

Hertzian Herald



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Off The Kuf:

MERRY CHRISTMAS to You and Yours



By now you've certainly realized that December is here, and that Christmas is right around the corner. I can usually tell, not by the calendar, but by the faint holiday lighting glow in the sky over Dundee. Perhaps the lack of said glow this year is what has caused Christmas to sneak up on me?? I can't believe it is almost here and that the new year is just around the corner.

As a reminder the MCRCA elects new officers at the January meeting each year. If you might be interesting in running for a 2020 office, please speak with Paul W8PI who is the Nominating Committee chair.

Before continuing with this month's rant – I would like to pass along a holiday story of the local chess tournament attended by chess masters from around the country. This tournament is typically held each year during the Christmas Vacation time frame. Some of these folks are so crazy about chess, that they can't help but boast of their victories, sometimes to the point of becoming intolerable. They tend to hang out in the huge lobby of the hotel on the night before the opening round, sitting close to the fireplace telling stories of their most memorable tournaments. In fact, a visiting musician sat at the hotel bar one year watching the gathering crowd and was so moved that he decided to write a song about the event. It has become popular around the world and seems to play over and over on the radio, no matter where you may be, during this time frame each year. Perhaps you've heard the song (sing it with me now) – 'Chess Nuts Boasting 'Round an Open Foyer' ???

And, as the Christmas shopping season is coming quickly to a close - NOW is the time to plan the quickest route to your local variety / drug store. They almost always have a few giftable items left on the shelf long after dark on Christmas eve. After all, why waste time getting caught up in the crowds and traffic jams that typically exist in the early weeks of December when the roads, along with the checkout lanes, are practically deserted on Christmas Eve.

I hope you were able to join me at the November meeting, and I hope you had a good time (and maybe even learned something new) while observing the power point presentation about Propagation and Solar Events. I'd like to thank those who were able to attend, and especially would like to thank Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA for his efforts and for making the trip from Ft. Wayne to share with us some of his immense background. The web site <http://k9la.us/index.html> contains selected articles and presentations about propagation and solar topics from his monthly Practical Propagation column in CQ Plus (formerly WorldRadio), from contributions to other Amateur Radio publications, and from various presentations he's given (and MORE). Please check it out.

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Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Mike Karmol N8KUF
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VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Trouten W8PI
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SECRETARY

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
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MCRCA Minutes:

November 21, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm, by Mike Karmol N8KUF.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, one upgrade and no guests. AD8EV to extra

MINUTES: Motion by Bob W8GMA, supported by John N8DXR, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Tom K8GP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: It's out there as always. Tonight's program to provide info useful to this here. Program – spoke a bit about what to expect in DX and solar cycles current and some speculation on future.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: **December** – Potluck and gift exchange.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. December 21, 2019.

MENTOR MOMENT: Skipped by tonight.

ARPSC: - S.E.T. results – no one to speak to this at present.

ARRL: Nothing to report at this time.

RRRA: Some monitoring improvements are in place – nice to have stuff.

OLD BUSINESS: Field Day report – we did good but not the best we have done in the past.

NEW BUSINESS: None

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: (A book was provided by N8DXR)

50/50: Doug K8OF donated back to the club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PROGRAM: Propagation or Solar Event Topics by Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA.

