

The Hertzian Herald



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D Fritz Bitz:



I talked a little last month about starting a lending library for Amateur radio books that members can borrow a month at a time but I couldn't make the meeting last month so we did not talk about it. I have copies of the ARRL study guides for the General and Amateur Extra license that I will be donating and a few reference manuals that I have printed that I thought were interesting. The idea is to set up a collection of books and reference material specifically of interest to ham radio operators to help make them better operators and better informed hams. So if you have any books or manuals that may be of interest to other hams, bring them to the meeting Thursday so we can get the new library set up.

I went to the Findlay Hamfest today and the attendance seemed a little better than last year even though the weather was a little threatening. It was good to see several of the MCRCA members supporting this 80+ year old event. I remember going to the Findlay Hamfest when it was held at the park on the east side of town and it was hard to see everything in one day. I remember when Toledo had both buildings at the Rec Center full of tables with no room to spare. I remember when Dayton took every bit of all 3 days to see it all. But I am old.

My point is although ham radio has changed a lot in 40 years I'm not sure I have. The base station I use is almost 30 years old and my antenna is at least 20. Other than my new mobile, which I had to buy because my new car only had room for a remote head radio, most of the equipment I use could be considered antique. Like me. I am putting up a new tower soon, mostly for my VHF, UHF and 6 meter antennas, that should be the last of my expenses for a while. Maybe when I'm done with that I should start saving my hambucks for a new rig and beam for my base so I can bring my shack into the 21st century. I hope my wife doesn't read this.

NOTICE

RRRA anticipates taking the 72 repeater off the air for a significant part of the day beginning about 0900 on Thursday Sept 15 pending reasonable weather conditions?



<http://mcrca.org/>

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for August 18, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm, by Mike N8KUF.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: One new member, no upgrades and one guest. Caroline Roocroft, scholarship

MINUTES: Motion by Dale WA8EFK, supported by Keith KJ8H, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Wes KC8SKP, supported by Keith KJ8H, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Mike N8KUF, Dx info in the Herald. Dale WA8EFK, announced that there have been 3 major solar flares and there should be some Northern Lights tonight. The bands should go crazy.

CONTESTING: Mike N8KUF, QSO parties from Paul were shown on the projector screen for all to see.

CLASSES: Sat. October 8, 2022 contact Don N8BZN. Three out of five passed at last Saturday's session.

Fred needs Email addresses for Rick Wykle KE8UNH, and Bill Mercer KE8TPU send to ka8ebi@yahoo.com

FOX HUNT: Mike N8KUF – Sept. 10, 2022 - 9:00 am EMD on Raisinville Rd.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. Aug. 20, 2022. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

ARPSC: Ed K8FGT, The ARPSK meeting is moved to Sept. 8th instead of the 1st. and training will stay on the 3rd. Coming up this Fall will be the S.E.T. in October, more to come in next month's Herald.

ARRL: **Each new ARRL member earns the club a \$15.00 commission.** New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal now earns the club a \$5.00 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program. <https://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits#:~:text=Each%20new%20ARRL%20member%20earns,can%20earn%20in%20this%20program.>

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, Pretty much everything is working, there was a small issue with the Dundee ID being too loud. Dundee's temporary repeater getting reprogrammed and some work in Ida 72 with a small downtime.

OLD BUSINESS: Mike N8KUF, talked about the scholarship process and made the presentation to the Scholarship winner Caroline Roocroft from Ida.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: John WA8YZB, and Peter KC8AZZ
50/50: George KB8OSU donated his winnings to the scholarship.

PROGRAM: Video

ADJOURNED: 8:15 pm

ATTENDANCE: 17	WA8EFK Dale	W8IIE Dave	K8OF Doug
K8FGT Ed	K8EBI Fred	KB8OSU George	WD8NWF James
WA8YZB John	KJ8H Keith	N8KUF Mike	KA8PQH Neil
KC8AZZ Peter	KE8NSU Tony	KC8SKP Wes	KE8TPU Bill
N8OSC Tom	Caroline Roocroft, shscholarship		

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

Ron Duvall KE8OSX

Membership

Terry Kolton N8NYP

n8nyp@arrl.net

Property Custodian

Paul Trouten W8PI

ARPSC Report

Falling into the next season on the calendar....

