Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

April 2007

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Visit the ARRL's web site at http://www.arrl.org

STORM SPOTTER TRAINING MAY 1ST

Matt Zika (KD8EFY) from the National Weather Service office in Marquette will be holding Storm Spotter Training for Dickinson County on May 1st 2007. The start time is 6:30 P.M. CDT and will be held in the Lower Level of the Sheriff's office in Iron Mountain. It is recommended spotters attend a training meeting every couple of years to keep your skills sharp.

You can contact Matt at the NWS by calling (906)475-5212 or via the web page: http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mgt

TOM TRAVELS WEST

Words from the President By Tom, W8JWM



Hmm.... Looks like a great spot for a Repeater

In the last "Words" I described my visit to W0AIH's shack near Eau Claire, WI. Well, on Saturday, April 7th, my XYL and I drove the same route on the way to Mt. Rushmore. We planned an Easter vacation in Deadwood, SD near Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills. This wasn't a radio trip, although I thought about bringing the Icom 706 and Hamsticks to try operating mobile from a fairly rare state. Instead, we listened to a James Patterson novel on CD and four wonderful CDs of music that our daughter and son-in-law made for our trip. Willie's "On the Road Again" was one of

the selections. Fitting, eh? Books on CD and vintage music make a 2,000 mile round-trip go by very quickly.

Near Mitchell SD I spotted along I-90 several towers, beams, and an 80 meter vertical. I thought about trying to find an exit to get a closer look at the system but decided not to try the wife's patience. HI! On the 942 mile trip to Deadwood, I saw two ham sites along the highway. Obviously, there are more stations in SD but you wouldn't know it by listening on the bands.

We found that cell phone communication was spotty around Deadwood. Two many hills and Deadwood is in a valley. I would assume 2-meters would also be a problem. I didn't bring my handheld; so, I can't say for sure if there were any repeaters in that area. Though, I'm sure Rapid City has several. Our only means of communication from the car was OnStar. It was clear as a bell and quite proficient. It is a fantastic emergency system, albeit expensive.

Mt. Rushmore was impressive. I can't believe that in my 64 years that I'd never been there! Since it was offseason, we almost had the place to ourselves. It was a chilly 48 degrees but clear. Actually, it was the nicest day of our stay in Deadwood. The other three days were dashed with snow and rain. The visages of Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Lincoln looked as fresh as they were in 1941 when the monument was completed. It was hard to believe that there wasn't a single serious injury during the 14 year construction. Workers hung from the granite cliff without the aid of Glen Martin harnesses!

Back in Deadwood, after driving through Custer State Park and dodging buffalo, antelope, and wild horses, we proceeded to lose many Grants and Jacksons! Did I mention that Deadwood has 80 casinos? We were amazed to discover that fact. HI! I will have to find another way to pay for that Alpha amp.

The XYL brought up the idea of returning to Iron Mountain via North Dakota. A quick perusal of the atlas squelched that idea. It would have been too many more miles and we were a bit tired of being in a car. Yet, that trip has always been in the back of my mind for a ham radio related adventure. In the RTTY ARRL Roundup, North Dakota stations are "gold"! There is a great demand for ND in any contest. Anyone interested in a mini-DXpedition to the Peace Garden State?

DAYTON HAMVENTION MAY 18TH -20TH

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) will be having their 56th Show on May 18th, 19th and 20th at the Hara Arena in Trotwood Ohio. The Hamvention is the largest of its kind and promises a great time for all attendees.

This years theme is: Local Clubs: The Heart of Ham Radio.

Advanced Tickets are \$20 and good for all three days. Tickets at the door are \$25.

The Hamvention will feature hundreds of inside exhibitors featuring the latest in amateur radio gear at special prices. Thousands of flea market spots filled with great items and prices along with forums featuring a variety of programs are all part of the event.

Prizes, License Exams and More.... check out the web site: http://www.hamvention.org/

LOCATE HAMS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Check out this web site:

http://www.vanityhq.com/cgi/hamlocator.cgi?http://www.ae7q.com

This is N8MC's Vanity HQ web site. You enter in a zip code and it generates a map with the physical location of all Hams using that zip code!

