

The Hertzian Herald



April 2022 • Volume 46, Issue 4 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

D Fritz Bitz:

As I'm writing this, I just uploaded my Michigan QSO Party log. So that means I am late on my article. Again. Sorry Fred but the contest wouldn't wait. I did a lot better than last year but not as good as I hoped. Not much was open except 40 meters and it wasn't that good until late in the evening. But I had fun and that was my goal.

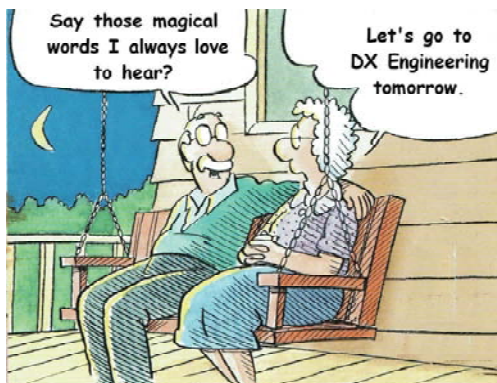


We had our first Technician License class last weekend and although we rushed it, it went pretty well. I would like to thank Mike (N8KUF) for sharing duties with me and making things a lot easier for me. I would also like to thank Paul and Scott for coming after the class to give the test. We learned a lot and I think the next class in June will go much better. I already have a couple of people wanting to sign up for it so hopefully we will have a better turn out. I would like to have 6 to 8 people for each class so if you know anyone wanting to get their license have them email me.

The hamfest and field day are coming up in about 60 days and I will be putting together sign-up sheets so we can make sure we are well staffed for both. The hamfest went really well last year and if we can get the same help for that it will be fine. The field day radios had too much down time and I would like to see more people volunteer for that. We could really use some CW operators over night and more people at the cookout. You don't really need to sign-up for the cookout. Just show up. Hungry would be good.

So, until next month, 73.

Don Fritz
N8BZN



<http://mcrca.org/>

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

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Don Fritz N8BZN
donfritz56@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Karmol N8KUF
mkarmol@bex.net

SECRETARY

Fred VanDaele K8EBI
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI
ptrouten@bex.net

DIRECTOR

Rodney Haddix KD8ZNZ
KD8ZNZ@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR

STATION TRUSTEE
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

Inside This Issue

Minutes.	2
RRRA Annul Mtg . . .	3
ARPS Report	4
Fox Hunt Rules . .	5,6,7
ARRL DX Report. . .	8

MCRCA Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Don N8BZN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: Two new members, one upgrade and no guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Dale WA8EFK, 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, several members of the Perseverance DX Group (PDXG) will activate Raivavae Island (Austral Islands), French Polynesia, April 15 - April 29, 2022, for approximately 12 operating days. 3Y0J/ DXpedition/ to Bouvet Island is looking for operators. Ukraine ops UX5UD passing health and welfare traffic. Polish contest has been canceled. CQ to Limit Contest Participation by Stations in Russia, Belarus and Donbas Region of Ukraine.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, this is contest month. QSO Parties – VA – CQ WPX SSB – **April 2, -LA – MS – MO – April 9, -NE – NM – GA – April 16, MI – ON – April 17, QC – April 30, - FL.** We will NOT be using the Red Cross this year, everyone op from home and upload points and give to the club.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. April 16, 2022. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

One person taking the Extra class test Saturday

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Digital, DMR, Kits, Antenna builds, Fox Hunts, and MIQSO Party.

