



MICH-A-CON

Iron Mountain,
Dickinson County, Mich

December 2015

Meeting Reminder: [Second Wednesday of the Month](#)

Which is **December 9, 2015** at 07:00 PM at the Dickinson Library, Iron Mountain.

From The President

At first, when I began to think about what to say in this month's "Words", I had decided to begin with the following: I am so depressed and still in shock from the Detroit Lions meltdown against the Green Bay Packers last Thursday night, that I have nothing to write. My mind is in such a jumble of thoughts that I couldn't coherently write a complete sentence. Please forgive me!

Now, I have decided to give a review of the club's activities in 2015.

We had a wonderful club "Christmas Party/Dinner" in March. A dozen, or so members attended with their spouses, or significant others. It was an enjoyable time. We must do it again.

Late June found us at the Upper Peninsula Veterans Memorial pavilion for a Field Day operation. This year we operated as 3A. It also was the first time that our trailer/tower/beam combination was used. It preformed very well. There were no major problems throughout the weekend. The weather was fine and the bugs weren't a problem either. The food was exceptional as usual!

The ARRL results have been posted and we finished 10th in the Great Lakes Division and 4th in Michigan. The University of Michigan (W8UM) was 1st. I believe that we will do much better next Field Day with a "true" third station. If we are to be 3A, the third station must be manned by several different ops.

Our year ended with the K8V Veterans Day Event on Pine Mountain. Again we operated from the Springer Haus next to the Upper Peninsula Veterans Memorial and ski jump. We didn't set any QSO records, 245 contacts on 40 and 20 meters SSB and RTTY, but we again had a good time and the weather was mild. I just finished the QSLs and certificates. I have reserved K8V for November 11-13, 2016.

See you next Wednesday for the last meeting of 2015.

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73,

Tom W8JWN

MICH-A-CON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES OF November 11, 2015

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

Secretary Report

Minutes of the October 14th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of November 6, 2015

Checking -\$3.05

Savings -\$1603.35

Repeater Savings - \$274.56

Cash - \$17.00

Repeater Report

Bob Meyers tested the new antenna and found it to be noisy. He switched the repeater to the old antenna, and adjusted it. He also reported that WE Energies has put a new dish and moved our new antenna to the other side of the tower.

Bob also reported that he will look into adding an amplifier to the repeater, after hunting season.

Old Business

Gary Schafer reported that recently acquired the 8-pin plug, we have been looking for, at a hamfest.

Dave Thomas suggested that we put an electric winch on the antenna trailer, before next Field Day. It was also suggested that we shorten the tower height by 8 feet, from 40 to 32 feet, by removing a middle section.

Reflections on our Veterans Day operation included:

The club Kenwood TS-440 was only showing 70 watts output. It was suggested that the output of the power supply used should be checked. Gary Schafer will check the radio this winter.

The wire antennas worked well.

There was enough food and drink.



Tom Heyboer reported that the phone numbers for Terry Moriarity and Mike Boilleau have been put into the newsletter as contacts for testing. They still have to be placed on the club webpage.

Burt Armbrust noted that he has installed a bracket for the club beam in the storage trailer. The long end goes in first, with the elements to the shelf.

New Business

Dave Thomas noted that repeaters belonging to the club are still at his house. He needs the room so they need to go. Gary Schafer will take the cavity cabinet. It was decided to keep what's good and junk the rest.

The current club officers described the duties of their offices. There were no new nominations made and the current officers were re-elected without opposition.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm. (Scott Jarmusch/Dave Thomas)

The 50/50 drawing was won by Dana Bey, and donated to the club., The club treasury was enriched by \$55.00.

For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Joe Ferris

Attendees

Tom Martin, W8JWN
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF
Burton Armbrust, Sr., WB8EBS
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Dana Bey, W8BEY
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY

Sam Holmes, N8ATS
Dave Thomas, KG9Y
Deb Grabowski, KD8VTS
Bill Grabowski, KD8VTT
Gary Schafer, K4FMX
Joyce Williams, Visitor

News

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Senate Activity

Amateur radio and the ARRL had a successful day on November 18 when the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Technology endorsed Senate Bill 1685. This bill is the Senate version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. In addition to this small victory, we gained another cosponsor when committee member Senator Jerry Moran from Kansas signed on as cosponsor for S1685.

Of the 24 committee members, only the Senators from Florida and Hawaii went on the record as voting no. Those Senators choosing to endorse the bill included Michigan's Senator Gary Peters.

As you will recall, we just recently completed a telephone campaign to urge Senator Peters to support our bill. While I am not suggesting that our phone calls were the sole reason that Senator Peters supported our bill, I will say that our calls and letters did play a part in that decision.

Here is the link to the complete ARRL news from the ARRL website:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-passes-senate-committee-gains-cosponsors>

This committee action is just another step in the process and we still have work to do.

We have been collecting signatures on letters to our Michigan senators for a number of weeks now and we need that process to continue.

