

The Hertzian Herald



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Off The Kuf:

By Mike – N8KUF



Here we are in September. The “official” summer vacation months have come and gone. I feel that early autumn is a nice time of the year. The grass growth is slowing, and we have the colorful leaves to look forward to (although perhaps not so much after this HOT and low precip summer). Surely the dog days of summer have passed (you know ... those triple digit temperatures with humidity to match (well ... humidity doesn’t often go to triple digits, but I’ve seen many days where it felt that way)), the weather of autumn is upon us. Warm days along with cooler nights frequently mean foggy conditions. I am confident most of you have recently seen some low-lying fog (ground fog) in the cool early mornings before the sun begins to heat up the day.

You may have heard about the not so famous prognosticator who once said ... “when the ground fog sees it’s shadow, there are only six more weeks until winter”. Most of you likely thought that *Punxsutawney* Phil (or maybe Bill Murray) was the originator of the popular weather predictor but, NOW, you know the rest of the story.

You may not have known that this month of September and next month of October are prime months for the occurrence of waterspouts over Lake Erie. These slow moving, lumbering giants, are like tornados but form over water. The conditions common during this time of year are cool air and warm water – these being prime conditions (updraft/downdraft interface) to initiate a horizontally circulating (transitioning to vertical) column of air and moisture often the beginnings of a waterspout. Once you have seen one in person, you will be forever intrigued.

Some may say they are sad to see summer over ,,,, I say - We need to make the best of the remaining good weather while it lasts.

Given the remaining decent weather, and the positive responses from the recent 2020 foxhunt #1 – your board of directors has decided to conduct 2020 foxhunt #2. Because of several events / activities already on the calendar for October, we are going to push to conduct the next hunt just a few short weeks from now on the last Saturday in September. I hope you will be able to join us for the next hunt. Feel free to bring along a friend – this is an excellent opportunity for hams and non-hams alike to experience the thrill of some friendly competition. Remember also, skills learned and refined could be utilized someday (e.g. Locating emergency beacons, jammers. stuck transmitters, lost RFID tagged individuals).

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<http://mcrca.org/>

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

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for August 20, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Mike Karmol N8KUF.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: One new member, one upgrade and no guests.

John WA8YZB upgraded to Extra.

MINUTES: Motion by Don N8BZN, supported by Paul W8PI, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Dale WA8EFK, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Paul W8PI, DX is OK nothing exciting. Real DXpeditions have been cancelled until next year. State QSO Parties are running, Hawaii 2 day with FT4 and FT8, Ohio with 160m allowed, Kansas on the 29th. Sept 5th Colorado, Sept. 6th Tennessee, Sept. 12 ARRL VHF Contest 6m. Later Iowa, NJ. NH. Washington Salmon Run, and Maine.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: **Fox Hunt Sept 5th**

TESTING: Next session - Sat. October 17, 2020. **Appointment only,
Masks or better to open.**

ARPSC: This month's meeting place is questionable, Fall S.E.T. coming up, if you have any ideas call Lance. ARPSK will run Fox Hunt as an ARPSK training exercise.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK - ARRL is looking for a new CEO. Out of 40+ candidates they have narrowed it down to 4. They have selected one last weekend and are now working on an agreement. Board has been working from home via the internet. No swaps happening yet because of COVID.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF – all equipment that is on the air is working. Jeff KA8NCR fixed issues with the IRLP even though it was Linux programing. Always looking for new members, you can sign up through: www.mcrca.org.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ANOUNCEMENTS: — Fox Hunt Sept. 5th.
— Findlay Swap Sept. - **Canceled**
— and Adrian Swap Sept. - **Canceled**

PROGRAM: 3 videos, KJ4YZI "Biggest secret in ham radio", NANO VNAs, ARRL antenna book.

ADJOURNED: 8:45 pm

ATTENDANCE: 15

AD8P Keith	K8EBI Fred
K8UMF John	KA8NCR Jeff
KB8OSU George	KC8SKP Wes
KE8DDM Dalton	KE8KNZ Tom
KE8OSX Ron	N8BZN Donald
N8KUF Mike	N8NYP Terry
W8PI Paul	WA8EFK Dale
WA8YZB John	

**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

Rules are the same as they were for the first hunt (see more details elsewhere in this Herald). All participants will need to be at the starting point (parking lot of the Emergency Management offices on Raisinville Rd) by 0845 to receive a pre-hunt briefing along with an envelope containing details of the fox's location. The envelopes must remain sealed until such time as the hunter has located the fox or the hunt time has expired. While everyone's goal is to find the fox – rankings are determined based upon least mileage traveled vs. time to find – making navigational strategy an important factor. Masks when appropriate, distancing, hand sanitizer, etc. will help in facilitating an event that will be safe for all.

