

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

January 2004

In this issue:

Antenna Raising

Club Elections

Questionnaire

2004 Club Dues

QRP

WE Energies

Award

FISTS CW Club

KC8VC Club Call

Upcoming

Events

Buy - Sell - Trade

Club Apparel

Club dues for 2004 are now due. The club's general treasury decreased this past year due to dwindling paid club membership, please support the club and your local repeaters.

Antenna Raising for Jay Jennings

KINGSFORD - Jay Jennings, W8HFS, has been a resident of the ManorCare nursing home in Kingsford for the last several years. He was recently granted a "Heart's Desire" wish by the nursing home to have his antenna and tower moved from his home to ManorCare.

On Sunday, August 31, club members Skip Caswell, Lee Michaud, Steve Johnson, Mike Bray and Don Welch, KC9XJ, (Mike's cousin from Madison) dismantled the tower and antenna at Jay's home on Juel Lake. The equipment was refurbished by Lee Michaud and on November 12, Mich-A-Con ARC members Lee Michaud, Tom Martin, Bob Meyers and Mike Bray gathered at the ManorCare nursing

home along with Dan Weaver, maintenance director at ManorCare, to make Jay's wish a reality. A news crew from WLUC TV6 in Marquette and a reporter from The Daily News were there to record the event.

Jay spent the day "supervising" the job. Later, in his room, tears welled up in his eyes, as he was able to receive transmissions from Colorado, Germany, Russia and other parts of the world.

The project was coordinated by Lee Michaud, N8LT, who also repaired and realigned Jay's Yaesu FT101 transceiver earlier this year.

The Daily News article and photo can be seen on the club web site.

Club Elections

NORWAY - The start of deer season and a winter storm kept members from attending the November and December meetings. Only three members turned out for the November meeting and four for December, so we weren't able to hold elections as called for by the club constitution.

Election of officers was held at the January meeting. Tom Martin,

W8JWN, was elected Vice President, Mike Bray, K8DDB, was elected Secretary and Steve Johnson, KC8RYY, was elected Treasurer. The office of President remains vacant.

The club needs someone to volunteer for this position. The outgoing club officers have held their offices for the last four or five years and they need a well deserved break.

QRP

I guess I always had it in me, but didn't put a name to it until later in my Amateur Radio years . . . QRP that is.

I had built a two tube "Novice Special" in 1979, around the time that I was first licensed, from an article in the 1970 Radio Amateur's Handbook . The "Novice Special" was a 15 watt input, crystal controlled transmitter built with mostly new (but some scrounged) parts into a sort of crude homebrew enclosure. The transmitter was a lot of fun to use and I just beamed when I was able to tell the op on the other end of the QSO that the rig I was using was made by me!

A Heathkit SB-303 receiver, which I had built before becoming a ham, was used along with the "Novice Special" and that was my "station" until I passed the General exam a year later.

Now, "fast forward" though the 80's and early 90's during which time I admit I sinned by using rigs capable of producing 100 watts and had a half-way decent 6 element tri-band beam on a 55 foot tower. I thought I was having fun, but didn't know what real fun was until I moved from Connecticut to Michigan, leaving my tower and beam behind.

After arriving in Michigan I built a G5RV antenna from a kit and hoisted it up in an oak tree by the side of the house. I was able to get the apex at 37 feet and the ends 18 feet off of the ground. That antenna was a far cry from the beam I left behind in Connecticut, but I thought "this is just temporary" and it will get me through the

harsh Michigan Winter. Little did I know that the G5RV would be my primary antenna for the next 7 years.

In January of 1998, I built a QRP kit produced by Oak Hills Research. It was an OHR 100-A, 40 meter, single-band, CW only, 5 watt transceiver. My Amateur Radio life changed that day and will never be the same . . . thank God! I have never had so much fun and it keeps getting better with the passage of time. I'm not saying that I'll never put up a decent antenna system, but I'm having more fun with what I have now than I did with my QRO station in Connecticut.

I love the challenge of QRP and cherish every QRP QSO. So far, I have QSL confirmation of Worked All States on 20 and 40 meters, CW, and have 118 entities confirmed toward DXCC, CW. Making that DX QSO isn't as easy as it used to be, but that's the challenge and fun of QRP!

Mike Bray, K8DDB

Questionnaire

A questionnaire is included in this newsletter to help the officers understand what the wants and needs of the membership are. The newsletter is being sent to prospective members in addition to those currently on the club roster. We are interested in what you have to say!

Please take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it with your 2004 club dues.