If this has not already been done, your club can (and should) do this:

Download a copy of the letters for Senators Peters and Stabenow using these links:

<http://www.k8tb.org/Stabenow.pdf>

<http://www.k8tb.org/Peters.pdf>

Print the appropriate number of copies. At your next meeting, ask that all hams that have not yet sent a letter to their Senators to add the date and their signature, printed name, callsign, address, city, state and zip code to a letter for each Senator. Bring a handful of pens so that no one has to stand in line waiting for a pen to use. In 10 minutes you can have 30 or more letters signed for each Senator.

Collect the completed letters, and mail them to ARRL HQ at:

ARRL
225 Main St
Newington, CT 06111



Attn: S1685 Grassroots campaign

Or, if you would like to avoid the postage costs, you can scan the signed letters into PDF format and then email them to:

reginfo@arrl.org.

Please include "S1685 Grassroots Letter" in the subject field of your email.

Please send me a note at wb8r@arrl.org telling me how many letters your club generated and sent to HQ.

This is a pretty simple process and a very important one. The actions we take now can pay us huge dividends in the future when it comes time to install our antennas. Even if you are a person who just uses an HT for your ham activities or if you are fortunate enough to live in an area where there are few or no antenna restrictions, please think about the other folks that for whatever reason find themselves restricted because of where they live. We all make conscious choices, but sometimes the need to live in a certain area really gives us few choices of what neighborhood we settle in.

Remember that the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 does not guarantee that you can erect that huge tower and major league antenna array no matter where you live. Rather, it simply requires that Homeowner's Associations and the enforcers of the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's) sit at the table with us and negotiate in good faith. No longer would they be able to simply say "NO" when we request permission to erect an amateur radio antenna. Our PRB-1 law here in Michigan only affects regulation by government entities and the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is part two of our efforts for parity.

Thanks to all who have helped us get this far. The challenge remains and we need to continue to keep the pressure on.

I look forward to hearing from all those clubs that have not yet had the letter-signing event at your meeting! If your club has already done this, at subsequent meetings, be sure to offer letters for those that may have not been present when letters have been signed. This will ensure that everyone has a chance to sign and send letters.

Thanks for your help and 73,

Larry, WB8R



Learn CW online, in your web browser!

**Koch Method Morse Course, Speed Training,
Text to CW conversion, Statistics, Forum**

A new website to learn and practice Morse telegraphy has been launched:
<http://lcwo.net/> - Learn CW Online

There are already hundreds of training programs, MP3/CD courses and practice aids available, but LCWO follows a radically different concept: While sticking to well-proven methods for learning and practice, all you need for using LCWO is a web browser!

Currently the site, which is available in 30 languages offers a complete Koch method Morse course, code group practice, callsign- and plain text training modes and also allows to convert random text to Morse MP3s.

LCWO.net is a non-commercial project. Creating a free account only takes a few seconds, and you can start practicing CW right away!



ARLB032 W1AW 2015/2016 Winter Operating Schedule

ARRL Bulletin 32 ARLB032
 From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT November 2, 2015
 To all radio amateurs

DIGITAL: 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095
 28.095 147.555
 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160
 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, CW/digital bulletins and phone bulletin is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
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1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

 CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
 21.0675 28.0675 147.555

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 102 in the November 2015 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule> .

ARLB035 Revamped FCC Website Expected to Debut on December 10

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 35 ARLB035
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT November 25, 2015
To all radio amateurs

The FCC has announced that its large-scale website re-design will be completed by December 10. The switch to the new site is set to begin on December 10 at 0100 UTC and will be completed about 4 hours later.

"While the transition to the revamped site is expected to be completed almost instantaneously, there will be an ongoing process following this transition that will continue to involve user feedback, fixes by the FCC's Information Technology team, and content updates by

policy bureaus and offices," the FCC said in a November 24 Public Notice.

The FCC said the new website has been designed to provide "better functionality, an improved design, and better searchability and navigability." Earlier this year the Commission's IT Department opened a beta-test version of the site, located at <https://prototype.fcc.gov/>, and has been gathering user comments at, <https://prototype.fcc.gov/eform/submit/feedback> .

"Extensive user research revealed how the FCC could improve the website's information architecture to make content easier to find," the Public Notice said. The FCC said its new website has been designed to operate on tablet and mobile device browsers with the display optimization based upon the device. The site utilizes a "toggle" navigation that allows visitors to browse either by "Category" or "Bureau and Office."

When the new site comes online, the familiar current FCC website will no longer be available. The FCC said web pages and files on transition.fcc.gov that have not already migrated to the new site will remain available, and existing bookmarks will be redirected to the appro-

appropriate content on the new site. While the Commission has already upgraded some of its interactive systems, including the Consumer Help Center, and is working toward improvements on similar systems, including the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), these systems will not be directly impacted by the December 10 migration.

"This migration will impact the look and functionality of web pages that are coded in HTML and managed through a content management system, such as the homepage and individual bureau pages," the FCC Public Notice said. The FCC said the change to a new website design was, in part, driven by a need to start using a more modern, open-source content management

system to upgrade the site's look and architecture, and to transition to a system that is compatible with the latest website innovations.

