

# The Hertzian Herald

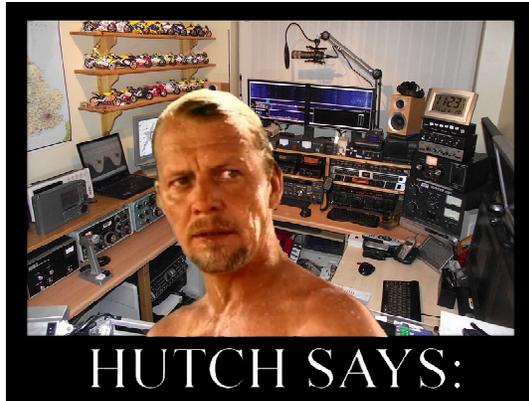


February 2023 • Volume 47, Issue 2 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

(Am I) Talking 2 Aliens (?)

Hi and thank you,

I'm honored and surprised at my new leadership position with OUR club. Thanks to the board for my nomination and to you for your vote of confidence. I hope to do my best to keep things moving forward and make things interesting for everyone involved. I also hope to increase our membership and participation in our monthly meetings and activities.



A crystal radio was gifted when I was 6 or 7. It didn't work very well until my older brother said "longer antenna and a good ground" which I still know is good advice today. I still play with one sometimes. AM then shortwave radios only fueled the passion. I had walkie-talkies later on, but they didn't work very well. CB radios when I was 18, which did work very well. Kids and jobs followed. I then sold my CB stuff after an ice storm destroyed my beam and push-pole.

I attended Penta County Vocational HS 1970-73 and majored in electronics. I graduated at 17 and should have gone on to college. I worked at Radio Shack in Bowling Green, Oh. Later I had a short stint with Executone installing cables (wire) in greasy elevator shafts and hospitals.

I did keep building kits and playing with receivers. I could also fix or repair almost anything. My other jobs include sales, 8 years at a fiberglass factory, and 26 years loading/unloading trucks for Roadway Express. I am retired now.

After taking time to clear my head from the "go to work routine" I now had time for Ham radio. I attended a MCRCA meeting and bought 3 license manuals. I also studied online at <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/online> I bought an Icom 7300 and other gear 2 weeks into studying. I was pretty confident. I studied the material and the collective pool of 1200 questions until my head was spinning. I think I surprised everyone in the room when I passed all 3 tests to become AD8EP. I was granted KJ8H on my birthday, November 2020.

OK, so let me explain the alien thing. My family heard sideband for the first time and asked me if I was talking to aliens and it kind of stuck. If a person is unknown to you, they could be said to be "alien". I Hope to get to know everyone much better than I do now and share my knowledge and skills for your benefit. I have a lot to learn. I'm not considering myself an "ELMER" yet, but I do hope to be there for you when you need help. I hope you will do the same for me.

The ARRL has begun VOTA or Volunteers On The Air (which isn't supposed to be just a contact in your logbook). I realize many or even most of you, still work and have family responsibilities which should always come first. Perhaps if you just ask for help, you could save time and/or money and be more available for your family.

**Continued**

<http://mcrca.org/>  
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[www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/)

### Club Officers

#### PRESIDENT

Keith Hutchinson KJ8H  
[keithhutch999@gmail.com](mailto:keithhutch999@gmail.com)

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Don Fritz N8BZN  
[donfritz56@gmail.com](mailto:donfritz56@gmail.com)

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[ka8ebi@yahoo.com](mailto:ka8ebi@yahoo.com)

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[mkarmol@bex.net](mailto:mkarmol@bex.net)

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I'm terrible with names and dates. Duh! Please say "I'm John" or whatever your name is when you talk with me. That would be invaluable to me and probably won't be necessary after a few times. I do care to remember your name!

Thanks and see you at our next meeting,

Keith Hutchinson, KJ8H  
[keithhutch999@gmail.com](mailto:keithhutch999@gmail.com)  
 HamShack Hotline # 6100000411

Please feel free to call or contact me!

### MCRCA Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2023

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

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Keith KJ8H, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Keith KJ8H, supported by Tom KG8P, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, - FT8 WW DXpedition

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, - State QSO Parties, JOTA

CLASSES: Sat. February 11, 2023 contact Don N8BZN, he has 3 people to date, for testing

TESTING: Next session - Sat. Feb. 18, 2023. **Appnts Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

ARPSC: Skywarn training at Bedford Library – talk to Lance for more info.

ARRL: No Report

RRRA: Paul W8PI reported wind damage to the feed line has been repaired.

OLD BUSINESS: Please donate to the Lending Library

NEW BUSINESS: Elections

President	Keith KJ8H
Vice-President	Don N8BZN
Secretary	Brenda KB8KQC
Treasurer	Fred K8EBI
Dir/Stn Trust	Wes KC8SKP
Director	Paul W8PI
Director	Mike N8KUF

**Paul W8PI, moved to accept,  
 John WA8YZB seconded  
 PASSED.**



DOOR PRIZE DRAWING:

50/50: Connie Jacobs, donated to scholarship

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PROGRAM: FT8 Demo by KG8P (live)

ADJOURNED: 9:01 pm

## 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

## 10-Meter Mayhem: Taking Advantage of the Hottest Band in Town

Posted by [OnAllBands](#) on January 12, 2023 at 7:34 pm

It's an exciting time to be a fan of the 10-meter band as hams have been feasting on openings the likes of which haven't been available for years. We'll call it "10-Meter Mayhem." If you're a long-suffering ham who has cursed the dearth of sunspot activity, you may call it, "It's about darn time!"

