

The Hertzian Herald



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Hail Caesar, Hail MCRCA members, the Ides of March are upon us. It's hard to look back at the bad weather events of recent weeks and know some have suffered. Some of you have experienced snow, sleet rain, freezing rain and long term power outages during 2 separate ice storms. I have a friend in Dundee that was 8 days, then 5 days without mains power. I'm sure some of you had the same misfortune. The last time an outage happened to me I lost about \$500 in food. Go figure that my insurance had a \$500 deductible. I hope you all survived these events with little, if any loss. Better weather is coming soon, but keep your batteries charged just in case.



IN TOUCH WITH HUTCH

Thanks to Tom for the DX update and the improved projector for our meetings. Super nice of him to share it with the club.

The [ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB](#) contest was March 4 & 5th and is a big contest that Technicians have success with their 200w privilege on 10m. I hope some of you took advantage of the opportunity. I logged 435 contacts and 9 new countries (entities really) in about 20 hours of operating. It was exhilarating and fun too. My voice is still recovering. You can find current and future info on contests at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

The South America 10m contest starts 12:00 Sat the 11th and ends Sunday 12:00. I hope to operate at least some of it. The Oklahoma and Idaho QSO partys also are on Sat. March 11

Virginia QSO Party: 1400Z, Mar 18 to 0400Z, Mar 19 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 19. Some more obscure contests March 18,19 are the **All Africa International DX Contest: 1200Z, Mar 18 to 1200Z, Mar 19** , **Russian DX Contest: 1200Z, Mar 18 to 1200Z, Mar 19**

Looking forward

ARPSC Erie Race for Kids June 10 Need hand held operators 7:30 am (you should be home by noon.) July 4th Dunndee 8:45 to 12:00 or so. info <https://monroearpsc.wordpress.com/upcoming-public-service-events/>

RRRA meeting May 6th see Mike N8KUF

TMRA Hamfest at Owens Community College 30335 Oregon Rd Sunday March 19th \$10. Admission.

The MCRCA Hamfest is Sunday June 18th this year and will be upon us before you know it. Your help has made us successful in the past and I'm depending on your help this year to carry on the tradition. I've been told it is the largest in Michigan and I'm sure many depend on it to supply their shacks with more gear, or shed some.

Cont'd next page

<http://mcrca.org/>

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

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I hope you are setting some time aside for our Field Day activities this year June 24-25. Info is on the MCRCA web site. Great time to get contest skills and to get to know each other. Please plan to help with radio operations if you can, to beat last year's score. Pot luck dinner, but the club provides main course on the grill and drinks too!

The offer to help or find out who CAN help is a standing offer. Don't be afraid to ask for help. The info you get could save you time and money \$. I spent some \$ buying things I really don't have any use for. With better info I could have had a steak dinner instead.

Thanks and see you at our next meeting,
Keith Hutchinson
KJ8H
keithhutch999@gmail.com
HamShack Hotline # 6100000411



MCRCA Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Keith KJ8H.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions: No new members, upgrades and one guest.

MINUTES: Motion by Mike N8KUF, supported by Dale WA8EFK, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Don N8BZN, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, Crozet Island, a difficult one, #3 out of 300 will be there till March 13-15th. Bouvet Island 3Y0J, bad weather hampered back and forth to island. 3B6 or 7 St. Brandon Island, till March 5th. 17th Cocos Keeling island. Bands are not crap but OK.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, Feb 18th ARRL INTL DX CW contest, March 4th ARRL INTL DX SSB contest. March 25th CQ WW WPX SSB contest, this is a big one. Upcoming State QSO parties, SC NC OK ID VA

CLASSES: Sat. April 8, 2023 contact Don N8BZN, two people passed the last class.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. Feb. 18, 2023. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

ARPSC: Ed WS8Y, first Thursday of the month are the ARPSC meetings at the EMD. March 9th will be Skywarn in Bedford. March 14th will be an on air Skywarn drill with multiple counties involved. June 10th Erie Race for Kids will need 13 operators for this event. ARPSC website has a link and more information.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, Volunteers on the air is going good, you can sign up for W1AW mobile ops. go to ARRL and sign up. ARRL has a program to train club officers to make clubs run better with videos etc.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, Made tweaks and improvements – all repeaters are working OK. Annual dues run from May 1st to May 1st. now taking dues. The feedline tie-wraps were fixed and all is good now. The annual meeting will be the first Saturday in May.

