

Mich-A-Con RF

Iron Mountain, Michigan

July 2004

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A Good Time Was Had By One And All!

Field Day has come ... and gone ... for another year. Field Day 2004 was a time to experience the camaraderie of fellow club members while honing our emergency preparedness skills.

Norway's Marion Park proved to be an ideal spot for FD. The pavilion in combination with Terry's motor home gave us ample room for the setup of our stations and provided shelter if it was needed. The abundance of well-spaced, tall trees made the site well suited for the placement of wire antennas.

One could only marvel at Lee's proficiency in the use of his slingshot to launch our antennas to the upper reaches of the atmosphere. Well, maybe not that high, but we took full advantage of the trees surrounding our operating site!

We are grateful for the support of local businesses. LaFaive Oil supplied 20 gallons of fuel for our emergency generator, Ebeling's IGA established a tab for \$40 worth of food and Subway of Norway gave us coupons for 10 free six inch sub sandwiches. In addition to the food supplied by Ebeling's and Subway, Terry provided some very tasty venison and potato salad!

The not so welcome appearance of Murphy is
(Continued on page 3)

Mich-A-Con ARC July 13th Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Martin W8JWN, at 6:35 PM

Secretary Report:

The minutes of the June 8 meeting were read by Mike, K8DDB, and accepted.

Treasurer Report:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Steve



Tom, W8JWN and Bob, KC8TWG at the SSB/Digital Station operating position and onlookers.



Mark, N8UKD at the Solar Station operating position

KC8RYY. As of this meeting, we have \$372.87 in checking, \$2,329.42 in the savings account, \$1,509.19 in the repeater account and \$26.00 in petty cash. Bill and Jan Lukes renewed their Family Membership (\$30). Steve gave notice that he will resign from the treasurer's office at the end of the year due to increased workload in his new job.

(Continued on page 7)

Words from the President

Field Day 2004 is history, but the memories will linger for a long time. How could I ever forget the smell of plastic melting in the surge protectors, the cold, crisp breeze at 3 A.M. that drove Mike and I to our vehicles to get warm, the frustration of calling KP4 "umpteen" times with no contact being made, and the glow of dawn as the sun came up directly in front of my operating position. It was a great experience! I didn't realize until late Sunday, after a very long nap, that I missed being a part of these events. My last FD was back in the late 70's.

I would hope that many of the readers of this newsletter get to savor the FD experience in the future. Don't wait as long as I did.

Club Activities in August

Club Net on Tuesday the 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st at 6:30 PM on the 2-meter repeater. We are still looking for a Net Control, please notify Tom, W8JWN if you can help.

License exams at the Dickinson County Library Conference Room, August 7th at 9:30 AM.

Club Picnic on Tuesday the 10th at 6:00 PM at Cowboy Lake pavilion in Kingsford. Please bring your own picnic lunch and beverage.

Buy-Sell-Trade

For Sale

- Globe Matcher SR. Model AT-4 antenna tuner.
- Cantenna dummy load.

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, WD9HDP fdlequia@up.net

For Sale

- Dentron 160-10 AT antenna tuner. It will handle 600 watts easily. No meters. \$60
- Radio Shack 10-meter 25 watt mobile/fixed transceiver HTX-10. Like new condition, works great. \$75.00

Tom Martin, W8JWN (906)774-5463

For Sale

- Yaesu FT-201, with manual
- Heath Kit SB-630 Station Console
- Heath Kit Model HM-15 SWR Bridge
- 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

\$500 for all of the above.

Don Schettler, WA8AYG (906) 774-4377

(See our web page for details)

Upcoming Events:

UP Hamfest & Computer

Swap

August 7 9 AM to 4 PM EST
2001 N Lincoln Road
Escanaba, Michigan
(Bay de Noc Community College)
Swap, Forums, Activities
Computer Supplies
Breakfast and Lunch
Adm: \$5, Tables: \$5
John Anderson, WD8RTH
(906) 789-6950
wd8rth@charter.net

Contests

National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend
0001 Aug 7-2359 Aug 8