FCC Chief Information Officer David Bray has written blog posts about the website development process, and the beta site has been publically available and soliciting feedback since April. Two additional public outreach sessions will be held before the December 10 changeover to explain the new site and its functionality to interested stakeholders.

ARRL MICHIGAN SECTION NEWS

Welcome to the end of 2015. Six more weeks and we will be working Straight Key Night and pondering what 2016 has in store for us. It seems like it was just last week that we were recovering from sensory overload from many, many hours on the air during the Centennial QSO Party. Time flies when you are having fun!

Veteran's Day

While this is a slightly belated thank you, I would like to pass along my sincerest appreciation to all Veterans, wartime and peacetime alike.

It is through your service to your country that has helped to make this country the great place that it is. Thank you for your service and thank you for your sacrifice on behalf of the American people.

Thanksgiving Day.

This is the time of year when the weather is beginning to turn colder, frost in on the pumpkin and our thoughts turn to family and the upcoming Thanksgiving Day. While our nation is facing a lot of challenges, we all should be thankful for the bounty that is ours in this great country. Enjoy your thanksgiving with

family and friends and remember those that made this all possible. Diane and I send best wishes from our family to yours.

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015

We have learned that Senate Bill S 1685 is scheduled for consideration by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on November 18. Michigan Senator Gary Peters is a member of that committee and we need to urge him to support S 1685.

IF YOU HAVE NOT yet called the office of Senator Peters to request his support of S 1685, NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE THAT CALL!!!

We need to take action NOW!

This can be done easily by contacting his office by telephone at: 202-224-6221. You can leave a voice mail (any time of day or night) by pressing #1 or you can reach a member of his staff by pressing #3.

While contact with a staffer is the preferred way to go, either way is acceptable and needs to be done right away!



The following simple message will get the point across:

“Good morning/Good afternoon,

My name is _____ from
_____, Michigan.

I urge Senator Peters to support S. 1685, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, when it comes up for a vote in committee. Thank you.”

This action is only for Senator Peters, because he is a member of the committee where S 1685 is being considered. Our letter writing campaign for both Senators Peters and Stabenow still continues, but this special telephone call to action is for Senator Peters only.

Thank you for your prompt assistance. Time is of the essence, so please pick up the telephone and make that call. It takes only about a minute of your time to make the difference.

Please send me a brief note telling me that you have made that call. (wb8r@arrl.org)

Additional information on the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015:

HR 1301 now has 112 co-sponsors. S 1685 has gain an additional co-sponsor as Sen. Al Franken from MN has signed on.

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day is December 5th

The 17TH annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event will take place Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. SKYWARN Recognition Day, co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service, pays tribute to Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform. During the 24-hour event, Amateur Radio operators visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

This event is also aimed at strengthening the bond between Amateur Radio operators and local NWS offices. The National Weather Service provides event information on this Web

site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

Spectrum Defense Fund

The following is courtesy of our Affiliated Club Coordinator, Joe Miller, KJ8O:

For many years, the American Radio Relay League has strived not only to defend the amateur radio bands from the various threats to the service that occur, but is continually seeking to obtain new frequency and mode allocations, not only for U.S. amateur radio operators, but working with the International Amateur Radio Union, for the rest of the world as well. Funding for this activity is not included in the ARRL operating budget, but relies on donations made from amateur radio operators and/or amateur radio clubs. As part of this activity, the World Radio Communication Conference meets every 3-4 years, and as David Sumner K1ZZ eloquently stated “You can help. With a contribution to the Spectrum Defense Fund – whatever is within your means – you become a partner in the WRC-15 effort and in every other endeavor to protect and improve the ham bands.”

With the Amateur Radio Parity Act being close to a final vote, any donations would be very much appreciated. Some suggestions include a club donation, or perhaps a 50-50 drawing with proceeds going to the Spectrum Defense Fund, or even simply passing the hat. Whichever way, all donations will go a long way to preserve this hobby that we enjoy.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/spectrum-defense-fund>

Also from our ACC:

ARRL Affiliated and Special Service Clubs

It is time to complete those annual club reports which will keep your club current at the ARRL. No affiliated club or special service club is ever removed from the lists. If you do not complete the annual reports for either or both, then your club becomes inactive.

You can easily update your club information here:

<http://www.arrl.org/club-update>. This should be completed at the beginning of each calendar year.

Hamfest and Swap and Shop ARRL Registrations

It really is never too early to get your 2016 ARRL hamfest or Swap & Shop registered with ARRL HQ. This list of activities are used by hams to schedule trips and vacations across the state throughout the year.

As of this writing, there are (4) 2016 swaps scheduled, including the Kalamazoo swap in October! It may seem like 2016 is a very long way off, but realistically it is like the day after tomorrow. This is free advertising for your swap, so be sure to take advantage of it by making sure that your Swap or Hamfest is registered early!

