

# The Hertzian Herald



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## D Fritz Bitz:

I have been trying to get a tower put up all year. It used to be easier. I used to be younger. I just don't feel like working that hard anymore. A while back I had to buy a new washing machine. My son and nephew came over to take the old one out of the basement and take the new one down. I stood and watched. I remember doing things like that for my dad, too. I also have a G5RV I need to put up. My vertical was bent over in a storm last year and is at about a 45-degree angle. I want to get the G5RV up before I try to straighten out the vertical because if it breaks I don't have any antenna. I hope to get everything set up before the contests start in the spring.



Speaking of spring, I'm looking forward to getting more involved in contesting this year, time permitting, and getting ready for the hamfest and field day. I have a few ideas on the latter two to hopefully make them a little bigger and better. I learned a lot last year that I hope to use this year. The biggest thing I learned is we have a great group of people that have been doing this a long time and I can rely on them to work hard and get the job done. Having a great team is a big thing.

Now I have to see if I can get my team together to put up my tower. I'll go find my chair.

So, until next month, 73.

Don Fritz, N8BZN

**January is the month the MCRCA holds annual elections. Paul W8PI has put together a slate of officers for this year's elections. If anyone is interested in running for an office please contact Paul by phone, 734-854-2224, before this Thursday's meeting. (His email is down)**

Our sincerest condolences go out to the family of Clarence Landoski KD8MGT who passed away January 3, 2022. His constant warmhearted enthusiasm will be sorely missed.



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

### Club Officers

#### PRESIDENT

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#### VICE PRESIDENT

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#### SECRETARY

Fred VanDaele K8EBI  
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#### TREASURER

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#### DIRECTOR

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ptrouten@bex.net

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STATION TRUSTEE**  
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP  
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# Tales by Herk

## The Captain's Monkey

Again, the group stayed after the meeting to see if the Old Timer had another story. And it appeared he did.

When I was much younger, I shipped out on a great lakes freighter. I was the radio guy. Easy job. Listen for and send messages to and from the ship and keep the Spark Gap equipment running.

The hardest part was hiding the fruit we brought on board to eat at our leisure.

You see, the Captain had a monkey. The orneriest thing you had ever seen. Yet that monkey was the captain's pet and you better believe that monkey could do anything it wanted aboard the ship. ANYTHING.

Before I knew about the monkey, I would leave the fruit basket on the shelf for easy reach. Later, after I found out about the monkey, I would hide the food I had brought on board and within 24 hours that blasted monkey would have found it. It would take bites out of every thing and then foul the rest.

I tried hiding the basket in all sorts of places. The monkey was very determined and would find it every time. Until——

I found the perfect place. In the radio room was a large coil. I could suspend the basket INSIDE the coil and the monkey could not reach thru the turns to the basket due to the spacing of the turns. Ahhhh, the fruit never tasted so good. And I gloated every time I ate a piece.

As would eventually happen, I was sent to send a message. I turned on the equipment, waited for it to warm and then hit the key. Arcing and burnt flesh became the predominant noise and smell. I looked at the coil and to my disgust a tail was limply hanging through the turns.

Of course, the corpse was pitched overboard and I jumped ship at the next port.

## THE LIGHT BULB

Sometime around the late 20's, the police were again called to 'that' house on Cass Street.

"THAT" man had been seen walking around with his arm up in the air and a glowing light in his hand that went off and on.

The patrolman asked Grandpa what he was doing.

While Grandpa tried to explain he was testing the antenna to see where the energy fields were, he had been slowly walking toward the policeman who kept backing up. The light bulb suddenly went out.

The policeman jumped.

He offered the bulb to the officer and said, "Do you want to hold it? I promise it won't bite!"

Grandpa backed up a step or 2, and the light glowed again.

The policeman shook his head and continued to back up until he reached the patrol car.

He didn't speed away but he sure didn't stick around to see what else 'that man' did.

## Committees

### Club Station

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

### DX Net

Soon

### Field Day

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

### Finance

Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

Dale Williams WA8EFK

### HamFest

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

### Hertzian Herald

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

### Historian

Paul Trouten W8PI

### Public Relations

Terry Kolton N8NYP

Tom Imlach KE8KNZ

### Scholarship

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

### Program Chairman

soon

### Membership

Terry Kolton N8NYP

n8nyp@arrl.net

### Property Custodian

Paul Trouten W8PI

## World's smallest moon lander from Japan will put ham radio transmitter on the moon

The ARRL reports Japan's [OMOTENASHI](#), the world's smallest moon lander, will have an X-band and UHF communication system, although it will not carry an amateur band transponder.