ARRL UHF Contest
1800 Aug 7-1800 Aug 8

North American QSO Party (CW)
1800 Aug 7-0600 Aug 8

Ten-Ten International Summer Phone QSO Party
0001 Aug 7-2400 Aug 8

Maryland-DC QSO Party
1600 Aug 14-0400 Aug 15

North American QSO Party (SSB)
1800 Aug 21-0600 Aug 22

New Jersey QSO Party
2000 Aug 21-0700 Aug 27
1300 Aug 27-0200 Aug 28

Ohio QSO Party
1600 Aug 28-0400 Aug 29

Hawaii QSO Party
0700 Aug 28-2200 Aug 29

Contest dates are UTC see the ARRL web site August Contests or August QST for more information:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>

Mich-A-Con ARC Activities - August 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Net	4	5	6	7 Exam
8	9	10 Picnic	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Net	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Net	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Net				

License Study Materials Available from the ARRL:

Technician Class:

Now You're Talking - 5th edition - Order No. 8810 \$19.95

ARRL's Tech Q&A - 3rd edition - Order No. 8829 \$12.95

ARRL Technician Class Video Course - 4th ed. DVD Course No. 9116 VHS Course No. 8837 \$149 each + \$12 s&h

General Class:

ARRL General Class License Manual - 5th ed. Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9205 \$16.95

ARRL's General Q&A Valid beginning July 1, 2004 - Order No. 9213 \$12.95

ARRL General Class Video Course Order No. 8349 \$149 + \$12 s&h

Your Introduction to Morse Code - Pass 5 wpm test Cassettes No. 8322 Audio CD No. 8314 \$14.95 each

Ham University - Complete Edition - Learn Morse code with this easy to use software. Includes a written exam quiz generator with all three question pools. CD-ROM for Win95-XP Order No. 8735 \$39.95

Phone: 1-888-277-5289 or

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/>

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/8330/>

<http://hamuniversity.com>

A Good Time ...!

(Continued from page 1)

anticipated in an event such as Field Day, but one never knows when he will appear. We knew something was amiss when smoke began to curl from Mike's (K8DDB) surge protector and Mike's (N9NBN) Kenwood power supply began to trip. The trouble was traced to the governor on the emergency generator, which was causing it to produce 160 volts instead of 115! A nylon cable tie was used to relax the governor spring tension. But, as speed adjustments were being made, Terry's (KB9ZER) surge protector also went up in smoke.



Mark, N8UKD at the CW Station; Terry, KB9ZER and Lee, N8LT at the GOTA Station and Bob, KC8TWG at the visitor's table

Later in the evening, Murphy struck again! Mike (K8DDB) shut off his laptop computer to remove the sun shield (cardboard box). When he turned it on a half hour later it wouldn't boot up. The problem was later determined to be caused by the low (50 degree) temperature.



Lee, N8LT and Don, KC9XJ preparing to raise the 80-meter dipole

What can we do better next time?

- We should have a large banner to draw passersby to our operation.

- The coaxial stubs worked well, but we need more, e.g. 80 meters.
- Consider setting up a VHF station. It doesn't count against our 2A classification and we may be able to get some 6-meter contacts.
- Correct the power surge problem and provide voltage monitoring.
- We should consider setting up a tower and beam antenna.
- We should be better prepared for weather conditions. It would have been nice to have heaters for each operating position.

Here is a summary of Field Day 2004:

- Field Day Call Used: KC8VC
- GOTA Station Call: N8LT
- Number of Participants: 10
- Entry Class: 2A ARRL Section: MI
- Power Sources Used:
 - Generator
 - Battery
 - Gel cell with 10Watt solar panel
- Total CW QSOs: 215 (45 solar)
- Total Digital QSOs: 26
- Total Phone QSOs: 279 (79 GOTA)
- Claimed Score: 1522 (not including bonus)

Bonus Points Claimed:

100% emergency power	200
Media publicity	100
Set-up in public place	100
Information booth	100
W1AW Field Day message	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site visited by invited officials	100
Summary submitted via the web	<u>50</u>
Total bonus points:	850

Band QSO Summary:

Band	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
80	42	0	67	109
40	99	0	41	140
20	29	26	90	145
15	45	0	2	47
GOTA	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>79</u>
Total	215	26	279	520

We worked 49 states (all but Delaware.) Also, 6 Canadian Provinces and the Virgin Islands.