I hope to see many of you for the September MCRCA meeting (via Zoom). Please remember the rules for Video Conference attendance are:

- 1: Be sure to wash your hands for 20 seconds prior to sitting down at your computer
- 2: Observing good Social Distancing means masks will not be required
- 3: Bring a smile (easy without the mask) and be prepared to have a good time
- 4: Be sure to wash your hands again after leaving the meeting and frequently thereafter

I will see YOU at the meeting (via video conference) and above all –

STAY HEALTHY, STAY SAFE – do your part to protect yourself AND OTHERS, it is the RIGHT THING TO DO.

Mike Karmol – N8KUF 2020 President – MCRCA

ARPSC Report

Cooler Temps, School (kind of) and Football (sort of)...Must be September

Is your outdoor antennas, coax and towers all ready for the colder months? Now is the time to check them out before Jack Frost arrives and you wish you hadn't put off the routine maintenance while it was nice.

Monday September 21st after the 8pm ARPSC net, we will be hosting a SIMPLEX FLDigi net with Lucas, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. If you have FLDigi installed and running, feel free to join us for a test to see just how far FLDigi will stretch on simplex. We will use it some during the SET so this will be a good chance to check everything out. If you do not have it installed or are having trouble with the program, feel free to check into the TMRA Tuesday FLDigi net every Tuesday at 7:30pm on the 147.270 repeater pl 103.5 for help and troubleshooting guidance. The test on the 21st will not be a place for the generic how do I set this up questions, it will be strictly a test for those that already have it running and to see how many relays it takes to get from Maumee to Canton or Dexter.

Other than the upcoming SET October 10th (see article elsewhere in the newsletter), everything still stands at status quo for the time being as far as ARPSC in person events.

The next ARPSC meeting will be Thursday October 1st at 7:30pm at the EMD (hopefully) and will also be a Jit.si meeting to allow the most participation. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Remember, anyone with an interest in public service is welcome to attend our meetings held the first Thursday of each month except August, 7:30pm at the EMD training room 987 S. Raisinville Rd. just south of the fairgrounds. Don't forget to check into the Monday ARPSC Net every Monday at 8pm on 146.720 '72 Monroe.

As always, you can keep track of us via the webpage which is linked through the MCRCA Website and the Facebook page, which is also linked via the club webpage. There is also a master calendar of events on the MCRCA page which lists MCRCA, RRRA, and ARPSC events. We thank the group and the club webmaster for doing this for us!

73 until next month!

Lance Charter KE8BYC

Emergency Coordinator

Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp

The FOX is back – Second 2020 MCRCA Foxhunt

Saturday September 26, 2020

This year – MCRCA will be hosting a foxhunt. 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 5 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 in order to find the fox. Each team records distance with the fox when located, and all teams receive points according to distance traveled. Time is not a factor in scoring, 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, Map of Monroe County, Compass, Straight Edge, Protractor

