

The Hertzian Herald



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D Fritz Bitz:



I was ordering parts for the 5 or so receivers I am refurbishing the other day. I told my wife I was getting my winter projects in order and she told me she had plenty of winter projects for me. It looked like it may be a long winter so I ordered more parts.

I have been working for the past few weeks to organize my shack a little better. I ordered some new coax switches and am making new power and coax jumpers with custom lengths to reduce the clutter. I have a bad habit of grabbing a 10-foot cord out of the box to do a 2 foot job. I am re-configuring my workbench and ham shack to make room in my basement for a solar project so it's a good time to go over the whole thing and clean it up.

One of the project receivers is the Hallicrafters SX-100 that I used for several years with an Eldico SSB-100 transmitter as my main station. As a novice I used this setup to make several 5 wpm CW contacts many years ago. It stopped working a couple years ago and it is high on my list of things to make work again. Most of the receivers are things I have purchased over the last couple of years that just need re-capped and they will work fine. A couple need more serious work but that's fine, I need the practice.

I am also going to clean out my barn this winter but that is a dumpster project. (maybe several) My new rule is that if I haven't used it in at least 5 years and I can afford another one, it either gets sold if it has value, or thrown away if it doesn't. That will eliminate a lot of things from the barn. That will be good too because I have a couple of repeater projects I need to do in the barn. It's too tough to get the big cabinets in the basement so the barn works fine.

10 meters has been open almost daily to somewhere. I listen to 29.6 FM quite a bit and have talked to several people from the west coast over the past few weeks. If I have time during the day I scrub the 10-meter band and almost always find someone. I hope to spend a little more time in the shack this winter than I have in the past couple of years. That is if she doesn't find too many other projects for me. I'm going down to order more parts

Hope to see everyone at the Christmas party!

So, until next month, 73.

Don Fritz
N8BZN



<http://mcrca.org/>

[www.facebook.com/
groups/
1643856795878368/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/)

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm, by Don N8BZN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades and 1 guests. Bruce Chapin

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Scott W8SMB, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, DXpeditions beginning – South of the Equator, some called off due to weather. Bouvet is training Mountain climbers to install their antennas. Tom also displayed some Baluns, UNUNs, and a spider beam mast.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, displayed a list of forth coming contests with sweepstakes included. CQ World-Wide CW this weekend. Paul also reported on Field Day – MCRCA was #1 in 2A Michigan, #2 in Great Lakes Division, and top 8% in North America.

CLASSES: Sat. December 10, 2022 contact Don N8BZN, Important for students to study before class, December 1st is cut-off date. If no applications, class will not be held.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. Dec. 17, 2022. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

ARPSC: Next meeting is December 1st, at EMD. It will be a planning meeting.

ARRL: \$238,000 in grants to be awarded. New contest in 2023 for volunteers held via LoTW.

RRRA: Updates on equipment, new battery - working on minor problem with Echolink.

OLD BUSINESS: Don N8BZN, set up a lending library in club station – sheet provided for sign-out and return in one month. Accepting donations of similar books to expand the collection.

NEW BUSINESS: Christmas Party Dec. 15 at Monroe Country Club Estates Community Room.

Don N8BZN proposed to contribute \$500 to RRRA to cover emergency fund if antenna work is needed. Motion by Keith KJ8H, and seconded by Paul W8PI. Passed 100%.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Keith KJ8H

50/50: Tony KE8NSU

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tom N8OSC announced a fund raiser for wounded law enforcement officer.

PROGRAM: Tom KG8P, Comoros D60AE Dxpedition

ADJOURNED: 8:45 pm

ATTENDANCE: 16

NM8I Barb
WD8NWF James
KA8PQH Neil
KG8P Tom

WA8EFK Dale
WA8YZB John
W8PI Paul
KE8NSU Tony

N8BZN Don
KJ8H Keith
W8SMB Scott
KC8SKP Wes

K8FGT Ed
N8KUF Mike
N8OSC Tom
Bruce Chapin

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

December is here and with that we are facing a new year again,

With a heavy heart, I must announce that Mike Karmol N8KUF is stepping down as AEC for the Monroe ARPSC Team. Mike has spent decades with the Monroe team in a leadership role including several stints as EC. His knowledge, skill, and steady leadership style has supported the team and has set it up for our current successful position. His departure leaves a VERY BIG pair of shoes to fill, and we wish him all the best along with a very heartfelt THANK YOU!!