ARPSC: Mike N8KUF, Lance has been working on using WinLink for passing traffic. Saturday will be the Monroe County Siren Testing. ARPSC net is every Monday night on the 72 repeater. The first Thursday of the month is the ARPSC meeting held at the EMD. Skywarn spotter training is online by the NWS. There are 2 more free sessions April 9 and 12 at 7 pm for 2 hours. Completion gets you a certificate.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, Staying neutral with Ukraine events. National Forest Service wants \$1,400 fee from clubs using US Forest towers for repeaters. ARRL is sending comments Against this to NFS. Gary Johnston from KY is now a SK.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, Association started in 1971 51 years old. Dues are \$20 per year running from May 1 to May 1. Getting Echolink back in service after upgrade. Fixed the kerchunk that has been going on lately. The annual business meeting will be held May 7, 2022 at the Red Cross 10 am.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Don N8BZN will start his one-day Tech class on Saturday April 9, 2022. After a 7-hour class there will be a testing session at the Red Cross. Cost will be \$25 for test fee and lunch.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Doug K8OF

50/50: Mike Isbell KE8TNC

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Trunk Swap Toledo Speedway, Sunday, May 1, 2022, Toledo Speedway Racetrack
5639 Benore Rd, Toledo, OH 43612, USA

PROGRAM: Video

ADJOURNED: 9:00 pm

ATTENDANCE: 17

K8OF Doug

W8MCW Mark

W8SMB Scott

KE8TNC Mike

WA8EFK Dale

K8FGT Ed

N8KUF Mike

N8NYP Terry

W3DTW Greg

KE8RXC Debbie

K8EBI Fred

KA8PQH Neil

KG8P Tom

N8BZN Don

KB8OSU George

W8PI Paul

KC8SKP Wes

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

River Raisin Repeater Association annual meeting

The River Raisin Repeater Association (RRRA) would like to invite you to attend the annual business meeting to find out where the association has been and to help decide where it is going. Association officers will be elected, and current / planned business and projects for the association will be discussed (only current members may vote on association business).

This year's business meeting will take place on Saturday May 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m. The meeting (barring any late breaking developments) will be held IN PERSON at the Red Cross 1645 N Dixie Hwy # 1, Monroe, MI

The River Raisin Repeater Association, an independent radio club, was formed in 1971 for the expressed purpose of promoting FM and repeater operation, offering a technical base on the subject, providing a useful communications facility for emergencies, and to develop friendships through a common goal. The RRRA, being an independent radio club, is supported solely by member dues and contributions.

There are five RRRA systems in operation to serve the amateur radio operators of the Monroe County region. Our first repeater, 146.72 (previously 146.73) went on the air in 1971, from downtown Monroe. Today, we operate from our transmitter site near Ida for 146.72, 224.78, 442.65, and our 144.93 JNOS Digipeater. The 444.55 Repeater is located near Erie, and the 442.825 system is in Dundee.



All of these RRRA systems are open to use by all licensed amateur radio operators. However, if you are more than a "once in a blue moon" user of the RRRA repeaters, we ask you to consider joining the association. Your participation will help to ensure the ability to operate, maintain and improve these systems while ensuring readiness to support any emergency/ disaster communications needs that may arise.

The Association as an independent radio club is supported solely by member dues and contributions. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Your membership and participation are critical to the successful maintenance and improvement of RRRA equipment and continued services.

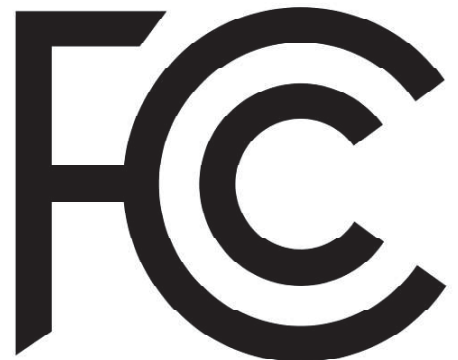
Whether you are a current/ past member or if you are curious and would like to learn more – please join us at the meeting.

Mike N8KUF RRRA Sec / Treas.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will not apply to most license modifications, including those to upgrade amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As previously announced, the new fees take effect on April 19, 2022.

"We are pleased that the FCC will not charge licensees the FCC application fee for license upgrade applications," said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "While applicants for a new license will need to pay the \$35 FCC application fee, there will be no FCC charge for future upgrades and administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. Most current licensees, therefore, will not be charged the new FCC application fee until they renew their license or apply for a new vanity call sign."