OMOTENASHI is a 6U CubeSat set for launch via a NASA SLS rocket as early as February 2022. It will have a mission period of from 4 to 5 days. The name is an acronym for Outstanding Moon Exploration Technologies demonstrated by Nano Semi-Hard Impactor. Wataru Torii of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Ham Radio Club, JQ1ZVI, said radio amateurs can play a role in gathering data from the spacecraft.

The spacecraft is made up of two separable components, both having independent communication systems — an orbiting module and a surface probe. The orbiting module will take the surface probe to the moon. It will transmit beacon or digital telemetry data on UHF (437.31 MHz). The surface probe — the moon lander — will transmit digital telemetry or three-axis acceleration analog-wave with FM modulation on UHF (437.41 MHz). Transmitter power will be 1 W in both cases.

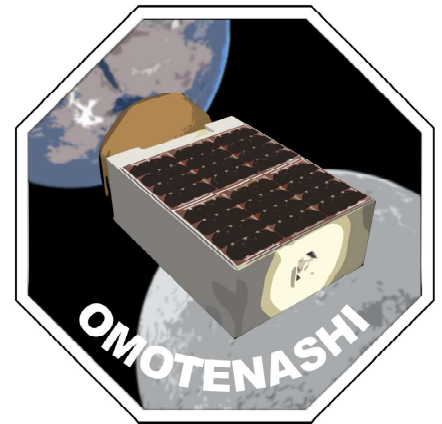
"If we succeed in receiving the UHF signal from the surface probe, we could know the acceleration data on the impact on the moon and the success of the landing sequence," Torii explained.

"We already have a station for uplink and downlink at Wakayama in Japan — used as an EME [moonbounce] station. However, if the satellite is invisible from Japan, we cannot receive the downlink signal. So, we need a lot of help from ham radio stations worldwide." Torii noted that the RF system on the lander only operates on UHF.

The orbiting module beacon will transmit on 437.31 MHz using PSK31. The surface probe beacon will transmit on 437.41 MHz using FM, PSK31, and PCM-PSK/PM.

[Contact](#) Torii for more information

ARRL



## Cat on a hot satellite dish: Elon Musk's Starlink antenna hits surprise problem

### Starlink's satellite internet performance has fallen victim to felines attracted to the warmth its dish gives off on cold days

The Starlink antenna has proven a hit with cats who appear to enjoy its snow-melting feature, slowing down movie screening and affecting internet speed. Photograph: Pablo Sanhueza/Reuters

Elon Musk's satellite internet company, Starlink, has ambitious plans to bring internet access to people anywhere in the world. But it turns out the venture is providing another service: warming up cats.

A customer tweeted a photo of five cats huddled on his Starlink dish, which links homes to more than a thousand satellites, and noted that the presence of the furtive felines had slowed his internet performance.

"Starlink works great until the cats find out that the dish gives off a little heat on cold days," Aaron Taylor said.



## Ideal for new hams starting out or anyone with limited funds

Free voice voip apps (apart from mac) for radio hams including aprs-position reporting. There are many free Voip apps for licensed radio hams using either a cell phone or computer.

These apps work on android and apple phones (apart from peanut android only ) and any version of windows some applications also work on macs.

As they are for licensed radio amateurs only you must submit a copy of your ham licence to get registered. Voip is ideal if you like to have long chats and like to get know your fellow hams around the world as the contacts are not affected by radio propagation and they are also useful if you are unable to put up big antennas to work dx

Given that there is now little or no activity on many vhf/uhf simplex and repeater frequencies Voip is a good place to find activity.

Today many HF contacts are very short just a quick signal report exchange and on to the next one.

Some of the rooms on Voip link out on RF crossing over to different modes DMR Dstar P25 NXDN M17 Fusion etc. from analogue so you also do have to be registered for Dstar and DMR to be carried over those networks.

If you have any problems or questions about setting up and getting voip apps working please drop me an email.