Even though Mike has stepped down, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Wheeler W8MCW as an AEC for the Monroe team. Mark brings decades of experience and leadership to the team.

Also, with the growth of the team, I have decided it is time to add a 4th AEC to assist with team leadership and also to liaison with our county served agencies and local clubs, which includes MCRCA. I am pleased to announce Ed Keller K8FGT has been appointed as the 4th AEC/Liaison spot. While newer to Amateur radio, Ed also brings experience and leadership to the team.

I would like to once again wish Mike all the best and Thank him for his time growing the ARPSC team, and also welcome Mark and Ed to their new roles!!

I also want to take this time to say THANK YOU to all of YOU for your time and assistance promoting and making Monroe ARPSC one of the best teams in the state this year!! Best Wishes to everyone during this holiday season and as we look forward to an exciting 2023!!

Don't forget to participate in the weekly Monday night ARPSC net at 8pm on 72 Monroe, and be sure to tune in Monday Dec 19th for a special annual Holiday announcement at the end of the net!!

ARPSC meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. However please note the next meeting is Jan 12th NOT Jan 5th.

As always Thanks to the club and the club webmaster for linking to 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



Christmas party plans for December 15, 2022

The December Christmas Party of the MCRCA will be held, in the Community Room, at **Monroe Country Club Estates, 5840 E. Dunbar Rd.** about a quarter of a mile West of S. Dixie Hwy. Travel straight in the driveway and it's the first building on the right.

We will need a small crew to meet there at 5:00 pm to help unload and set-up for the party. **Guests will start arriving at 6:00 pm.**

The club will be providing chicken, kielbasa n sauerkraut, and potatoes au gratin. There will also be some soft drinks (pop) and bottled water, along with coffee. The club will provide all paper ware and plastic ware, along with plastic and coffee cups.

Members are asked to bring a dish to pass, or some kind of desert or goodie that you may have created.

The Five Types of Operators You Don't Want to Be

Posted by Mark Haverstock, K8MSH on August 19, 2022 at 7:37 pm

Sometimes amateur radio demonstrates that our technical skills are a little sharper than our people skills, according to Riley Hollingsworth, former Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division. He noted that operators could be more courteous and less inclined to fly off the handle at some perceived on-the-air offense, or, in other words, "You need to lighten up."

Don't engage people like the ones listed below; it only encourages them. "Stupidity can't be regulated, no matter how good the rules are," says Hollingsworth. "Just turn the big knob. Every rig has one."

Mr. Know-It-All

A know-it-all is someone who thinks they have all the answers. They have strong opinions on almost everything and believe they're right all the time. Some people just want to prove how smart or knowledgeable they are, and we seem to cross paths with them at one time or another.

Know-it-alls may be intelligent, but it's important to remember that they are also arrogant. They believe they possess all the knowledge that others don't know, and they start forcing it into the conversation—constantly talking about facts, correcting others, and speaking just to show off their knowledge. Also, they are never wrong. Could you imagine? A know-it-all who says they're wrong? Not in a million years.

Know-it-alls are great at giving unsolicited advice. During a QSO several years ago, I encountered one. We both exchanged details about our radios and antennas. At the time, I had a G5RV. After sharing that information, I got a five-minute lecture on why my antenna wasn't any good, what was wrong with the design, and a suggestion to use something else—accompanied by more details. Interesting, since he gave me a 59 signal report.

Even worse are the pseudo know-it-alls. They have some limited knowledge and think that's all there is to know. As the saying goes, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Facts? Who needs them. If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with BS.

Motor Mouth

When I hear hams rag chewing to excess, I find myself thinking, "Please, just stop talking and remove your thumb from the mic switch." The same ones have a habit of appearing again and again. You often hear about what the XYL made for dinner, updates on everyone's arthritic conditions, and complaints about why everything's so expensive. I could overlook content like this if someone, somewhere would just unkey the mic occasionally, take a breath, and maybe let someone else talk for a while.

We have a local ham who takes great pleasure in timing out the repeater—he sees it as a challenge. I'm sure that anyone who has listened to conversations other than the exchange of signal reports and grid references has bumped into someone like this. The repeater is a soapbox, providing a venue for the Motor Mouth to promote his or her particular world view to the rest of us. In ham radio, as in real life, too many people are more interested in talking at you rather than talking with you.

Want a lesson? Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it daily. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.