ARRL previously reported that the new \$35 application fee for amateur radio licenses will become effective on April 19, 2022. Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC page at, <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>



ARPSC Report

We will be having an on-air SKYWARN drill Wednesday April 20th 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. Feel free to check in and listen in. If you wish to participate by passing a "canned" report, please let me know by Tuesday 4/19, my callsign @yahoo.com. 72 Monroe Repeater will be closed for general use during the exercise, please use one of the other repeaters for QSO's during the drill. Thank You



Looking ahead, Lucas County ARES will be hosting a Trunk Sale and Swap Meet at Toledo Speedway on Benore Rd. Sunday May 1st. May 7th is RRRA Annual meeting, The May Saturday Session will be May 14th at 9am, which is the second Saturday due to the RRRA Annual Meeting. This session will be outside at EMD as members will be setting up their portable field stations. This gives members a chance to set everything up, figure out what they forgot to pack and update their check lists, and give everyone a chance to walk around and discuss other setups and gain ideas. Feel free to stop out, visit other stations or even set up your station and have fun.

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 May 5th.

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

North American SSB Sprint Contest

How about trying a fun **4 hour SSB contest**? It is the **North American SSB Sprint Contest**.

It is **Saturday evening April 23rd** here in **North America**.

Which is **April 24, 2022 0000 - 0359 UTC**.

It has some very interesting rules that make it a bit unique and exciting.

Certificates to the top scores in each state/province and/or anyone scoring over 1,200 points.

And there are **Door Prizes** available for recipients who score at least 1,500 points (just takes 50 QSOs and 30 multis) !!!

As well as a **SSB Sprint Worked All States T-Shirt** for those that manage to work all 50 states in the 4 hours. Which actually has been done by multiple participants in the past!

And now we have just added a **SSB Sprint Worked Canada T-Shirt** for those that manage to work all 13 Canadian multipliers in the 4 hours.

Check it all out at <http://ssbsprint.com>

We want to be sure to have **every state** and **every Canadian** multiplier on the air.

So, if you have a chance, please enter your planned activity at <https://ssbsprint.com/planned-activity/my-planned-activity/>

We were able to have all states on the air in the 2021 event.

And be sure to send in your score for a chance to win a door prize! ("Score prize!")

<https://ssbsprint.com/awards-prizes/>

73 Bob KW8N & NA SSB Sprint Contest Committee

The FOX is back – 2022 MCRCA Foxhunts

This year – MCRCA will again be hosting a series of foxhunts. Everyone including members, non-members, friends, other organizations, hams and non-hams are invited to join in the fun.

For those not familiar – all hunt teams meet at a given location and receive a pre-hunt brief along with a hunt package. At the designated start time, the FOX begins transmitting. Participating teams begin efforts to locate the fox, which is hidden within a designated area (in this case up to 7 miles away from the start location). Teams earn points according to the distance traveled in locating the fox. The winning team will be the one traveling the least number of odometer miles to find the fox. Each team records distance with the fox when located. Time is not a factor in scoring (unless needed as tie breaker), but the hunt is terminated when the fox stops transmitting after 3 hours.

Minimum Equipment necessary:

A 2M radio or receiver capable of receiving 146.475 MHz FM.

Additional Equipment could include (but is not limited to):

Directional Antenna, Attenuator, Street Map of Monroe County, Compass, Straight Edge, Protractor

2022 Foxhunt Schedule

Hunt #1	Saturday May 14, 2022
Hunt #2	Saturday July 09, 2022
Hunt #3	Saturday September 10, 2022



Additional Hunts may be scheduled depending on demand.

