

# The Hertzian Herald



July 2021 • Volume 45, Issue 7 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

## D Fritz Bitz:



This was my first hamfest as president and I think it went pretty well. Mostly thanks to the hard work of several other people who have done it before. There were lots of volunteers for setup, operation and clean up and things went very smooth. It was a very nice day, although a little hot and humid, and a lot of equipment changed hands. I stood at the gate for a bit and everyone was leaving with something. I would like to thank everyone who helped make it a success and look forward to working with them again next year.

Although I think Field Day was a success, I believe we could have had better member participation and will be working on that for next year. See Paul's (W8PI) article for more information on what happened but all in all I think we did a pretty good job and had a lot of fun.

So the next couple of months will be spent on QSO parties, preparing for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MCRCA and the Christmas party.

The bands have been a little more open lately and I have made several good contacts on 15 and 20 meters. Hopefully things will open up more through the fall and continue to get better in the new cycle. Looking forward to see you on the air.

So, until next month, 73.

Don Fritz, N8BZN

<http://mcrc.org/>  
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[www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/)

### Club Officers

#### PRESIDENT

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## MCRCA Meeting Minutes for June 17, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Don N8BZN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: One new member, one upgrade no guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Mike N8KUF, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P won a subscription to Daily DX and stated there is a lot of good information on their site. Bouvet Isl. 3Y0J DXpedition has been canceled again. The ship Braveheart has been sold. — 6M had a good opening to overseas recently, — OJ0/OH3BRJ and OJ0/OH3BRK will be active from Market Island, (Market Reef), IOTA EU - 053, 6 - 7 August 2020. They will operate on 80 - 6m, SSB, RTTY, FT8, FT4. — The RSGB IOTA Contest will take place over 25/26 July.

CONTESTS: Paul W8PI, this weekend is Field Day and the WV QSO Party. July 1<sup>st</sup> is a Canadian contest. July 10-11 IARU HF World Championship. July 17-18 CQ WW VHF Contest. July 31 – Aug 1 Missouri QSO Party.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. June 19, 2021. No one registered this month.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Mike N8KUF is planning a repeater setups and design program.

HAMFEST: Fred K8EBI – Reported on Current reservations and discussed plans for Saturday and Sunday.

FIELD DAY: Porta john is ordered. Discussions on Field Day Plans were held.

ARPSC: Mike N8KUF, the first Thursday of the month was the ARPSC meeting at the EMD. Lance is looking for simulated emergency test scenarios for the upcoming SET. The following Saturday was a show off your Go-Kit event in the parking lot of the EMD.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK HQ is opening back up with full staff now that the Covid is receding. There will be a second Board Meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, all repeaters are working. They have been doing some minor repairs. One receiver has a buzz they are working on. (needs to lay off the doobies) The membership is now listed on the MCRCA web page under the RRRA menu in the top ribbon.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PROGRAM: A video on the 'Last Elephant Cage' antenna system.

ADJOURNED: 8:46 pm

ATTENDANCE: 23

KB8KQC Brenda  
KE8RXC Debbie  
KB8OSU George  
WA8YZB John  
W8MCW Mark  
N8NYP Terry

W8GMA Bob  
N8BZN Don  
KF8LT Jim  
KJ8H Keith  
N8KUF Mike  
KG8P Tom

WA8EFK Dale  
K8EBI Fred  
N8DXR John  
KE8OTG Larry  
KA8PQH Neil  
KC8SKP Wes

W8IIE Dave  
K8ONZ Gary  
K8UMF John  
KE8HCD Larry  
W8PI Paul

### Committees

#### Club Station

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

#### DX Net

Soon

#### 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 Trouten W8PI

#### Public Relations

Terry Kolton N8NYP  
Tom Imlach KE8KNZ

#### Scholarship

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

#### Program Chairman

soon

#### Membership

Terry Kolton N8NYP  
n8nyp@arrl.net

#### Property Custodian

Paul Trouten W8PI

## Post Hamfest Report 2021

Well after 26 years of chairing the hamfest, I have to say I think this one was the most profitable. The weather cooperated although it could have been a little cooler and the weather man didn't need to scare people the whole week before with bad reports of rain.

Everything went quite smoothly and I didn't hear anything but compliments from the people I talked to. Some people complained that the food prices were too high, but we didn't have much of a choice since the previous food vendor couldn't come this year. Many people told me that our hamfest is their favorite hamfest, which is always good to hear.

We managed to reserve most of our tables this year and sold a few more on Sunday. Bruce from EAE Sales chose not to attend which left us 12 tables more than usual otherwise we would have run short of tables. Trunk sales sold quite a few more spaces than the normal this year which was a surprise with the week of rain reports we had. Ticket sales was up from last year which, along with trunk sales, is where we make most of our profit. Since Covid shut us down last year and all the other local hamfests before ours were canceled, it left us as the first major hamfest in the area and everyone was hungry to attend, which helped us quite a bit this year.