Basic Instructions

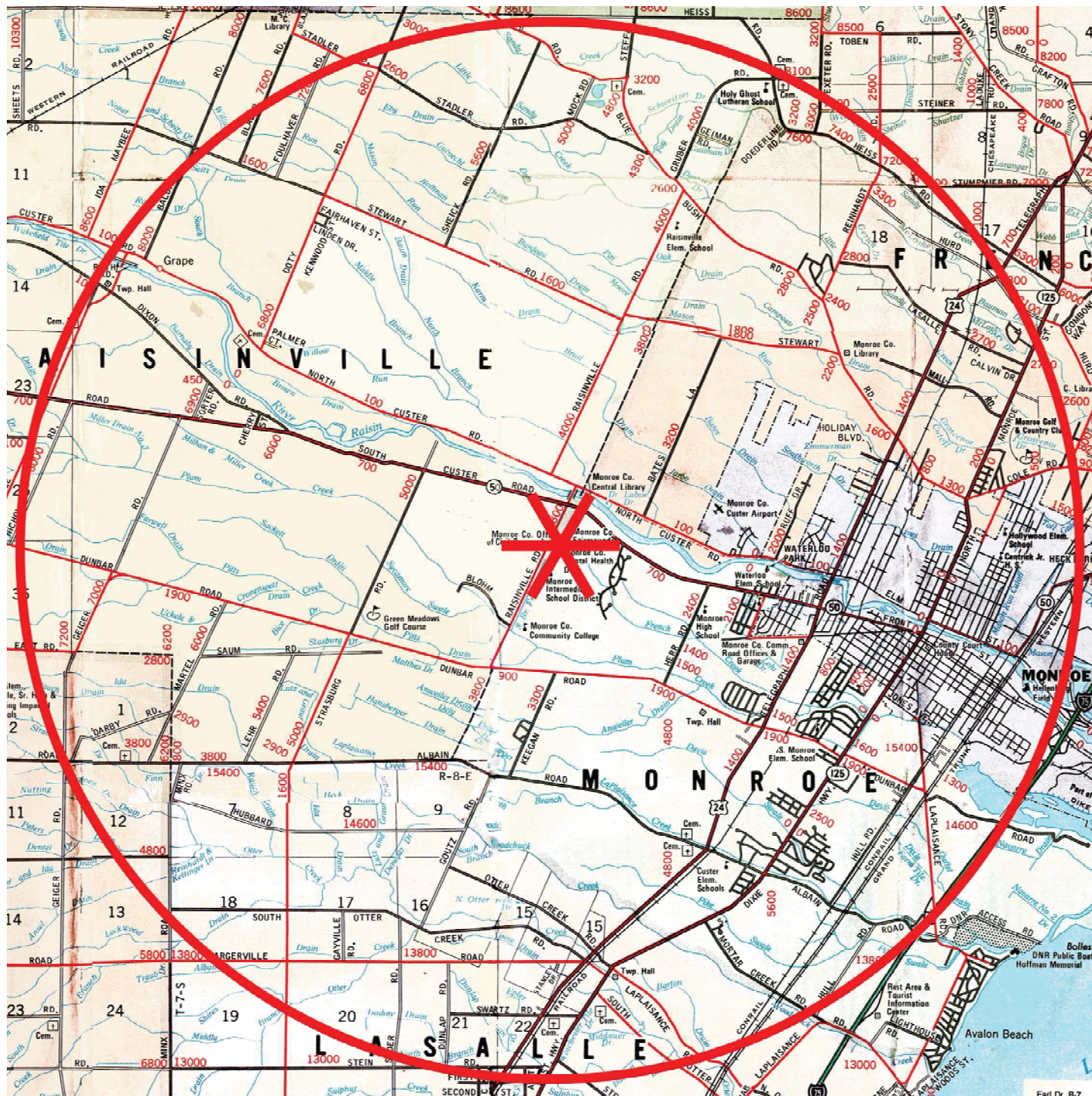
- We will meet in the parking lot at Emergency Management Offices at 08:45 where you will be given a pre-hunt brief (instructions and information specific to the hunt)
- Teams are identified and recorded by the hunt coordinator
- Each team will be given a SEALED envelope – MAKE SURE IT STAYS SEALED. (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 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 for lunch immediately following the hunt for lunch and debrief. Lunch location will be Benny's in south Monroe unless otherwise indicated during pre-hunt brief.
- 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 to the fox operator First place team is responsible for fox duties for the next hunt

Responsibilities of the Hunt Teams

Hunt Teams MUST:

- Timely arrival at start location. You MUST be present for pre-hunt brief in order to receive hunt package as required to participate
- REMEMBER – scoring is based on distance travelled 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
- HAVE FUN and BE SAFE

Fox Hunt Map 5 mile radius from the EMD



Print this map to use during the Fox Hunt

FALL Simulated Emergency Test

As fall creeps up on us so does the big training event of the year, the annual Simulated Emergency Test or S.E.T. which will be held on Saturday October 10th, from 8am-12pm.

From the ARRL:

The SET is a nationwide exercise in disaster response and emergency communication, administered by ARRL emergency coordinators and net managers, in which volunteers respond to a mock emergency or disaster, such as an earthquake or hurricane. Members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (**ARES**), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (**RACES**), the National Traffic System (**NTS**), **SKYWARN**, the ARRL Field Organization, and other groups work together to plan and develop simulated emergency and disaster scenarios, in consultation with the various served agencies that rely on radio amateurs during emergencies.



