

The Hertzian Herald



August 2022 • Volume 46, Issue 8 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

D Fritz Bitz:

Hamfest season is winding down and contest season is about to start. There are a couple more hamfests I want to go to and a tower to install when I have time. I finally got all the antennas I want to put up so finding time to install everything is the next step.



I want to thank everyone who came to the July meeting. We had a full house, which is unusual for a summer meeting. Summer meetings usually have about half the people as winter. If this keeps up, we will have to get a bigger meeting area. We do have pretty good meetings though. Good discussions, lots of information, plenty of updates about affiliate clubs and a great presentation to finish it all. So to everyone who comes to the meetings, thank you for supporting your club.

Keith (KJ8H) and I were talking the other day about starting a lending library for the MCRCA members. We both have plenty of ham radio "how to" books and I also have some study guides for those who want to upgrade to the General or Amateur Extra license. We are going to set up a shelf in the Red Cross radio room with a system to 'check out' the books so you can take them home for a month at a time. If you have any books you think others may be interested in that you would like to donate, please bring them to the meeting so we can identify them and get our lending library set up.

So, until next month, 73.

Don Fritz
N8BZN



<http://mcrca.org/>

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

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for July 21, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Don N8BZN.
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Bob W8GMA, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

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

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, Conditions have been crazy lately, with bands in and out. Tom talked about grid squares and how band conditions are improving.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, NAQSO Party CW on the 6th and SSB on the 20th. Aug. 27th are the HI, KS, and OH QSO parties.

CLASSES: Sat. August 13, 2022 contact Don N8BZN

HAMFEST: Fred K8EBI – We did good. Thanks to everyone that helped out to make the job much easier.

FIELD DAY: Paul W8PI – The Monroe News had a nice article with several pictures from the event. We had 1100 contacts with possibly 5600 points. Still waiting on Jeff's final score. Jeff made several satellite contacts and we had a lot of new people to help set up, operate and tear down. Plus we had a big Pot luck on Saturday.

FOX HUNT: Mike N8KUF – Sept. 10, 2022 - 9:00 am EMD on Raisinville Rd. 146.475

TESTING: Next session - Sat. Aug. 20, 2022. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd** Give Paul W8PI a call if you want to take a test.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, ARRL had a board meeting last week. Motor City Club had it's 90th anniversary, arrl.net email service will continue, ARRL has hired a new IT director with electronic elections in the future.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, Systems working pretty well, a few squeaks and squawks. Power supply is working again after fix. RRRA is always accepting new memberships or renewals, contact Mike N8KUF.

OLD BUSINESS: Scholarship winner Caroline Roocroft from Ida, was invited to July Meeting, no reply.

NEW BUSINESS: none

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Doug Iverson AC9XW, and Tom KG8P
 50/50: Peter KC8AZZ

PROGRAM: Space Weather Woman Video

ADJOURNED: 8:24 pm

ATTENDANCE: 27

KE8PUN	NM8I	WA8EFK	N8BZN	K8EBI	K8ONZ
KB8OSU	WD8NWF	K8OLV	WA8EFK	KJ8H	KE8OTG
KE8HCD	W8MCW	N8KUF	KA8PQH	W8PI	KC8AZZ
N8NYP	KG8P	KC8SKP	KA8MBK	AC9XW	KE8TPU
KE8C	KD8NV	W8GMA			

Committees

Club Station
 Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

DX Net
 Soon

Field Day
 Jeff Breitrner 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

Another whirlwind month has come and gone....

The Biennial Fermi preparedness drills are progressing at full tilt and the Monroe team is proving their readiness and training at each event, garnering high praises from the county EMD staff and the exercise facilitators. I would like to pass along my appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Monroe team that put in the work and time to be at the top of their skills and consistently earn praises from our Served Agencies and other Amateur radio leadership.



The next event in this evolution is this coming Tuesday August 16th. This event at the EOC will require the use of the 72 Monroe and Ida repeaters from 8am until early afternoon, this will include Echolink and IRLP features. Once the drill activates we will ask for check-ins through out the day looking for operators to check in for simulated assignments. There would be no physical activation or participation required, it would occur all on paper. If you are going to be around your radio on Tuesday and can check in, please do. We do ask that you move any QSO's to another frequency during the time frame of the drill to allow the 72 and Ida repeaters to be used for this drill.