There were 9 people that signed the visitor's log and a handful more neglected to sign.

I'm looking forward to Field Day 2005, how about you?

K8DDB

Unsolved Field Day Mysteries

Every year, there are certain unsolvable Field Day mysteries. You have yours, I have mine. Do we share any? Read on and see.

The first mystery of Field Day was, "How can a cat get pee INSIDE a closed-up cooler?" This pleasant discovery was made at 6:30 AM as I packed the day's grub. Hmmm, what's that odd smell? It's so...familiar...oh. Yes, there it was, but only on the inside! Perhaps the spirit of Hoodunnit resides in one of our cats? It sure seemed that one of them was taking an inordinate interest in my kitchen activities that morning. Who can tell if a cat is really smirking? They look that way all the time. That is unsolvable mystery number one.

The packing of the car had been completed on Friday night, so I only had about two dozen items that "occurred" to me during the night to load on Saturday morning. Insignificant things like sleeping bag and air mattresses and the 6-meter antenna. In they went along with the aforementioned (and now cat-free) cooler for transport to the Field Day site. This year, our site was only a mile away, so I did not feel the need to haul the usual 800 pounds of cr..., er, equipment. I have often suggested that it would be easier to simply run a big eye-bolt through the house and have a helicopter transport the whole building to Field Day. Minutes later, I alighted and was ready to be presented with mysteries two and three.

Mystery number two involved teleportation. On Friday, in my nearly infinite wisdom honed to a razor's edge by thirty-two years of Field Days, I packed everything pertaining to a single station in one box, in order, according to a check list. There. Done. Finito. The box was carried to the car, placed in the back and not touched for the fourteen intervening hours, before being carried to the station tent and unpacked by yours truly. And yet, in a manner unknown to mortals, the keyer power cord and keying cable had vanished! Yes, ladies and gentlemen, unaided by human hands, the cables had managed to transport themselves through thin air and impenetrable cardboard into the sealed container for the antenna analyzer several boxes away! (Wild applause) This feat, of course, resulted in several, shall we say, terse, phone calls home followed by my actual going there and returning empty handed and thoroughly deflated. At this point, the cables trotted forth from their hiding place to more wild applause and general frivolity all round. The cats must have put them there. I can just see them snickering with their little paws over their mouths.

You will surely identify with the third of the mysteries, that one that Mark Twain labeled, "The Innate Cussedness of Inanimate Objects." It involves wire, cable, and rope. Indeed, any physical object possessing the ability to bend and a high length-to-diameter ratio is bursting at the seams with what I call "Tangle Power." This apparently limitless source of energy causes any such object, when left at rest with a configuration in which any part of itself lies in proximity to another such part, to invariably create a knot rivaling the Gordian in its topology, density, and ability to resist the miserable and unworthy attempts by humans to undo it. If only Tangle Power was harnessable, the world's energy problems would be solved forever by one bag of #12 Copperweld left in the trunk for a week.

The fourth of the unsolvable mysteries is that of the Moving Rock. This rock, or one of its close family members, appears whenever a guy anchor is being driven into what is surely pure and unadulterated dirt. It detects the rhythmic pounding of hammer on rebar stake and rapidly moves to a position immediately in the path of the stake. It can also detect when the pounder has relaxed in anticipation of success, so as to deliver the maximum amount of buzzing, tingling shock to the hand, wrist, and arm. If one moves the rebar to a new spot a few inches away, the rock will be there in just a few hammer blows. The goal of the rock is to cause the rebar to be gradually moved farther and farther from the original spot until the rope is six inches (15 cm) too short for a secure knot. Should the Moving Rock cause a mast or tower to fall due to knot failure, it gets big points with the rest of the rocks, I can assure you. Special bonus points are scored by a Moving Rock snuggling up to a seated rebar, making it impossible to pull out, even though it went in with only two hammer blows.

The fifth, and most unsolvable, Mystery of Field Day is that of the lowly Thermos bottle. This Confucius of the Kitchen, this Einstein of Emptiness, this Feynman of Food must possess a deep and unknown secret of the Universe. With unerring precision and the utmost steadfastness, it keeps the hot stuff hot and the cold stuff cold. How does it know?