Check the marker and you get call sign, name, and address!

This is a great site and an awesome tool!

CIVILIAN SPACE TRAVELER ALREADY MAKING HAM RADIO CONTACTS FROM SPACE

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 15 April 13, 2007

After less than a day in space, civilian space traveler Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP/HA5SIK, was already making contacts with the earthbound ham radio community from NA1SS. The billionaire software pioneer and aviator arrived April 10 at the International Space Station with the Expedition 15 crew of Russian cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin,

RN3FI, and Dr Oleg Kotov. The trio launched two days earlier in a Soyuz spacecraft from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, in Honolulu was among the lucky ones. He tells ARRL that after putting out a blind call, he spoke not only with Simonyi but with Expedition 14/15 Flight Engineer Suni Williams, KD5PLB.

"I mentioned to her that I had listened to her earlier contact with the school in India and it was a thrill to speak with her directly," Hashiro recounted.

"She said that Hawaii was her favorite place and had some relatives in Hawaii." Then, Hashiro says, Williams told him someone else was interested in talking with him, and Simonyi came on a few minutes later. "I welcomed Charles to ham radio and asked him if he was the author of the "Hungarian notation" of Windows programming, which he acknowledged," said Hashiro. He told Simonyi that he was involved in Windows programming more than 20 years ago, and was glad to meet its creator.

Hashiro deemed the occasion "a fabulous and eventful evening." Flying under contract with the Russian Federal Space Agency, Simonyi also has been running through a list of four scheduled Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contacts, including one with a school in his native Hungary.

On April 12, Simonyi responded via Amateur Radio to upward of 30 questions posed by students at Fairborn High School in Ohio, telling them he's enjoying microgravity now that he's become used to it.

Simonyi also talked about why he wanted to go into space. "I wanted to make a contribution to civilian space flight and assist in space station research, and also to have a fantastic experience," he said. As to why he flew with Russian cosmonauts and not with NASA, Simonyi said, "NASA doesn't fly space tourists yet, so the Russians are the only game in town." Simonyi paid a reported \$25 million for his space adventure.

While in space, Simonyi will do some maintenance on the ham radio gear aboard the ISS as well as testing to isolate an antenna problem, and he'll reprogram the Phase 2 NA1SS transceiver to correct a configuration problem. He'll also conduct some research before returning home April 20 with the Expedition 14 crew of Michael Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, and Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, who have been in space since last September.

Williams is scheduled to return home this summer on the shuttle Endeavour.

Frequencies in use for ARISS general QSOs: Voice and packet downlink: 145.80 MHz (worldwide); Voice

uplink: 144.49 MHz for Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas, and the Pacific) and 145.20 MHz for Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa). All frequencies are subject to Doppler shift.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the April 10, 2007 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mike Boileau, N9NBN, at 7:02 PM.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the March 13 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report

No report – treasurer absent.

Repeater Report

Lee, N8LT, reported that the power amplifier for the 146.850 repeater hasn't been installed yet. The Niagara Paper Mill has donated 100 watt 450MHz Motorola MSR 2000 repeater to the club. The repeater needs repairs. Lee will troubleshoot the repeater and come up with a cost estimate. Lee will submit a request for reimbursement for expenses totaling \$113.19 for hardware and parts associated with the installation of the dual band antenna installed last spring at the 80 feet level on the WE Energies tower.

Bob, WA8FXQ, reported that he can obtain a G.E. Master Pro 110 watt repeater w/manual for free. The G.E. repeater would replace our aging 146.850 repeater. Crystals would be needed to convert it to our frequency. He has also located a power supply at a cost of \$75. The approximate cost of a new controller is \$150. A motion was by Steve, KC8CCP, to authorize expenditure of up to \$300 from the Repeater Account to purchase the necessary equipment and parts to make the repeater operational. The motion was seconded by Randy, KB9ZES, and approved by those present.

ARES

There was one activation of ARES for storm spotting as a severe storm moved through the area during the night.

SKYWARN training has been scheduled for May 1st at 6:30 CDT at the Dickinson County Correctional Center, lower level of the sheriff's office.

