



THE CHERRY JUICE

cherryland amateur radio club traverse city, mi

March 2009

Club Officers
President
Don N8QX

Vice President
Hope AA8SN

Recording Secy
Gloria N8KXJ

Corresponding Secy
Bill W8PIT

Treasurer
Ward N8WK

Directors

Jon N8UL

Chuck W8SGR

Dave K8WPE

Cherry Juice Editor
Dave N8CN

CLUB NETS

MESH NET
8 pm Monday
146.86 MHZ

SMASH NET
9 am Sunday
3.935 MHZ



ARRL Affiliated Club
#1082

Coming Club Events

March 24th Club Meeting

This month's program will be a presentation on the Civil Air Patrol by Jim Haldaman KD8JPY. Jim will explain and update us on the local CAP activities. Once again, we will meet at the Governmental Center at 8th and Boardman at 7 pm in the lower level cafeteria.

Tuesday Project Nights

Where: At the club station in the lower level of the Salvation Army Building located at the NE corner of Barlow and Boone. 7 p.m. Every Tuesday except the 4th Tuesday of the month which is reserved for the regular club meeting.

Forward Waves

VE EXAMS:

Big Rapids, MI. March 28, 2009. Ferris State University. Cramer Circle, Rm 109 W. Commons BLDG. 3 p.m. Walk-ins OK. Contact: George 231 796-3114

Gaylord, MI. April 4, 2009. Top of Michigan ARC, Otsego Public Library, 700 S. Otsego Ave. Gaylord, MI. 9 am. Contact: Chad 989 705-9322 or Chad@nuwaysupply.com

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, April 4, 2009. Lowell, MI. Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell. Lowell H.S. 11700 Vergennes St. TI: 145.27 Contact: Al WW8WW 616 450-4332 aleckman@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, May 2, 2009. Cadillac, MI. Wexauke ARC. Cadillac Jr. High School. 500 Chestnut St. 8 a.m. til noon. TI: 146.980 Contact: Alton NU8L 231 862-3774 or nu8l@yahoo.com

Reflected Waves

March 1986

The March program was a presentation on Halley's comet courtesy of the Grand Traverse Astronomical society. The 1986 Field Day site be at the NMC Observatory. A new Ringo Ranger antenna was installed on the 86 repeater at the 400 foot level of the TV7/4 tower. Coverage seems to be increased with good reports coming in from as far away as Frankfort. The VE team has decided to hold exams semi-annually: mid-October and at the Swap-n-Shop in February.

March 2001

The March meeting was well attended and on hand were two service monitors so members could check their HT's and mobile radios. Several club members attended the Crossroads Hamfest in Marshall and gathered for lunch after the swap. Some members moved on to a swap in Maumee, Ohio on Sunday. The Board voted that the club sponsor a plaque for the Michigan QSO party.

RACES REVIVAL

Dan Scott has once again returned as EOC for Grand Traverse County. Many of you remember Dan from his previous tour of duty and as a good friend of the CARC. Dan has attended the last two CARC Board meetings and also the last Club meeting. At the February meeting, Dan brought along Fire Chief Pat Parker and Pat is also interested in working with the CARC.

Dan's long experience with delivery of emergency services and especially his experiences with Katrina Relief have molded his belief in the necessity of an active and broad based Amateur network for emergency communications. He is well aware of the capabilities of amateur radio operators and is most eager to get our local RACES activities ramped up and functioning again. As most of you know, the past few years have been absent both activity and leadership.

So, it's time to get moving again. If you have interest in RACES and emergency preparedness and communications, go to Human Resources on the 2nd floor of the Governmental Center, ask for Carol and get registered and pick-up a new, current RACES card. Community service is one of the pillars of Amateur Radio and here is great way to get involved and have some radio fun as well! And along those lines, see the next article.....

EMERGENCY EXERCISE

Dan also announced at the February general club meeting, that there would be an Emergency Exercise held at Camp Greilick on Saturday, May 2nd. This is being set-up and conducted by the Community Response Team, a volunteer group, and not Grand Travers County although Dan and the County EOC will be involved. Jim Palmer K8OJP is acting as liaison between the club and the county and the sponsoring groups organizers. Dan indicates that they will need about 12-15 hams with equipment. Two will be at the EOC, 2 at Central Dispatch and the rest at Camp Grielick.

