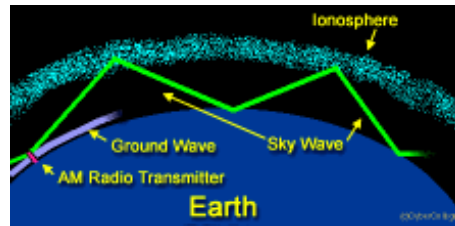


The Hertzian Herald



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N8DXR's Ground Waves



It's July and since early spring we have been busy both as individuals and as the MCRCA. It starts in April with the Michigan QSO Party then in May we had Dayton. June was filled with our Hamfest followed by Field Day the following weekend. Finally on the 4th of July we lend a hand at the annual Dundee parade. Mixed in with the above are many different state QSO parties, ARRL and CQ radio events and radio events sponsored by other countries and of course our monthly MCRCA and ARPSC meetings; Whew! Thanks goes out to all of those who participated in or helped out in some way with these club events.

At this time, our next big club event will be October 7th and 8th 2017 at the Michigan International Speedway where the first Great Lakes Hamcon 2017 will be held. We are one of the 18 clubs that committed to help make the Hamcon a success. A meeting will be held in the infield of Michigan International Speedway on Saturday, July 15. At 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting. The following link will take you to an email you can send to Larry Camp WB8R Michigan Section Manager for further information and directions.

wb8r@glhamcon.org

This is the beginning of the summer weather systems that can bring severe storms possibly with high winds and lightning. Therefore this is a good time to review your grounding network. If you are not familiar with all the ins and outs of grounding for your radio station there is a very informative 2017 publication from the ARRL titled "Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur". It is both a text book on electrical safety as well as an instructional manual about bonding and grounding techniques.

Hope to see you at our meetings and on the air.

73

John - N8DXR

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jcn8dxr@gmail.com

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MCRCA Minutes:

June 15, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:29 pm, by John Copeland N8DXR

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, or upgrades and one guest. Dave W8IIE

PROGRAM: Hamfest and Field Day plans

BREAK

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Dave AC8SI, Glen K8GO, and Gary W8GPR

50/50: Wes KC8SKP donated to scholarship.

MINUTES: Motion by Wes KC8SKP, supported by Sandy KE8CQW, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Sandy KE8CQW, supported by Bob AC8DZ, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Paul W8PI, Not much DX out there, but 6m was open all day long, Paul worked Europe and the Caribbean.

HAMFEST: Everything is on schedule, still looking for a few more workers. Hoping the weather report is wrong.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. June 17, 2017.

ARPSC: No meetings for July and August.

ARRL: Stable.

RRRA: Dundee is down due to a transmitter problem, everything else is fine.

GLHamCon: Glen K8GO, Great Lakes HamCon will be held October 7 & 8, 2017. The ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, will be attending. Saturday July 15th at 6 PM, will be a tour of the race track and form various committees to help with all jobs. All clubs are invited.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Scholarship Selection. The club decided to award this year's scholarship to Sven Wollschlaeger from Monroe Schools. Glen K8GO made a motion and supported by Wes KC8SKP to transfer money from the Treasury to the scholarship fund to make up the total of \$500.00. Motion passed.

ANOUNCEMENTS: Paul W8PI, announced that Gov. Rick Snyder declared June 19-25 as Amateur Radio Week.

ADJOURNED: 8:43 pm

ATTENDANCE: 15

AC8SI	Dave	K8GO	Glen
KA8EBI	Fred	KA8NCR	Jeff
KA8PQH	Neil	KB8KQC	Brenda
KC8SKP	Wes	KD8MGT	Clarence
N8DXR	John	W8PI	Paul
WA8EFK	Dale	AC8DZ	Bob
KE8CQW	Sandra	W8GPR	Gary
W8IIE	Dave		

Committees

Classes

Club Station

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

DX Net

Field Day

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Finance

Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Dale Williams WA8EFK

HamFest

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Hertzian Herald

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Historian

Paul W8PI

Public Relations

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Scholarship

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

School Liaison

open

Programs

open

Membership

open

Planning

open

Property Custodian

open

Field Day 2017

Our MCRCA Field Day this year was a major success.