We had very good help this year with a total of 29 people helping to setup, run and sell tickets. I think that is also the most we have ever had help out in one year. I would like to thank everyone that helped out this year. Sorry if I missed anyone.

Mike Karmol N8KUF

Kyle VanDaele

Dave Benoit W8IIE

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC

Lance Charter KE8BYC

John Bills N8RWI

George Low KB8OSU

Scott Burkey W8SMB

Mark Wheeler W8MCW

John Copeland N8DXR

Rodney Haddix KD8ZNZ

Neil Remaklus KA8PQH

Tom Jenkins KG8P

Don Fritz N8BNC

Keith Hutchinson KJ8H

Paul Trouten W8PI

Madonna Burkit KE8QGU

Robert Howe KD8ZUI

Larry Lenhart KE8OTG

Dale Williams WA8EFK

Tom Imlach KE8KNZ

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

Terry Kolton N8NYP

Gary Pratt K8ONZ

Vickie Trouten

Aaron Liske KE8PUN

Debbie Bardon KE8RXC

Thanks to all that helped set up Saturday morning and also helped to tear down Sunday afternoon, and a special thanks to all the people that sold tickets (**designated in Red**) out at the gate Sunday morning. That job is a long hard job and the heat makes it even more miserable. Thanks to Tom KG8P for stepping up and spending the night to watch over everything. Last but not least, I want to give the biggest thank you to Brenda KB8KQC, without her I would never be able to do the Hamfest or Field Day. She puts in a lot of time and effort that none of you ever see, and has picked up the slack that I haven't been doing since my knee and back problems. There is no way I would attempt to do these two events without her tremendous help. I am so very lucky to have her by my side. Please give her a big thank you when you see her.

This hamfest is the big event of the year and provides a large portion of support for the club, and only a percentage of the members help out each year. It's so nice to work with dependable people on such an important project, Thank you all very much.

Fred K8EBI, Hamfest Chairman.

## ARPSC July Report

Hamfest-a success, Field Day-Paul didn't blow away, and Dundee Parade-Hot but Fun

It has been so refreshing and uplifting to be able to participate in the increasing amount of in person events and interact with my fellow operators.

The Dundee Independence day parade last Sunday was a fun low key event and while the unit count was a bit lower than normal, it is always a fun event to participate in. A huge Thanks to those that came out to help line up the units and get them rolling; Dale-WA8EFK, Mike-N8KUF, Terry-N8NYP, Aaron-KE8PUN, Scott-W8SMB, Jay-WB8TKL and Mary Anne-W8VWY.

We will be having a Saturday Session on July 24<sup>th</sup> 9am at EMD, to go over the Winlink program initial settings to make sure everyone is ready for the upcoming Simulated Emergency Test on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are going to attend, please bring your laptop with the Winlink Program installed—Winlink.org. You do NOT need a radio connection to use Winlink, as long as commercial internet is available, Winlink can be used via Telnet.

Please make sure if you are working towards your county ID, keep working on your Position Task Book trainings.

If you are one of those folks that have recently received their license, Welcome to the hobby and if you are interested in the Service aspect, please contact me on email for more information regarding ARPSC.

As always, you can keep track of us via the ARPSC webpage which is linked though the MCRCA Website and the Facebook page, which is also linked via the club webpage. We thank the group and the club webmaster for doing this for us!

73 until next month  
Lance Charter KE8BYC  
Emergency Coordinator  
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp  
Ke8byc -at- yahoo.com



## MCRCA Foxhunt #2 July 10, 2021

Mike N8KUF fulfilled the Fox Duties.

The FOX was located under the Ida Water Tower at Fireman's Park in Ida Michigan

Shortest possible route per Google Maps = 7.2 Miles

Straight line distance to the FOX per Google Earth was 5.9 Miles.

### Hunters

#### First Place - Team 4

Larry KE8HCD and Bob K8HV  
Fox Found at 10:05  
Miles = 7.8

#### Second Place - Team 1

Paul W8PI and Vickie  
Fox found at 10:00  
Miles = 8.0

#### Third Place - Team 5

John KE8NKD and Rena KE8KNC  
Fox Found at 10:15  
Miles = 8.2

#### Fourth Place - Team 2

Fred K8EBI and Brenda KB8KQC  
Fox found at 10:07  
Miles = 9.0

#### Fifth Place - Team 3

Woody N8MWQ  
Fox Found at 09:58  
Miles = 10.4

Thanks to all who were able to participate. The FOX location, according to the participants, was strategically located to present a challenging hunt given the multitude of publicly accessible locations in Ida (location was not intuitively obvious just by looking at a map) with a few reflective/ dampening structures in the area (water tower, grain silos) to make DFing challenging at times. The gorgeous weather, mostly sunny morning in low to mid 60's at hunt time, really helped to elevate the mood making this hunt one of the most enjoyable in recent memory. We will look forward to seeing lots more hunters at Hunt #3 to be held on the second Saturday in September (9/11).