The 2022 Monroe County Simulated Emergency Test will be held Saturday October 8th starting around 8am. The format will be a bit different this year and hopefully will provide some excitement, fun and camaraderie. Watch the ARPSC FB page for info, or make sure I have your email. REMEMBER, you do NOT have to be an ARPSC member to participate. Just like Field Day, this is an opportunity for everyone to practice and participate.

The SET is ARRL's primary national emergency exercise and is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers, as well as those affiliated with other organizations involved in emergency and disaster response.

The SET encourages maximum participation by all radio amateurs, partner organizations, and national, state, and local officials who typically engage in emergency or disaster response. In addition to ARES volunteers, those active in the National Traffic System (NTS), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN®, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and a variety of other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are needed to fulfill important roles in this nationwide exercise.

The SET offers volunteers an opportunity to test equipment, modes, and skills under simulated emergency conditions and scenarios. Individuals can use the time to update a "go-kit" for use during deployments and to ensure their home station's operational capability in an emergency or disaster. To get involved, contact me via email at my callsign @yahoo.com, sign up on the ARPSC web page or during a Monday night ARES Net 8pm on the 146.720MHz (72 Monroe) repeater.

The final FERMI EOC drill is next Tuesday September 20th and as before, will require the use of the 72 Monroe and Ida repeaters from 8am until early afternoon, this will include Echolink and IRLP features. Once the drill activates we will ask for check-ins through out the day looking for operators to check in for simulated assignments. There would be no physical activation or participation required, it would occur all on paper. If you are going to be around your radio on Tuesday and can check in, please do. We do ask that you move any QSO's to another frequency during the time frame of the drill to allow the 72 and Ida repeaters to be used for this drill.

There are a handful of public service and training events coming this fall. To make it easier to participate, there is now a signup form at the bottom of the "calendar" tab on the MCARPSC webpage. Look for the red **"Event Sign up Form Link"**, click and add your information. Some of these events require operators to have a county issued ID tag to participate; these will be noted on the sign up.

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 usually the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. The next meeting is Thursday October 6th where we will discuss the upcoming Monroe Simulated Emergency Test.

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.

73
Lance Charter
KE8BYC
Emergency Coordinator
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps



Yes, amateur radio is still a thing: Here's why

Seth Price

31 August 2022

Amateur or “ham” radio is a method of two-way communication. At first glance, it resembles Citizen’s Band (CB) radio or perhaps walkie-talkies, but there is much more to it. Amateur radio has more capabilities beyond what is possible with a walkie talkie or CB radio.

Besides local communication, as is possible with a CB radio, amateur radio can be used to bounce signals off layers of the ionosphere, a layer of the Earth’s atmosphere with free electrons and ions due to incoming solar radiation. Because this layer is high above the Earth’s surface, these reflective layers can be used to bounce signals long distances, making amateur radio a world-wide communication method.

Communication modes

Unlike CB, amateur radio also allows for multiple communication modes: generally grouped into voice modes, continuous wave (CW) or digital modes.

Voice modes are probably the most obvious; each operator speaks into a microphone. However, inside of voice modes are Amplitude Modulation (AM), Frequency Modulation (FM) and Single Side Band (SSB), all of which take the operator’s voice, mix in a high frequency and send the signal to an operator elsewhere. The operator’s radio then removes the high frequency, and the audio will come through their speaker.

CW is a method of sending Morse Code. Morse Code is simply the agreed upon sets of “dits” and “dahs” used to make letters and words, and CW is an on/off switch to an oscillator that sends tones when switched on. In other words, CW is the original digital mode, “on” sends a tone and “off” sends nothing. CW is still very popular, as it tends to be more audible through noise.

Digital modes are also very popular and grow by leaps and bounds each year. In these, the amateur radio operator inputs words on a computer, which then packages the characters into a signal to be sent through the radio. There are many different digital modes, with “FT8” being the most popular. Others include phase shift keying 31 Hz, radio teletype and many others. With amateur radio, new modes can be created by amateur radio operators, provided they meet FCC guidelines.