Hospitality Acknowledgements

Oct 17, 2015 Muskegon Color Tour Swap, Muskegon
 Oct 18, 2015 Kalamazoo Swap, Kalamazoo
 Oct 25, 2015 USECA Swap, Madison Heights
 Nov 5, 2015 Big Rapids Area ARC Meeting, Big Rapids

Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality. I enjoyed my visit to your swap or meeting.

Section Staff Travel Plans

Dec 6, 2015 L'Anse Creuse Swap, Harrison Twp – WB8R
 Jan 24, 2016 Hazel Park Swap, Madison Hghts, MI – WB8R
 Feb 13, 2016 Cherryland Swap, Traverse City, MI – WB8R
 Feb 21, 2016 Livonia ARC Swap, Livonia, MI – WB8R
 Feb 22-25, 2016 MI Interop Conf. Traverse City, MI – WB8R et al

Michigan Section Traffic/ARPSC Nets (All times Local)

MACS - MI Amateur Communications System 3.952 1000 Daily
 UPN – Upper Peninsula Net 3.921 1700 Daily; Noon Sunday
 MIARPSC – MI Amateur Radio Public Service Corps 3.932 1700 Sunday
 QMN – The Michigan Net 3.563 1830 and 2200 Daily
 MITN – MI Traffic Net 3.952 1900 Daily
 MIDTN – MI Digital Traffic Net 3.583 (Olivia 8/500) in waterfall 2000 Tues, Thurs, Sat
 MIADS – MI ARES D-Star Net Reflector 24A Mon 2000
 D8EN - District 8 Emergency Net 3.909 Wed 2100
 GLETN – Great Lakes Emergency and Traffic Net 3.932 2000 Daily

MVTN – MI VHF Traffic Net IRA Link System 2100 Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun

NLEUP - Northern Lower Eastern UP Net 146.64- 18:30 Daily

SEMTN – SE MI Traffic Net 146.76- 2215 Daily

TMMTN – Thumb Mid-Michigan Traffic Net 147.30+ 2130 Mon - Sat

More information is available at <http://nts-mi.org/>.
 Come join us on our traffic and public service nets.

Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC) Activities

Station Activity Reports (SAR) for October, 2015: WB9JSR 687, WB8WKQ 227, WB8TQZ 190, K8ED 179, K8RDN 166, N8FVM 53, WD8MWD 47, WD8USA 40, KC8BW 33, W8MSK 26, N8OSL 17, WB8RCR 11, WB8R 10, WB8WJV 7, N8UN 3, KD8LSM 2. Total SAR reported: 1698 Brass Pounder's League (BPL) for October, 2015: WB9JSR 687. Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) for October, 2015: WB8RCR 256, N8OSL 187, N8FVM 164, WD8USA 160, K8RDN 160, WB8R 156, WB9JSR 130, KC8YVF 122, WD8MWD 120, WB8TQZ 110, WB8WKQ 110, K8ED 90, KC8BW 80, NE8B 47, KD8LSM 32, KC8NFN 23.

Net traffic for October, 2015: Michigan Amateur Communications System 184, Michigan Traffic Net 122, Upper Peninsula Net 43, Great Lakes Emergency and Traffic Net 39, Southeastern Michigan Traffic Net 33, Michigan VHF Traffic Net 28, Michigan Digital Traffic Net 23, Northern Lower Eastern Upper Peninsula Net 9, Saginaw County ARES Net 6, District 3 Digital Training net 4, District 3 ARPSC Net 3, District 5 Hospital Net, Red Cross Net of Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan ARES D-Star net, Genesee County ARPSC Traffic and Training Net, District 8 Emergency Net, Bay Area Regional Traffic System, Branch County Emergency Net, Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps, Chelsea ARC Net.

Total net traffic reported: 494

Until next time, 73

Larry, WB8R

Dales Tales

Greetings everyone, welcome to "Dale's Tales" for December 2015.

KRAMER GOES ROGUE: Not Seinfeld's Kramer, but our own: Harold Kramer WJ1B! It seems Harold and a team of operators have decided to strike out on their own to commemorate QST's founding 100 years ago this December as they will **be operating a commemorative Special Event station W1Q. The plan to be on the air from December 1-15.** The first QST was published in December 1915. ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer WJ1B and the volunteer operators will man W1Q. This is not an "official" ARRL operation, and Harold will handle all QSL cards and LoTW entries. He will post additional information on his QRZ.com page under WJ1B. Let's keep them all busy! What a great way to celebrate the founding of our official journal.

SPECIAL EVENT: National Parks on the Air will be a key event in 2016.

I hope you all will be able to take advantage of getting some On-the-Air-Time to operate and have some great fun contacting stations in our National Parks and actually doing some serious operating from the parks. Be sure to check out the full details at <https://npota.arrl.org/>. There are actually 20 qualified National Park Service Units within the Great Lakes Division, and plenty of opportunities to put them all on the air over the next 12 months. Be sure to check out the current "On the Air" list of scheduled events on the web page. Not surprisingly, many dates are already booked.