73, Ward N0AX

Taken with permission from the June 30, 2004 issue of the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet.

Club Membership Drive

Of the twenty-eight members that paid dues in 2003, twenty-three have renewed their membership. May 11th was the deadline for the payment of dues. Those that didn't pay were dropped from the active membership list and will no longer receive correspondence via regular mail. Former members with an up to date email address will, however, continue to receive email as there is no cost to the club to do so.

We were able to attract thirteen new members to the club this year and we are seeking more. A single issue of this newsletter is being sent to a new local Ham every month in an effort to increase club membership. Please pay us a visit at one of our monthly meetings or just complete the application/renewal form on page 9 to become a member.

Marlon Brando, KE6PZH / FO5GJ, SK

One of the best-known names in cinema—Marlon Brando—died in Los Angeles July 1. He was 80. Brando held a US General class ticket. He was on the air occasionally over the years as FO8GJ from his private island in French Polynesia.

In a 1994 CNN interview with Larry King, Brando affirmed his continued interest in Amateur Radio. In response to a caller's question, he said ham radio provided him with the opportunity to just be himself.

Brando loved acting, but not the notoriety that comes with a successful acting career. He cherished privacy and said that his celebrity status ruined his life.

BPL a Crucial Issue

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--if widely deployed--would represent "spectrum pollution" on a level that is "difficult to imagine." Haynie reacted after seeing videotape and early data from recent ARRL field studies in four states where BPL is undergoing testing.

"BPL is the most crucial issue facing Amateur Radio and the one that has the most devastating potential," Haynie said. In terms of interference potential on HF and low-VHF frequencies, "nothing is on the same scale as BPL."

A form of power line carrier (PLC) technology, BPL would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband services to homes and businesses. Because it uses frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz, BPL could affect HF and low-VHF amateur allocations wherever it's deployed. BPL proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets, and one reportedly is already offering the service. FCC rules already allow BPL, although industry proponents want the FCC to relax radiation limits. It's feared such a change could exacerbate BPL's interference potential.

"The BPL industry and their associations have told the FCC and the world that there is no interference potential from BPL systems," Haynie said. He noted that the American Public Power Association, in its comments to the FCC, put the burden on the technology's challengers to empirically demonstrate its interference potential.

From The ARRL Letter, Aug 8, 2003 published by The American Radio Relay League.

UTILITY CUTS SHORT BPL TRIAL THAT WAS TARGET OF AMATEUR COMPLAINTS

From The ARRL Letter, July 2, 2004, published by the American Radio Relay League

Alliant Energy has called an early end to its broadband over power line (BPL) pilot project in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The "evaluation system" went live March 30, and plans called for keeping it active until August or September. Alliant shut it down June 25. Ongoing, unresolved HF interference from the system to retired engineer Jim Spencer, W0SR, and other amateurs prompted the ARRL to file a complaint to the FCC on Spencer's behalf demanding it be shut down and the utility fined.

Alliant Energy's BPL Project Leader Dan Hinz says the ARRL complaint "certainly was a factor" in the utility's decision to pull the plug prematurely but "not the overriding factor." The main reason, he said, was that Alliant accomplished most of its objectives ahead of schedule. The primary purpose of the Cedar Rapids evaluation was to gain an understanding of BPL technology and what issues might be involved in a real-world deployment, Hinz explained. But, he added, regulatory uncertainty and other unspecified technical issues also factored into the choice to end the pilot early.

Hinz said Alliant is "mashing the data" to compile a written evaluation of the Cedar Rapids pilot, but the company has no plans at this point to move forward with BPL. Alliant did not partner with a broadband services provider, and it has no other BPL test systems in operation. The system used Amperion BPL equipment.

According to Spencer, five fixed Amateur Radio stations within proximity of the BPL evaluation system and two mobile stations formally reported BPL interference on HF. "The radio amateurs and Alliant Energy cooperated by sharing interference information," he said. "Alliant Energy turned the BPL evaluation system off twice to allow collection of extensive BPL frequency and signal level data--with and without BPL." He said Alliant and Amperion tried various "notching" schemes to rid amateur frequencies of the BPL interference with only limited success.

