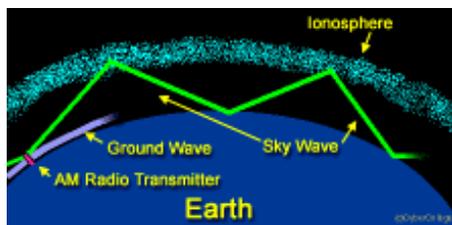


The Hertzian Herald



N8DXR's Ground Waves



By the time we have our September meeting we will be well past half way through the month and only sixteen days from our first Great Lakes Hamcon. Having been present at a couple of meetings at MIS it is evident that this is an extremely well planned event with an amazing amount of support from the staff at MIS. As a financial contributor to the Great Lakes Hamcon organization MCRCA has been given the job of conducting the hourly door prize drawings, the grand prize drawing and the distribution of prizes. Consequently members of the club are needed to volunteer their time to help make our part of the event run smoothly and successfully. Volunteers will be needed both Saturday and Sunday. Those donating their time and efforts to the event will receive a special wrist ban giving them free admission to the Hamcon on both days. Our goal is to have enough volunteers so that they can work in shifts therefore allowing them to enjoy the event. Complete information and details will be given at the meeting on September 21st which will be held once again at the Monroe County Emergency Management building at 987 S Raisinville Rd. We need to know in advance those who are going to volunteer so please make every effort to be at the September meeting. For those who cannot make it to the meeting you can email me at jcn8dxr@gmail.com to let me know that you will be volunteering. Please include contact information in your email so I can keep you informed of pertinent details.

Hamcon is going to have 22 forums covering a wide range of topics, flea market sales on pit road and commercial vendors who will be located in the garages normally used by the crews to work on the cars running at track events. Additionally there will be a banquet sponsored by the Great Lakes Division and the GLHamCon is also the site of the 2017 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. So as you can see there is a lot to see, to do and participate in at this inaugural event. For further information you can go to the event web site at <http://glhamcon.org/>.

In regards to future MCRCA meetings. I visited the Red Cross building and work is extensive and ongoing and it is uncertain as to when it will be completed. The room at the Monroe County Emergency Management building is available on a month to month basis at this time. We will try to keep you posted as far in advanced as possible of any changes to the location of our meetings. As soon as we know of any changes to the meeting location it will be posted on the club website and in the club newsletter.

That is about it for this month. Please take the opportunity to visit the Great Lakes Hamcon and enjoy this new Michigan amateur radio event.

Hope to see you at our meetings and on the air.

73, John - N8DXR

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

John Copeland N8DXR
jcn8dxr@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Glen Ohlemacher K8GO
goglen@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI
w8pi@arrl.net

DIRECTOR

Rodney Haddix
rodhaddix@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

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MCRCA Minutes:

August 17, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm, by John Copeland N8DXR

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

PROGRAM: You Tube Videos teaching Amateur Radio classes by John N8DXR.

BREAK

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Wes KC8SKP, Jim KF8LT, Gary W8GPR

50/50: Gary W8GPR donated back to scholarship.

MINUTES: Motion by Dale WA8EFK, supported by Dave AC8SI, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Dale WA8EFK, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Nothing exotic or rare just read the DX list in Herald.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. August 19, 2017. **Cancelled**

ARPS: Dave AC8SI, Saturday August 19, 2017, Fermi Energy Run, 9 AM briefing at 8:30 AM. **Saturday September 23, 2017, 4th Annual Emergency Preparedness Expo. 11 AM to 3 PM. At the Mall of Monroe 2121 N. Monroe St. 20 participating agencies providing info on what you need to prepare yourself and family for disaster.**

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, There has been radio dumping on the internet lately. Companies selling inferior product in multiple lots at a very low price. Baofeng and Wouxun brands. FTC must put a stop to this.

RRRA: All equipment has been moved to Ida site but please refer to these repeaters as "Monroe repeaters". Only the UHF repeater is referred to as the Ida repeater. Currently re-aligning the link sites to point towards Ida, and rebuilding some of the link sites. Ottawa Lake site is out of service.

