

# Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

December 30, 2013

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**REMEMBER; MEETING IS NOW  
ON SECOND WEDNESDAY OF  
THE MONTH (Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2014) 7 PM**

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

## Words from the President

**Tom W8JWN**

As we approach the end of the year 2013, let us reflect on all of the positives that have occurred this past year.

Our club has grown in membership and, if the attendance at the last meeting is a sign (24 people were at the library), our club will continue to grow in 2014. It was nice to see several families represented. We had husband and wife hams and, hopefully in the coming year, a father-son duo.

Although we didn't participate in Field day this year, our Veterans Day event was successful. The certificate and QSL requests were mailed after Christmas. We are scheduled again next year at the U.P. Veterans Memorial.

Another event, discussed at the past two meetings, and scheduled for the spring of 2014, is a club Fox Hunt. Jim Riverside (K8ABS) has been assigned the task of researching information on conducting transmitter (the fox) hunts. He has had experience in the past with these hunts. More information will be available, when he returns from his annual hiatus in Florida.

2013 was an excellent year for DX propagation

on the higher bands. Ten meters has been especially good this past fall. I worked Myanmar (XZ1J) for country #337 on 10 meter CW in late November. I received confirmation on The Logbook of the World just this past week.

According to many solar experts, Cycle 24 has had a double peak. (See the image from the K2P Blog on solar conditions) Excellent propagation should continue into 2014.

Although not as many as this past fall, there are a few Dxpeditions to keep Dxers active in January:

1A0KM, Sovereign Order of Malta, will be on from January 2-7

XW8BM, Laos, will be on from January 15-30

FT5ZM, Amsterdam Is., will be operating from January 24-February 12

Lest I forget, the club wishes to send their collective prayers to Beth Baker (KC9KVP) for a quick and total recovery from the injuries received in a car accident on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Happy New Year

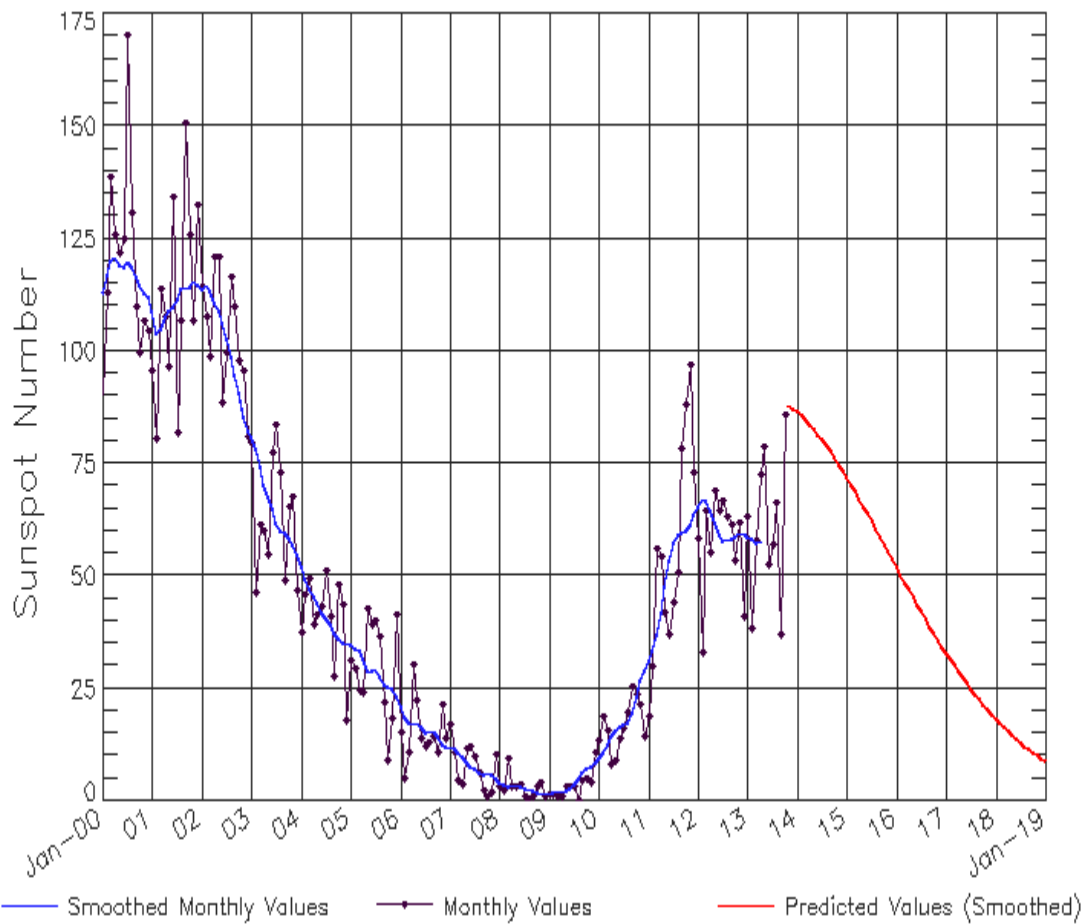
Tom W8JWN



Field Day 2008

# ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression

Observed data through Oct 2013



Updated 2013 Nov 4

NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

**Please remit dues to :  
Burt Armbrust WB8EBS  
693 Cliff St  
Quinnesec, Mi. 49876**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Call Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Call Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARRL Member? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**Annual dues are Payable January 1st.**

**Dues for New Members are Pro-rated.**

**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 10th, 2013 Meeting**

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

Secretary Report

Minutes of the November 12th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

Balances as of December 6, 2013:

Checking - \$19.64

Regular Savings - \$ 2,201.39 of which \$ 1,851.62 is in the Trailer Fund.