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

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

We operated in class 2A, which means we had two transmitters on the air using gasoline powered generators. All the antennas were installed at the site, Vienna Park, on the day of Field Day, tents set up, generators tested and transmissions started promptly at 2:00 PM. Using the call sign W8PI we had one transmitter on phone bands and the second on CW bands. A free transmitter was operated on VHF bands of six and two meters, but six was not open so only one contact was made. A Get On The Air (GOTA) was also on the air and made an extra 87 contacts for the team.



After 24 hours of non-stop operations we amassed 1,964 contacts combined both with phone and CW. Phone contacts numbered 1384 and CW 580.

With our bonus points, power multiplier, CW multiplier, etc., our final score is about 6,774. This score has been submitted to ARRL headquarters by Jeff Breitner, KA8NCR.

We worked all states this year and Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, another WAS for field day. In the 20 years that I have been keeping records of MCRCA Field Day operations, this year was our **best score** in history.

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

trees.

Building the antenna was a good learning experience for both the old timers and the new amateurs in attendance, as well as lots of fun. We used the building, elevating, and tuning of the antenna as a training exercise which also gives us 100 extra points in the test.

I want to thank everyone that helped with this operation. Everyone counts whether you help put up antennas, pitch tents, operate the stations, help with the food, or just attended to see what was going on out there. This year we had a total of 32 people in attendance, including wives and friends. The Saturday evening picnic potluck dinner was well attended and enjoyed by all.



(Continued next page)

They look intense.

We had many new faces at Field Day this year. It is exciting that the newly licensed hams are showing such a great interest in keeping the FD tradition going. The MCRCA has been operating since before 1958. I am sure there were operations before that year, but that was my first year operating Field Day, we had two operators in a novice tent and about eight in the old timers AM station that year.

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



Hope to see everyone again next year at Field Day 2018, the last weekend of June.

Paul Trouten W8PI

Post Hamfest Report 2017

Another Hamfest has come and gone and this one makes 22 years I have been chairing the Hamfest. We had a slow start this year due to the weatherman reporting all week long that it will rain Sunday morning. About 8:00 AM it seemed to pick up as people realized the weather was going to turn out pretty good and people started coming in.

Saturday morning, we had 14 empty tables that I didn't think we were going to fill but when I arrived at the fairgrounds Tower Electronics was waiting for me. Their usual spot was filled with building materials and they needed a new place to set up. They decided to take the 14 tables and not have to chance the rain.

Everything went very smoothly and I didn't hear anything but compliments from the people I talked to. Many people told me that our hamfest is their favorite hamfest, which is good to hear.

We did a little better than last year even with the bad weather reports and slow start, and we managed to fill all our tables this year and even had one setup outside the front of the building.

We had more help this year with a total of 25 people helping to setup, run and sell tickets. I would like to thank everyone that helped out this year especially the ticket sellers. Sorry if I missed anyone.

Mike Karmol	N8KUF	John Copeland	N8DXR	Dale Williams	WA8EFK
David Buchko	AC8SI	David's Son		Keith Saari	K8YKD
Neil Remaklus	KA8PQH	Jeff Breitner	KA8NCR	Wes Busdiecker	KC8SKP
Fred VanDaele	KA8EBI	Rodney Haddix	KD8ZNZ	Brenda VanDaele	KB8KQC
Tim Long	KD8KHx	Kyle VanDaele		Chance Long	
Ted Pirolli	W8RZZ	& Ted's two grandsons		Joseph VanDyke	KD8AAK
Paul Trouten	W8PI	Vicki Trouten		Clarence Landoski	KD8MGT
Dave Benoit	W8IIE	Bob Rehahn	AC8DZ	Gary Pratt	W8GPR

Finally, a big thanks to the 22 members of the club, that put out the effort to help out every year with this hamfest. **Also the biggest thank you goes to Brenda KB8KQC, without her I would never be able to do the Hamfest or Field Day. She puts in a lot of time and effort and has picked up the slack that I have been doing since my hip and back problems. There is no way I would attempt to do these two events without her tremendous help. I am so very lucky to have her by my side. Please give her a big thank you when you see her.**

This hamfest is the big event of the year and provides a large portion of support for the club, and only about one third of the members help out each year. It's so nice to work with dependable people on such an important project, Thank you all very much. Fred KA8EBI, Hamfest Chairman for 22 years.

