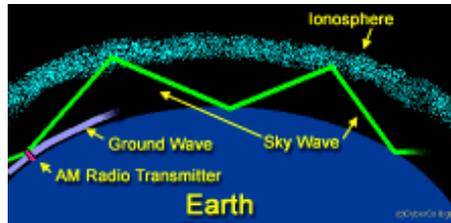


The Hertzian Herald



N8DXR's Ground Waves



It seems like March came in like a very big lion this year with almost twelve hours of winds reportedly gusting as much as fifty miles an hour or more in some areas. Today is Thursday the 9th and I see there are still areas in our county waiting for power to be restored. Hopefully there has been little or no damage to any amateur's antennas, towers or property and if you were without power it did not last long. Just four days after this month's meeting spring will begin on the 20th and we begin the slow slide into milder weather that leads to the warm days of summer.

Besides better weather spring brings several events. On April 1st Michigan State Parks on the Air (MSPOTA) is due to go active. As the clubs involvement with MSPOTA develops we will pass the information on at meetings, on our website and in newsletters. You can also keep abreast of MSPOTA activities on their web site. <http://www.mspota.org/>.

April 4th **Skywarn Spotter Training** will be held at the Monroe County Community College 1555 S. Raisinville Road Monroe, MI. Session is from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the Life Science Building Lecture Hall #140. **Registration is required.** For registration call 734-240-3135.

April 15th the Mad River Radio Club will once again host the 2017 Michigan QSO Party. As of this writing plans are being considered for a club operation in our radio station at the Red Cross building. This is a twelve hour event that offers a lot of HF activity to exercise and hone your radio skills for field day. MiQP info on these sites. <http://www.miqp.org/> and <http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm>.

Also keep in mind that **March 19th is the TMRA Hamfest** just a short drive South of Toledo in Perrysburg. It's a good hamfest with lots of vendors. MCRCA will have a table offering items for sale so if you have something you would like to sell, bring it along.

Till next time 73.

John - N8DXR



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MCRCA Minutes:

The February meeting minutes have mysteriously disappeared.

Why are there so many Techs?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.
- Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.
- Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.
- Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.
- Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.
- Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was. Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.

Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks->

Cont'd next page

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

opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an An Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (<http://www.arrl.org/license-1>) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC. They note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017.

According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

- The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.
- A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.
- Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.
- The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.
- A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure.

And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (<http://www.arrl.org/divisions>).

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Bouvet 3Y0Z DXpedition Website Goes Live

The website for the 3Y0Z Bouvet DXpedition <http://www.bouvetdx.org/> planned for early 2018 is now open. Bouvet is the second most-wanted DXCC entity. The website details the vast DXpeditioning experience of the 3Y0Z team members.

3Y0Z plans to be active on all available bands using traditional modes coupled with "the very best antennas, radios, and amplifiers." The team's stay on what it's calling "the most remote island on Earth" could be as long as 3 weeks, weather permitting.

The DXpedition leaders said they hope to make tens of thousands of contacts from 3Y0Z "consistent with the safety of the operating team." At this point, the DXpedition has officially inaugurated its fundraising effort.

A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a subantarctic island in the South Atlantic. The last Bouvet activation was 3Y0E, during a scientific expedition over the winter of 2007-2008. — Thanks to The Daily DX

Ham radio growing in Michigan

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

The Mining Gazette reports the use of amateur radio is growing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

It may seem unusual when there are so many forms of electronic communication available there are still people who use radios to communicate, but according to Stuart Kauppila W8EEK the use of the technology is actually growing.

Kauppila, who is the president of the Copper Country Radio Amateurs Association, said the group currently has 33 members, but has had as many as 75 members in the past.

"It ebbs and flows," he said.

Kauppila said the CCRAA members communicate with each other, with members of other local organizations, such as The Michigan Technological University Tech Amateur Radio Club and the Keweenaw Repeater Association, and people who aren't affiliated with any organization.

The numbers of people involved with the pastime seems to be expanding in the United States, Kauppila said.

"Locally, we've seen a resurgence," he said. "I think it's growing, actually."

Read the full story at

<http://www.mininggazette.com/news/features/2017/03/use-of-ham-radios-growing-in-up/>

Copper Country Radio Amateurs Association

<http://www.ccras.net/>



Daily Mining Gazette/Kurt Hauglie Stuart Kauppila, president of the Copper Country Radio Amateurs Association, points out features of some the equipment members use at their building in Calumet Township. Kauppila said he thinks the use of amateur radio is growing, at least locally.

Old Diamond Shaped Tower

On our drive from Paducah, KY to Montgomery, AL today, we came across this unusual tower south of Nashville. A little background on this relic...