GLHamCon: Glen K8GO, Tickets and spaces selling well. A Jackson Motel is linked to GL HamCon and giving discounts. Lots of famous hams coming to this event. MCRCA club is responsible for Prizes and looking for donations. If you work 4 hours you can get a free pass. Outdoor spaces cost \$40 for a 12' x 20' space with no chairs or tables. Our club will reserve one for our members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANOUNCEMENTS: Adrian swap Sunday, September 17, 2017

ADJOURNED: 8:28 pm

ATTENDANCE: 14

AC8SI Dave
KB8KQC Brenda
WA8EFK Dale
N8NYP Terry

K8GO Glen
KC8SKP Wes
AC8DZ Bob
KF8LT Jim

KA8EBI Fred
KE8DRP Hank
KE8CQW Sandra

KA8PQH Neil
N8DXR J o h n
W8GPR Gary

Committees

Classes

Club Station

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

DX Net

Field Day

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Finance

Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)
Fred VanDaele KA8EBI
Dale Williams WA8EFK

HamFest

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Hertzian Herald

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Historian

Paul W8PI

Public Relations

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Scholarship

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

School Liaison

open

Programs

open

Membership

open

Planning

open

Property Custodian
open

ARRL finally realizes status quo isn't going to cut it

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

"ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

"The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice."

The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:

"Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The members of the committee - Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

"Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

"A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham's interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer's desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

"From the committee's vantage point, **the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership** [*emphasis is mine...Dan*]. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL's relevancy will not move forward."

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I've written about these in the past. I've challenged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I've also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).

(cont'd next page)

Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line. I quote, "From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership." That approach is doomed to failure. Any "visioning" or strategic planning that doesn't get the membership involved right from the start just isn't going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn't have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership "is no longer adequate." That's how we got here in the first place.

—

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Baker Island DXpedition

The Dateline DX Association is very pleased to announce significant progress in our planning to operate in 2018 from KH1, Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge, the 4th most wanted entity in the DXCC program.

We have executed a charter agreement with a ship, the Nai'a out of Fiji with an anticipated arrival at the refuge during the 3rd week of June, 2018.

We intend to be at the refuge a total of 12 days with 10 days of operations. This ship and dates were chosen in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service based on availability of their resource monitor, avoidance of the cyclone season, and Nai'a availability.

Propagation forecasts look favorable for HF to Western Europe (a large target audience for us) during this time as well.

As with any DXpedition to the really rare ones, this will be another financially demanding operation. The 11 operator team will contribute over 50% of the expected budget of \$400,000. You can help make this DXpedition happen by visiting our new website, <http://www.baker2018.net/> and contributing today.

We wish to thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their trust in our group to safely and responsibly activate this rare location.

Don Greenbaum/N1DG, Tom Harrell/N4XP and Kevin Rowett/K6TD (co-leaders)

OPDX

630/220 meters to open October 16 - Pre-registration required

CQ MF/LF Editor John Langridge, KB5NJD/WG2XIQ, reports that the FCC has authorized amateur radio use of the 630 and 2200-meter bands, effective October 16, 2017, providing registration procedures have been followed and no objections are received within 30 days.

The PLC (Power Line Communications) database is live and hams may begin registering immediately. They may begin operating on 472 kHz (630 meters) and 137 kHz (2200 meters) as early as October 16 if they register today and receive no objection in the next 30 days. Hams may not operate on the bands without going through this process.

The link to the sign-up page is here:

<https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>

The effective date for use of the new bands by amateurs was published in today's Federal Register. The relevant pages are at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-15/pdf/2017-19578.pdf>

The FCC's Public Notice is at: http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0915/DA-17-893A1.pdf

John is asking all amateurs to register, even if they don't plan to use these bands in the near future, as the FCC rules prohibit UTC (the Utilities Technology Council) from deploying PLC in these bands closer than 1 kilometer from registered stations. Registration now will protect your ability to use our new MF/LF bands in the future.

When will Voyager stop calling home?