ARISS celebrates its 20th anniversary through SSTV event

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of ARISS, a Slow Scan Television (SSTV) event is planned for **Thursday, July 20 starting around 21:25 UTC.(MCRCA Meeting Night)**

The event plans to feature images from ARISS activities both past and present. This opportunity should cover most of the world during the operation period.

The event plans to use a computer on the ISS Russian Segment, which stores images that are then transmitted to Earth using the ham radio, specifically the onboard Kenwood TM D710 transceiver. Those receiving the images can post them at <https://ariss-sstv.blogspot.com/> for viewing by the public.

The 20-year history of ARISS will be displayed through a collection of 12 unique images sharing the amazing accomplishments of ARISS over the last two decades. SSTV signals will be sent to earth at 145.80 MHz using FM. The SSTV mode of transmission is expected to be PD 120 (PD 180 may be a second option). The event is expected to continue over a two-day period.

Since its inception, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has provided students an opportunity, through ham radio, to engage in conversation with orbiting astronauts and inspired many to seek careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Consider how you might inspire students in your area through this chance to capture images directly from space to their computers.



Please note that the event, and any ARISS event, is dependent on other activities, schedules and crew responsibilities on the ISS and are subject to change at any time.

While preparations are being finalized please check for new and the most current information on the AMSAT.org and ARISS.org websites, the AMSAT-BB@amsat.org, the ARISS facebook at Amateur Radio On The International Space Station (ARISS) and ARISS twitter @ARISS_status for the latest information on this event.

About ARISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the International Space Station (ISS). In the United States, sponsors are the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The primary goal of ARISS is to promote exploration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) topics by organizing scheduled contacts via amateur radio between crew members aboard the ISS and students in classrooms or informal education venues. With the help of experienced amateur radio volunteers, ISS crews speak directly with large audiences in a variety of public forums. Before and during these radio contacts, students, teachers, parents, and communities learn about space, space technologies and amateur radio. For more information, see www.ariss.org, www.amsat.org, and www.arrl.org.

Growing the Ranks vs. Growing the Enjoyment

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Because I teach amateur radio classes and publish a series of popular amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/), I often get kudos for "growing the ranks." In fact, Gordon West, WB6NOA, told me this just last week, when he stopped by the booth I was in at the Dayton Hamvention. I'm paraphrasing a little, but after telling me that he's heard good things about my study guides, he said something like, "You're doing good work in helping get more people into ham radio." People say that as if this is—or should be—the ultimate goal of teaching a license class. While this may be one of the goals, if that's your primary goal, I think that you're barking up the wrong tree.

In a way, creating more hams is selfish. If there are more licensed amateur radio operators, they say, then amateur radio will have more political clout with the FCC and with Congress, making it easier to pass legislation like the Amateur Radio Parity Act. While this may certainly help the new ham down the line, its main thrust is to reduce restrictions on those who are currently hams.

My goal in teaching amateur radio classes isn't to create more hams. Instead, my goal is to help more people have fun with ham radio. The first step in helping people have fun with ham radio is, of course, helping them get their license. I do that by publishing my study guides and teaching ham classes.

The next step, and I'm only really getting started on this right now, is to help people learn what they need to know to become better ham radio operators. That's why I got a little excited when I saw the article, "Making a Good hobby Better Through Post-Licensing Enrichment" by Tim Busch, N0CKR in the latest issue of *Radio Waves*, the ARRL's email newsletter for amateur radio instructors.

In the article, Tim describes several activities that his club encourages, including a "new ham net" and the Field Day GOTA station, but he also details a program of "mini classes" that will teach specific skills related to ham radio. These include:

- Programming Radios and Getting on the Air
- Soldering 101
- Multimeter 101
- Build and Use a Roll-Up J-Pole Antenna
- Build and Use a Satellite Antenna
- Foxhunts
- Operating Digital Modes: IRLP, AllStar, D-Star, EchoLink, etc.
- Remote Operation
- Software-Defined Radios
- Transitioning from VHF/UHF to HF Operating
- Chasing Awards
- Learn CW
- Contesting



Tim writes, "Each class is intended to be no more than two hours at a sitting, so they can be held before a monthly club meeting. The variety of subject matter allows many club members to get involved in leading a topic. Materials kits are prepared in advance, so students walk away with practical items they can use at home."