The exercise will run from around noon until 4 or 5 pm. The scenario will involve a lost scout, some injured scouts and a power outage. The scenario will be patterned after the event a few years ago where a tornado hit a scout camp during a camp out.

There will be some training offered on Friday and Saturday for those interested but it is not mandatory. While I realize this is the weekend of the Cadillac Swap, if you get there early you will have plenty of time to attend the swap and get back to Camp Greilick by noon. You might even find an item or two at the swap that would be applicable to emergency operations.

Again, Jim K8OJP is the man to contact regarding the exercise and we will likely have more info in next months Juice and at the March and April general club meetings. Also listen in on the MESH net for late developments.

WRITERS ALWAYS NEEDED

As usual, I am always in need of material for the Juice. From time to time people send me ideas, and that's great, but what I need are "words on the page"! I don't mind editing something and re-typing but I really don't have the extra time to research an idea some one gives me and write an accurate and useful article. If you have the time and inclination, please do so!

Reports of club member activities etc are fine in a who,

what, where, why form—I do have time to deal with the "just the facts, ma'am" type of article and get it formatted and on the page. Feel free to make suggestions and get involved. I think we all enjoy knowing what's going on in the club and ham radio in general.

THAT'S NO BOMB OFFICER!

A sad yet funny story out of Omaha, Nebraska. That's where Police and a Bomb Squad have blown up a trap from a ham radio antenna because nobody could figure out what it was.

It all happened on Thursday, February 26th. That's when both agencies were called out following the discovery by a cleaning crew of a device that they thought looked like a PVC pipe bomb. The house in question belonged to Bob Rennolet, **WOAEX**.

There had been an electrical fire in the house 2 weeks ago and Bob had hired a clean-up crew. This crew found the trap but they had no idea as to what they had found. So, rather than take chances, the Bomb Squad decided to blow it up. That's when they realized it was not a bomb but a piece of **WOAEX**'s ham radio gear.

Ironically, **WOAEX** lives next door to a fire station, so they didn't have far to go to put out the fire or blow up the trap.

—tnx to Amateur Radio Newsline #1647

MiQP FOR FIRST TIMERS

—by Dave Pruet, **K8CC**

The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) is an operating event held annually with Michigan as the center of attention. This paper is a quick overview for those new to MiQP, to explain what it is and to offer encouragement to jump in and participate.

First of all, what is a "QSO party"? Over the years, this term has come to define an on-the-air operating event focusing on a particular geographic area. Amateurs inside the target area (in this case Michigan) earn points towards their QSO party score for making contacts with other amateurs located anywhere, while amateurs outside of the target area get QSO party points only for contacting amateurs inside the target area.

Perhaps the next question is: "Is the MiQP a contest?" Yes it is – the entrants are participating against one other and plaques/certificates are awarded after it is over. But don't let that scare you off - the MiQP is a lot less intense than other contests you might be familiar with, such as Sweepstakes, DX contests, or even Field Day. The bands are not as crowded as during those other events, and the operating style is a lot more relaxed. It's a great venue for a first-timer to get started.

Why might you want to participate in the MiQP? First of all, it's a great opportunity to hone your HF operating skills or work the bugs out of your HF station. MiQP can provide a concentrated dose of operating that will crack the rust off your CW ability or brush up on your phone operating techniques, skills that you can use in other on-the-air activities.

The fun thing about MiQP for Michigan amateurs is that we are the center of attention. When a Michigan station calls "CQ MIQP" there will usually be several replies. Many MiQP participants make several hundred contacts during the event, even with modest stations such as barefoot transceivers and dipoles. For many, there is a tangible feeling of camaraderie as you work fellow Michiganders,

some located in sparsely populated counties with exotic names like Chippewa, Missaukee, or Presque Isle.

What does it take to participate in the MiQP? All it takes is to get on the air during the MiQP period and make contacts with other participants. When it's over, mail in your log if you like so that it can be checked and your score included in the results; you may even win a certificate or plaque. **If you include your radio club's name in your entry, then your score will be tabulated along with other member's scores in a separate sub-competition to determine the top club in the MiQP that year.** (Think CARC here!!)

When does MiQP happen? MiQP occurs on the Saturday of the third full weekend in April every year. For 2009, the starting date for MiQP is Saturday, April 18th. The contest period begins at noon local time here in Michigan (1200 EDST or 1600Z April 18) and runs for twelve hours to local midnight the same day (2400 EDST or 0400Z on April 19th). The contest period was deliberately chosen to be easy to fit into your weekend schedule – you can get up Saturday morning, get some chores or family activities done, and sit down for an afternoon or evening of operating and still have Sunday free.