OLD BUSINESS: Nada

Cont'd next page

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

Membership
Terry Kolton N8NYP
n8nyp@arrl.net

Property Custodian
Paul Trouten W8PI

NEW BUSINESS: Soon the Government will regulate high altitude balloons. Terry N8NYP is working on a possible TV13 tour for the club.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Keith KJ8H, and Terry N8NYP

50/50: Brian Paules donated to the scholarship fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Don N8BZN - Bedford Trade Fair March 11th. Need workers. - Livonia Swap this **SATURDAY**, February 18, 2023 - TMRA swap Sunday, March 19, 2023, Owens Community College. We have 2 tables

PROGRAM: Tom KG8P did a program on DX

ADJOURNED: 9:04 pm

ATTENDANCE: 19

KE8PUN Aaron	WA8EFK Dale	N8BZN Don	WS8Y Ed	K8EBI Fred
WD8NWF James	WA8YZB John	KJ8H Keith	KE8OTG Larry	N8KUF Mike
KA8PQH Neil	W8PI Paul	N8NYP Terry	KG8P Tom	KE8NSU Tony
KC8SKP Wes	KE8WBS Bruce	KN8CR Jeff	Brian Paules	

Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2367 for Friday March 10th, 2023

GRANT WILL ADVANCE FREEDV HF TECHNOLOGY

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Our top story this week is about a boost for cutting-edge amateur radio. A major open-source ham radio technology for HF digital voice has received a major grant to advance its development. Kevin Trotman N5PRE has that report.

KEVIN: The FreeDV Project, an open-source software initiative created by an international team of hams, has received \$420,000 from Amateur Radio Digital Communications. The team plans to use that money to help bring FreeDV into the mainstream.

According to an ARDC press release, the goal is to [quote] "open the path to widespread adoption of a truly open-source, next-generation digital voice system for HF radio."

Some of the funds will go towards the hiring of digital signal processing developers to work alongside FreeDV volunteers to improve the readability of digital voice carried over SSB under poor HF conditions. The plan is to improve low signal-to-noise ratio operation and improve speech quality. The team also hopes FreeDV can also be embedded in some more commercial radios. Towards that end, specialists will work alongside some commercial HF radio engineers.

The FreeDV website mentions some versions of the technology that are already in use, including the special version in use over the QO-100 geostationary satellite. FreeDV is also being employed to overcome poor propagation through experimental combinations of internet and HF radio. FreeDV encompasses the Codec 2 speech codec/modem and all are open source.

This is Kevin Trotman N5PRE. (ARDC, Dan Romanchik, KB6NU)

CB RADIO MARKET GROWS FOR FM MODE

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The shape of CB radios is changing: An increasing number of them are now capable of FM, as we hear from Jack Parker W8ISH.

JACK: Little more than 18 months after the FCC approved the use of FM for Citizens Band on 27 MHz, manufacturers have responded to the demand for the mode. Companies now in the market include President Electronics USA, Uniden, RadioOddity, QYT and Cobra. It was Cobra's original petition that pushed the need to the forefront of the agency, with support from the other companies. When the FCC granted the request in July 2021, the move was called the biggest change for Citizens Band since the expansion of CB channels from 23 to 40 in 1977.

FM is now used on the CB radio spectrum from 26.965 MHz to 27.405 MHz, enabling a higher-quality audio for radio users who do not need the distance capabilities offered by radios with the SSB mode.

Jack Parker W8ISH. (RADIO WORLD, CCJDIGITAL.COM, FCC)

ARPSC Report

We will be having an on-air SKYWARN Thursday March 23rd on air on 72 Monroe at 7pm. Though it is geared towards preparing operators to handle SKYWARN net control duties, it is also a good refresher to anyone that participates in the SKYWARN activations on how to properly report any weather issues. We are in need of operators to inject reports, work as a liaison station with another county (Washtenaw/Wayne), and liaison with the simulated MICON (DTX Amateur Radio) net. If you are interested, please email me by the 20th and I will get you all the information you will need. If you don't want to expend a lot of energy, but still wish to participate, simply check in when we call for check ins.