Forty years after they left Earth, the Voyager twin spacecraft are still chugging along, logging 35,000 miles an hour as they zoom farther and farther into the cosmos.

"I've had people ask me, you mean the mission is still going on?" says Suzanne Dodd, the Voyager project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "They assumed that it had stopped after it passed Neptune."

Far from it. After the Voyagers completed their tours of the outer planets in the 1980s, giving humanity its first real look at Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, they continued on to the outer reaches of the solar system.

In August 2012, Voyager 1 left the system entirely, emerging from inside the protective bubble formed by the sun's wind and exiting into interstellar space. Voyager 2 is on its way out; the spacecraft is currently coasting through the heliosheath, the outermost layer of the sun's bubble. Voyagers 1 and 2 are currently about 13 billion and 10 billion miles from Earth, unfathomable distances that mean little more to us terrestrials than giant numbers on a page.

And they still call home. It takes a while, but they do.

The Voyagers transmit data to Earth every day. The spacecraft collect information about their surrounding environment in real time and then send it back through radio signals. Voyager 1 data takes about 19 hours to reach Earth, and signals from Voyager 2 about 16 hours.

(For comparison, it takes the rovers on Mars 20 minutes on average to call home.) The signals get picked up by NASA's Deep Space Network, a collection of powerful antennae around the world that communicate with dozens of missions.

Read the full article

www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/09/voyager-interstellar-space/538881

Jamboree-on-the-Air

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. This jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby amateur radio operator's ham shack. Many times you can find the hams will come to you by setting up a station at your Scout camporee, at the park down the block, or perhaps at a ham shack already set up at your council's camp.



Tell Me More

Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, including girls. Once at the ham radio station, the communication typically involves talking on a microphone and listening on the station speakers. However, many forms of specialized communication may also be taking place, such as video communication, digital communication (much like sending a message on your smartphone but transmitted by radio), or communication through a satellite relay or an earth-based relay (called a repeater). The exchanges include such information as name, location (called QTH in ham speak), Scout rank, age, and hobbies. The stations you'll be communicating with can be across town, across the country, or even around the world! The World Scout Bureau reported that the 2016 JOTA had nearly 1.3 million Scout participants from more than 30,000 locations, and reached 156 countries.

When Is It?

Jamboree-on-the-Air is held the third weekend in October. There are no official hours, so you have the whole weekend to make JOTA contacts. The event officially starts Friday evening during the JOTA Jump Start and runs through Sunday evening.

How Can I Participate as a Scout?

Contact your local Scout council and see what may already be planned in your area. You can also contact a local ham radio operator or a local amateur radio club. You can find a searchable database of clubs at www.arrl.org/find-a-club. This website is operated by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio, which is cooperating closely with the BSA on JOTA and many other activities.

Your local club may be able to direct you to its planned JOTA activities. These can include ham stations set up at camporees or other events. Or, if there are no planned activities, you can either work with them to get something set up or arrange to visit a local radio operator's ham shack at a scheduled time to participate in JOTA.

How Can I Participate as an Amateur Radio Operator?

Contact your local Scout council and see what may already be planned in your area and how you can help. You can find your council using the Council locator.

If nothing is currently planned, or if current plans aren't reaching your area, you can work with the council or a local unit (pack, troop, crew) to set up a JOTA station or arrange for visits to your ham shack. You can also participate just by making QSOs with the many JOTA stations that will be on the air. A good resource to find a local Scout unit is the Be-A-Scout website at <https://beascout.scouting.org/BeAScoutMap.aspx>



The American Radio Relay League's round-up of the forthcoming week's DX activity on the amateur radio bands

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

GEORGIA, 4L. Dmitry, R4WW will be QRV as 4L/R4WW from September 17 to 29. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 meters using CW, and possibly SSB and RTTY. This may include an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY contest. QSL direct to home call.

SAMOA, 5W. Al, K7AR will be QRV as 5WORA from Apia, IOTA OC-097, from September 19 to 29. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8. QSL to home call.