The emergency generator, cable, etc., is temporarily being stored at Rocconi Hardware. Payment has been received from the Sheriffs Dept. Everything can now be moved to another storage facility when desired.

Old Business

Steve, KD8CCP, reported that MDOT does not permit information other than local sports accomplishments to accompany MDOT information on their signs.

New Business

Randy, KB9ZES, suggested that the club promote amateur radio in the local schools.

Randy, KB9ZES, provided information from Scott, KA8TFF, on the donation of a pop-up camper frame w/wheels that we could modify and use to transport club equipment. Randy will obtain the dimensions of the trailer frame.

Randy, KB9ZES, donated shirts to be used as a fund raiser for the club. The T-Shirts have the club logo screen printed on the back. They come in various sizes and colors and are available from Randy for \$10 each. Money from the sale of the shirts will be deposited into the club treasury. More information will be posted on the Buy-Sell-Trade page of the club's web site.

Field Day – It was felt that we may want to change our entry class from 2A to 3A if the club will have more operators interested in Field Day this year. The tower raising method will be field tested before Field Day to ensure we have a safe way of raising and lowering the tower.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

For The Good Of The Order – Attendees discussed their recent amateur radio related activities.

Submitted by Mike Bray

Attendees

Mike Bray, K8DDB ---Secretary
Michael Boileau, N9NBN---Vice President
Scott Baker, KB9AVX
Randy Zandt, KB9ZES
Lance Collins, KC9IGI
Beth Baker, KC9KVP
Lee Michaud, N8LT
Dave Thomas, KB9JOG
Burt Armbrust, WB8EBS
Joe Scutte, KD8DJK
Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ
Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER
Steve Skauge, KD8CCP

EXAM DATES:

28-Apr-2007

Sponsor: TOMAHAWK REPEATER ASSN Time: 8:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: DIANE L HAMMAN (715)453-3908

Email: W8BHL@ARRL.ORG

Email: LITTLELODGE@NEWNORTH.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: SACRED HEART HOSPITAL 401 W MOHAWK DR

TOMAHAWK, WI 54487

05-May-2007

Sponsor: Mich-A-Con Time: 9:00AM (Arrive by 8:30)

Contact: Mark J.Lewis N8UKD (906) 774-6589

Email:

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: DICKINSON COUNTY LIBRARY (Conference Room)

IRON MOUNTAIN, MI 49802

06-June-2007

Sponsor: HIAWATHA ARA
Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: RICHARD E SCHWENKE (906) 249-3837

Email: N8GBA@CHARTERMI.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: MARQUETTE HEALTH DEPT BLDG 184 US 41 E NEXT TO MI STATE POLICE BLDG NEGAUNEE, MI 49866

30-JUN-2007

Sponsor: TOMAHAWK REPEATER ASSN Time: 8:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: DIANE L HAMMAN (715)453-3908

Email: W8BHL@ARRL.ORG

Email: LITTLELODGE@NEWNORTH.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: SACRED HEART HOSPITAL 401 W MOHAWK DR

TOMAHAWK, WI 54487

Examinees should bring 2 pencils, a pen for the official paperwork, the originals AND copies of any previous credit that you have earned (Certificates of Successful Completion or current license), 1 photo ID (usually a drivers license) and 1 other ID (usually a birth certificate or SS card), a calculator if needed (make sure your memories are cleaned out), and the test fee. (2007 fee is \$14). Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change.

NOT ALL THUMBS:

from: Weavers Words Wed April 11th, 2007 Jim Weaver, K8JE, k8je@arrl.org

Robert Madsen KA8KNY of Mt. Pleasant, MI reminds me of the competition between two Morse operators and two "text messagers" that took place on the Jay Leno Tonight Show. This was when two hams flat out beat two fellows who attempted to send the same message by text messaging. A video of this near-famous event is at:

http://harbor.gaslightmedia.com/tmp/MorseOrSMS.w mv.

GAO INTEROPERABILITY REPORT

FROM
THE ARES E-LETTER
APRIL 18TH 2007
RICK PALM, K1CE EDITOR

Letters: GAO Report on Interoperability:

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report this month on interoperability issues likely to be taken seriously by this congress. Among them, it cites technical solutions including VoIP, and software defined radios. It also addresses the core issues having little to do with technology, including the resistance to the use of plain language instead of codes and industry specific protocols.