Basic Instructions

- We will meet in the parking lot at Emergency Management Offices 987 S. Raisinville at 08:30 where you will be given a pre-hunt brief (instructions and information specific to the hunt)
- Teams are identified and recorded by the hunt coordinator
- Each team will be given a SEALED envelope – MAKE SURE IT STAYS SEALED (if you open the envelope you will receive same points as someone not finding the fox)
- On the outside of the envelope, write the names/ call signs of all team members. Also record starting mileage on your vehicle to the nearest 1/10 mile (use trip odometer if needed for 1/10-mile increments)
- At 09:00, the FOX will begin transmitting on the Hunt Frequency of 146.475 MHz (transmissions will repeat on a cycle of 1 minute on / 1 minute off for the duration of the hunt)
- After taking initial readings to determine direction to the fox, teams will depart on their quest to find the fox's hiding spot. (remember scoring is determined by least distance traveled so strategy is an important factor – other than the 3-hour hunt limit, time is not a factor so **travel safely and legally**)
- When you find the fox, record your ending mileage (tenths of mile) on the envelope (the one that is hopefully still sealed. And leave the envelope with the fox operator)
- You will be given instructions for a place to go so that other hunters do not see you talking to the fox. We will meet following the hunt for lunch and debrief. Lunch location will be Benny's in south Monroe (15239 S. Dixie) unless otherwise indicated during pre-hunt brief.

(Continued next 2 pages)

- If you DON'T find the fox by the end time of the hunt (12:00), you may open the envelope and proceed directly to the fox if you are close or proceed directly to the lunch location where you will turn in your envelope. (note: the fox will be hungry and departing for lunch shortly after turning off the transmitter)
- Teams choosing to terminate early may open the envelope and proceed directly to the fox to turn in your envelope (or otherwise notify fox/hunt coordinator of termination)
- First place team is responsible for fox duties for the next hunt (second place if first not able to fulfill)
- Teams will be recognized for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place performance for each individual hunt, and the fox will be recognized/thanked for his/her service. All participating teams will be acknowledged.
- In the case of tied mileage for the top 3 teams, time found will be used as the tie breaker. 2nd tie breaker will be a flip of the foxhunt chairman's Kennedy half-dollar.

Responsibilities of the Hunt Teams

Hunt Teams MUST:

- Be at start location on time. You MUST be present for pre-hunt brief (08:45) to receive hunt package as required to participate.
- REMEMBER – scoring is based on distance travelled (per odometer) to locate the fox.
- Other than the 3-hour hunt limit, time is not a factor. Hunters must travel safely and obey all speed limits, etc.
- SAFETY is a PRIMARY Concern. Use caution when traveling and when stopping and getting out of the vehicle to take readings. DO NOT create a hazard or place yourself or others in a hazardous situation.
- Respect private property. Do not trespass onto private property.
- Respect public property. Do not damage or otherwise trash public property.
- Remember, this is a FRIENDLY competition, everyone is here to have fun.
- Remember, skills learned and refined could be utilized some day (e.g. Locating emergency beacons, jammers. stuck transmitters, lost RFID tagged individuals)
- LEGIBLY record all requested info on the envelope
- Turn in the envelope to the fox or to the hunt coordinator prior to securing from your hunt efforts (or otherwise notify fox or hunt coordinator of Did Not Find status)
- HAVE FUN and BE SAFE

Responsibilities of the FOX

The FOX MUST:

- Be an MCRCRA Member or must be accompanied by MCRCRA member
- Use common sense when locating fox to avoid placing anyone at risk
- Locate fox within area indicated on below map.
 - o Intent is to be within 7-mile radius (as the crow flies) of Emergency Management Office – 987 South Raisinville Rd Monroe, MI 48161)
- Fox beacon MUST be able to be heard at the start location.
- Locate on public non-residential property in a place accessible to the general public during the hunt. Make sure teams can arrive at fox's hideout without violating any hunt rules

- Locate where no admission charge or payment of any kind is necessary in order to access the Fox's hideout
- The fox must be generally visible to hunters without having to enter any enclosure or densely brushed area.
- Once the hunt begins, the fox is to remain stationary, maintaining antenna orientation and transmit power, until such time as the hunt is terminated.
- Transmit on a frequency of 146.475.
- Transmit on a cycle of 1 minute on; 1 minute off for duration of the hunt
- Observe Hunt Time Limits; 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM E.D.T.
- Arrange for distribution at starting point of Hunt Envelopes containing:
 - o Map indicating fox's hideout, shortest possible route (per google maps)
 - (Fox will provide sealed envelopes to Hunt Coordinator prior to Hunt)
- Record/ verify odometer mileage and arrival time for successful hunters at the fox's location.
- Send successful hunters to a prearranged location, away from the fox, so as not to give away the Fox's location





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 IK2DUW, 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.