I think this is a great set of classes, and I plan to try some of these in the fall. A couple of other topics that occur to me are:

- Power Supplies 101
- Mobile Operation 101
- ARRL 101
- RFI/TVI 101

Helping new hams—and old hams—have more fun with amateur radio is a lot more satisfying to me than just "growing the ranks." It would be nice to say that we have a million licensed radio amateurs in the U.S., but I think it would be a lot more valuable to the hobby to say that a larger percentage of licensed hams were active and enjoying ham radio. I know that, for me, increasing the number of active, engaged hams would be more personally satisfying than simply creating a lot of new licensees.

How to Copy CW in Your Head

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about CW is, "How do I learn to copy in my head?" When I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ, author of *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.

This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, "I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flashdrive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly." Carl's program costs \$20 and is available from n7agk.com.

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, "I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear "dots and dashes", then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head."

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds "dah di dit...dah dah dah....dah dah dit," should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pitbull, not the letters "D O G."

How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.



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

GEORGIA, 4L. David, DL7ZM is QRV as 4L/DL7ZM until July 20. Activity is on 6 meters from grid square LN11. QSL via ADOPY.

KENYA, 5Z. Nick, LZ4NM is QRV as 5Z4/LZ4NM until June 30, 2018. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via bureau.

ALGERIA, 7X. Members of the Algerian Radio Amateur Union are QRV as 7V5J until July 30 in celebration of Algerian National Day. Activity is on all bands, depending on propagation. QSL via 7X2DD.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Philip, G4PWO will be QRV as 8Q7PW from Fonimagoodhoo Island, IOTA AS-013, beginning July 18 for two weeks. Activity will be on 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters using mostly SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

BOTSWANA, A2. Neven, LZ1COM is QRV as A25NPD until July 16. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters using SSB between 1800 to 2200z. QSL to home call.

NORTH COOK ISLAND, E5. Warwick, E51WL is QRV from Penrhyn Atoll, OC-082, and is occasionally active using JT65. QSL to home call.

BALEARIC ISLANDS, EA6. Andreas, DK5ON will be QRV as EA6/DK5ON from Cala Ratjada on Mallorca, IOTA EU-004, from July 17 to 31. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, JT65, PSK and other digital modes. He also plans to activate the Lighthouse Cap de Pera, ARLHS BAL-010. QSL to home call.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Michael, K5MDK is QRV as HL/K5MDK until August 10 while currently on temporary assignment. Activity is in his spare time and mostly weekends from Changwon-ski on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

CZECH REPUBLIC, OK. Special event station OL60SIENEL is QRV until July 23 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Joseph Sienel Observatory in Losov. QSL via bureau.

SWEDEN, SM. Special event station SC40VIC is QRV until the end of 2017 to celebrate the 40th birthday of Crown Princess Victoria. QSL via SM6JSM.

CRETE, SV9. Jurg, HB9DQL is QRV as SV9/HB9DQL until July 23. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20 and 10 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Operators Vasily, R7AL, Vasily, RA1ZZ, Sergey, RW5D, Vladimir, RK8A and Stan, UA3LMR will be QRV as RIOG from Iony Island, IOTA AS-069, from July 18 to 22. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, various digital modes and satellites. QSL via R7AL.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON is QRV as V47JA from Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, until August 5. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters. This includes being active in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest. QSL direct to home call.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND, VK9C. Andy, VK9CC is active on 160 and 80 meters using CW at various times. QSL to home call.

INDONESIA, YB. Special event station YB0JARF is QRV on July 15 and 16 to draw attention to the Jakarta Amateur Radio Fair 2017 being held in Ancol Beach City. In addition, look for operators N7BHK, KJ6UZK and KY1A to be QRV as YB0/home calls from Jakarta during the Fair. QSL via operators' instructions.

VENEZUELA, YV. Special event station YW450ARV is QRV during the month of July to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the founding of the city of Caracas. QSL via operators' instructions.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Operators Mike, NA6MB and Gayle, K6GO are QRV as ZF2NA and ZF2GO, respectively, from Grand Cayman Island until July 16. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters. QSL both calls via K6GO.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American RTTY QSO Party, CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Russian Radio Team Championship, Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge, DMC RTTY Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and RSGB Low Power CW Contest are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for July 17.

The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for July 19.

Please see July 2017 QST, page 82, 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

Walk-ins are always welcome.

2017 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

July 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