ON THE AIR: Are you? Maybe it is time to check! After the experience of operating last year's great Centennial Points Challenge, like many ops, I have experienced some serious withdrawal symptoms. So for 2015, I've given myself another challenge and made it a point to try to get on for a while every day and get some QSOs in the log outside of nets

and contests. An all-too-often brief QSO with a foreign ham brings a new friendship and new interests. Certainly, my knowledge of this Earth's geography is improving as I frequently squeeze in some research on the country I have contacted. Of course, some time is spent searching for "rare ones", but I like the time spent for even a brief contact. This is not to say I am neglecting contesting. Operating contests is great for honing skills, and I note I seem to be able to copy everyone a little better after finishing a contest; with that little experience, copying DX through the noise and QRM truly becomes an easier task. Of course operating on a few nets keeps up the traffic handling skills and builds camaraderie. We have so many diverse aspects of this hobby, but one - actually getting on the air - is what it is all about. Let's all really DO IT!

TOM'S COMMENTS: Our Vice Director, Tom W8WTD is on a well-deserved hiatus this month. He will return in January all refreshed for the upcoming year.

UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: The Senate version of the measure passed through committee during November. The package will now go to the full Senate for a vote. NOW is the time to contact your Senator in Washington and encourage his/her support for the measure. When you do this, please reference the Bill Number S 1685. Please be sure to route your letters through ARRL Headquarters for personal delivery: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. You can find more information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>.

HAMFESTING: Here is the current Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Schedule for the next few weeks. These swaps have received their

sanctioning approval from ARRL HQ at the time of this publication.

Dec 5 - Fulton County Winterfest - Delta, OH
Dec 6 - L'Anse Creuse - Harrison Township, MI
Jan 17 - SCARF - Nelsonville, OH
Jan 24 - Tusco - Strausburg, OH
Jan 24 - Hazel Park - Madison Hgts, MI
Feb 13 - Cherryland - Traverse City, MI
Feb 21 - Mansfield - Mansfield, OH
Feb 21 - Livonia - Livonia, MI
Mar 5 - Cave City - Cave City, KY
Mar 6 - Crossroads - Kalamazoo, MI

HAMFEST OFFICIALS: It is never too early to register your hamfest for ARRL Sanctioning. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set. Help avoid date conflicts, do it early!

WISHES: It is still early in December, but as we enter this holiday season, Judy and I wish to extend the very best wishes for Peace and Prosperity in the coming year.

73, see you on the bands.

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director
Great Lakes Division



ARRL PROPAGATION BULLETIN

ARLP049 Propagation de K7RA

ZCZC AP49

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 49 ARLP049 From Tad Cook, K7RA Seattle, WA December 4, 2015
To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP049

ARLP049 Propagation de K7RA

Solar indicators dropped this week, with average daily sunspot numbers at 41.6 from November 26 through December 2, down from 62.7 in the previous seven days.

Average daily solar flux dropped 18 points, from 115.2 to 97.2. A week ago the predicted average daily solar flux for the same period was 111.4, more than 14 points above the actual outcome.

Average daily planetary A index was 9.9, while average daily mid-latitude A index was 6.6, more than double the two figures for the previous week, 4.1 and 3.1 respectively. But there were no days with high geomagnetic activity. The most was on Monday and Tuesday, with planetary A index at 19 and 14 indicating moderately unsettled conditions.

Predicted solar flux is 95 on December 4, 90 on December 5-8, 95 on December 9-10, 105 on December 11, 115 on December 12-13, then 110, 105 and 100 on December 14-16, 105 on December 17-18, 110 on December 19-20, 105 on December 21, and 100 on December 22-26.

Following this coming week the lowest predicted solar flux is on just one day, at 95 on December 27, five days after the Winter Solstice.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on December 4-5, then 18, 25, 20 and 15 on December 6-9, then 8 on December 10-15, then 10 and 8 on December 16-17, 5 on December 18-23 and 8 on December 24-26. The next period of unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions is December 28, with a predicted planetary A index of 25. The planetary A index doesn't settle down to 5 again until mid-January.

OK1HH predicts geomagnetic activity will be quiet to unsettled December 4-5, active to disturbed December 6-8, quiet on December 9, quiet to active December 10, mostly quiet December 11, quiet to unsettled December 12-14, quiet to active December 15, mostly quiet December 16, quiet on December 17-23, mostly quiet December 24-25, quiet to active December 26-27, mostly quiet December 28, active to disturbed December 29, and back to quiet again on December 30.

He expects an increase in solar wind on December (5-7), 8-10, (11-12, 16-20,) 26-27, and (28-29). He is less certain about heightened activity on the dates in parenthesis.

Unfortunately, we received no reports on conditions during last weekend's CQ World-Wide CW DX contest. This weekend is the ARRL 160 Meter contest. This is a CW only event, and lasts 42 hours with no time limit from 2200 UTC Friday (today) to 1600 UTC on Sunday, December 4-6.