Looking ahead, Saturday April 1st 9am is Saturday Training at EMD, we will discuss FLDigi. Bring a laptop with FLDigi and an HT for hands on practice.

Lucas County ARES will be hosting a Trunk Sale and Swap Meet at Toledo Speedway on Benore Rd. Sunday May 7th from 9am-3pm, - May 6th is RRRA Annual meeting at Red Cross

There are several Public Service Events upcoming that we need help for, descriptions can be found on our webpage under the "Upcoming Public Service Events" Tab, along with a link to the Google signup form.

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 April 6th.

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

Emergency Coordinator

Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps



2023 Skywarn training



It is with deep sadness to announce that ARRL Section Manager Les Butler, W8MSP is a silent key. 3 of us from Livingston County ARES/CERT set out for the 2023 Interoperability Conference in Muskegon and only 2 made it back early this morning. To say Les loved all things ham radio is an understatement! Les made time for every ARES/CERT event, every VE session, spearheaded a statewide dStar net and stepped up to be ARRL Section Manager. He served as a DX card checker and was beyond excited about AUXCOMM and the opportunities to serve and volunteer even more. ALL while still working full time. Les will be deeply missed by the amateur radio community especially his LARK Club family!

de Tim Crane WM8A

Bike-Portable with the AX1

Inspired by some blogs I follow, I've recently dusted off my [Elecraft AX1](#) antenna and started putting it to use. Until now, I've kept it stashed away in my backpack as a backup antenna that I've never needed.

So far, I've used this versatile little antenna a couple of ways. Most recently, I've used it with an old window mount, while operating "stationary-mobile" in my truck. I've also used it while "picnic table portable," using an [Elecraft AXT1](#) tripod mount and my little [Ultrapod tripod](#). If I'm using my KX3, I can use the [AXB1 BiPod Mount](#) to support the antenna.

One other use case I wanted to address is operating "bicycle portable." If I'm out on a bike ride and stop for some radio, it would be handy to use the bike to support the AX1. Browsing around on eBay, I came across an interesting camera mount clamp that looked like it might work well with the AXT1.



I found this gizmo listed as a "clamp mount ball head" from a company called, SmallRig. It's a clamp with a standard 1/4-20 camera mount, and it works perfectly with the AXT1 tripod adapter. I can fasten the clamp to the handlebars, to give the AX1 some elevation. I would post a link for the clamp, but eBay listings come and go too fast. However, if you search for "clamp mount ball head," you should find lots of them from a variety of sellers.

To test it out, I packed my radio gear and headed out for my first bike ride of the year. I rode a few miles on the Schuylkill River and Perkiomen trails to a local park.

I set up my TR-35 on a bench in the picnic area and mounted the AX1 on the handlebars of my bike. Even with the bike leaning, the clamp's adjustable swivel allowed me to keep the antenna vertical. I used two radials clipped to the AXT1 tripod adapter with an alligator clip. A six-foot length of RG-8x coax was more than enough to reach the rig. I was on the air in about 3 minutes.

The T1 tuner easily tuned up on the 20M band. During my brief stop in the park, I worked POTA stations in Virginia, Illinois, and Georgia. Pleased with my new bike mount, I packed up and continued on my ride.

I have a feeling I'll be taking this handy antenna setup along on more bike rides in the future.

72, Craig WB3GCK



About HamAlert

What is HamAlert?

HamAlert is a system that allows you to get notifications when a desired station appears on the [DX cluster](#), the [Reverse Beacon Network](#), [SOTAwatch](#), [POTA](#), or [PSK Reporter](#). No need to keep checking these resources manually if you're looking for a certain callsign, DXCC, CQ zone, IOTA island, SOTA summit or WWFF/POTA reference.

You can receive alerts via Push notifications, Threema, SMS or URL GET/POST. You can also filter spots by various criteria, including:

- DXCC (both actual and callsign home DXCC)
- Callsign
- IOTA group reference
- SOTA summit reference
- WWFF/POTA division/reference
- CQ zone
- Continent
- Band
- Mode
- Time and days of week
- Source
- Spotter callsign and DXCC



Furthermore, you can set limits on the number of alerts in a certain time period so you don't receive duplicate spots, but are still notified if for example the station changes to another frequency.

