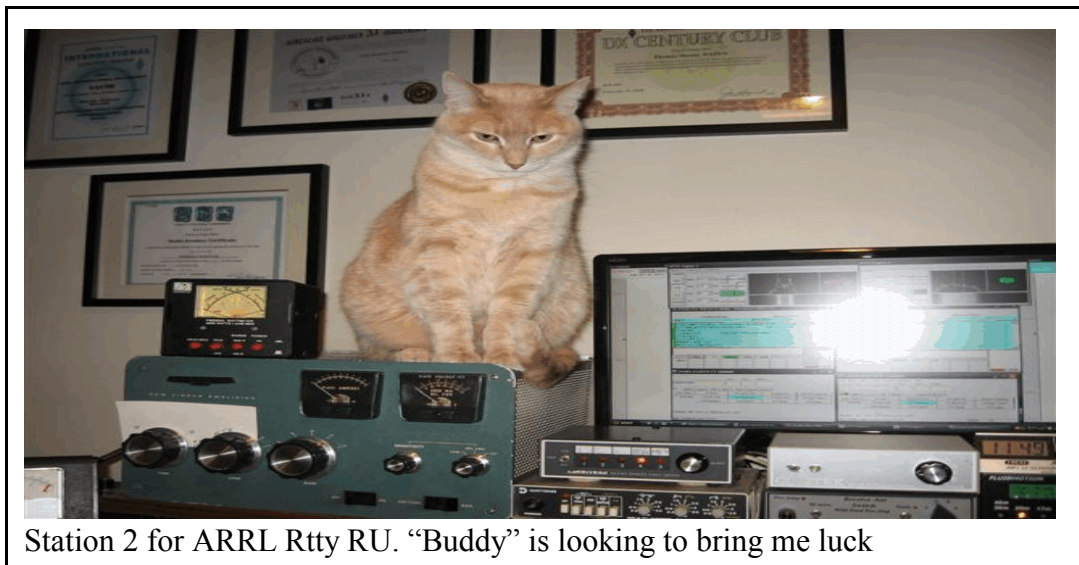
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

73,

Tom W8JWN



Station 1 for AARL Rtty RU



Station 2 for ARRL Rtty RU. "Buddy" is looking to bring me luck

*The above pictures were sent by Tom, W8JWN*

<u>Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for January 2012</u>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 ARES	6	7
8	9	10 Meeting	11	12 ARES	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 ARES	20	21 BREAK-FAST
22	23	24	25	26 ARES	27	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 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 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.

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 Amateur Radio Club**  
**Minutes of the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting**

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

**Secretary Report**

The minutes of the November 8th meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report**

Membership Dues Received: \$ 20.00

Checks were written to: AT&T \$28.04, WE Energies \$30.00

Balances as of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011:

Checking - \$46.33

Regular Savings - \$ 3,517.93 of which \$ 1,808.33 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$ 911.70

Petty Cash - \$ 14.00

We now have 35 paid members for 2011.

**Repeater Report**

The noise problem was corrected by Rob Thomas, K9RJT and the repeater is now working fine.

**ARES**

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

**Old Business**

A Technician Class will be held on either Mon. or Wed. nights beginning in January. We'll advertise. Skip Caswell, KE9L will contact Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ to discuss the date.

Veterans Day: President Tom applied again for the call sign K8V for next year. A couple of dozen QSL cards were passed around but not very many were received this year compared to last year. A bazooka, 40M dipole and a G5RV antennas were used. Meyers and Tom repaired the G5RV. The tower section & the beam were not put up due to the weather. Thank You to all the operators, helpers and attendees.

Club Radio: President Tom has not yet purchased a radio, laptop or tuner for the club as previously approved. We should easily be able to purchase the radio, laptop w/ windows XP and tuner for less than our \$1,500 budget.

Sheriff's Department: The radio and the antenna are set up but the antenna needs to be tuned which likely won't happen until spring. Digital is not working because we need to set up the **Rigblaster Pro** and they need to purchase a laptop.

## New Business

Having a club Christmas party was briefly discussed and it was agreed to have a Spring BBQ instead which we'll discuss in the spring.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

## For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Paul Schultz



## Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN – President  
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President  
Paul Schultz, KD8KUF – Secretary  
Skip Caswell, KE9L  
Scott Baker, KB9AVX  
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
Barry Perron, KC9NFT  
Joe Komblevicz, KB8ETK  
Jim Riverside, K8ABS  
Dana Bey, KD8POR

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.