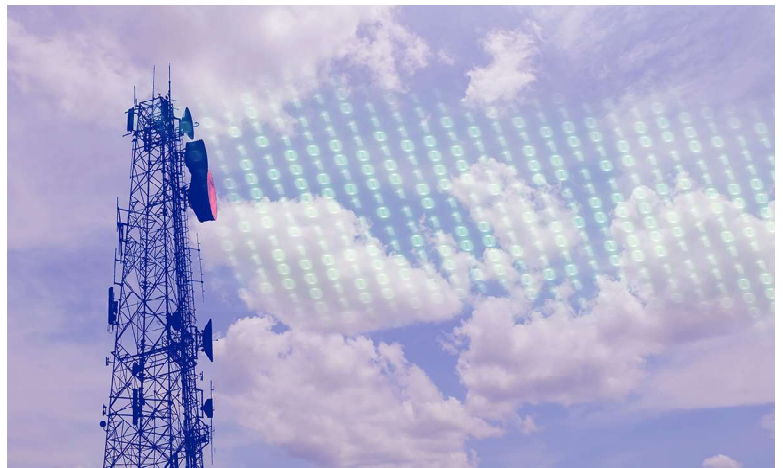
Applications

In the earlier days of amateur radio, it was a way to communicate with the rest of the world. Before the internet and smartphones, talking with people at the opposite side of the country or even in different countries was difficult. Amateur radio solved this problem by allowing for long distance communication for reasons like current events, geographical exploration and cultural study.

Homebrewing

In amateur radio parlance, homebrewing refers to DIY setups and equipment, as amateur radio’s early days were filled with experimenters. Because radio was a new science, amateur radio operators were constantly pushing the technological envelope with new antenna designs, filters and other hardware, as well as communication protocols. Even during its mature

Continued next page



Amateur allows for long distance communication for reasons like current events, geographical exploration and cultural study. Source: Tum/Adobe

age, software packages for modulating communication modes, logging contacts, programming radios and the like were developed by tinkerers and experimenters. Many ham radio operators still use homebrew equipment.

Homebrewing is one of the fastest growing fields in amateur radio. In the early days, radio experts built [antennas](#) and hardware. Many of today's homebrewers still do so, but there is a rise in microcontrollers and programming as well. Microcontrollers like Arduino, or small computers – Raspberry Pi being the most notable – have been used to make programmable keyers for Morse Code, automatic position reporting system trackers for tracking a mobile station's location, modulators for various communication modes, power monitoring devices and a host of other projects.

Emergency communication

Smartphones and wireless internet connections are nice but require a substantial amount of infrastructure to be reliable. The reliability decreases, though, during disasters or emergency situations, such as the power outages over Texas in the winter of 2021, or Hurricane Katrina back in 2005. Even a localized set of severe storms can hamper communication networks for days, leaving first responders without adequate communication.

Amateur radio operators have often stepped up to help during emergency situations. Organizations such as Amateur Radio Emergency Services train members to work with emergency organizations, lending their radio expertise to pair with rescuers, set up communication centers and assist accordingly. Most local, county and state emergency organizations have established working relationships with the amateur radio community.

Contesting and radio sport

Outside of the practical and educational uses of amateur radio, radio hobbies are also popular. There exists many radio contests, where operators attempt as many contacts in a short amount of time as possible or in as far a distance as possible. Some contests, such as the American Radio Relay League Field Day, emphasize aspects of emergency communications, where extra points are awarded for the use of solar panels over commercial power, yet also rely on making as many contacts as possible in a given timeframe.

Besides contests, there are reliability awards like the "Worked All States," "Worked All Counties" and awards for working different numbers of "DX" or foreign stations. DX100 is awarded for working 100 countries.

Where to start

With great power comes greater responsibility, and amateur radio is no exception. As an amateur radio operator, worldwide communication is possible. The opportunity of interfering with existing [radio](#) infrastructure, including emergency communications, is always present. Because of this, amateur radio operators must be licensed through the FCC. There are three license classes that must be taken sequentially. Each brings new privileges, adding new swaths of the electromagnetic spectrum for which the ham can communicate.

The first is a Technician class license, which consists of a multiple-choice test on rules and regulations of operation and some basic electronic and radio knowledge. Once this exam is passed, the FCC will issue an official amateur radio callsign – similar to a codename – for self-identification during communications. The technician class license is good for voice communications on VHF and UHF bands for talking locally, as well the 10 m HF band, which can be used for very long-distance communications. CW is allowed on a few bands as well.