Repeater Savings - \$ 902.44

Petty Cash - \$ 16.00

Repeater Report

There has been increased activity lately, on the repeater. It is still a bit noisy when it's windy.

Old Business

**A motion by Terry Moriarty, supported by Sam Holmes, to change the club meeting night to Wednesday, was unanimously approved. It is hoped that this will help attendance. The January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at 7:00PM.**

Requests for QSL cards and certificates from our Veterans Day Special Event have been received and are being mailed out. President Tom Martin noted that we will again have the K8V callsign. It has been assigned to the club from November 7 through November 11, 2014.

The two meter net has not met regularly for the past few weeks. It is expected to resume soon, once Bob Meyers returns to the area.

Steve Skauge will be producing one final newsletter. Tom Heyboer will then take over. Members are invited to write guest columns. Any material for the newsletter can be emailed to Tom at [heyboer.tom@gmail.com](mailto:heyboer.tom@gmail.com)

Burt Armbrust reported that the connectors on the antennas have already been fixed. He will order the necessary parts and repair the jumpers.

Jim Riverside brought several articles, from QST, on Fox Hunts and related equipment. He has prior experience with Fox Hunts in El Paso, Texas. Jim will

work on a plan for conducting an activity in the spring. Dave Thomas and Sam Holmes will research handheld Yagi antennas.

### New Business

Burt Armbrust attended a recent meeting of the Dickinson County Emergency Preparedness Committee. He wondered if the club was interested in being involved in drills to be conducted by Dickinson County Hospitals next year. Club involvement does not appear likely at this time since Dickinson County does not have an Emergency Coordinator (EC). Nobody present expressed an interest in the position. President Martin will check with Regional Coordinator Lou Gembolis to see what is planned for the county.

Through Burt Armbrust, the club has acquired two consoles for remotely controlling radios. It is thought that they might be useful for a new repeater that Terry Moriarty and Dave Thomas are working on.

There has been no action, yet, on a new antenna for the repeater. However, a couple of antennas have been located.

President Tom asked if any hams in attendance needed assistance with their stations. Herb Pahlow requested help getting a multi-band antenna put up. Terry Moriarty, Sam Holmes, Dave Thomas, and Scott Dolatowski will give him some assistance when he is ready.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

### For the Good of the Order

Attendees reported on their recent activities.

Submitted by Joe Ferris

### Attendees:

Tom Martin, W8JWN - President  
Scott Jarmusch, KA8TFF - Vice President  
Burton Armbrust Sr., WB8EBS - Treasurer  
Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
Jim Riverside, K8ABS  
Gary Schafer, K4FMX  
Scott Dolatowski, KC9ZBC and his son Shelby  
Chris Michaud, KD8UMN  
Red Maxwell, KC9KWS  
Tom Heyboer, KC8TH  
Mike Bray, K8DDB  
Skip Caswell, KE9L  
Rob Thomas, N7SWX

Steve Hebert, KD8WAK  
Herb Pahlow, KD9SY  
Joe Komblevich, KB8ETK  
Terry Moriarity, K9TRY  
David Thomas, KG9Y  
Bill Grabowski, KD8VTT Debbie Grabowski,  
KD8VTS  
Sam Holmes, N8ATS  
Kathy Falls, KB8ZZZ  
Don Falls, KC8AAA  
Gregory Scott

## **Michigan Amateur Radio License Plates**

from:

**Michigan Section News December 2013**

By:

**ARRL Michigan Section**

**Section Manager: Larry Camp, WB8R**

[wb8r@arrl.org](mailto:wb8r@arrl.org)

The State of Michigan has recently updated the selection of Amateur Radio Operator (ARO) License Plates. The new plates feature a radio tower on the left side with red 'lightning bolts' emanating from the top of the tower. You can see pictures of the new plates here: [http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1585\\_1595\\_21641-55680--,00.htm](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1585_1595_21641-55680--,00.htm)

Keep in mind that the page you are looking at with the pictures is not an application for license plates. It is an application for collector plates which cannot be used as a vehicle plate. It is the only place we could find a likeness of the new plates.

To purchase an Amateur Radio License plate, go here:

[http://www.michigan.gov/sos/1,1607,7-127-1585\\_11459---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/1,1607,7-127-1585_11459---,00.html)

Look near the bottom for 'Other Plates' for the Amateur Radio Operator PDF order form MV-74. Fill out the form accordingly and you will have a new fancy plate with your call on it in about 2 weeks or so. The cost for the basic plate is \$2 plus registration fee and the fancy plate is \$7 over the registration fee. You will have to send a copy of your ticket with the application.