There will be further events on Tuesday August 30th and Tuesday September 20th which will fall under the same conditions and requests. We appreciate your assistance during these events.

There are a bunch of public service and training events coming this summer and fall. To make it easier to participate, there is now a signup form at the bottom of the "calendar" tab on the MCARPSC webpage. Some of these events require operators to have a county issued ID tag to participate; these will be noted on the sign up.

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 usually the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. The next meeting is Thursday September 1st and a Saturday training session on September 3rd where we will discuss the FLDigi suite of programs for digital communications

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

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.

The next hunt is Sept. 10, 2022. We will meet at the EMD parking lot at 8:45 am.

Simultaneous operations of APRS and Voice Repeater now a reality on ISS

ARISS is pleased to announce that starting August 11, simultaneous operations of the ARISS Voice Repeater and digital APRS communications on the International Space Station (ISS) is now a reality. Current ARISS operations include voice repeater transmissions with the JVC Kenwood D710GA in the Columbus module and APRS packet operation from an identical radio in the Service Module (Zvezda). Packet operations are on 145.825 MHz.

The ARISS Russia and USA teams have been working for several weeks to prepare the Service Module radio for APRS operations. ARISS Russia team member Sergey Samburov, RV3DR, led the effort, working with Russian mission controllers and the on-board ISS cosmonauts to configure the Service Module radio for APRS ops. On August 11, final checkouts were completed and the APRS packet mode was switched on for amateur radio use.

ARISS-International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO states, "Simultaneous operation of APRS and the voice repeater on ISS is transformative for ARISS and represents a key element of our ARISS 2.0 initiative, providing interactive capabilities 24/7 that inspire, engage and educate youth and lifelong learners—especially life-long learning in ham radio operations." Bauer continues, "Our heartfelt thanks to Sergey Samburov, RV3DR, for making this crucial ARISS 2.0 initiative become a reality."

The Columbus Module radio uses the callsign NA1ISS and the new Service Module radio uses RS0ISS. Aside from the callsigns, the radios are identical and packet operations are the same as before. You can use RS0ISS, ARISS, or APRSAT as the packet path. Also, both radios are expected to be on full time, except during educational contacts, EVAs, and dockings or undockings.

You can find operational status and expected downtimes of the ISS radios at

<https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations> .

10 things to do during the terrible band conditions with amateur radio

Now before we go too far into this blog post you need to know this is satire. I thought that this would be a fun diversion from the frustrations associated with the bands currently in 2022. So if you came to this blog post to get legit tips on operating during poor band conditions then this is probably not the blog post for you. With that out of the way, let's have some fun.

Let's get the easy ones out of the way first. Like...

Install a 180' tower and a 20/40 beam antenna. We all know that a better antenna is the first step to better signal, so why not start there? I mean, isn't this what second mortgages are for?

Locate a 5 kilowatt amp... You will have countless hours of fun running a high current rated 220VAC circuit for it. It could easily double as a coffee table in the corner of the shack or as a nice space heater in the winter months to keep your cat warm.

Beacon mode. Now here is a novel idea. Your radio could be running in beacon mode, calling CQ fruitlessly anyway, and you could be free from sitting at the operating position and could instead do something less valuable... like go mow the yard...or better yet, scope out where you are going to put that tower.

Straighten up the wiring in your shack. Lord knows we could all use some wire management in our lives. So what we all need to do is turn off our perfectly functioning radios and then go around behind them and start messing with all the wiring, I mean, what could possibly go wrong?

Marriage counseling. We are all edgy lately due to the terrible propagation and the frustration with trying to complete QSOs that are normally easy. Instead of getting mad, why not instead take the XYL on a date to her favorite restaurant? You could even take her shopping...I know, I know...that might be too much, but you could try???

Repeaters. Now hear me out, if the bands are this bad, shouldn't we reconsider what "DX" really is? How about we start working some local DX since it seems that 50 watts on 2 meters can still open a repeater these days.

Alternative QSOs. You can still go to a ham fest and make "eyeball" QSOs with people, don't forget your QSL cards too, people still like to exchange them. Do these go in the LOTW too???

QRP Radio. We all know how frustrating QRP can be even in the best of band conditions. Since many of us are accustomed to having 100 watts or more at our disposal to make contacts with, why not try using **LESS** power during these terrible times??? I mean, you could just get it over with up front and not have to wonder why you can't make contact, you know for a fact what the problem is and you have an easy scapegoat?