ADJOURNED: 8:35 pm

ATTENDANCE: 24

AC8SI Dave

AD8EP Keith

K8OF Doug

KB8OSU George

KE8DDM Dalton

KE8KNZ Tom

KG8P Tom

N8DXR John

N8NYP Terry

WA8EFK Dale

W8GPR Gary

K8UMF John

AC8WE Don

AD8EV Michael

KA8PQH Neil

KC8SKP Wes

W8SMB Scott

KF8LT Jim

N8BZN Don

N8KUF Mike

W8PI Paul

W8GMA Bob

W8BKT Brian

K9LA Carl

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

Terry Kolton N8NYP

n8nyp@arrl.net

Planning

open

Property Custodian

open

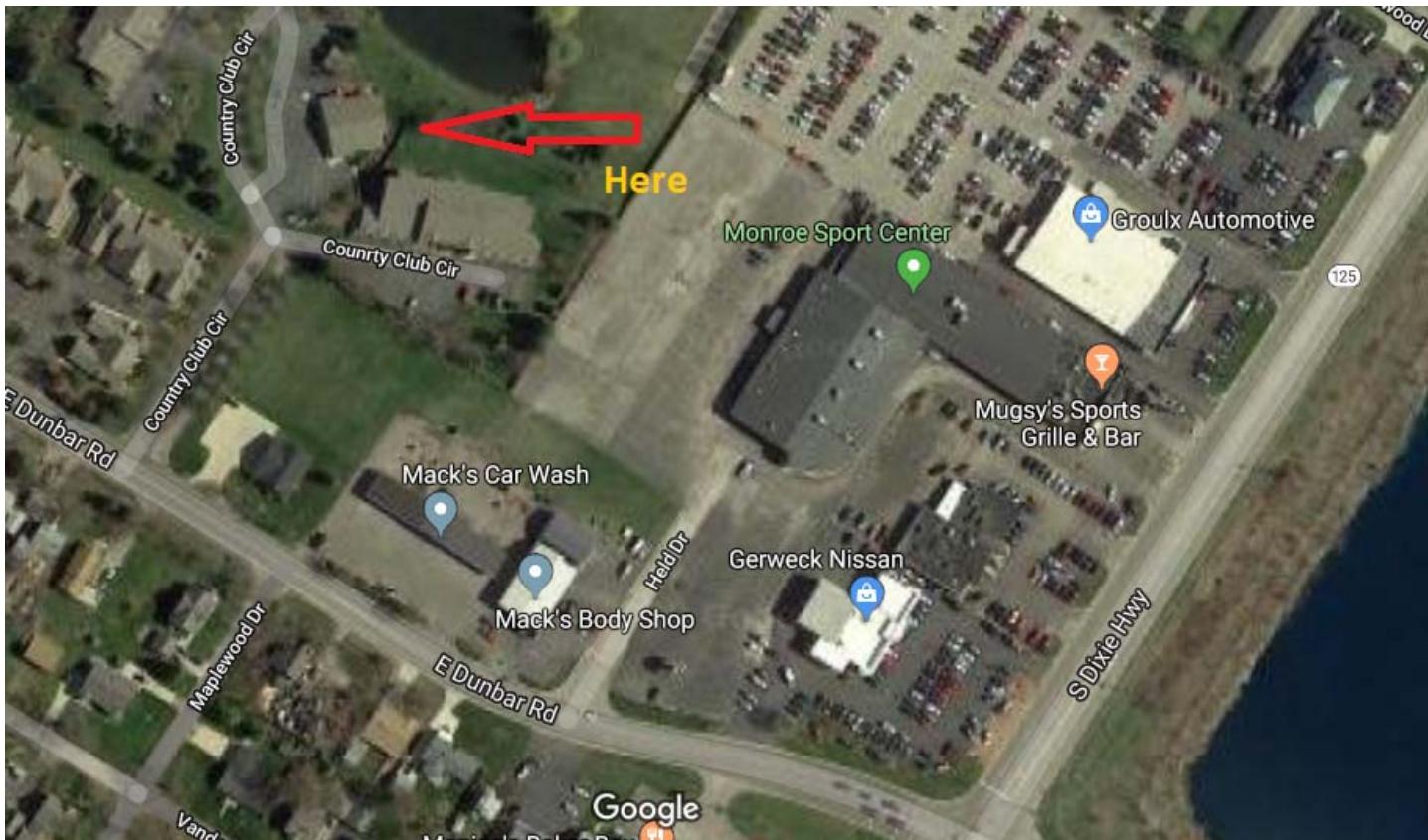


MCRCA Christmas Party has been moved

Thursday, December 19th is our annual Christmas Party, Potluck and Dirty Santa Swap.

The December meeting and Christmas party has been moved to Monroe Country Club Estates, 5840 E. Dunbar Rd. just West of S. Dixie Hwy.

The club will provide several entrees, Taco salad, pop, coffee, paper and plastic ware. We ask that you bring a dish to pass or favorite treat or goodie, and join us in all the fun. You may even get lucky and take home one of the fabulous gifts.



Hotmail was originally founded in 1996 and launched on July 4th, Independence Day in the U.S., to symbolize the way it broke users free from ISP-supplied email addresses. Not only did Hotmail break you free from depending on your ISP for email service, but it was also one of the first web-based email services (paving the way for webmail along with RocketMail, which would later become Yahoo! Mail).