See <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter> for complete details and rules.

With low predicted geomagnetic activity over the weekend, 160 meters should be in good shape for the contest.

Average daily sunspot number for the month of November was 61.9. For August, September and October the monthly averages were 61.7, 72.5, and 59.6.

Our three month moving average of daily sunspot numbers, (September 1 through November 30) was 64.6. For the 3 month periods ending in June through October the averages were 77.7, 76.3, 69.1, 67.5 and 64.5. At the cycle's peak, for periods ending in March and April of 2014, the 3 month moving averages were 146.4 and 148.2. It's been a pretty steady decrease since then, with the averages dropping below 100 at the beginning of this year.

Don Anderson, N7EF of Kent, Washington sends this video about a 2018 space mission all the way to the Sun: <http://on.wsj.com/1I5FZHR>

Andrew Gudas, N7TP of Amargosa Valley, Nevada sends along this story about scary superflares: <http://bit.ly/21AsfVJ>

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

My own archives of the NOAA/USAF daily 45 day forecast for solar flux and planetary A index are in downloadable spreadsheet format at <http://bit.ly/1VOqf9B> and <http://bit.ly/1DcpaC5>.

Click on "Download this file" to download the archive, and ignore the security warning about file format. Pop-up blockers may suppress the download.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for November 26 through December 2 were 56, 48, 36, 47, 51, 27, and 26, with a mean of 41.6. 10.7 cm flux was 103.9, 98.9, 96.6, 95.5, 95.7, 94.6, and 95.3, with a mean of 97.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 7, 8, 9, 19, 14, and 9, with a mean of 9.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, and 7, with a mean of 6.6.

ARRL DX NEWS

QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 48 ARLD048
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT December 3, 2015
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD048
ARLD048 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites.

Thanks to all.

BOTSWANA, A2. Gopan, M0XUU/VU3HPF will be QRV as A25GR from December 22 to 30. He will operate CW and SSB on 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters. QSL to home call, M0XUU.

MADEIRA ISLAND, CT9. The Madeira Island REP (Rede dos Emissores Portugueses) delegation to the IARU will be active from December 17 to 23 with the call CQ90IARU, celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union.

BRAZIL, PY. ZY70FEB is the last of the 12 special calls to remember Brazil's expeditionary force that fought in Italy with Allied powers during World War II. QSL direct or via bureau to PS7AB, or LoTW or eQSL.

ANTARCTICA, CE9. 8T2BH is QRV by VU3BPZ until mid-December 2016 at the Bharati Research Station. He plans to be on 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via I1HYW.

SABLE ISLAND, CY0. CY0/VA1AXC is QRV in his spare time until the end of January, 2016. Look for him on 20 meters using SSB during his evening hours, 2100-2300Z.

THAILAND, HS. HS90IARU is the RAST special event station celebrating the 90th IARU Anniversary with activity all this month. QSL via E21EIC and LoTW.

SRI LANKA, 4S. Bernd, DK7TF and Juergen, DH6ICE from the Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club Frankfurt (LARC) are QRV as 4S7DLG until December 6. QSL via DK8ZZ.

BAHRAIN, A9. A93AR/45 and A92AA/45 are celebrating Bahrain's National Day until December 18. QSL both calls via A92AA.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Livio, IZ3BUR is active as J52HF until December 10. He operates during his spare time, mostly on 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via I3LDP, OQRS.

LATVIA, YL. Latvian Radio Amateur League (LRAL) members YL2BJ, YL2PP and YL3DQ are now QRV as YL90IARU commemorating the 90th anniversary of the IARU. QSL via YL2GN.

LESOTHO, 7P. Heli, DD0VR will be active as 7P8VR from January 4 to 7, 2016. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

BARBADOS, 8P. Ernest, J69AZ will be active as 8P9JB from December 15 to January 5, 2016. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, QRP. QSL via home call, direct.

HAITI, HH. Joel, N5JR is QRV as HH2/N5JR until December 14. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, with an emphasis on RTTY and the new bands. QSL to his home call sign via LoTW, by the Bureau or direct.

MAYOTTE, FH. Pat, F2DX will be QRV as FH/F2DX from March 18 to 24, 2016. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters. QSL via F2DX, LoTW, OQRS, direct or by the Bureau.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Ted, K8AQM will be active as V47TR from Timothy Bay Resort on St. Kitts (NA-104) from February 13 to 21, 2016. Activity will be holiday style on 20 to 10 meters, including 17 and 12 meters, using CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 160 Meter Contest, TARA RTTY Melee, Wake-Up QRP Sprint, TOPS Activity Contest, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party, Ten-Meter RTTY Contest, SARL Digital Contest and the CQC Great CO Snowshoe Run are all on tap for this weekend. Please see December QST page 69 and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.
NNNN

CLASSIFIED

K8DDB Items For Sale

Prices as of November 11, 2015

All prices are negotiable, items sold "as is", shipping is not included
(I would prefer to sell the bulky items locally)

Cell phone: (906) 221-1550 or Email: mikebray@chartermi.net

Radio Gear:

Elecraft K3 Transceiver (serial # 5093 purchased 1/11/2011) – 100 watts, w/ATU, general coverage Rx module, filters for - 6 khz, 400 hz, 250 hz -includes manuals,

Heil Proset-K2 boom headset for the K3/K2 (Heil iC element) and book "The Elecraft K3" by Fred Cady.