Kit building. Now is the perfect time to get one of those kits and spend some quality time cussing at the burned fingers from the surface mount devices and heat sensitive ICs that you have to solder...

Read a blog. I think this is a great idea to be honest. You can subscribe to this very blog with a button somewhere on this page and then you will get all the notifications when I publish the next one. Honestly though, take some time to just call CQ if you want, maybe, just maybe someone will answer you...

Thank you for going down this rabbit hole with me for a few minutes to read this little blog, I just had this idea and thought I would share it with you guys and gals and have some fun with it. Leave a comment with what you think should be on this list that I left off. I would love to hear what all of y'all think.

73, David, WK4DS

RTTY turns 100

On August 9, 1922 a text was typed in an airplane and simultaneously printed out at a ground station

A translation of the DARC post reads:

With this experiment, the US Navy Department gave the telex procedure wings - exactly 100 years ago. From now on it was possible to transmit texts wirelessly at a speed of up to 100 words per minute. The ministry immediately pushed for messages to be made available in the opposite direction, namely from the ground to the plane. It was the birth of radio telex - "RTTY".

After the Second World War, the first telexes came into the hands of radio amateurs in the USA, who then modified their transmitters for frequency shift keying (FSK). RTTY had now also arrived in the amateur radio service.



With the advent of personal computers at the beginning of the 1980s, they replaced the previously widespread electromechanically generated RTTY with very simple RTTY programs. With the introduction of digital technology and the development of new types of transmission such as PSK31 and later FT8, RTTY has lost its previous importance in amateur radio. It's different in the maritime radio service: Despite modern and fast digital processes, RTTY transmissions still have their place there, e.g. to warn of dangers or to transmit current sea weather reports to the skippers.

An image in the Library of Congress shows the teleprinter radio used by the US Navy Department in August 1922 to receive typed radio messages from a naval aircraft, see

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002697173/>

Source <https://darc.de/>

New ARRL Radio Lab inspires innovation in the ham shack

ARRL has unveiled its new Radio Laboratory, W1HQ. In a new YouTube [video](#), Jherica Goodgame, KI5HTA, a summer intern at ARRL Headquarters, tours viewers through the station.

"The ARRL Radio Lab is an innovative test space designed to reshape the way we imagine and build a ham radio shack," said Goodgame. The station is intended to inspire members to build, organize, and equip their own stations in innovative ways. "From a decluttered workspace and a digital user interface, to being able to remote into the equipment from anywhere, **W1HQ** is a step towards the future of amateur radio stations," Goodgame added.

The station includes a new tower and antennas atop the main administrative building at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Inside the station, three operating positions provide an interface to rack-mounted and computer-controlled transceivers, amplifiers, antenna switches, and rotators.

Goodgame explained that the Radio Lab will also support equipment testing and QST Product Review. "An extension of product reviews in the future will be to take that piece of gear that we're testing, put it on this test bench, and see how it integrates with a station that's already under full automation and control," she said.

The video is published on ARRL's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/68BJxGHq74Y>



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 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.

AZERBAIJAN, 4K. Dirk, DK1DKE is active as 4K7DK until August 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via DK1DKE, by the Bureau or LoTW.

TANZANIA, 5H. Eugen, DL8AAI will be active as 5H2JK/p during a hiking tour in Kilimanjaro National Park (5HFF-0005) until August 17, and some days after hiking, from Moshi. Activity will be holiday style, mainly on SSB on 20 to 10 meters. Check for WSPR beacon signals from 5H2JK/P on 15 meters which will be activated when the antenna is operational. QSL via DL8AAI.

MALAWI, 7Q. Junior, 7Q7JN has been active as 7Q7EMH from the radio station at the Embangweni Mission Hospital in the Northern Region. Activity has been on 30, 15 and 12 meters using CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW or ClubLog.

INDONESIA, 8H7/8I7. To celebrate the 77th anniversary of independence, amateurs will be using 8H7 and 8I7 call signs from August 13 to 21. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters and on 2m/70cm for Satellites, as well VHF Terrestrial on 2 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FM (Satellite).

MALDIVES, 8Q. Giovanni, IZ2DPX will be active as 8Q7AG until August 20. Activity will be on various HF bands as well as 6 meters. QSL to IZ2DPX direct, via HE9ERA by the Bureau, LoTW or ClubLog's OQRS. Also, Stefan, EA5Q will be active as 8Q7QE from August 14 to 24. QSL via EA5Q. All contacts will be confirmed via LoTW.