Respectfully submitted - Mike N8KUF 2021 MCRCA Foxhunt Chair

## Field Day 2021

Our MCRCA Field Day this was a success. We were again able to hold the operation remotely due to relief from COVID restrictions.

Field Day was held at Vienna Park in Temperance again this year. The facility is nice, a county park, which gives us some extra points in the scoring. After using this site for the last 10 plus years, we know the park and the best trees to use for our antennas.

Participation for set up was about the same as previous years, numbers of operators better than the past. We always could use more operators. The night shift operators were sparse, but we kept both stations on most of the nighttime hours. Weather this year was good, no rain, but very windy.

We operated in class 2A, which means we had two transmitters on the air using gasoline powered generators. All the antennas were installed at the site, Vienna Park, on the day of Field Day, tents set up, generators tested and transmissions started promptly at 2:00 PM. Using the call sign W8PI we had one transmitter on phone bands and the second on CW bands. A free transmitter was operated on VHF bands of six and two meters, but six was not open so only one contact was made. A Get On The Air (GOTA) was also on the air and made an extra 96 contacts for the team.

After 24 hours of non-stop operations we amassed 1,288 contacts combined both with phone and CW. Phone contacts numbered 733 and CW 555.

With our bonus points, power multiplier, CW multiplier, etc., our final score is about 4,716. This score has been submitted to ARRL headquarters by Jeff Breitner, KA8NCR.

We worked all states except Nebraska this year along with Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, no WAS for field day. In the 20 years that I have been keeping records of MCRCA Field Day operations, this year was a medium in scores.

Antennas were put up into the trees. The antennas were dipoles for each specific band on the phone station and G5RV's on the CW and GOTA stations. They were put up using the spud guns made by Mike Karmol, N8KUF. They did the job extremely well to get the antennas up over the tops of the trees.

The only problem this year was the CW tent blew down in the strong winds and destroyed some of the metal support frame. We moved a camping trailer to the tent location and got back on the air only losing about 30 minutes of operating time. Now I will have to find a new tent at a garage sale to replace the old one that lasted for almost 20 years.

I want to thank everyone that helped with this operation. Everyone counts whether you help put up antennas, pitch tents, operate the stations, help with the food, or just attended to see what was going on out there. This year we had a total of 3

1 people in attendance, including wives and friends. Our operation was visited by the Monroe County Sheriff and representatives from other agencies that are served by amateur radio. The Saturday evening picnic potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.

We had many new faces at Field Day this year. It is exciting that the newly licensed hams are showing such a great interest in keeping the FD tradition going. The MCRCA has been operating since before 1959. I am sure there were operations before that year, but that was my first year operating Field Day, we had two operators in a novice tent and about eight in the old timers AM station that year.

Now we have to start thinking of how we can do even better next year. The more members we can get to help out with Field Day, the better we can finish. Remember, even if you do not want to operate one of the stations, there are plenty of other ways to help with this extremely fun program in your club. We always need help with putting up and taking down antennas and equipment, working the public service table, showing the non-amateurs that stop by the Field Day site how amateur radio actually works.

Hope to see everyone again next year at Field Day 2022, the last full weekend of June.

Paul Trouten W8PI



## First X-Class Major Solar Flare of Solar Cycle 25 Blacks Out HF on July 3

From the ARRL DX Bulletin

Many American radio amateurs reported sudden HF propagation blackouts on Saturday morning July 3rd when solar active region 12838 produced an X1.5 major solar flare that reached maximum intensity at 1429Z, the first X-class solar flare of solar cycle 25 and the first since 2017.

HF propagation blackouts are caused when x-ray and extreme ultraviolet radiation from X-class major solar flares strongly ionizes the absorbing D-region in the Earth's sun facing dense lower ionosphere. Solar flares have no significant effect on VHF ionospheric propagation but can degrade satellite communications passing through the ionosphere. More frequent, less powerful M-class medium solar flares produce short duration degradation at high latitudes. Very frequent, much weaker A, B, and C-class solar flares do not degrade HF propagation.

X-class major solar flares are necessary consequences of steadily increasing solar cycle 25 activity. 95% of all X-class solar flares occur when the solar flux index is 90 or greater, the remaining 5% can occur any time during the solar cycle. X1-class major solar flares typically degrade HF propagation for only an hour or two at mid and high latitudes only on the sunlit side of the Earth. X-class major flares are measured on an open ended scale, the strongest ever recorded was an X28 flare in 2003, hundreds of times more powerful than the July 3rd X1.5 solar flare. X10-class and stronger solar flares typically have effects that last for most of a day and affect the entire sunlit side of the Earth.