QRP is a Q signal meaning reduce power. Sent with a question mark QRP? it means "Shall I reduce my power?" This Q signal is also used to describe low power operation. As defined by QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRP ARCI) it means low power operation with a maximum of five watts output on CW and ten watts PEP SSB.

Kit Building and QRP go hand in hand and there are plenty kits to choose from!

Beginners kits, such as the Tuna Tin 2 transmitter, available from the Maine QRP Club and the VE3DNL Marker Generator, available from the NorCal QRP Club are a great way to get started in kit building.

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club
Questionnaire
January 2004

Please take the time to complete this questionnaire, the future and vitality of our club depends on your important input.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Call Sign _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

Are you presently active in Amateur Radio? Yes ___ No ___

What aspects of Amateur Radio do you enjoy?

If not active, what is the reason?

Are you presently interested in upgrading your Amateur Radio license?

Yes ___ No ___

Upgrading to what class license?

Is there something the club could do to help you upgrade your license?

Yes ___ No ___

Please explain:

How many club meetings have you attended during the last year?

If the meeting day was changed, would you be able to attend more often?

Please explain:

Are there other reasons for not attending meetings?

Please explain:

What can the club do to make the meetings something you would look forward to attending?

Mich-A-Con RF

What Amateur Radio related group activities would you be interested in (e.g. Field Day, Special Event Operation, Scout Jamboree On The Air, Hidden Transmitter Hunting, etc.)?

What club social activities would you be interested in?

Would a periodic get-together on Saturday mornings for breakfast be something you would be interested in (no business meeting)? If so, how often?

There is a need to replace club officers periodically to bring fresh ideas and energy into the leadership positions. After a number of years in office, burnout occurs and the job becomes a burden to even the most energetic of us. The office of club President is presently vacant and we need someone to fill the position. Would you be willing to do so? Yes ___ No ___

Would you be willing to fill a club office at some future time? Yes ___ No ___

If so, what office(s)?

Should the club have a newsletter? Yes ___ No ___

If we made the newsletter available on our club web site and you had internet access, would that be sufficient? Or, would you want a copy mailed to you when we mail it to members that don't have internet access? (savings in postage and copying costs)

What role would you be willing to play in the production of the newsletter?

Please add any additional comments that you feel would contribute to the betterment of the club.

Please return this questionnaire to: Steve Johnson, KC8RYY
917 Coolidge Ave.
Kingsford, MI 48902

Old News Is Good News

WE Energies Award

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club received the We Energies Reliability One Award last year. The award consisted of a \$1500 contribution and was available to ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) groups in any community with 5,000 or more We Energies customers. The club was recommended for the award by Peter Schlitt, Dickinson County Emergency Services, for our service to the government and the community. The award will be used for repeater repairs and/or what ever is needed to keep the systems up and running. The club voted to make a separate bank account for the \$1500 donation.

KC8VC Club Call Sign

It's official, the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club now has the KC8VC call sign in memory of former member Mike Wolfe.

Kathy Wolfe gave permission to the club to obtain the vanity call sign and Mike Bray, K8DDB, the club callsign trustee began submitting the necessary forms to the FCC on November 5, 2002. The vanity call was received on January 14, 2003.

CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

Tom Martin, W8JWN, used the callsign in the CQ WW WPX contest in March of 2003. He operated single op, single band (40 meters) high power and placed second in the U.S. and first in Michigan.

Contacts: 336
Multipliers: 229
Countries worked: 48

FISTS CW Club

In June of last year, the Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club registered with FISTS, The International Morse Preservation Society. FISTS is a well established and recognized CW organization in the world of amateur radio. Founded in 1987 by Geo Longden, G3ZQS, it now has a membership in the thousands, is world-wide, and growing daily. The purpose of the club is to further the use of CW on the amateur bands, to encourage newcomers to the CW mode and to engender friendship within the membership. Our FISTS number is 10150.

Information about the FISTS Club can be found at <http://www.fists.org>

Total Points: 177,704

Best run: 1 minute per contact over a 28 minute period.

Total Operating Time: 27 hours.

Congratulations Tom!

WAS and DXCC

We are trying to earn Worked All States and DX Century Club awards for the club. Club members interested in contributing to the effort should contact Mike, K8DDB, (906)563-7020 or email: mikebray@chartermi.net to obtain permission to use the callsign. He will give you a time slot and the information you need to get started. You will be responsible for QSLing and the costs involved. Mike can provide you with club QSL cards or give you the Microsoft Word file so that you can produce the cards yourself.

Let's get on the air and have some fun!

Buy - Sell - Trade

Wanted

ICOM 271A, Must be in good working condition.

Randy, KB9ZES
kb9zes@copper.net
(906)774-7649

Wanted

Ten Tec 6 meter rig.