As we move towards the digital future of Amateur Radio, I'm starting to question the wisdom of some of our systems, like D-Star, which are not directly interoperable with first responders. APCO 25 would seem a better choice, since spending in the first responder community dwarfs that of Amateur Radio. It's likely that ultimately Amateur Radio digital systems using APCO 25 would be less expensive to manufacture than D-Star versions and assuming the radios were capable of wide-band receive, we'd still retain our ability to use our radios to directly monitor public service frequencies, which is a huge asset during an emergency. Currently, I own an ICOM ID-800H D-Star transceiver but I've also purchased a handheld scanner with APCO 25 capability. It would be nice to have bothin one radio. First Responders: Much Work Remains to Improve Communications Interoperability (GAO-07-301). Washington, DC: GAO Report to Congressional Requesters, April 2007.

http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-301

---Les Rayburn, N1LF, National Communications System-NCS047; Navy MARS NNN0HSI; ARES-SHARES-Skywarn; ARRL EmComm Level 3 Certified Official Emergency Station.

RECREATION VEHICLES AS ARES ASSETS

FROM THE ARES E-LETTER APRIL 18TH 2007 RICK PALM, K1CE EDITOR

Letters: RVs as ARES Assets;

A potential ARES asset is the Recreational Vehicle owners. Most of them belong to radio clubs that meet on the air, giving them the experience of participating in networks. Numerous RV networks exist that can be readily available to operate as ARES nets. Amateur stations permanently installed in these vehicles are not uncommon. Satellite television capability and cell phone communications are also installed. With their onboard supplies of propane, gasoline and foodstuffs, they are self-sufficient for long periods of time. Motor generators are typically operated on gasoline or propane and provide long-term electrical power. Nonham members of the family can provide logistical support in the form of cooking, housekeeping, message delivery (sneaker net) and other related tasks. Operation on Citizens Band is very common, providing ARES with another group of mobile radio stations that can collect disaster information from the field. CB operators represent a large pool of potential ham radio operators. The individual RVs are already dispersed geographically. They can be radio-dispatched to different areas to collect specific information. All RVs are fitted with cooking and food storage areas as well as sleeping accommodations. Some of the larger vehicles are quickly adaptable to serve as mobile communications centers. -- Frank Wyatt, N6FW, Scotts Valley, CA <n6fw@baymoon.com>

Club Patches are Available from:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX 612 Balsam Street Kingsford, Mi 49802

They are 3 inches in diameter and sell for \$3.00 each. If ordering by mail, please include a self addressed stamped envelope along with your payment.

CLUB EQUIPMENT LIST

TOM MARTIN W8JWN has custody of the following club equipment:

- 1. Gn pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
- 2. Small TV type rotor and control.
- 3. Dipole antennas for 80,40,20,15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
- 4. Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy).
- 4. RG8X with double shield (100 ft).
- 5. 3/16 Single Braid Dacron rope (200 ft).
- 6. 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters).
- 7. 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters).
- 8. 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters).
- 9. 6 PL259 silver connectors.
- 10. 4 T-adapters for stubs.
- 11. 4 UG-176 silver sleeves.
- 12. 3 right-angle connectors.
- 13. Hygain tri-band beam antenna.
- 14. G5RV antenna.
- 15. Club banner.

MIKE BRAY K8DDB has custody of the following club equipment:

- 16. 40 foot light tower.
- 17. Lafayette 80 10 meter tube type VFO #99-2501 with operating manual.
- 18. J-38 Morse code straight key.
- 19. Lambda model LT-2095A-1583 power supply 0 to +-32VDC, 2 amp (rack mount).
- 20. Multi-meter ME-26D/U (old military type) by Sentinel Electronics, Inc.
- 21. Power supply (partially built home brew).
- 22. Duplexer (rack mount home brew) TX and RX cans- possibly 440 MHz.

Mich-A-Con RF is published by the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club of Iron Mountain.