MAURITANIA, 5T. A group of operators are QRV as 5T5OK until September 29. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY with several stations active simultaneously. QSL via OK6DJ.

ALGERIA, 7X. Rodrigo, EA7JX will be QRV as 7U1X from Djelfa from September 18 to 25. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest. QSL to home call.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Members of the Kuala Lumpur DX Team will be QRV as 9M4IOTA from Indah Island, IOTA AS-074, from September 16 to 18. QSL direct to 9M4IOTA.

BOTSWANA, A2. Operators Pavel, R2AD, Yuri, RM0F and Elena, RC5A are QRV as A25BE, A25BI and A25SP, respectively, from Kasane until September 25. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

TONGA, A3. Hal, JR4OZR will be QRV as A35W from Nuku'alofa from September 20 to 26. Activity will be on the HF bands using RTTY and FT8. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest. QSL via JJ2VLY.

NIUE, E6. Grant, VK5GR is QRV as E6AG until September 25 while on vacation. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 meters using mainly digital modes but also some CW and SSB. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest. QSL via M0OXO.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON, FP. Operators G7VJR, G3ZAY, DH5FS, M0BLF, M0WUT, M0ZXA and M0INN will be QRV as FP/home calls from Ile aux Marins from September 18 to 22. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using all modes, including FT8, with four stations active simultaneously. QSL to home call.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Members of the 7163 Group are QRV as HD8M from Isabela Island, IOTA SA-004, until September 21. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes, including FT8. QSL direct to WB2REM.

GRENADA, J3. Wayde, KD2NOP is QRV as J3/KD2NOP until September 20. Activity is on various HF bands using JT65, FT8 and possibly other digital modes. QSL to home call.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Terry, K7ASU is QRV as K7ASU/KH9 until September 17 while on work assignment. His activity is sporadic, but is generally active on 40 and 20 meters at various times. QSL direct to home call.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Operators DK2DO, DL1ZBO and DL5FF will be QRV as OH0JWL from September 19 to 25. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ

World Wide RTTY DX contest. QSL CW contacts via DK2DO, and RTTY contacts via DL5FF. In addition, special event call sign OF100FI/0 will be QRV from Brando Island during the SAC CW contest to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the independence of Finland. QSL via OH2BAD.

CZECH REPUBLIC, OL. Special event station OL100SV is QRV until September 23 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Signal Forces of the Czech Army. QSL via bureau.

LAOS, XW. Champ, E21EIC will be QRV as XW1IC from September 21 to 25. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest. QSL to home call.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. David, G4NRT is QRV as Z21NRT from Harare until September 29. Activity is on 80 to 2 meters using CW, SSB, PSK, JT65, JT69, FT8 and FM on 2 meters. QSL direct to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, North American RTTY Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, AGB 80-Meter NEMIGA Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest, Scandinavian Activity CW Contest, All Africa International DX Contest, Iowa QSO Party, New Hampshire QSO Party, New Jersey QSO Party, QRP Afield, Washington State Salmon Run, Feld Hell Sprint and BARTG Sprint 75 are all scheduled for this upcoming weekend.

The 144 MHz Fall Sprint and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are scheduled for September 18.

The RSGB 80-Meter Autumn CW Series, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for September 20.

Please see September 2017 QST, page 84, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.

Amateur Radio Examinations Monroe, MI

Monroe County Radio Communications Association Amateur Radio examinations are held the 3rd Saturday of every even numbered month at:

American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48161

Walk-ins are always welcome.

2017 Schedule:

February 18 April 15
June 17 August 19
October 21 December 16

TESTING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:00 AM

Applicants are expected to have all forms filled out and be ready to take tests at that time. Coffee and doughnuts are available at 8:30 AM. For more information or to make reservations, call Paul Trouten - W8PI at 734-854-2224

Join us at the next meeting

August 21st at 7:30 pm
American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48162

Local Net

ARPSC Net - Every Monday evening on '72-Monroe (146.72 Mhz) starting at 8:00pm.

ARPSC Meeting first Thursday of every month at the EMD office on Raisinville Rd.. 7:00 PM