Ian [g3zhi@hotmail.com](mailto:g3zhi@hotmail.com)

peanut [www.pa7lim.nl/peanut/](http://www.pa7lim.nl/peanut/) (excellent audio for people with hearing difficulties)

dudestar/droidstar <http://www.dudetronics.com/index.php/dude-star-radio-project> access to most of the digital modes from a Windows PC or Android device

hamshack hotline <http://hamshackhotline.com/> needs a cisco SIP phone

allstar <https://www.allstarlink.org/> (to use the webtransceiver on a windows computer use the pale moon browser <https://www.palemoon.org/> any problems please contact me)M0FXB video on setting up allstar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lefo7xndTg>

Mac users may want to also consider Transceive <https://transceive.app> a native macOS application that let you administer linked nodes, monitor traffic and transmit audio on your AllStar node. It also supports the AllStar Public Authentication used by the web transceiver so you can connect directly to public nodes with your AllStar account. Experience the AllStarLink network without the complexity of setting up a node. this app is not free

Echolink <https://secure.echolink.org/>

You may also come across IRLP on your local repeater here is the world wide list of connections: <http://www.irlp.net/status/index.php?PSTART=3>

aprsdroid for android <https://aprsdroid.org/>

shows hams location if they are beaconing aprs and others using aprs eg ships on the world wide map <https://aprs.fi/#!lat=53.4365&lng=-1.354> which anyone can look at aprs for apple can be downloaded from the apple playstore your aprs position can also be sent over the radio on rf

If you use google earth you can download the kml/kmz files which will show echolink/irlp nodes aprs stations and repeaters around the world.

<http://www.irlp.net/setup-irlp.kml> irlp stations locations

[https://secure.echolink.org/node\\_location.kmz](https://secure.echolink.org/node_location.kmz) echolink stations locations

<https://rsgb.online/ukrepeater.kml> uk repeater locations



## ARPSC Report

Happy January,

We had 3 members take the ICS300/400 courses held at EMD this week. Ed Keller K8FGT, Mark Wheeler W8MCW and myself spent the week participating. ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents is a 24hr course is designed for those emergency response personnel who would function in a Command or General Staff position during a large, complex incident or event and ICS-400 Advanced Incident Command System is a 16hr course that provides training and resources for responders who require advanced application of the ICS by providing overall incident management skills rather than tactical expertise. ICS 300/400 is required for ARES Level 3 certification. This level is for those who wish to pursue a leadership role. As these are in-person only courses and take a significant amount of time to complete, those individuals that participate deserve a hearty Congratulations and Thank you for your commitment to Amateur Radio and ARPSC! Thank you Ed and Mark!!



Monroe EMD plans on offering these courses again in the fall.

If you are interested in honing your skills or building new ones, please feel free to stop in to any of our meetings or training sessions, or participate on our nets. We are here to help every operator learn and perform better. It doesn't matter if your call sign was just posted on the FCC database or you have had your ticket for decades, we are always looking for additional operators.

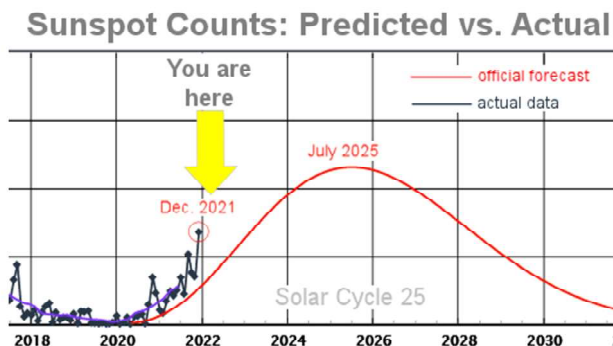
ARPSC meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. Next meeting is Thursday February 3rd

As always Thanks to the club and the club webmaster for linking our FB and webpage, and to Fred for his time getting this newsletter out.

Stay Warm, 73  
Lance Charter  
Emergency Coordinator  
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps



**SOLAR CYCLE UPDATE:** Solar Cycle 25 is shaping up to be stronger than expected. New sunspot counts confirm that the young solar cycle is outperforming official forecasts, with the rate of geomagnetic "storm days" nearly tripling in the past 12 months. See the data and learn more @ [Spaceweather.com](https://www.spaceweather.com).



Above: Predicted vs. actual sunspot counts show that Solar Cycle 25 is strengthening faster than expected.