The very name of the service was, in fact, a direct nod to the new emerging platform. In the early days, Hotmail was stylized as HoTMaiL—with the capitalized letters forming the acronym HTML—a nod to the HyperText Markup Language that made the World Wide Web and web-based email possible.

Later, post Microsoft purchase, Hotmail retained its name for a period of time—first as MSN Hotmail, then as Windows Live Hotmail—but now Hotmail exists only in the addresses of veteran users as Microsoft has transitioned the service completely over to Outlook.com



I certainly hope you've made plans to attend the December MCRCA meeting (now just a few short days away). This meeting is one of the highlights of the year for the MCRCA and its members. The celebration meeting will include the annual Christmas potluck (your club supplies meat tray, soda, coffee, and fixings – you bring a small dish and/or desert to pass). Also included is the giveth then taketh awayeth gift exchangeth (Your MCRCA provides all the gifts). If you've never taken part in one of these exchanges, you absolutely owe it to yourself to live the experience. If you HAVE taken part in one of them previously ... perhaps you've had a chance to fine tune your trading strategies.

Don't forget, bring a dish to pass, lots of smiles, and a basket full of good cheer.

In the spirit of the Christmas Season, the only meeting attendance rule being enforced for this meeting:

- 1) All those willing to have a good time are welcome

I'll see you at the meeting,

Mike Karmol – N8KUF

2019 President – MCRCA

I'm looking for a ham who likes to work on / fix old vacuum tube radio equipment. Everything is free. I'd like to find someone in NE Ohio, but could box it and ship UPS / FedEx to anywhere.

73, Bob Comer - WA8LVY - Magnolia, Ohio.
330-265-8135



Tommy Coe – I found on FaceBook

About 55 years ago, I was helping two other hams, (Bill, WA4IAF, and Jake WA4IAG, both now SKs), fill a balloon to raise an antenna. Now Jake bought a 24' weather balloon, and two 300 cubic ft tanks of helium. We attached two 500' rolls of para cord to the balloon, along with the wire antenna, along with 650' of RG8 coax. Jake was one of those hard-headed guys that thought he knew how to do everything. While Bill and I held the ropes, Jake started filling the balloon. After one tank emptied, the balloon was pulling on the ropes and ready to go. Against Bill and I insisting there was enough helium in the balloon, Jake started filling with the second tank. The balloon had raised about 6' up and was getting difficult to hold. We were yelling at Jake, but he continued to fill the balloon. The rope was pulling through our hands and burning until we let go. The balloon took off, unrolling the rope and coax. We ran because the spools were jumping all over the ground and once all the rope and coax got tangled, the rolls also took off. Within minutes the balloon and all the tangled mess was out of sight.

It got picked up on radar and was investigated by the Air Force as a possible hazard to commercial aircraft, but finally surpassed the altitude that aircraft could fly. I suppose it ended up in the Atlantic somewhere!

Jake admitted it was his balloon and got fined \$150 by the FAA. (A substantial fine 55 years ago). It gave us something to laugh about for years!!



ARPSC Report for October

The 2019 fall SET was held on Saturday October 12th

The scenario included a powerful Northeast storm with substantial winds causing the already high Lake Erie to flood large areas of the lakeshore communities. Amateur radio was tasked with providing communications for "shelters" and Situation Reports back to the EOC.

This year we sent 2 team "into the field" at Jefferson and Erie Schools Parking lots to practice setting up in an unfamiliar environment and to practice setting up their go-kits.

The drill went well with stations passing messages by voice back to EOC and the EOC passing digital traffic via FLDigI to Lucas County, who was also doing their SET.

Some of the numbers from the SET:

- 23 checkins-16 on emergency power
- 2 teams set up in the field near simulated shelters
- 14 messages passed via voice
- Intercounty communications achieved with Washtenaw and Lucas-Including several FLDigI messages passed between ECC and Lucas county
- Tactical messages originated for 16 served agencies
- 1 served agency onsite w/ msg passed
- 10 emergency power repeaters used
- Contacts made on DMR and HF

Final score for the SET: **641** points, 2018's score was **529**

Final score for the National Traffic Service portion of SET: **162** 2018's was **115**

On Site, Liaisons, check-ins from home or on the road-Everyone played a huge part in making our attempt a highly successful one!! Thank you all for participating!!