The SET gives volunteer public service communicators the opportunity to focus on their capabilities, strengths, and weaknesses while interacting with NTS nets. It also provides a public demonstration to served agencies such as the Red Cross, state and local emergency managers, and the news media of the value that Amateur Radio provides. The SET helps radio amateurs gain communication experience using standard procedures and a variety of modes, under simulated disaster-response conditions. Participating groups earn points toward an overall SET score, adding a competitive component to the activity.

For 2020 the Monroe exercise scenario will be a large Derecho that has affected a large portion of the State. This will also follow the scenario going on at the State level and will require quite a bit of communications between counties, Districts and the State EOC all on Simplex.

To brush up on your National Traffic System skills, all stations that check in are asked to have at least 1 Radiogram prepared to be moved into the system. So pull out your address books and send well wishes to a family member in Colorado, an It's been too long message to a former high school classmate in Louisiana or a Let me tell you about this great hobby of Amateur Radio to a colleague in Maine..... The sky is the limit, it will help bring us points, help you keep the rudimentary skill of Traffic Passing alive and it's cheaper than a stamp!

Due to Emergency Orders currently and assumedly in place at that time, most operators will participate from their homes. This should allow for more participation and a chance for you to see how your station handles during simplex operation.

If you can't participate all morning, even checking in from home or on the road, will help us fill our objectives. Have generator or battery backup? Even better as this will add to our points... and assure that you have your batteries charged and your generator runs before the winter storms and power outages arrive.

In 2019 Monroe County was top group in Michigan, and in the top 14 in the ENTIRE United States! Let's keep up that status this year!

If you wish to participate and I have not sent you a copy of the participant's handbook, e-mail me at KE8BYC@yahoo.com and I will send you a copy.

More details will be shared at the October ARPSC meeting October 1st at the EMD AND on Jit.Si to allow the most participation.



ARRL Great Lakes Division Elections 2020

Every three years we have to vote for ARRL Great Lakes Division offices. This cycle ARRL members will be voting for the Director and Vice Director for our division. This is an excerpt from the ARRL announcement for elections that will provide you with the information to base your votes.

- In the Great Lakes Division, incumbent Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, who has held the seat since 2014, will face off against Michael Kalter, W8CI, who is treasurer of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association.
- In the Great Lakes Division, members will choose from among three candidates to succeed incumbent Vice Director Thomas Delaney, W8WTD, who is not running for another term. They are current Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY; Jim Hessler, K8JH, who is vice president of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association, and Frank Piper, K18GW, Yonally's predecessor as Ohio Section Manager.

The ARRL will be sending out official ballots for this election and there will be an official statement from each candidate for your review. You should be receiving this ballot on or before October 1st.

You can also review each candidates QRZ.com page which will provide more information about each person running. All of the candidates have requested that this information be provided to the MCRCA membership.

2020 Individual Fox hunt Scores

Sept. 05, 2020 – Foxhunt #1

Possible route (via established public roadways) according to Google maps was 6.8 miles

Stats:

Place	Team	Members	Distance	Time	Score
Fox	Fox	K8EBI, KB8KQC	—	—	3 pts
1 st	Team 2	W8PI, Vickie	8.0	1:0	7 pts each
2 nd	Team 5	AC8KD Bruce	8.5	2:45	4 pts each
3 rd	Team 1	N8KUF, WA8EFK	8.5	2:50	3 pts each
4 th	Team 3	KE8HCD, K8HV	9.2	1:45	2 pts each
5 th	Team 4	W8MCW, Debbie	11.0	2:30	1 pt. each
DNF	ARPSC/NCS	KE8BYC	—	—	1 pt. each

Members	Overall Individual Score
W8PI, Vickie	7 each
Bruce	4 each
N8KUF, W8EFK	3 each
K8EBI, KB8KQC	3 each
KE8HCD, K8HV	2 each
W8MCW, Debbie	1 each
KE8BYC	1 each



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

Testing by appointment only.
Call for information.
Masks or better to open.

2020 Schedule:
February 15 April 18
June 20 August 15
October 17 December 19

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

September 17th 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