

On the Cover

Richard Schwenke, N8GBA, of Marquette, Michigan, checks his antenna after one of the Upper Peninsula's frequent winter snows. The Butternut HV-6 multiband vertical, to which he has added four 100-foot radials and fifty 50-foot radials, has served him well for some 25 years. Richard says he uses this antenna for about 90% of his contacts. On a 48-foot tower not visible in the photo, Schwenke also has a 160-meter dipole; a Moseley beam for 30, 17, and 12 meters; additional beams for 6 and 2 meters; and a 6m/2m/70cm vertical. Inside, his rigs include a Yaesu FT-1000 and an FT-847.

A semi-retired general contractor, Schwenke is also a Volunteer Examiner and ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Marquette County. He particularly enjoys helping provide communications, along with other members of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, for various outdoor events held each winter in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Highlights include the UP200, a 240-mile sled dog race (to be held this month) and the Noquemanon Ski Marathon, which features some 1200 skiers competing over either 25- or 50-kilometer courses.

Richard has been a ham since 1984, with an Extra Class license since 1987. His favorite band is 160 meters in the wintertime, mostly on voice. He also enjoys 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters. Richard says his main interests are special events, such as the races described above, and ragchewing. "I enjoy sitting down and having a conversation," says Schwenke, "meeting people, rather than a one-transmission QSO."

(Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)