Homebrewing is one of the fastest growing fields in amateur radio. Source: phadventure/Adobe

After the Technician class license, there is the General class license. It also requires an exam focused more heavily on radio and electronics. Once passed, the operator gets more voice privileges on long distance bands (12 m, 15 m, 17 m, 20 m, 40 m, 60 m, 80 m and 160 m).

The final license class is the Amateur Extra exam, which dives deeply into electronics and radio theory. While the operator gets some new privileges by passing this exam, it is not as substantial of a gain as from the General class. However, the parts of the bands are more frequented by rare DX (foreign) stations, meaning they are choice pieces of each band.

The future of amateur radio

Once dismissed as an “old man’s hobby,” amateur radio has grown in popularity since the COVID-19 pandemic. Many who were familiar with the hobby found time to explore and even meet new people without leaving home.

The digital modes have breathed new life into amateur radio, where hams are constantly developing new communication protocols and building homebrew equipment and software to communicate with. Learning about electronics through hands-on activities appeals to folks from all ages.

Amateur radio is an ever-evolving hobby that will remain relevant for quite some time to come.

MCRCA Foxhunt #3 Sep 10, 2022

Mike N8KUF fulfilled the Fox Duties

The FOX was located At the Hoffman Memorial fishing site on Lake St. in Bolles Harbor

Shortest possible route per Google Maps = 7.3 Miles

Straight line distance = 5.72 Miles

Hunters

Team 1 and Team 2 – Tied for First Place

Paul W8PI and Vickie

Peter KC8AZZ and Debbie KC8CCR

Fox found at Approx. 11:20

Miles = 13.6

Team 3 – Did Not Find (DNF)

Fred K8EBI and Brenda KB8KQZ

Fox not Found (apparently zigged when they should have zagged)

Miles = Way TOO many to tally



What a beautiful day for a foxhunt!! The weather was partly sunny with temperatures ranging from mid 60's to upper 70's over the duration of the hunt. A gentle breeze made the “feels like” conditions just about perfect.

Thanks to everybody who was able to attend and participate. Peter and Debbie were first time hunters and tagged along in learning mode with Paul and Vickie while taking their own readings and collaborating on course.

This was the final scheduled hunt for 2022. We'll look forward to much more fun, challenges, and participation in the upcoming 2023 season.

Respectfully submitted – Mike N8KUF – 2022 Foxhunt Chair



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.

MADAGASCAR, 5R. Operators Ron, PA3EWP, Guenter, DL2AWG, Erno, DK2AMM and Gerben, PG5M will be active as 5R8WP, 5R8WG, 5R8MM and 5R8CG, respectively, from October 11 to 22. They will operate two stations simultaneously on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL 5R8WP, 5R8WG and 5R8MM via DL2AWG, ClubLog and LoTW. QSL 5R8CG via PG5M, ClubLog and LoTW.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS, FW. Jean, F4CIX continues to be active as FW1JG. Look for him on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters using SSB and FT8/FT4. QSL via LoTW, ClubLog or direct.

REUNION, FR. Michal, OK1WMR will be QRV as FR/OK1M until September 12. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8. QSL via OK1M.

MAYOTTE, FH. Michal, OK1WMR then moves on to Mayotte as FH/OK1M from September 13 to 25. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8. He will also be in the CQWW DX RTTY Contest. QSL via OK1M.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Vincent, K6VVK will be QRV as FO/K6VVK from September 27 to October 5. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8/FT4. QSL only via LoTW, ClubLog, eQSL and QRZ.com's Log Book. No direct or Bureau QSLs.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Operators Ron, DG2RON, Olaf, DJ7TO, Werner, DJ9KH, Heye, DJ9RR, Rudolf, DK3CG, Frank, DL1KWK, Norbert, DL2RNS, Georg, DL4SVA, Christian, DL6KAC, Olaf, DL7JOM and Rolf, DL7VEE will be active as P29RO from October 25 to November 10. Operations will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 (F/H). QSL via DL4SVA, direct, by the Bureau, Club's OQRS and LoTW.