WSM's unusual diamond-shaped antenna (manufactured by Blaw-Knox) is visible from Interstate 65 just south of Nashville (in Brentwood) and is one of the area's landmarks. It is located near the I-65 exit 71 interchange with Concord Road (State Highway 253). When the 878-foot tower was built in 1932, it was the tallest antenna in North America. Its height was reduced to 808 feet (246 m) in 1939 when it was discovered that the taller tower was causing self-cancellation in the "fringe" areas of reception of the station (it is now known that 195 electrical degrees, about 810 feet, is the optimum height for a Class A station on that frequency). For a period during World War II it was designated to provide transmissions to submarines in the event that ship-to-shore communications were lost. It is now one of the oldest operating broadcast towers in the United States. (courtesy of Wikipedia)

<http://hawkins.pair.com/blaw-knox.html>



Announcing the 2017 Michigan QSO Party

Just Have Some Fun!!!!

- o Chance to get on the air
- o Single Op, Multi Op, Mobile, EOC
- o Be the station others want to work
- o Maybe activate a rare county?

- o Excellent Club Activity
- o Reason to get together as group
- o Join the fun in the "EOC" station category

- o Excellent Training opportunity!
- o Get new members on the air!
- o Friendly Competition



Let's all help make Michigan "radio-active" on the 15th of April!!!!

Get your local EOC on the air and show the emergency management team how amateur radio can benefit their efforts!!!

The 2017 Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, is from 1600Z April 15 until 0400Z April 16.

Stations may operate the full 12 hours. Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, and mobile categories. Work stations once per band and mode. MI-to-MI QSOs allowed. Work portables and mobiles again as they change county, state or province. Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, state/province or "DX" for others).

Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045; Phone-3825, 7200, 14250, 21300, 28450. One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode.

Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states, provinces and "DX" for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

Submit logs no later than 30 days after the contest. Electronic logs in Cabrillo format are submitted via the Log Submittal page on the MiQP web site <http://www.miqp.org/submitLogFileMiQP.html>. Mail paper logs with summary sheets to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

[MiQP Home Page](http://www.miqp.org) www.miqp.org

Latest MiQP News. MiQP Results: MiQP Rules; Awards Program; In-State Operating Tips; Out-State Operating Tips

The VHF/UHF DX Book, 2017 Replica Edition - is now available for free download

'The VHF/UHF DX Book' was written in the early to mid-1990s by a team of experienced VHF/UHF DXers and equipment developers, in an effort to pass on our knowledge and stimulate further developments.

But eventually the book went out of print, and information of lasting value became trapped on the printed pages.

To keep that information alive for future generations of VHF/UHF DXers, a digital replica of the Second Printing (1995) has now been released as a free download, by kind permission of the copyright owner TRPublishing and its proprietor Trevor Preece.

As with all older books, the challenge for the reader is to separate the parts that are of lasting value from other parts that have become dated. But we make no apology for that; even the outdated parts remain an accurate snapshot of VHF/UHF DXing in its heyday. http://www.trpub.net/html/dx_book.htm (with an underscore, not a space)

Entering a Golden Age of Innovation in Computer Science

Published on March 9, 2017 - **Paul G. Allen**, Philanthropist and Entrepreneur

Today's computer science and engineering students have a wonderful opportunity to put their skills and expertise to use solving the world's biggest problems. The computer programs of today are really only constrained by the user's imagination.

Today's announcement that the University of Washington's Department of Computer Science & Engineering will be elevated to a school and will bear my name is truly an honor.

UW has always felt like home to me for several reasons.

In the university library my father helped lead, as the Associate Director of Libraries from '60 to '82, I spent hours and hours as a kid devouring piles of books so I could follow the latest advances in science. And I spent a lot of time in the graduate computer lab as a high school senior. Of course, I didn't belong there, but the professors looked the other way—until we wore out our welcome, as you can guess high school students would do eventually.

I still have the letter from the computer lab director, Dr. Hellmut Golde, kicking us out. A couple lines still make me laugh.

With that stern letter, our free time on UW computers came to an unfortunate end.

Another reason the University of Washington is such a special place to me is that it's where we built the Traf-O-Data machine. While Bill Gates and I handled the software side of it, the machine itself was built on campus by a UW student named Paul Gilbert, a partner Bill Gates and I recruited into our high school business venture. Paul did an amazing job turning the first 8-bit microprocessor in Seattle into a real computer.

The idea was simple enough.

We wanted to automate the traffic-measuring process, part of which required high school students to count the hole punched into a tape each time a vehicle drove over a black tube laid across the street. We wondered if there was a less expensive solution than a minicomputer to processing the tapes. I had read about the new 8008 chip from Intel and suggested we try to build a machine based on it.

Objectively speaking, Traf-O-Data was a failure as a company. Right as our business started to pick up, states began to provide their own traffic-counting services to local governments for free. As quickly as it started, our business model evaporated.

But while Traf-O-Data was technically a business failure, the understanding of microprocessors we absorbed was crucial to our future success. And the emulator I wrote to program it gave us a huge head start over anyone else writing code at the time.