Then there's the opposite extreme—hams that sometimes really don't seem to have anything to talk about. Their conversations tend to be about the local weather and comparing it to weather patterns from the past 50 years, what they just ate and what they intend to eat later, and agreeing with any cliché you might throw into the exchange. Mobile conversations are full of "Well, I'm going to the store," eventually followed by "Well, I just left the store and here's what I bought." Every conversation can't be exciting and thought-provoking, but maybe sometimes these guys can mix it up a bit.

Radio Cop

Ham radio is more or less a self-policing system. Due to lack of personnel and resources, the FCC generally doesn't get involved anymore unless there are continued and serious violations. However, there are those who police the bands like a mall security guard on Black Friday, discouraging new ops as well as more experienced ones. Arrogant, self-righteous, and condescending hams are bad for the hobby. If ham radio was left in their hands, it would eventually become extinct. Tact and courtesy are essential skills.

Continued next page

You can't blame a person for getting upset if they find someone transmitting without call signs or in portions of the band they are not authorized to use. But they should take a more instructive and positive approach by explaining the problem and encouraging the operator by example. In addition to self-policing, we are also a self-teaching/mentoring group.

Want to do something helpful and constructive? Participate in the ARRL Volunteer Monitoring program. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL monitor the amateur bands for possible instances of misconduct or to recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations or noncompliance will be directed to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines.

The Instigator

There's always someone who wants to antagonize, stir the pot, or poke the bear. There was one infamous California repeater that had only one rule—there were no rules. That left the door open for any kind of talk, including verbal abuse, politics, religion, and sexual topics. A ham who made the mistake of calling on the repeater to ask if his signal was clear was told, "It's fine, stupid. Now shut up and get the hell out of here."

During one five-minute period, various hams heard themselves labeled on the notorious repeater as a lying scumbag, pothead, and drunken fool. But that's a relatively mild example—racial and gender insults, the "F" word, and slang for body parts and functions were also part of the conversation. Heated debates on abortion, police brutality, and Supreme Court confirmation hearings were common topics.

Such comments and attitudes give ham radio a black eye. There are people listening on scanners, and when they hear such comments on the air they assume all hams are like this—and they're not. It's bad press for the ham radio community, and some tactful peer pressure needs to be applied.

The Lid

Many sources agree that the term "lid" originated during the early 1900s. It was used by telegraph operators to describe someone who was an inexperienced or poor operator. One early mention of the word related to radio appeared in the story "Gold Braid" published in *Boy's Life*, February 1932. "A lid is a radio operator who is either fresh from school or hasn't taken the trouble to learn to use his head and his fist at the same time."

So what things potentially make you a lid?

- Use really snazzy phonetic IDs—the more humorous, the better. "This is W3SOS, whisky three smelly old socks."
- Call DX stations operating split on the same frequency they're calling CQ. Ignore the "up 103 that others are screaming."
- Use excessive microphone gain to see just how loud you can make your audio.
- Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie up a repeater so you can entertain all the scanner listeners out there.
- Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. You will score maximum "lid points" if you are mobile and have the radio lying in the passenger seat, preferably covered with a coat or grocery bag.

Of course, this is just a small sampling of lid behaviors.

Embrace Change and Growth

As their experience grows, many amateurs become more expert, courteous, and knowledgeable, which is how it should be. But the real troublemakers are rarely the newcomers to amateur radio. When I first got on the air in the 1960s, the old hams grumbled at the new, less experienced hams—who were all lids according to them. Now that I'm old, I listen to some of the newbies and grumble.

Return of the Wouff-Hong

It seems that poor and inconsiderate operators are creeping into the bands daily. Like a game of Whack-A-Mole, the offenders always seem to escape. If we look back into the history of ham radio, an ultimate weapon exists to maintain order and peace on the bands. Just speaking its name brought fear and respect to the hearts of ham radio operators everywhere.

Do the **Wouff-Hong** and Rettysnitch still hold their mystical power over us today?

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, 4 Carl Dr, Monroe, MI 48162.

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 _____ RRRRA 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 – DIGITAL - PACKET - RTTY - FM - DX - MOBILE - EME - SAT - ATV - SSTV

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

NIGER, 5U. Giorgio, IU5HWS is currently active as 5UA99WS, mostly on 15 meter SSB until December 20. QSL direct via EA5GL, OQRS or LoTW.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Andre, ON7YK is QRV as C5YK during his spare time until February 24, 2023, mostly on 10 and 12 meters, and also on 20, 17 and 15 meters using CW and digital modes. QSL direct via ON7YK or LoTW.