Asking \$1,200 or reasonable offer

Viking 6n2 Transmitter

Asking \$15

Regulated CB Power Supply

Asking \$5

Test Equipment:

B&K Model 162 Transistor/F.E.T. Tester

With probe and manual

Asking \$20

Miscellaneous:

Scanner - Uniden Bearcat BC-210XL 18 channel scanning radio w/owner's manual and 1996 Radio Shack Police Call Plus Frequency Guide for Michigan and Ohio - Asking \$15

- CB Radio - Old 1970s Radio Shack Realistic TRC-55 console CB (23 channel AM) with digital clock (which no longer works) but its set at the perfect time for CB, 10:04 good buddy! Comes with hand mic and nostalgia of "Smokey and the Bandit" days - Asking \$15



UP AREA HAM FEST INFORMATION

**THIS
Space
Reserved
For
You**

LINKS AND STUFF

Under re-construction. Watch for the orange barrels

*Delta County Amateur Radio
Escanaba, MI
www.dcars.org*

*Cooper Country Radio Amateur
Dollar Bay, MI
www.ccras.net*

*Cooper Country Radio Amateur
Dollar Bay, MI
www.ccras.net*

Area Repeaters

Escanaba 147.15+	100.0
	145.13- No PL
Wells 444.30+	No PL
Gladstone	
IRLP 4013 147.55 Smpx	100.0
Champion 146.82-	100.0
Cooks 146.70 -	110.9
GrdMarais 147.195+	No PL
Gwinn 146.64	100.0
Iron Mtn 146.85 -	No PL
Iron River 145.17-	107.2
Ishpeming 146.91-	No PL
IRLP 8993 443.50+	100.0
Manistique 146.79 -	No PL
Marquette 146.97 -	No PL
	147.27+ 100.0
	444.80+
	No PL
Menominee 147.00+	107.2
Newberry 146.61 +	No PL
	147.09+ 114.8
Republic 147.09+	No PL
Trenary 147.03 +	100.0
Wetmore 145.41-	100.0

ARRL Affiliated Club Area Nets

UP Net 3921khz
Daily 5pm EST
Sunday Noon EST

UP CW NET 3590khz
Sunday 7pm EST

160 Net 1895khz
Everynight 0100UTC
Dailey 0600UTC

Midcars 7258khz
Daily 0730am EST
0200pm EST

Outhcars Node 9614
Saturday 0900am EST

UP Echolink Node 9617
Sunday 8pm EST

Delta County ARES
147.150
Sunday 7pm EST

Mich-A-Con Social
146.850
Thursday 0630pm CST
ARES follows

ARRL WEB PAGE: <http://www.arrl.org>

ARRLMICHIGAN: <http://www.arrl-mi.org/>

US REPEATERS: <http://www.usrepeaters.com>

Tropospheric Ducting Forecasts:
<http://www.d/infocentre.com/tropo.html>

MICH-A-CON : <http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb>

FCC Universal Licensing System: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

QTH Com: <http://www.qth.com/>

QRZ <http://www.qrz.com/>

E Ham Net <http://www.eham.net/>

UP Skywarn: <http://kera-mi.net/skywarn/>

ABOUT OUR CLUB....**Club Officers****President:**

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

Vice President

Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF

Secretary:

Joe Ferris, KC9TQR
irferris@borderlandnet.net

Treasurer:

Burt Armbrust, WB8EB
(906) 774-8383
Wb8ebs@yahoo.com

Editor:

Tom Heyboer, KC8TH
(906) 779-0481
Heyboer.tom@gmail.com

Web Editor:

Tom Heyboer, KC8TH
(906) 779-0481
Heyboer.tom@gmail.com

Radio License Exam Contact Persons:

Mike Boileau: 906 563 1350
 Terry Moriarity: 715 251 1670

Activities:

Second Wednesday of the month the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets in the Dickinson Country Library at 7:00 P.M. Winter or 6:30 PM Summer

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

Club Repeater:

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. The range of the 440 MHZ repeater is about 25 miles. Both are under normal conditions, depending upon terrain.

The Repeater Specifications:

The 146.85 repeater is a GR Master Pro, 40 watt output. The 440 MHZ repeater is a GE Master Pro, 80 watt output. The repeaters share a Diamond dual band antenna at a tower height of 125 ft.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

Previous editions of the Newsletter can be accessed by a link on the **news** page

From Your Newsletter Editor

Thank you to those contributors and critiques.
 Welcome your articles - They make the Newsletter.