If it hadn't been for our Traf-O-Data venture, and if it hadn't been for all that time spent on UW computers, you could argue that Microsoft might not have happened.

I hope the lesson is that there are few true dead ends in computer science. Sometimes taking a step in one direction positions you to push ahead in another one.

And relentlessly absorbing the latest in technology can help prepare you for that new path toward success.

To think that when we were building the Traf-O-Data machine there wasn't even a computer science department at all. And now this department is one of the best in the nation, with this next phase of expansion expected to elevate the school into the nation's Top 5 computer science programs.

This impressive program trains and educates some of the world's best and brightest. Matter of fact, I was fortunate to be able to convince UW professor Oren Etzioni to lead the Allen Institute of Artificial Intelligence. He and his team are doing tremendous work in Fremont.

The promise of artificial intelligence and computer science generally vastly outweighs the impact it could have on some jobs. In the same way that while the invention of the airplane negatively affected the railroad industry, it opened a much wider door to human progress. As more intelligent computer assistance comes into being, it will amplify human progress.

To read the entire article go to: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/entering-golden-age-innovation-computer-science-paul-g-allen?trk=eml-email_feed_ecosystem_digest_01-hero0null&midToken=AQH4W6_Dca1GvA&fromEmail=fromEmail&ut=2mOHv8kdnBLDE1



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.

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Nigel, G3TXF is QRV as 3B8/G3TXF until March 21. This includes being an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth contest and the upcoming Russian DX contest. Activity is on the HF bands, including the newer bands, using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

NIGER, 5U. A group of operators are QRV as 5U5R from Niamey until March 21. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters with four stations active simultaneously. They will be meeting with Nigerian officials to propose authorization for 6 meters. QSL via operators' instructions.

BARBADOS, 8P. Dean, 8P6SH is QRV with special call sign 8P50B until December 31 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of independence from Great Britain. QSL via KU9C.

GHANA, 9G. Members of Six G Team are QRV as 9G5X from Aburi in the Akwapim Mountain area until March 21. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via MOOXO.

NEPAL, 9N. Kazik, SP6AXW will be QRV as 9N7XW from March 15 to 31 while on vacation with his family. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands. QSL to home call.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Jan, PA7X is QRV as C5PA7X from Banjul until March 13. The license is actually issued with no slash between the prefix and his call. Activity is mostly on 20 meters using SSB during his local afternoon hours. QSL via PDORH.

CHILE, CE. A group of operators are QRV as XR5M from Mocha Island, IOTA SA-061, until March 13. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via IK2DUW.

SPAIN, EA. Special event station EH3DWN is QRV until March 21 to raise awareness of Down Syndrome. This operation coincides with World Down Syndrome Day on March 21. QSL via operators' instructions.

ST. MARTIN, FS. Serge, VE1KG is QRV as FS/VE1KG until the end of April. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL direct to home call.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Sigi, DK9FN and Bernard, DL2GAC are QRV as H40FN and H40MS, respectively, until March 24. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB, respectively. They have authorization to be active on 60 meters. QSL via operators' instructions.

THAILAND, HS. A group of operators are QRV as E20HHK/p from Lipe Island, IOTA AS-126, until March 13. QSL direct to E20HHK.

ICELAND, TF. Mason, KM4SII will be QRV as TF/KM4SII from March 13 to 19. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 17 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

COTE D'IVOIRE, TU. A group of operators are QRV as TU7C until March 19. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via F1ULQ.

BELIZE, V3. Ian, G4SGX is QRV as V31GX until March 14. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW. This includes being an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. QSL to home call.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Hugh, VE3AYR is QRV as VP2V/VE3AYR until March 16. QSL direct to home call. In addition, Pat, N2IEN will be QRV as VP2V/N2IEN from March 15 to 18. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly RTTY if conditions allow. QSL via NR6M.

INDIA, VU. Madhukar, VU2MJD is QRV with contest call AT5M. He will be active in the RSGB Commonwealth contest, as well as a number of upcoming contests. QSL to home call.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. John, AD8J will be QRV as ZF2AG from Grand Cayman, IOTA NA-016, from March 11 to 18. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 15 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, North American RTTY Sprint, AWA John Rollins Memorial DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest, RSGB Commonwealth Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, F9AA SSB Cup, South America 10 Meter Contest, AGCW QRP CW Contest, and Oklahoma QSO Party.

In addition, the EA PSK63 Contest, QCWA QSO Party, TESLA Memorial 80-Meter HF CW Contest, Idaho QSO Party, QRP ARCI Spring Thaw SSB Sprint, UBA Spring 2-Meter Contest, Wisconsin QSO Party and the WAB 3.5 MHz Phone will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for March 13. The QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test and the RSGB 80-Meter Club CW Championship are all scheduled for March 15.

Please see March QST, page 89, 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

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