Thanks to Dave, N7DAM for bringing this to my attention.

## **New Year's Resolution: Become a CERT Leader**

from:

**ARES-E Letter December, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept is a major, growing concern in the quickly evolving arena of emergency management on a micro versus macro scale and deserves the full attention of ARES and indeed any radio amateur as a top priority for the coming year.

CERT is the wave of the future -- the immediate future -- as limited resources for disaster response at all levels of government (local, state and federal) are bumping up against ever-increasing need of the populace in the face of elevating incidence and ferocity of natural and man-made disaster. The CERT concept is part of the answer to the horns of this dilemma: residents on a street or apartment complex in their neighborhood will



network and be trained to take care of themselves in the first critical post-disaster hours and possibly days when no outside help is available. Think of the CERT program as a kind of block party, only instead of socializing over hot dogs and hamburgers, neighbors get together to train and plan to look after each other when under siege of disaster effects. When you really think about this concept, it has implications that are of a serious, life and death nature.

The CERT program is a FEMA program, part of its Citizen Corps and Ready campaigns, but had its origins in forward-thinking fire and EMS units in southern California decades ago. Neighbors are trained in conducting an initial assessment of their own homes and survival kits. They learn to reduce the immediate dangers presented by a disaster by turning off utilities, suppressing small fires, evacuating the area, and helping others. They learn to treat people in the immediate area. They learn to implement their own Incident Command System - they establish a command post, staging area, and medical triage and treatment areas. They learn to collect damage information and develop a plan of operation based on life-saving priorities and available resources. And they learn to establish and maintain communications with responders and the outside world.

The radio amateur, especially an ARES-registered operator, is the ideal candidate for forming and leading a neighborhood Community Emergency Response Team. A critical part of the CERT's planning and operations is radio communications, and we as radio amateurs have the experience and credibility for this emergency support function out of the gate. Become a CERT leader! Every journey of recruiting a dozen homes on a street for a CERT begins with the first, perhaps your next door neighbor. Talk to him or her "over the fence" and start planning and drafting your team. Read and use the FEMA publication Starting and Maintaining a CERT.

There are many resources to help you! You can start with FEMA's Independent Study Course on CERT. A reader recently called my attention to a new library of disaster-related training with numerous videos, including several on Neighborhood Preparedness and Response. I haven't had a chance to review it yet, but I will. The library can be accessed at the Just In Time Disaster Training web site.

FEMA has a number of resources available to the CERT members and leader. You can get the CERT National Newsletter. You can Search CERT programs by ZIP code. You can get a Directory of Existing CERTs by State.

You can register a new CERT program with FEMA on-line. This page is to register CERT programs only, however, not to register individuals or individual teams sponsored by a local CERT Program. To be an official CERT Program, the program must be operated by a local emergency response organization such as your local Fire Department or Office of Emergency Management and endorsed by the local Citizen Corps Council if your community has one. The program coordinators must conduct the CERT Basic Training Course and hold a CERT exercise at least once a year. There must be a point of contact to be posted with other program information on the national CERT website.

Search to find a CERT program in your locale to help you set up and establish your neighborhood CERT. The CERT concept can also be extended to workplaces - the same ideals apply!

**Conclusion: You are On Your Own! "Winging It is Not an Emergency Plan"**

The government's promotional language often reads like this: "When a disaster or overwhelming event occurs and responders are not immediately available, CERTs can assist . . ." Let's examine what they're really saying in plain terms: When your house and family are in immediate danger in the first minutes and hours after a disaster, you are on your own. There will likely be no EMS, fire, police nor any other agency responders to save you and your family and neighbors. Your



survival is up to you alone, based on your preparations and the help from your immediate neighbors on your street. Your chances will be greatly enhanced with an organized neighborhood response, the kind of response that is at the heart of the CERT concept. Make it your New Year's resolution to form your own neighborhood CERT! -- Rick Palm, K1CE

**Club Activities:**

*Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Club meets the second Wednesday 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.*

**Repeater Specifications;**

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

**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 Wednesday 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 KA8TFF  
[s\\_jarmusch@yahoo.com](mailto:s_jarmusch@yahoo.com)

### **Secretary:**

Joe Ferris, KC9TQR  
[jferris@borderlandnet.net](mailto:jferris@borderlandnet.net)

### **Treasurer:**

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

## **Reminders:**

Club dues for the year 2014 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:  
Wednesday January 8th, 2013. It will be held in the Dickinson  
County Library at **7:00 PM****

## **Wanted:**

**Your Articles, Your pictures and  
your Input for the Newsletter!**

**This is my last newsletter. I  
have enjoyed the honor of  
editing the Mich-A-Con  
newsletter for several years  
and now pass the duties on to  
Tom Heyboer (KC8TH). Help him  
out by contributing today!**

**Send them to:**

**[heyboer.tom@gmail.com](mailto:heyboer.tom@gmail.com)**