Making MiQP QSOs is easy. You operate on any of the "traditional" HF bands (i.e., no WARC bands) from 80 thru 10 meters. The exchange is your QSO number for that contact – i.e., the first is 001, the second 002, etc., plus your Michigan county. On CW, just about everyone uses the official county abbreviations from the list on the MiQP web site. Stations outside of Michigan will send their QSO number and state or province abbreviation.

Barring some sort of major propagation disturbance, you will find MiQP activity on 40M CW & SSB for the entire twelve hour contest period. This is a good band to get a mix of in-state and out-state coverage, plus it's popular with the mobile MiQP entries that move from county to county during the event. (Mobile stations can be worked again when they change counties.). During the day there is usually good activity on 20M, and lesser amounts on 15M and 10M, depending on the solar cycle. There is usually MiQP activity on 80M during the entire event (even daylight hours).

Here's how your MiQP score is calculated. Each CW QSO is worth two QSO points while a phone QSO is worth one point. Your final score is equal to the total QSO points you've accumulated multiplied by the number of multipliers (Michigan counties, non-Michigan states and Canadian provinces) you work. Multipliers are counted separately on both CW and phone. For example, if you work Washtenaw County (WASH) on CW and again on phone, that counts as two multipliers.

As you start out in MiQP you might just want to make QSOs and have fun, but here are some suggestions to keep in mind which should increase your score. A station may be worked once on both CW and phone on each band, so try all five bands (and both CW and phone) to look for MiQP QSOs. The lower bands (80M & 40M) are usually better for in-state QSOs, and out-state QSOs out to 500 miles or so, but try the high bands (particularly 20M) to bolster your score with US states and Canadian provinces as multipliers from out west.

Also, while most people probably have a preferred mode they like to operate, in MiQP it's worth the effort to spend some time on the "other" mode to build up the multiplier count (since multipliers are counted separately by mode) to increase your score.

When MiQP is over, you have thirty days to submit your entry in order for it to count in the final results. (Note: If you make MiQP QSOs, you don't have to send in a log if you don't want to. The people you worked in MiQP will still get credit for the QSOs you made with them.)

Paper logs can be sent to: **Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.**

Electronic log files (ASCII text only) on floppy disk can be sent to the same address, or can be submitted as attachment to an e-mail sent to LOGS@miqp.org.

What can you win for participating in MiQP? The winner in each major category plus the top Michigan club receives a beautiful 10" x 13" plaque. The top single-operator score in each Michigan county making at least 50 QSOs wins a handsome certificate.

To learn more about MiQP, check out the Michigan QSO Party web site at <http://www.miqp.org> There you will find a wealth of information including complete rules, contest forms (summary, log, and multiplier count sheets), a list of county abbreviations, results from MiQPs of past years, operating tips and links to free logging software.

INDIANAPOLIS COPS USE ILLEGAL RADIOS

Dozens of illicit radios were ordered removed from Indianapolis police cars after ham radio operators complained about the language officers used on radio frequencies **they aren't supposed to be utilizing.**

Hundreds of police officers used what they called a second radio to talk to other officers, but those radios don't have federal authorization. Officers sometimes used the extra radios for official business, but they were also used for personal communication and biting, sometimes profane commentary about their workday.

"I've heard, basically, obscenities," said a ham radio operator who didn't want to be identified. "I've heard comments about private citizens, in general." "I'm locking that guy up. I'll write a report, and that way, she'll want to report his a** anyway," an officer said in a conversation that the ham operator had recorded.

"F*** it, ha ha ha," exclaimed another officer.

Ham operators who found the language offensive reported it to the Federal Communications Commission, prompting the department to do a three-day inspection of cruisers and ordering everyone with an unlicensed radio to remove it. "Apparently, there has been a problem with some language, which is a violation of the FCC regulations," said Indianapolis police Lt. Jeff Duhamell. "The chief has decided that the officers should pull them out of their vehicles."

The FCC is letting Indianapolis police handle the issue internally. Officer use of unauthorized frequencies goes back many years, Rinehart reported.

–tnx to Indianapolis Channel Six News

(Ed. Note: If this report is accurate, seems the chief doesn't get it if he thinks only problem is the "language". Hey, chief—your guys also need a license!!)