The system included both overhead and underground BPL links to feed 2.4 GHz wireless "hot spots" for end user access. Hinz said the area's topography presented some challenges, especially with the wireless links. "I think in the end, we actually over-challenged ourselves with this

specific pilot location," he said. And, despite "substantial progress" in mitigating interference, Alliant decided at this point that "it wasn't worth the extra effort" to resolve the thornier technical issues, Hinz added.

As for any broader implications, Hinz says he's always viewed BPL as a "strategic deployment technology," not one a company could roll out just anywhere and expect to be competitive with existing broadband services such as cable and DSL. "At least that's how we were looking at it," he said. "You have to find the right areas with the right topography with the right concentration of certain types of customers," he said.

"It's never been in my mind that BPL has to compete with the speeds of cable today," Hinz added. "It has to compete with the speeds of cable and the next best thing tomorrow as well, if it's going to be usable well into the future." He hinted that Alliant might want to take another look at BPL once the FCC has put BPL rules and regulations into place, and the technology has further evolved.

The ARRL's formal complaint to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon called on the Commission not only to close down Alliant's BPL field trial system but to fine the utility \$10,000 for violating the Communications Act of 1934 and FCC Part 15 rules. Commenting on the termination of the Cedar Rapids BPL trial, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out that Alliant had tried for more than 12 weeks to fix the interference problem to a station 600 feet from its installation.

"In the end," Sumner said, "the interference was not eliminated except by shutting down the BPL system. Could the case against BPL deployment be any clearer?"

Spencer said he was happy with Alliant's decision, and he was gracious in expressing appreciation to the utility for working with him. "And thanks also to the ARRL and the Cedar Rapids BPL Steering Committee for their knowledge and efforts in making a truly professional evaluation," he added.

Still outstanding are some chronic power line noise problems Spencer has experienced.

"ARESCOM" PLAN TO ENHANCE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a resolution encouraging further development and expansion of an inaugural network to enhance the emergency communications capability of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The action came during the Board's meeting July 16-17. The Board had charged an ad hoc committee, dubbed "ARESCOM," with developing an augmented ARES telecommunications system that would include rapid and accurate handling of long-range emergency communications. ARESCOM recommended deployment of a digital e-mail system based on Winlink 2000 software. The Board encouraged the deployment of e-mail via Amateur Radio--"as exemplified by Winlink 2000"--to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications.

"The digital network will provide a value-added service for ARES and will continue to be viewed very positively by our served agencies," the committee said in its report to the Board. "This allows ARES to be viewed as modern and necessary instead of antiquated and invasive."

The committee, chaired by Great Lakes Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, said situations arise when ARES must "pass message traffic across the nation quickly and accurately." It also said the need for such a nationwide ARES capability is likely to increase in light of the ARRL's Citizen Corps partnership with the Department of Homeland Security.

Winlink 2000--a worldwide Amateur Radio digital radio e-mail system--already is widely used by the blue water boating and recreational vehicle communities. Members of the ARRL Programs and Services Committee witnessed a Winlink 2000 demonstration at ARRL Headquarters the day before the board meeting.

The ARRL Board extended the committee's charter until its January 2005 meeting so ARESCOM can complete an implementation plan that ensures that ARES has "the prominent role" in managing the national network and that ARES officials and appropriate ARRL Headquarters staffers have a chance to critique the network's operation to ensure it meets the requirements of ARES and its served agencies.

A two-part series appearing in the August and September 2004 issues of QST, "Winlink for ARES," by ARRL South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, outlines an enhanced ARES network that would include e-mail capability over HF links.

From The ARRL Letter, July 23, 2004, published by the American Radio Relay League

ARRL BOARD OKAYS VOLUNTEER GRASSROOTS LOBBYING EFFORT

The ARRL Board of Directors has formalized a grassroots congressional lobbying program with an initial focus on BPL. Acting July 16 during its second meeting of 2004 in Windsor, Connecticut, the Board acknowledged the need to "immediately begin a BPL grassroots lobbying campaign" this year.

To establish a coordinating structure, the Board created the positions of Division Congressional Action Chair, Congressional Action Coordinator and Congressional Action Assistant. The Board authorized the League's 15 division directors to appoint qualified volunteers to these positions.

Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, who headed the Ad Hoc Committee on Grassroots Lobbying, sees the creation of a national "political machine" as a practical way to protect Amateur Radio spectrum. "We're going to use our members as constituents to talk to key legislators," Fallon said after the meeting. While the campaign will zero in on BPL in the near term, it eventually could expand to support bills dealing with spectrum protection with and deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) and their impact on amateur antennas.

Fallon said member-constituent contacts can serve to open the door to later meetings between members of Congress or their staff members and League officials.

Under the plan the Board adopted, the Division Congressional Action Chair, one in each ARRL division, would be a cabinet-level volunteer with some experience in lobbying activities. There would be at least one Congressional Action Coordinator in each state, ideally selected in consultation with section managers. These volunteers also would be members of the director's cabinet. Working with the director, the Congressional Action Coordinator will designate and develop a number of Congressional Action Assistants to

(Continued on page 8)

Winlink 2000 implementation continues at several venues across the state. A mid July demonstration for the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division was very successful and WL2K will be used for a near-term test in the field by EMD and ARES/RACES. Several EOCs are currently on line and plans call for the upgrade and expansion of the packet backbone across Michigan.

DECs and ECs are to be kept abreast of the progress with timely advisories and a State Packet Planning Meeting is in the formative stages.

From the Monthly Michigan News Summary 18-Jul-04

Abbreviations:

EMD—Emergency Management Division
EOC—Emergency Operations Center
DEC—District Emergency Coordinator
EC—Emergency Coordinator

N8LT's Workbench

I have great news! Lee, N8LT, our resident Guru on the technical side of things has agreed to write a series of articles for our newsletter.

Titled N8LT's Workbench, the series will focus on technical topics that you, the reader, want him to write about. Lee is asking for your input. This is your chance to get those gnawing questions answered so that you can become more self-reliant when repairs are needed to your electronic gear.

What subjects would you like to see covered?

Please send your input to me and I will collate the responses and give them to Lee.

Send your input to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Mike Bray, K8DDB
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892-8483

Club Equipment List

Please take the time to look through your "stuff" and see if you have anything belonging to the club.

Here's what we have so far:

Tom, W8JWN, has custody of :

- Gin Pole for Rohn tower sections with 100 feet of rope.
- Small TV type rotor and control.
- Dipole antennas for 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters with 50 feet of RG58 coax.
- Various lengths of string for antennas (not very heavy)
- RG8X with double shield (100 feet)
- 3/16 inch single braid Dacron rope (200 feet)
- 20 meter open stub (nulls 40 and 15 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 20 and 10 meters)
- 40 meter shorted stub (nulls 15 meters)
- 6 PL259 silver connectors
- 4 T-adapters for stubs
- 4 UG-176 silver sleeves
- 3 right-angle connectors

Bob, WA8FXQ, has custody of a light 40 foot tower (condition is not known.)

The list can be accessed by a link on the Membership page of our web site:

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

If you have custody of any club equipment, please notify Mike, K8DDB, of what you have. Also, notify Mike when you give custody of the equipment to another member.

Email: mikebray@chartermi.net
or
Phone (906) 563-7020

Mich-A-Con ARC June 8th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Repeater Report:

There is still some noise on the 2-meter repeater once in a while.

Old Business:

Field Day Report by Mike, K8DDB:

- Class 2A operation was conducted on 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters.
- We had 215 CW QSOs (45 of which were on the Solar Station), 279 SSB QSOs (79 of which were on the GOTA Station) and 26 Digital QSOs.
- We had 850 bonus points: 200 for emergency power, 100 for media publicity, 100 for setup in a public place, 100 for information booth, 100 for W1AW Field Day message, 100 for natural power, 100 for site visit by invited served agency official and 50 for submitting summary via the web.
- Total score: 2,372 including bonus points.
- There were 10 participants and 9 people signed the visitor's log.

Letters will be sent to Ebeling's IGA, Subway of Norway and LaFaive Oil thanking them for their support of our Field Day operation.

Tom thanked Terry, KB9ZER for providing his motor home for Field Day; Lee, N8LT for repairing the Icom 701 and for erecting our antennas; Mike, N9NBN for providing a rig for the GOTA Station and a laptop computer for the SSB/Digital Station; Steve, KC8RYY for providing a laptop computer for the GOTA Station and Don, KC9XJ for helping Lee with the erection of our antennas.