Also, in October, ARPSC members participated in Promedica Monroe Hospital's Mass Casualty drill on the 30th. A Tornado was to have moved thru the hospital property along the north side and destroyed buildings along that end of the property and took out the hospital's power plant. WA8EFK-Dale, N8KUF-Mike were stationed in the Incident command center of the hospital while N8NYP-Terry and KE8BYC-Lance were stationed outside near the scene at Triage and reported back to Incident Command.

Amateur radios' role in the event was mentioned by several of the event participants during the after event hot wash. The acting Incident Commander even singled out the great work by our operators during his report. We did find several issues that we need to work on in training, but that is why we participate in drills such as this, to find out where we can better ourselves to provide our service to the community.

To wrap up October, ARPSC was active on Halloween for the Dundee spook patrol event. Operators drove through town and kept an eye out for any issues during the Trick or Treat time. A huge Thank You to those that participated during the cold and rain. N8KUF-Mike, WA8EFK-Dale, KD8NZ-Rodney, KE8DDM-Dalton, AD8EP-Keith, WB8TKL-Jay and W8VWY Mary Anne.

Lance Charter KE8BYC
Emergency Coordinator
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp



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, PO Box 237, Monroe, MI 48161**. 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 _____ RRRA 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 - PACKET - RTTY - FM - DX - MOBILE - QRP - SSTV - ATV - EME - SAT

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 _____



DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by W3UR, W9JJ, 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.

ROTUMA ISLAND, 3D2. 3D2AG/p will be QRV beginning December 17. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters. QSL via 3D2AG.

GEORGIA, 4L. Tev, TA1HZ will be QRV as 4L/TA1HZ from December 13 to 20. Activity will be mostly on the low bands using FT8 and FT4. QSL direct to home call.

SENEGAL, 6W. A group of operators are QRV as 6V1A from Goree Island, IOTA AF-045, until December 15. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via 6W1QL.

BHUTAN, A5. Zorro, JH1AJT, Franz, DJ9ZB, Adrian, KO8SCA, Max, ON5UR and Champ, E21EIC are QRV as A50BOC, A50BPC, and A5B until December 20 as part of a trip here in order to support Bhutan's Olympic and Paralympic Committees with regard to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8 and FT4. QSL via JH1AJT.

CUBA, CO. Amed, CO2AME plans to be active in the ARRL 10 Meter contest from Havana. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Roman, HB9HCF will be QRV as DP0GVN from the Neumayer III station from December 15 to February 29, 2020. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters. QSL via DL5EBE.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Erich, HB9FIH is QRV as EA8/HB9FIH from El Hierro, IOTA AF-004, until the end of March 2020. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes various SOTA and IOTA activations. QSL to home call.

ETHIOPIA, ET. Members of the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society are QRV as ET3YOTA during December. QSL direct to N2OO.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Rudi, DB1RUL is QRV as FK/DB1RUL until December 27 from various IOTAs. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly FT8. QSL to home call.

HONDURAS, HR. Tom, N9EAW is QRV as N9EAW/HR9 from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, until December 22. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

THAILAND, HS. Brad, VK2BY will be QRV as HS0ZNR from Nam Yuen from December 14 to January 8, 2020. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

The American Radio Relay League's round-up of the forthcoming week's DX activity on the amateur radio bands

DENMARK, OZ. Volker, DJ8VW is QRV as 5P8VW from Romo, IOTA EU-125, until December 21. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Mark, WQ7X is QRV as VP5/WQ7X from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, until December 21. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Seba, SQ1SGB is QRV as VP8HAL from the Halley VI Research Station until February 8, 2020. Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 meters using JT65 and FT8. QSL via EB7DX.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Vicky, AE9YL and Carl, K9LA are QRV as ZF2YL and ZF2LA, respectively, from Grand Cayman, IOTA NA-016, until December 16. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being active in the ARRL 10 Meter contest. QSL to home calls.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Lakshadweep Island, VU7RI, 2019 operation.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10-Meter Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, TRC Digi Contest and the CQC Great

Colorado 20-Meter CW Snowshoe Run are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for December 16.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray, NAQCC CW Sprint and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for December 18.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, operating event runs for the entire year of 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

During December look for a number of stations active with the YOTA suffix for Youngsters On The Air. QSL via LoTW or direct to MOSDV.

Please see December QST, page 63, 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.

2019 Schedule:

February 16 April 20
June 15 August 17
October 19 December 21

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

November 19th 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