**Monroe County Radio Communications Association**

Dues run from January 1st to December 31st of each year. As a current / Past Member, you are invited to attend our monthly meetings to find out the latest plans for our club. You may pay your dues at any regular meeting or by filling in the form below and mailing it to: **MCRCA, PO Box 237, Monroe, MI 48161**. Your membership and support will help with the continued success of our club. Thank you.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM**

Regular – \$10 — Add'l Family – \$5 each

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ RRRA Member? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CALL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle All That Apply:

Active Bands: 160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 220 440 higher

Modes: CW - SSB – PACKET - RTTY - FM - DX - MOBILE - QRP - SSTV - ATV - EME - SAT

Interests: Traffic - DX - Contests - Foxhunts - Satellites - Nets – Antennas - Computers  
Emergency - ARES/RACES - Skywarn - Classic Radios (circle all that apply)

Do you plan to upgrade your license? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what class? \_\_\_\_\_

What kinds of meeting programs would you like to see?

\_\_\_\_\_

Other activities you would like to see the Club offer

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

General Comment's

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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 LU5AG, VE7KW, 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.

**MAURITIUS, 3B8.** Ray, F5UKV will be QRV as 3B8HH beginning around January 20. Activity will be on 80 to 2 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using CW and some SSB. Once his station is completely installed, he will also use PSK and RTTY. QSL via bureau.

**KENYA, 5Z.** Barring any COVID-19 restrictions, Ferdy, HB9DSP is QRV as 5Z4/HB9DSP from Malindi until January 27. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and some FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**CHINA, BY.** Che, BG2CNO, Cheng, BD3QC and Ju, BI4MPY are QRV as B4/BG2CNO from Lingshan Island, IOTA AS-150, until January 15. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via BI4MPY.

**GADELOUPE, FG.** Operators Pascal, F1MNQ, Pierre, F1TCV, Michel, F5LRL, Didier, F6BCW and Keith, VE7KW will be QRV as TO6S from Les Saintes, IOTA NA-114, from January 20 to February 1. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4 with two stations active. QSL via F6KJS.

**SCOTLAND, GM.** Special event station GB2KW is active near Inverness until January 28 using vintage equipment. QSL via LoTW.

**ALASKA, KL7.** Fred, KB4DMQ is QRV as KL7FBI from Shemya Island, IOTA NA-037, until January 24. Activity is on 40 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

**ARGENTINA, LU.** Members of AMSAT Argentina will be QRV as LU7AA from January 15 to 23 to commemorate the launch of Satellite LUSAT, LO-19, 32 years ago. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct.

**BRAZIL, PY.** Special call sign ZY6A is QRV from Ilha dos Frades, IOTA SA-023, until January 16. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct to PY6TV.

**SEYCHELLES, S7.** Beverly, S79BMK is a new operator and QRV from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024. She is active on the HF bands.

**SWEDEN, SM.** Members of the Skoevde Amateur Radio Club are QRV with special call SK50EI during 2022 to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary. QSL via bureau.

**TURKEY, TA.** Members of the Turkish Amateur Radio Association are QRV with special call sign TC60TRAC during all of 2022 to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary. QSL via the bureau.

**MEXICO, XE.** Zalo, XE3N is QRV as 6F6F during all of 2022 to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Playa del Carmen City, Quintana Roo. QSL via EA5GL.

**VIET NAM, XV.** Eddy, XV1X has been QRV on 40 meters using FT8 beginning around 1100z. QSL via QRZ.com.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Agus, YB1TDL/4 and Budi, YC1RQZ/4 will be QRV from Rakata Island, IOTA OC-262, from January 15 to 20. They will be active on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to HA3JB.

### THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

The ARRL January VHF Contest, North American CW QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, Malaysia DX Contest, Hungarian DX Contest, PRO Digi Contest, UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest, WAB 1.8 MHz Phone, Feld Hell Sprint and the RSGB AFS Data Contest are all on tap for this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest, K1USN Slow Speed Test, OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QRP 40 Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW, Mini-Test 80 CW and CWops Mini-CWT Test are all scheduled for January 17 to 19.

Please see January QST, page 76, and the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) and [WA7BNM](#) contest web sites for details

## Amateur Radio Examinations Monroe, MI

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

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

**Registrations preferred  
Call for information.**

### 2022 Schedule:

February 19    April 16  
June 18        August 20  
October 15    December 17

### 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

January 20th 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

## Mark Your Calendars!

ARRL January VHF	January 15-17	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf">http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf</a>
NAQP CW	January 15-17	<a href="https://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf">https://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf</a>
NAQP SSB	January 22-23	<a href="https://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf">https://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf</a>
CQ 160m CW	January 29-31	<a href="https://cq160.com/">https://cq160.com/</a>
North American Sprint	February 5-6	<a href="https://ncjweb.com/north-american-sprint/">https://ncjweb.com/north-american-sprint/</a>