Pat Servia, KC8EMF
pservia@norwaymi.com
563-9685

Wanted

TA33 or similar tribander capable of 1000 watts.

10-15 meter monobanders.

Tom Martin, W8JWN
774-5463

For Sale

Dentron 160-10 AT antenna tuner. It will handle 600 watts easily. No meters. \$60

Tom, W8JWN
774-5463

For Sale

National NCX-5 MK-II, all crystals for 10M, power supply/speaker, dc-dc converter, and desk mike, Electro-voice model 423A

Globe Matcher SR. Model AT-4 Antenna tuner

Hallicrafters SX-110 receiver, matching external speaker, #R48A

Make an offer, or will trade some or all of the above for a good scanner. Need a good base with lots of coverage!

Or??? Please email me with any questions/offers:

Fuzzy LeQuia
fdlequia@up.net

For Sale

Yaesu FT-201, with manual
Gonset GSB-101 HF Linear Amplifier, four 811As, with manual
Heath Kit SB-630 Station Console, (contains Phone Patch, 24hr Clock, and SWR Bridge), with manual

Heath Kit Model HM-15 SWR Bridge, with manual

Mosley TA-33 Beam antenna, (20, 15, 10 meters) with instruction sheet

Cushcraft 2 Meter Beam, with instruction sheet

CDR Model CD-HAM II rotor, with controller and instructions

40 Foot Tower

Outercom Electronics Model FM-50A, converted to 6 meters, crystal frequency unknown

Make an offer for all of the above.

Kenwood TM-231, (2 meter FM), with mobile antenna, \$125

Kenwood 321A 144-148 Mhz FM radio, 5/10/50 watts. With Manual and Hustler 5/8 wave mag mount antenna. \$125 including antenna.

Contact:

Don Schettler, WA8AYG

901 Blaine

Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Phone: (906)774-4377

For Sale or Trade

386 computer, runs DOS. Good for starter packet - older packet program in it already to go. Also have a box of goodies to trade.

Pat, KC8EMF

pservia@norwaymi.com

563-9685

Upcoming Events

Hamfest

Hiawatha ARA

February 7, 2004

10 AM to 3 PM

Eastern Time

Negaunee, MI

Township Hall

42 County Road

M-35

906-225-6773

n8pkn@aol.com

Contests

North American

Sprint, CW

Feb 1

North American

Sprint, SSB

Feb 8

Classic Exchange

CW/Phone

Feb 8

ARRL

International

DX Contest, CW

Feb 21

CQ WW

160 meter SSB

Contest

Feb 28

Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club Membership Dues For The Year 2004

Please remit dues to club treasurer:

Steve Johnson, KC8RYY
917 Coolidge Ave
Kingsford, MI 49802

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

Single \$20 _____ Family \$30 _____

If family membership, please list additional names and call signs:

Mich-A-Con Club Apparel

Our club apparel is supplied by:

Shirt Tails
408 S Stephenson Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Phone: 774-3370
E-mail: finleyd@up.net

Prices:

Jacket with liner - \$45.00
(Tall size add \$5.00, 2X or 3X add \$5.00
to add your name or call sign on the front is \$5.00)

The color chosen by the club for the jacket is black.

T-Shirt - \$10.00
Size 2X or 3X add \$1.00
Sweatshirt - \$16.00
Size 2X or 3X add \$2.00

If you wish to have the club logo printed on an item of clothing that you have purchased elsewhere, there is a charge of \$6.00.

Club patches are also available. The patches are three inches in diameter and sell for \$3.00. See Steve Johnson, KC8RYY, for the patches.

Our logo and patches can be seen on the club's web site - Membership page.

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

Mich-A-Con RF

Mich-A-Con ARC
c/o Michael F. Bray
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Stamp

Mailing label goes here

Mich-A-Con RF

Tying The Ribbon

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the basement of the Grace United Methodist Church, 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome!

Please visit the club's web site at:
<http://www.qsl.net/ka1ddb/>

Contests on the Upcoming Activities page are updated at the beginning of each month. The ARRL DX Bulletin is updated every Friday.

CLUB OFFICERS

President:
vacant

Vice President:
Tom Martin, W8JWN

Secretary:
Mike Bray, K8DDB

Treasurer:
Steve Johnson, KC8RYY

Amateur Radio Exam Schedule:

City: Iron Mountain
Location: Dickinson County Library
Room: Conference Room
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time

Contact: Fuzzy LeQuia, WD9HDP
Telephone: (906) 246-3641

Exam Date: Feb 7, 2004

Exam Date: May 1, 2004

Exam Date: Aug 7, 2004

Exam Date: Nov 6, 2004