USA, N. Special event station N7C is commemorating the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II, until August 19. Look for them on 7265, 14265 and 18130 kHz using CW, FT8 or phone. QSL via Herb, N7HG. Herb's father, John V. Goodluck, was one of the US Marine Corps Navajo Code Talkers, serving in the South Pacific in WWII.

PAKISTAN, AP75. Members of the Pakistan Amateur Radio Society (PARS) will operate under special call sign AP75PAK and Pakistani hams may use the "AP75" prefix with their existing call sign suffixes for the month of August to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence. Activity will be on various HF bands and modes, 6 meters and the satellites.

INDIA, AT2. Members of the West Bengal Radio Club, VU2WB, will activate the special call sign AT2AAM to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Independence of India. Activity will be on various HF Bands. QSL via AT2AAM or VU2WB.

CUBA, CO. Lefty, CO2QU will be active until December 31 on 30 meters (FT8/FT4) and 6 meters (FT8). QSL via CO2QU direct or LoTW.

MAYOTTE, FH. Marek, F4VVJ will be active as FH4VVK from August 20, 2022 to April 1, 2024. Operations will be on various HF bands and modes. QSL direct (see QRZ.com) or eQSL.

ECUADOR, HD1. Members of the Ecuador DX Club will be active as HD1HERO until August 12 to commemorate the August 10th Heroes and will be on all bands and modes.

SAUDI ARABIA, HZ. Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society will be using the special call sign HZ1CPCF for the "Crown Prince Camel Festival" until September 4. Activity has been on 20, 17, 15 and 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8/FT4. QSL via HZ1SAR.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Jeje, F8FKJ will be active as J20EE sometime this month and into September. His activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via F4DXW direct only.

GRENADA, J3. Greg, N9GB will be active as J38GB from August 12 to 19. He expects to be using CW and SSB on 40 to 6 meters including the newer bands. QSL via his home call sign, LoTW, and possibly ClubLog.

ISLE OF MAN, MD. Dale, EI7HDB will be active as MD/EI7HDB from August 14 to 19. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL EI7HDB via the Bureau.

ALAND ISLAND, OG0. Operators Alex, UT5UY/OH5UY, Pasi, OH2MZB, Jouni, OH2JIU, Niko, OH5CZ, Toni, OH5CY, Jere, OH5ELX and Juha, OH5CW will be active as OH5CW from August 20 to 27. Activity will be on 160 to 2 meters with a focus on 6 meters and the newer bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via OH5C.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Operators EA3WL and EA3BT will be active as S79/EA3WL and S79/EA3BT until August 23. The operation will be in SAT mode only, on QO-100, RS-44 and others, in a holiday style DXpedition, using SSB, CW and FT8. QSL via EA3BT or OQRS.

ST. KITTS, V4. Jim, NT5V is active as V4/NT5V until August 18. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via home call sign, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW. In addition, Gary, G0FWX will be active as V47FWX from August 21 to 30. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands using SSB only. QSL via M0URX.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The QRP Fox Hunt, 144 MMonVHF/DUBUS 144-MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest, WAE DX Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Kentucky State Parks on the Air, Maryland-DC QSO Party and the 50-MHz Fall Sprint will keep contesters busy this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is August 15 and the Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest is August 16. Please see August 2022 QST, page 70 and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites 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

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

August 18th 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

One Day Bi-Monthly Technician classes

Next class will be October 8, 2022

The Monroe County Radio Communications Association (MCRCA) is offering a one-day Amateur Radio course for the entry level Technician class license. The class will run from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM on the **second Saturday of every even numbered month**. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch, snacks and beverages. The test will be conducted immediately following the class and has a separate fee of \$14. These classes will be held at the Red Cross building, 1645 N Dixie Hwy, Monroe, MI 48162.

There is a maximum class size of 10 people on a first come first served basis and you should sign up no later than 1 week before the class. All study material and testing paperwork will be provided at the time you sign up and you should plan on doing some pre-class studying to make things easier in the class.

If you are interested in becoming a Ham Radio Operator, please call or email me to get signed up for the next class.

N8BZN Don Fritz / (419) 345-4495 after 6PM / Donfritz56@gmail.com