Fortunately, X10- class solar flares occur only about once every 20 years or more.

Much more severe and long lasting HF propagation degradations are often caused by the coronal mass ejections (CMEs) often associated with - but not caused by — major solar flares. HF propagation degradation caused by CMEs typically begins about two days after the effects of the associated solar flare, the duration of the delay depending on interactions between the CME and the solar wind.

The CME associated with the July 3rd X1.5 solar flare is likely to have little to no effect on HF propagation because the active region was very close to the western edge of the visible solar disk when the CME erupted. Region 12838 rotated off the visible disk on Sunday July 4th.

Thanks to Tom KG8P





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 The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

**FRANCE, F. Michel, F8GGZ** operates as TM108TDF around the Tour de France. See qrz.com for an operating schedule. He is QRV on 80 to 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via F8GGZ (B).

**JAPAN, JA.** The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) takes part in the IARU Contest from several regions using the call signs 8N2HQ, 8N3HQ, 8N6HQ, 8N8HQ and 8N9HQ. QSL via bureau.

**BRAZIL, PY.** Brazil's Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Radio Emissao (LABRE) will be joining the IARU Contest as PX2HQ. QSL via PY2KP.

**RUSSIA, RA.** Special event call sign R100KOMI celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Komi Republic until the end of September. QSL via ClubLog OQRS and R1II.

**ARUBA, P4.** John, W2GD is active as P44W until July 13. He will operate mainly CW and will participate in the IARU HF World Championship. QSL via LoTW, or direct to N2MM.

**POLAND, SP.** Special event station SN88LOT commemorates the transatlantic flight of the Lithuanian pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girenas 88 years ago. After crossing the Atlantic, their flight ended in a crash near the village of Pszczelnik. QSL via SP1PMY (d/B).

**GUATEMALA, TG.** Steve, K4IM is in Guatemala City until August 15 and plans to use his TG9AWS call. He operates CW, SSB and digital modes on 40 through 6 meters. QSL via W3HNK or direct to K4IM.

**ALASKA, KL7.** Members of the North Pole Contest Group will be QRV as W1AW/KL7 until July 13. Activity will be on all bands and modes with four stations active. This includes being a HQ Station entry in the upcoming IARU HF World Championship. QSL via W1AW.

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, E7.** E7HQ will be active in the IARU HF World Championship as the Amateur Radio Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ARABH) headquarters multiplier station. QSL via LoTW and E70ARA.

**SVALBARD, JW.** The JW0W team of EA3HSO, LB1QI, LA5GI, LA7GIA, LA7THA and LA8OM plans to be QRV from Prins Karls Forland (EU-063), from July 21 to 26. QSL via M0OXO's OQRS and LoTW.

**INDONESIA, YB.** 7A2HQ will be the ORARI HQ station in the IARU HF World Championship this weekend. Look for them on CW and SSB on all six contest bands. QSL via LoTW.

**SPAIN, EA.** ON6ZK will be QRV holiday style as EA7/ON6ZK from San Juan de Los Terreros from July 15 to 23. QSL via ON6ZK either direct or via the bureau.

**LUXEMBOURG, LX.** In an effort to promote portable activities in 2021 the Luxembourg Amateur Radio Union (LARU) will activate special call LX21P during the month of August. QSL preferably via the bureau.

**NEW ZEALAND, ZL.** Jacky, ZL3CW will be operating SOAB CW HP in the IARU HF World Championship using his special event call sign ZL25NZ.

**CHINA, B.** The Chinese college student operator team of BD0DHQ, BI4MPY, BH5HYB, BG5GDP and BI6LQC are heading to Shengshan Island for an August 3 to 5 operation. The BI4MPY/5 team will be active on 40, 20, 17, 15 and 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8.

**ISRAEL, 4X.** Team 4X100AI will participate in the IOTA Contest on July 24 and 25 from the Achziv Islands (AS-100). Outside the contest they will be QRV on FT8 and the QO-100 satellite. QSL via LoTW, or direct to 4X6ZM.

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL.** DS3BBC and others will be active as D70EXPO from Pukkyongnyolbi Island (AS-080) on from July 22 to 25. They will be QRV on 80 to 6 meters, and will participate in the IOTA Contest. QSL via LoTW, or via DS3BBC.

**CAPE VERDE, D4.** Paco, EA7KNT will be operating D4SAL from Sal Island from August 23 to September 5.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The IARU HF World Championship, K1USN Slow Speed Test, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint are on tap for this weekend. The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is on July 12.

## 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

Testing by appointment only.  
Call for information.  
Masks or better to open.

2021 Schedule:  
February 20    April 17  
June 19        August 21  
October 16    December 18

### 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

July 15th 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