GEORGIA, 4L. Dariusz, SP9DLM is QRV as 4L/SP9DLM until April 19 while on work assignment from Telavi, and possibly Tbilisi and Kobuleti. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

KENYA, 5Z. Martin, 5Z4PA will be QRV from Mombasa on April 16 and 17 and will be active in the CQMM DX CW contest. QSL via M0URX

MALDIVES, 8Q. Braco, E77DX is QRV as 8Q7DX from Baa Atoll, IOTA AS-013, until April 27. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters. QSL via OE1EMS.

CUBA, CO. Look for Team T47C to be QRV from April 17 to 19. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via IK2DUW.

AZORES, CU. Tony, CU8AS is QRV with special call CQ84AS from Flores Island, IOTA EU-089, until April 19. Activity is on 30, 17, and 12 meters using mainly CW. QSL via HB9CRV

CEUTA AND MELILLA, EA9. Miguel, EA9ACE will be QRV from Ceuta in the CQMM DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FO. Rob, N7QT, Walt, N6XG, Heye, DJ9RR, Gene, K5GS, Steve, W1SRD, Melanie, N7BX and Doris, K0BEE plan to be QRV as TX5N from Raivavae Island, IOTA OC-144, from April 16 to 28. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via M0URX.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Matt, KN9U and Paul, N7JDI are QRV as J20MR and J28JD, respectively, from the US Navy Base in Lemonnier. Activity is in their spare time on 40 to 10 meters using SSB, various digital modes, and possibly CW. QSL via operators' instructions.

DOMINICA, J7. Michael, DF8AN will be QRV as J79MN from April 19 to 24. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

SVALBARD, JW. A large group of operators will be QRV as JW0X and JW100QO from Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, from April 19 to 26. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 with five stations active from three locations. QSL via M0URX.

JAN MAYEN, JX. Helge, LB4MI is QRV as JX/LB4MI until early October. Activity is in his spare time on 20 and 17 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

LITHUANIA, LY. Special call sign LY100BBALL is QRV until the end of April to commemorate 100 years of basketball here. QSL via LY2QT.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Robert, PD2V is QRV as PJ4/PD2V from Kralendijk until April 16. Activity is on 40, 20, and 10 meters using FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

SURINAME, PZ. Rico, PZ5JW will be QRV in the CQMM DX CW contest. He plans to be active on 40 to 10 meters, and possibly 80 meters. QSL via EA5GL.

POLAND, SP. Special call sign 3Z80AK is QRV until May 31 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Armia Krajowa, the dominant underground resistance movement in Poland during World War II. QSL via SP1PBW.

NAMIBIA, V5. Mike, V51MA is QRV from Windhoek and plans to be active in the CQMM DX CW contest. QSL via LoTW.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Stewie, WV7MS is QRV as V7/VV7MS from Kwajalein Atoll, IOTA OC-028, while working as a firefighter. Activity is in his spare time. QSL via LoTW.

INDONESIA, YB. Special event station 8D97WARD will be QRV from April 16 to 18 to commemorate World Amateur Radio Day on April 18. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8, and possibly on Satellite IO-86. QSL via LoTW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Holyland DX Contest, Worked All Provinces of China DX SSB Contest, YU DX Contest, CQMM DX CW Contest, Michigan QSO Party, EA-QRP CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, Ontario QSO Party, Dutch PACCdigi Contest and the Quebec QSO Party are all scheduled for this upcoming weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest, K1USN Slow Speed Test, DARC Easter Contest, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, 222 MHz Spring Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80, and the RSGB 80-Meter Club SSB Championship are on tap for April 18 to 20.

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

April 21st 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