## ***Ham Radio in Hollywood: Comedian Tim Allen Stars as Radio Amateur on New TV Show***

from:

**The ARRL Letter**

**December 15,2011**

Tim Allen -- star of [\*Home Improvement\*](#), [\*Toy Story\*](#), [\*The Santa Clause\*](#) and [\*Galaxy Quest\*](#), just to name a few -- stars in [\*Last Man Standing\*](#), an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of *Last Man Standing* -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January.

“Tim’s character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity,” Amodeo told the ARRL. “The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike’s approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It’s not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it’s a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there’s a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have

actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio.”

To make Mike a ham, Amodeo needed Mike to have a call sign. So he contacted ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, to help him out. “In film and TV, we create fictitious telephone numbers, addresses and brands,” Amodeo explained. “We do this mostly to avoid being sued by real brands and to avoid complications with advertisers. As a producer and a ham, I was torn between wanting the show to be accurate and needing to keep my studios out of trouble. An accurate and positive portrayal of ham radio on TV would be a good thing.” Many TV shows and movies use telephone numbers with a 555 exchange (such as 555-1212), as that exchange is not valid.

Together with Pitts, and with input from Tim Allen, Amodeo created a call sign for Mike Baxter: KA0XTT. Since the show is set in Colorado, they wanted Mike to have a call sign with a 0 in it. “We wanted a call sign that sounded real, but was not valid,” Amodeo said. “The call sign is a 2×3 format with an X suffix. A call sign in this format is an experimental call sign and is not assignable to a radio amateur except in special circumstances. We especially liked the suffix, as it is a play on Tim’s character from his former show, *Home Improvement*: ‘ex-Tim Taylor.’”

Amodeo told the ARRL that both his studio (Fox) and ABC were “delighted to have a useable call sign. In the past, TV shows just made up some crazy call or used someone else’s without permission. And because we’ve had so much talk about Amateur Radio here on the show, a few of my production assistants took their Technician exam.” Amodeo applied to be an ARRL Volunteer Examiner so he could help administer the exams. On October 6, Amodeo and two other ARRL VEs administered the Technician exam to seven prospective hams. All seven passed, with two making perfect scores.

Since Mike Baxter is a ham, he needed a shack. So Amodeo and the set designers installed an Amateur Radio station in the corner of Mike’s set office. Allen, as Baxter, uses an ICOM IC-9100 HF/6 meter/2 meter transceiver and an IC-92AD handheld transceiver, both provided to the show courtesy of ICOM America. Amodeo told the ARRL that he has plans to add vintage equipment to the shack in the future. “The radio equipment was originally intended to be used as props and set dressing items,” Amodeo told the ARRL. “But since eight of the show’s staff members are radio amateurs, it didn’t take long before we made the radio equipment ‘practical,’ which is to say, actually capable of making radio calls live from the stage when we’re not shooting.” He said that radios will always be on and lit whenever they are shooting scenes in the office.

Pitts and ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, have been working with Amodeo to make sure that Amateur Radio is correctly portrayed in the show. Keane also provided ARRL and Amateur Radio-related materials that are used on the set, such as issues of [QST](#), [NCJ](#) and [QEX](#), as well as a call sign map, a [2012 ARRL Handbook](#), a 2012 ARRL calendar and various ARRL stickers (look for one on the HF rig). “We also sent fake versions of [DXCC](#), [Worked All States](#) and [Worked All Continents](#) certificates, as well as a [Morse Code Proficiency Certificate](#),” Keane explained. “Each certificate bears the name Mike Baxter and has KA0XTT as the call sign. All the certificates have issue dates of December 25, playing upon Tim Allen’s role in *The Santa Clause* movie series.”

Amodeo told the ARRL that he also installed a Comet CHV-5X HF dipole and GP-1 antenna for 2 meters and 70 cm (courtesy of NCG/Comet) “up high, about 50 feet, inside the sound

stage. The ultimate goal is to have the hams on our staff make contacts from our stage during down times.”

*Last Man Standing* also stars Nancy Travis ([\*Three Men and a Baby\*](#)) as Mike’s wife and Hector Elizondo ([\*Pretty Woman\*](#), [\*The Princess Diaries\*](#), [\*Monk\*](#)) as Mike’s boss. Amodeo also produced the critically acclaimed [\*Sports Night\*](#) and [\*Arrested Development\*](#).