Items for Mich-A-Con RF should be in the editor's hands by club meeting day (second Tuesday of the month) to be included in that month's edition. Please consider writing an article related to Amateur Radio to share with your fellow members. Send the article in plain text and attach any photos, etc., do not worry about format, that is the editor's job.

Send to:

kd8ccp@arrl.net (906) 779-5720

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NEVER FAR FROM HOME? Photo by Tom W8JWN

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities for May 2007						
<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUE</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THUR</u>	<u>FRI</u>	SAT
		1 SPOTTER TRAINING	2	3 ARES	4	<u>5</u>
6_ UPSN	7	8 MEETING	9	10 ARES	11	12
13 UPSN	14	15	16	17_ARES	18	19 BREAKFAST
20 UPSN	21	22	23	24 ARES	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
27 UPSN	28	<u>29</u>	30	31 ARES		

CLUB ACTIVITIES:

The Upper Peninsula 2-meter Social Net (UPSN) is conducted every Sunday at 7:00 P.M. Central Time on the 146.850 repeater. Dennis, K8SWX will facilitate the link from our repeater to the other participating stations via EchoLink. (Note: Dennis is currently working on a problem with the Link and therefore the net may not be held on our local repeater.)

ARES Nets are conducted at 6:30 P.M. Central Time every Thursday evening on our 2-meter repeater (146.850 MHz).

Meeting: The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the Dickinson County Library. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

Our Saturday Morning Breakfast is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 A.M. in the Holiday Kitchen Restaurant on Stephenson Avenue (US-2) in Iron Mountain, across from Econo Foods. Why not enjoy a good meal and camaraderie with your fellow members?

Storm Spotter Training will be held on May 1st 2007 in the Lower Level of the Dickinson County Sheriffs Office at 6:30 P.M. CDT. For more information contact Matt Zika (KD8EFY) (906)475-5212 http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please remit dues to: Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX 612 Balsam Street Kingsford, Mi 49802

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip	-
Call Sign:	
Email Address:	_
Phone:	
ARRL Member? Yes No	_
	ease make check payable to Mich-A-Con ARC Single \$20* Family \$30 Repeater Only \$10**
If family membership, please list ad	ditional names and call signs:

License Study Materials Available from the ARRL:

Technician Class: General Class: The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual ARRL General Class License Manual 1st edition 2006 5th ed. Order No. 9639 \$24.95 Valid beginning July 1, 2004 Order No. 9205 \$19.95 All you need to become an amateur radio operator. ARRL General Q&A ARRL Tech Q&A 2nd edition 2004 Order No. 9213 \$15.95 4th edition Order No. 9647 \$15.95 Extra Class: The entire technician question pool and it includes brief The ARRL Extra Class License Manual explanations too! 8th edition 2002 Order No. 8695 \$24.95 Ham University - Technician/General Edition on CD-ROM Order No. 8956 \$24.95 ARRL Extra Q&A Includes all of the Technician and General exam questions in a test yourself quiz system. 1st Edition 2003 Order No. 8888 \$17.95

Ham Test Online Order No. \$49.95

Web based online training for amateur radio exams. Phone: 1-888-277-5289 http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/

http://hamuniversity.com

^{*} 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.

^{**} If you are in an occasional or seasonal user of the repeater, please consider our Repeater Only Membership





FIELD DAY IS COMING!!!!

(Photos by Mike, N9NBN - 2006 Field Day)

MICH-A-CON RF

Mich-A-Con ARC c/o Stephen Skauge 945 Woodward Ave Apt 5 Kingsford, Mi. 49802-4438

CLUB MEETINGS:

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Dickinson County Library. 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 Tuesday and Thursday and the contest section is updated on a monthly basis.

Club Officers:

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

Vice President: Mike Boileau N9NBN (715) 251-3137 n9nbn@uplogon.com

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

Treasurer:

Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX (906) 771-1996 dbeurjey@msn.com

Reminders:

Club dues for the year 2007 were payable in January. Please use the Membership Application/Renewal form in this newsletter when paying your dues.

Checks should be made payable to Mich-A-Con ARC and sent to our Treasurer, Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX at the address listed on the form. Thank-you for supporting your club!

The monthly meeting for May is on Tuesday the 8th at 7:00 PM at the Dickinson County Library.