Field Day critique was lead by Tom, W8JWN:

- We should have a large banner to draw passersby to our operation.
- The coaxial stubs worked well, but we need more, e.g. 80 meters.
- Consider setting up a VHF station. It doesn't count against our 2A classification and we may be able to get some 6-meter contacts.
- Correct the power surge problem. Terry has contacted a service rep for his generator and will repair the governor. Terry has a large desktop voltmeter that we can use to monitor generator voltage.
- We should consider setting up a tower and beam antenna.
- We should be better prepared for weather

conditions. It would have been nice to have heaters for each operating position (temperature reached 47 degrees early Sunday Morning.)

Tom, W8JWN presented a bill to Steve for \$74.50 in expenses for Field Day equipment (coaxial cable, rope, coax fittings, etc.)

New Business:

Tom, W8JWN has provided an updated inventory of club equipment in his possession for the Club Equipment List. He encouraged other members to do likewise. Please notify Mike, K8DDB of any club equipment that you have and he will keep a current list on the club web site.

Tom, W8JWN suggested that we create an "Expertise List" on our web site. We presently have an "Elmers" page which would serve the same purpose. Members wishing to be listed on the Elmers page should notify Mike, K8DDB of their areas of interest. Please don't feel intimidated by placing your name on the list. You don't need to be an expert on the subject, but simply be willing to help someone with an aspect of Ham Radio that you enjoy.

Our annual picnic will be held on the second Tuesday of August at 6:00 PM at the Cowboy Lake pavilion in Kingsford. The picnic is in lieu of the monthly meeting. Please bring your own picnic lunch and beverage.

For The Good Of The Order:

Visitor John Hurschik, KB8DSC introduced himself to the group. John is from the Escanaba area and has recently moved to Vulcan. He has a general class license and is interested in SSB, FM, APRS and Digital Modes primarily on 6 meters and up.

Burt, WB8EBS; Terry, KB9ZER and Bob, KC8TWG plan on upgrading to General class in the near future.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 25 PM

Submitted by: Mike Bray

(Continued on page 8)

Alternate Ni-MH Power for HTs and QRP

By Gary Altig, N7UVL—Reno, NV
garyaltig@msn.com

I've provided communications for events and incidents that either lasted longer than one day or were back-to-back operations. In scrambling to make sure I had adequate portable battery power for the following day, I've either had to make sure everything went on the charger when I got home or purchased additional battery packs which can get expensive. When I realized there was a source for cheaper Ni-cd battery packs that could be adapted to work with Ht's, I started experimenting with this source of alternate power. As my battery packs worked so well, I did not have to replace them until recently and discovered my source (Radio Control battery packs) had evolved to include the desirable Ni-MH battery packs.

RC (Radio Control) power packs can provide a cheaper and powerful backup rechargeable Ni-MH source for Ht's and some QRP Rigs utilizing 7.2 and 9.6-volt power.

RC equipment utilizes a connector unique to the RC Hobby and a decision will have to be made concerning keeping the original RC power connector and building adapters or changing the RC connector to the desired connector. As there are many adequate RC chargers at reasonable cost specifically designed for Ni-cd and Ni-MH batteries I chose to retain the RC connector and build adapters. Since the external power connections vary on the Ht's, this provides me with a common way to charge batteries and utilize multiple adapters to fit different Ht's.

Previously I had to get my RC connectors from local hobby shops, but now Radio Shack carries the RC power connector with 3" pigtailed ready to build your desired adapter. Radio Shack sells a pair of these connectors as an "RC Accessory Connector Repair Kit" for 7.2 volt (23-444) and one for 9.6 volt (23-445). The only difference is the wire gauge of the pigtailed as the RC connector is identical. I opted for the heavier pigtailed in the 7.2-volt package. You would have to see the "monster" 7.2 volt 3000 mAH battery pack to understand why a heavier pigtail kit is provided.

The RC 9.6 volt Ni-MH 1600 mAH battery pack from Radio Shack has equal or greater capacity to any of the commercial power packs designed

specifically for the Ht's and at a much lower price. The 7.2-volt Ni-MH battery packs come in 2000 and 3000 mAH sizes. Occasionally the RC chargers and battery packs are available on a clearance sale as they were at the time this article was written. The current RC charger (23-440) on clearance sale will charge both 7.2 volt and 9.6 volt sizes and will charge two battery packs at the same time.