DXCC lookups

Accurately determining the DXCC and CQ zone of a particular callsign is no easy feat. Luckily, the team at [Club Log](#) are experts in this and provide an API that HamAlert uses. Thank you, Club Log, for making this API available!

Digimode spots

Digimode spots (with the "PSK reporter" source) are obtained from [pskreporter.info](#). Thanks to Philip Gladstone for running the system and letting HamAlert access its data!

Author

HamAlert was created by Manuel Kasper (HB9DQM) <mk@neon1.net>.

Privacy Policy

See the [Privacy Policy](#) for HamAlert.

HamAlert by Manuel Kasper (HB9DQM)

REMINDER

Dues expired December 31st. If you haven't paid your dues please check with Fred to see if you are up to date.

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.

MONACO, 3A. Lorenzo, 3A2OG is a new amateur radio operator and has been active while testing various HF antennas. He is interested in using QRP and in portable operations. QSL direct.

GHANA, 9G. Alan, G3XAA is QRV as 9G5XA until March 14. Activity is on the HF bands using only CW. This includes being an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest. QSL direct to home call.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Special event station A60AP is QRV until August 31 to commemorate the Astronaut Program. Look for special event stations A60AP/0 to A60AP/14 to also be active during the event. QSL via operators' instructions.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Luca, HB9OBD is QRV as D44KIT from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until April 5. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via EB7DX.

COMOROS, D6. Hiro, JF1OCQ is QRV as D67AA until March 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, FT8, and FT4. QSL direct to home call.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Jacek, SP5APW is QRV as DU1/SP5APW until March 14 from the Luzon Coastal Islands, IOTA OC-244. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

CROZET ISLAND, FT/W. Thierry, FT8WW will be QRV from March 13 to 16. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via F6EXV.

GUERNSEY, GU. Operators M0UNN and G4DIY are QRV as MP7DX until March 13. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via G4DIY.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Operators WB2REM, KE2D, VO1IDX, and K4LT are QRV as HD8M from Santa Cruz, IOTA SA-004, until March 11. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL direct to WB2REM.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI. Members of the Loma del Toro DX Club will be QRV as HI0LT from Isla Cabras, IOTA NA-122, from March 12 to 19. Activity will be on 160 to 2 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via EB7DX.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ will be QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 beginning March 15, and expects to be here for two months while on work assignment. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mainly CW with some FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Stations JD1BOI and JD1BON are QRV from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, until March 24. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

SURINAME, PZ. Harrie, PA3EHS is QRV as PZ5HS from Para until March 25. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, JT6, and FT8. QSL via PA3EHS.

MALI, TZ. Ulmar, DK1CE is QRV as TZ1CE until March 16. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL via DK1CE.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Pete, G0TLE is QRV as V4/G0TLE from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until March 17. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct to home call.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. John, N9EAJ is QRV as VP5/N9EAJ from Grand Turk, IOTA NA-003, until March 22. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly SSB with some CW. He will make a side trip to the Columbus Landfall National Park for a Parks on The Air activation. QSL to home call.

INDIA, VU. Special event station AT2G20 is QRV from Gurugram until June 2 to promote greater international cooperation through amateur radio in conjunction with the G20 summit being held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10. QSL via operator's instructions.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, North American RTTY Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, YB DX RTTY Contest, SARL Field Day Contest, RSGB Commonwealth Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, EAPSK63 Contest, South America 10 Meter Contest, DIG QSO Party, AGCW QRP CW Contest, Oklahoma QSO Party, TESLAMemorial HF CW Contest, Idaho QSO Party, UBA Spring 2-Meter Contest and the FIRAC HF Contest are all scheduled for this upcoming weekend.

The Wisconsin QSO Party, 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, ICWC Medium Speed Test, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 and the RSGB 80-Meter Club CW Championship are on tap for March 13 to 15.

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

2023 Schedule:
February 18 April 15
June 17 August 19
October 21 December 16

TESTING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:00 AM

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

Join us at the next meeting

March 16th 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 April 8, 2023

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.

Jefferson Matthews KE8WMY and Brian Paules