CURACAO, PJ2. Frank, PH2M will be QRV as PJ2/PH2M from September 10 to 25. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using mainly FT8. QSL via PH2M, by the Bureau, direct, ClubLog or LoTW.

ICELAND, TF. Operators George, K5KG, Steve, K4EU and Tom, K4NMR will be active as TF/K5KG, TF/K4EU and TF/K4NMR from September 6 to 20.

BENIN, TY. Operators Tapani, OH5BM, Pekka, OH2TA and Timo, OH5LLR will be active as TY5AF from November 22 to 29. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. They will also focus on the CQWW DX CW Contest as a Multi-Op entry.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Look for Jim, NU4Y and Ron, N4KE as VP5DX from October 20 to November 2. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, as well as participating in the CQWW DX

SSB Contest as a Multi-Single/ Low-Power entry. QSL via NU4Y, LoTW or ClubLog.

TIMOR LESTE, 4W. Satoshi, JH2EUV will be active as 4W/JH2EUV until September 20. Activity has been mainly using FT8 on 20, 15, 12 and 10 meters. QSL via JH2EUV, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW.

MOROCCO, 5C40. Operators Abderrahmane, CN8QR, Hafid, CN8GFH and Mustapha, CN8GC are QRV with special call signs 5C40QR, 5C40GFH and 5C40GC, respectively, until September 12, in memory of Kharbouch, CN8KD, who became a Silent Key on August 3. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL 5C40QR via CN8WW, 5C40GFH via CN8GFH and 5C40GC via CN8WW.

BERMUDA, VP9. Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as SP9FIH/VP9 from September 23 to October 2. Look for him on 30, 17, 15 and 12 meters using SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW.

UNITED STATES, WA2. Station WA2NYC is a remembrance of the 21st anniversary on the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. The station will operate from 0000z, September 11 to 0300z, September 12. QSL via LoTW. If you would like a QSL card, please send an SASE to the club address: Wireless Association Of New York City, 233 Wolverine St, Staten Island, NY 10306-1746, USA.

SAUDI ARABIA, HZ. The Saudi Amateur Radio Society (SARS) announced the 92nd Saudi National Day celebration will take place from September 7 to 25 with special event stations HZ92ND, 7Z92ND and 8Z92ND. QSL all via HZ1SAR.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Tina, DL5YL and Fred, DL5YM are QRV holiday style as HB0/home calls on 160 to 6 meters using CW and some SSB and RTTY. QSL via home calls (d/B).

ITU GENEVA, 4U. Look for 4U1ITU with operators PA2CHR and PA3CMC from September 13 to 16 from the club station at ITU Headquarters. QSL via LoTW, Club Log OQRS or direct.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA, 5J01/5K0. Operators Francisco, HK3EA and Gabriel, HK3MKQ will be active as 5J01EA and 5K0VT, respectively, from February 28 to March 5, 2023. Activity will be on various HF bands and modes. QSL via LoTW and eQSL.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The VHF FOC QSO Party, WAE DX Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Ohio State Parks on the Air, Alabama QSO Party, Russian Cup Digital Contest, 50 and up ARRL September VHF Contest and the North American Sprint will keep contesters busy this weekend. The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is on September 12 and the VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest is on September 14. Please see September QST, page 72 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

Registrations preferred
Call for information.
email address and FRN required

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

September 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

One Day Bi-Monthly Technician classes

Next class will be October 8, 2022

The Monroe County Radio Communications Association (MCRCA) is offering a one-day Amateur Radio course for the entry level Technician class license. The class will run from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM on the **second Saturday of every even numbered month**. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch, snacks and beverages. The test will be conducted immediately following the class and has a separate fee of \$14. These classes will be held at the Red Cross building, 1645 N Dixie Hwy, Monroe, MI 48162.

There is a maximum class size of 10 people on a first come first served basis and you should sign up no later than 1 week before the class. All study material and testing paperwork will be provided at the time you sign up and you should plan on doing some pre-class studying to make things easier in the class.

If you are interested in becoming a Ham Radio Operator, please call or email me to get signed up for the next class.

N8BZN Don Fritz / (419) 345-4495 after 6PM / Donfritz56@gmail.com

New MCRCA Members

Please welcome recent new members to the club.

Tom Hughey KE8UDH and Bill Mercer KE8TPU