For those not getting the Newsletter, it is because I have an incorrect email address. Please give me the correct address.

*Hear on any Events in the UP / Wisconsin Area
 Send Info to the Newsletter Editor so the Info can get out*

The following is referenced from <http://www.dx-code.org>

DX Code Of Conduct

I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.

I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.

I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.

I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.

I will always send my full call sign.

I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.

I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.

I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.

I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.

When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.

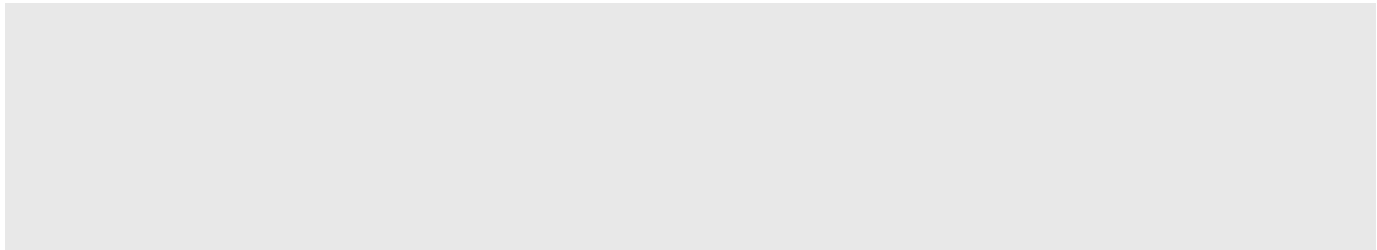
I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.

I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.



MEMBERSHIP

Call Sign	Last Name	First Name	City	Phone	Email
WB8EBS	ARMBRUST	BURT	QUINNESEC	906-774-8383	wb8ebs@yahoo.com
W8XBO	ARMBRUST	ED	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-779-5593	w8xbo@sbcglobal.net
KC9KVP	BAKER	BETH	NIAGARA		
KB9AVX	BAKER	SCOTT	NIAGARA	715-251-1944	kb9avx@yahoo.com
KB8SBP	BERTOLDI	BILL	KINGSFORD		
W8BEY	BEY	DANA L.	KINGSFORD	906-774-7937	lst797@charter.net
KE9L	CASWELL	SKIP	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-774-3371	acaswell4238@charter.net
KC8QZG	DAKE	DAVE	NEWBERRY		
KC9ZBC	DOLATOWSKI	SCOTT	GOODMAN	715-633-1006	kc9zbc@live.com
KC9TQR	FERRIS	JOE	FLORENCE	517-589-4386	jrferris@borderlandnet.net
KG8NK	GEMBOLIS	LOUIS	ISHPEMING	906-485-5442	lgembolis@chartermi.net
KD8VTS	GRABOWSKI	DEBRA	CRYSTAL FALLS	906-284-2450	kd8vts@gmail.com
KD8VTT	GRABOWSKI	WILLIAM	CRYSTAL FALLS		
KC8TH	HEYBOER	TOM	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-779-0481	heyboer.tom@gmail.com
N8ATS	HOLMES	SAM	PEMBINE	906-322-8507	chopsam@centrylink.com
KA8TFF	JARMUSCH	SCOTT	IRON MOUNTAIN		
KB9EMU	KNUTSON	WILLIAM	FENCE	715-336-2250	dknutson54@gmail.com
KB8ETK	KOMBLEVICZ	JOSEPH	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-774-4094	kombleviczj@charter.net
W8JWN	MARTIN	THOMAS	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-774-5463	tmartin@chartermi.net
WA8FXQ	MEYERS	BOB	VULCAN	906-396-0119	meyersb@uplogon.com
KC8LRP	MEYERS	MARGE	VULCAN	906-396-8913	mgmeyer@uplogon.com
N8TUM	MILLER	TIMOTHY	FLORENCE	715-696-6517	timmiller.up@gmail.com
K9TRY	MORIARITY	TERRY	NIAGARA	715-251-1670	kb9zer@yahoo.com
ND8M	PAUL	JARED	NORWAY	989-660-9535	jaredpaul@me.com
KD8SZA	PAUL	MICHELLE	NORWAY		
KC9NFT	PERRON	BARRY	FLORENCE	715-696-6175	bperron2@netzero.com
KC8JRI	REED	GORDY	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-779-1254	gordyreed@charter.net
K8ABS	RIVERSIDE	JIM	IRON MOUNTAIN	906-458-0773	jriverside@charter.net
W8IFI	RYE	JIM	CRYSTAL FALLS	906-875-3582	jimrye@up.net
KG9Y	THOMAS	DAVE	NIAGARA	715-251-1393	kg9y@arrl.net





Hewlett-Packard

Please remit dues to:

**Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS
693 Cliff St
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876**

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____, _____, _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

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: _____

Call signs: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Annual dues are Payable January 1st.

Dues for New Members are Pro-rated. Please remit \$1.67 per month for a Single membership or \$.50 per month for a Family membership.