## NTSB Urges States to Ban Cell Phone Use by Drivers

from:

The ARRL Letter

December 15, 2011

On Tuesday, December 13, the National Transportation Safety Board ([NTSB](#)) recommended that States ban the nonemergency use of *all* cellular telephones and other “portable electronic devices” (PEDs) by drivers of motor vehicles. This would include hands-free cell phone operation and all text messaging while mobile. While this NTSB recommendation has been the lead story in national media, the “distracted driving” issue has been receiving serious attention for several years. A number of states and municipalities have prohibited texting and handheld cellular telephone use by all or some drivers, though none has gone so far as to outlaw all hands-free cell phone use. To avoid unintended consequences to Amateur Radio operation, the ARRL has been closely involved with this issue for several years. The full text of the NTSB report is not yet available, and it is not yet known whether the broad term “portable electronic devices” might be construed as including all or some Amateur Radio equipment.

On January 30, 2009, the Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors approved and released an [ARRL position paper on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation](#). In that paper, the ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur Radio communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times, but points out that mobile two-way radio equipment has been in use for at least 70 years and is quite dissimilar from full-duplex cell phones.

“Over the past several years, ARRL Section Managers, State Government Liaisons and ARRL members have monitored hundreds of state legislative bills on this topic,” ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, explained. “While ARRL Headquarters is an information resource, it is the hard work of state and local level ARRL leadership that has been the key in our efforts to protect Amateur Radio mobile operation.”

The wording of state legislation -- and specifically the definition of the devices that are being regulated -- determines what response is appropriate from the Amateur Radio community. The fact that a proposed state bill does not include a specific exemption for Amateur Radio doesn’t necessarily mean the bill would prohibit Amateur Radio mobile operation. A well-crafted bill that narrowly defines “wireless mobile devices” or “wireless communications devices,” for example, limiting those definitions cellular telephones and text messaging devices, might not need a specific exemption in order to protect Amateur Radio operation. In cases where a bill must be amended in order to add an Amateur Radio exemption, the proposed exemption language is critical. Some mobile cellular legislation, for example, would allow use of Amateur Radio while mobile only in an emergency, and thus routine amateur communications would still be precluded, and amateurs would be unlikely to install equipment that would be needed in an emergency.

The NTSB recommends that all states prohibit the use of cell phones and PEDs by all drivers of motor vehicles. The NTSB does not have the authority to impose such regulations itself, but the recommendation is likely to inspire additional legislative proposals. When state



legislatures convene after January 1, the State Government Liaisons (SGLs), Section Managers and other volunteers in the ARRL Field Organization must monitor bills introduced into the various state legislatures for any potential problems. Introduction of such state legislation has been the norm for several years now; in fact, bills have been “prefiled” prior to the next legislative session in several states.

When a potential bill is sent to the ARRL, Regulatory Branch staff and legal experts review it to determine the potential impact on the Amateur Radio Service. If the definition of the prohibited activity clearly does not include Amateur Radio communications, it may be best to avoid raising the issue.

In August 2009, the ARRL received correspondence from the [National Safety Council](#), stating that there is **no evidence of significant risk by mobile Amateur Radio or other two-way mobile radio usage**, and that until there are peer-reviewed studies showing that there is a safety hazard, the NSC does not support legislative bans on mobile Amateur Radio communications. The NSC has applauded the NTSB recommendations, citing evidence that “cognitive distraction” occurs, even when hands-free devices are used.

The ARRL’s position is set out in the [Mobile Amateur Radio Policy Statement](#), and includes suggested legislative language for use where necessary. SGLs and volunteers are encouraged to use the basics of the statement when working with state legislators.

[CTIA](#), the international association for the wireless telecommunications industry, has released a statement reiterating its support for a ban on texting while driving: “As far as talking on wireless devices while driving, we defer to state and local lawmakers and their constituents as to what they believe are the most appropriate laws where they live.”

“The bottom line,” Henderson concluded, “is that we all support safe driving. Amateurs are encouraged to pay full time and attention to attentive driving while behind the wheel, and to avoid any and all distractions.”

#### 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/>

### 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 KA8TFE  
[s\\_jarmusch@yahoo.com](mailto:s_jarmusch@yahoo.com)

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

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

### Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2012 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 Next Mich-A-Con Meeting will be held on Tue January 10th 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**