You won't find these chargers and batteries with Radio Shack's normal battery displays and you may have to remind the store personnel of this when asking for directions to the RC battery equipment. I have found the RC equipment in different areas of the stores, but most consistently in the Auto cigarette lighter accessory and "wall-wart" areas.

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ARRL Grassroots Lobbying

(Continued from page 6)

"accomplish the mission of getting the ARRL message to legislators," the ad hoc committee's report explained.

Fallon said the grassroots lobbying effort will fold into a comprehensive broadband over power line strategy, which the Board discussed at length but did not make public. The Board expressed the hope that the lobbying effort could be up and running by fall.

From ARRL Bulletin 21, July 21, 2004 published by The American Radio Relay League

July 13 Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 7)

Attendees:

Mike Bray, K8DDB (Secretary)
Lee Michaud, N8LT
Bob Uren, KC8TWG
Tom Martin, W8JWN (President)
John Hurschik, KB8DSC (visitor)
Cliff Haycock, KD4ZBP (visitor)
Burton W. Armbrust, Sr., WB8EBS
Mike Boileau, N9NBN (Vice President)
Steve Johnson, KC8RY Y (Treasurer)
Terry Moriarity, KB9ZER

Club Apparel:

Our club apparel is supplied by:

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

Phone: (906)774-3370
or
finleyd@up.net

Prices:

Jacket with liner \$45
(Tall add \$5, 2X or 3X add \$5,
to add your name or call sign
on the front is \$5)

T-Shirt - \$10
(2X or 3X add \$1)
Sweatshirt - \$16
(2X or 3X add \$2)

If you wish to have the club logo printed on an item of clothing that you have purchased elsewhere, there is charge of \$6.

Club patches are available from:

Steve Johnson, KC8RY Y
917 Coolidge Ave
Kingsford, MI 49802

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



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

Please remit dues to club treasurer:
Steve Johnson, KC8RY Y
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:

* 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.

Exam Schedule

City: Iron Mountain
Location: Dickinson County Library
Room: Conference Room
Time: 9:30 AM Central Time
Contact: Mark Lewis, N8UKD
Telephone: (906) 774-6598

Exam Date: Aug 7, 2004
Exam Date: Nov 6, 2004
Exam Date: Feb 5, 2005
Exam Date: May 7, 2005

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 driver's 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 (2004 fee is \$12).

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 the first week of the month to be included in the next edition.

Our newsletter needs contributions from the membership to help keep the information presented each month new, interesting and fun to read. 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., don't worry about format, that's the editor's job.

Send to:
mikebray@chartermi.net
(906) 563-7020

Repeaters

The club maintains two repeaters, which are located on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain, with tower and facilities provided by the Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

Identifier: WA8FXQ/R IMT

Output	Offset	PL Tone
146.850 MHz	minus	—
444.850 MHz	plus	100

Both repeaters have an auto patch with a toll restriction. The auto patch on the 2-meter repeater can be used with permission. The 440 auto patch is for club use only.

A club net is held on the 2-meter repeater every Tuesday at 6:30 PM except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, which is club meeting night.

Mich-A-Con RF

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

Mich-A-Con RF

Club Meetings

The Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Grace United Methodist Church (upstairs in the room next to the sanctuary), 721 Norway Street in Norway, Michigan. 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:

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tmartin@chartermi.net

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Secretary:

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mikebray@chartermi.net

Treasurer:

Steve Johnson, KC8RYY
(906) 776-1597
sjohnson4@chartermi.net

Reminders

Don't forget the Club Picnic on Tuesday, August 10th, 6:00 PM at Cowboy Lake pavilion in Kingsford. Bring your own food and beverage. There will be no business meeting in August.

We are still looking for a Net Control for the Tuesday 2-meter net. Please contact Tom, W8JWN if you can help.

Don't forget to provide input on the articles you would like to see in Lee's new column, N8LT's Workbench.

Please let Mike, K8DDB, know what club equipment you have in your custody so he can update the Club Equipment List.