WILLIS ISLAND, VK9/W. Sands, VU2WXW/VK4WXW, is working at the Meteorology Weather Station until April. He has been on 40, 20 and 15 meters and hopes to add 17, 12 and 10 meters as well. QSL via Club Log.

BANGLADESH, S2. Team S21DX will be active from Dhal Char Island (AS-140) from December 10 to 16 December. Plans are for eight operators (S21AM, S21BK, S21D, S21IT, S21MK, S21OM, S21RC and S21TG) to be QRV with two SSB stations, one FT8 (F/H) station, and one station for QO-100 satellite (SSB). QSL direct to EB7DX. All QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW or Club Log.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO and will be operating as XT2AW until December 18 on HF and via QO-100. QSL via M0OXO (OQRS), LoTW or direct.

LAOS, XW. Vincent, XW4KV plans to activate 12 locator grids via QO-100, until December 23. HF operation is expected as well from December 13 to 18. QSL via F4BVK (d/B), OQRS or LoTW.

SENEGAL, 6W. Earl, WA3DX will sign WA3DX/6W, from December 22 to January 20, mostly on 20 meter SSB and FT8, but also on 40 to 10, 2 meters and 70 cm FM, and APRS. He will also be QRV as 6W1/WA3DX, 6W6/WA3DX, and 6W9/WA3DX. QSL direct to home call or LoTW.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO will be active as XT2AW until December 17. He is operating CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4 on HF and plans to be QRV on QO-100 as well. QSL via M0OXO's OQRS.

ALBANIA, ZA. Burkhard, DL3KZA is active as ZA/DL3KZA until December 13 on 40 to 17 meters, using mostly FT8. QSL via home call, direct or via the Bureau.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Vadim, R6CA will be active as 8Q7CA from December 13 to 22. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via LoTW, Club Log OQRS or via home call.

CEUTA AND MELILLA, EA9. Yuris, YL2GM signs EA9/YL7A or EA9/YL2GM from Ceuta until December 12 on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via home call.

ANTARCTICA, VP8. Seba, SQ1SGB will be operating as VP8/SQ1SGB/p during his spare time, until February 1, 2023. He is QRV on 40 and 20 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via EB7DX.

SPAIN, EA. Special event station EE44C celebrates the 44th anniversary of Spain's present constitution until December 18. QSL direct via EC5WR, LoTW or eQSL. Also, EH5FPM operates around the Patron Saint Festivities of Mazarron until December 11. QSL to EA5JDN via the Bureau, eQSL or LoTW.

HAWAII, KH6. Jim, N6TJ will sign KH7Q from the KH6YY station this weekend in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. This will be a mixed mode effort using SSB and CW. QSL via AH6NF.

ENGLAND, G. The RSGB holds their Transatlantic Centenary Tests throughout December, commemorating the tests towards the first transatlantic contact on HF. Look for special call signs G5WS, G5AT, G6XX, G6ZZ, G3DR, and GM3DR. Additional calls may also be used from other parts of the country: GM5WS (Scotland), GW5WS (Wales), GU5WS (Guernsey), GD5WS (Isle of Man), GJ5WS (Jersey) and GI5WS (Northern Ireland). QSL via M0OXO. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and Club Log.

FINLAND, OH. The Market Reef DX Association station, OH9A operates with the call sign OH1XMAS until December 26 on all bands and modes. QSL via Club Log OQRS or direct.

ARGENTINA, LU. Hernan, LU1COP will be active as LP1A/E from Isla Martin Garcia until December 11, operating SSB and FT8 on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via LoTW or EA7FTR.

BELGIUM, ON. The UBA Section Bruxelles-Est (ON5UB) will be active as OR78NUTS from December 9 to 11 to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. The suffix of the special call sign is General Anthony C. McAuliffe's famous single-word reply in response to a surrender ultimatum. QSL via ON5UB.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Celebrating Christmas and the New Year, special call sign PH22XMAS will be active until December 28, while PH23HNY will be QRV from December 28 to January 31. QSL cards will not be available.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10-Meter Contest, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, TRC Digi Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, ARI 40/80 Contest, International Naval Contest, QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint, CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run and the 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are all on tap for your contesting pleasure. Please see December 2022 QST, page 59 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

December 15th at 6:00 pm
Monroe Country Club Estates
5840 E. Dunbar Rd.
Community Room

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.