A recent Facebook Live exchange between Tim Duffy, K3LR, DX Engineering CEO, and guest Troy Blair, KE8DRR, DX Engineering customer/technical support specialist, is indicative of the DXing bonanza hams are finding on 10 meters as of late—compliments of Cycle 25:

*Tim: What do you think, Troy, about 10 meters?*

*Troy: It's the most open it's been since I've been in the hobby. I've been able to make contacts all over Central America. I've got Great Britain and Scotland on 10 meters.*

*Tim: Yeah, and it was really good this past weekend in the CQ Worldwide Contest.*

When asked on DX Engineering's Facebook page about their DXing achievements on 10 meters over the years, some folks noted that some of their most impressive contacts have been made during the current cycle, including:

- Central Visayas from the Oregon Coast
- CW contact to Chad from a small station in Illinois using a vertical
- Falkland Islands on 100 watts
- Djibouti from Minnesota
- Spain from New Zealand
- Samoa, Reunion, and Banaba

### 10-Meter Contesting

If you missed the **DARC 10-Meter Contest** just held on January 8, here are a few excellent opportunities to jump on the 10-meter bandwagon with like-minded operators in the days ahead:

- **NRAU (Nordic Radio Amateur Union) 10M Activity Contest:** February 2, 1800Z to 1900Z (CW); 1900Z to 2000Z (SSB); 2000Z to 2100Z (FM); and 2100Z to 2200Z (Digital)
- **10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB:** February 4, 0001Z to February 5, 2359Z. 10-10 International also hosts a 10-meter digital contest in April, a CW contest in May, a weak-signal event in July, an SSB contest in August, all-mode and CW events in October, and another digital contest in November. From its website, "Ten-Ten International Net, or 10-10 for short, is an organization of amateur radio operators dedicated to maintaining high levels of amateur radio communications on the 10-meter amateur band (28.0-29.7 MHz)."

Want to get involved in the 10-meter fun? DX Engineering carries antennas and other gear to enhance your 10-meter operating prowess. We'll be highlighting some of that equipment later this month on [OnAllBands](#). In the meantime, you'll find transceivers, antennas, filters, cables, and more for 10M at [DXEngineering.com](#).

### Some 10-Meter Operating Tips from the DX Engineering Team

Longtime ham Scott Jones, N3RA, DX Engineering sales manager, has seen the high and lows of operating on 10 meters over the years. He shared some insights on this favorite band with [OnAllBands](#).

**Continued**

"Ten meters is a fun band. At this time of the sunspot cycle, we'll have normal daytime DX propagation which is great fun. The band has HF and VHF characteristics and modes of propagation (F, Es, TE, Tropo, ground wave, MS, auroral, etc.) which makes it quite interesting. Here are a couple of interesting things I've noticed about the band over time."

- There is sometimes a neat opening in the mid-afternoon to the OH/SM/LA/TF, etc. area. The audio can sometimes have a slight fluttery sound to it. This is a little after most of the rest of EU is gone and the bulk of the opening has shifted to Central and South America and maybe even some Pacific. It helps to have directional antennas to point at, say, 20-25 degrees to listen for them.
- In the early AM, you can sometimes get some over-the-pole activity and the Middle East/VU is available until just after their sunset.
- After sunset and the opening to Central/SA, JA, and the Pacific is kind of done, try for some ground wave openings and sporadic-E openings. I've listened at 9 pm when nothing is really normally active and heard a few stations in WPA/OH/WV/WNY/MI on ground wave and then the next level out. The opening can be very short, of course, but it's there.
- As with many things, higher activity levels allow us to "hear" openings on the band that are probably always there but no one is on to experience them. Even though some people might not use the FT8 modes, one amazing thing they provide is incredible amounts of data on band openings and activity, automatically and around the clock. This can be visualized on **PSK Reporter**, for instance. Even if you don't ever intend to do those modes, that site is a treasure trove of band data.
- One final piece of advice: If you're not already in one, join an amateur radio club and you may find some people who have lots of experience on 10 meters.

**My phone alarm goes off.. ITS TIME!! Time for my first "real" attempt at a satellite. Run outside, get my arrow 2 assembled, plug in my never tested ht (just prograded last night) another alarm goes off its on the horizon! Yagi up and.. WOW I can hear! PTT goes full in with a death grip -- make my call and BAM! I hear someone 5300 miles repet my call and grid! I DID IT! run inside, I'm shaking in excitement wife asks :  
 What's wrong!?  
 Me - NOTHING! I just hit a 1 Sq ft target moving at 17,000mph 1200 miles away with a 5w walkie-talkie and made contact with a guy 5300 miles away!  
 WIFE -- So? You could have done that with your cell, we have international calling plan...  
 Me - 🙄**

## Some good links from the internet

Amateur satellite database <https://amsat.org/amateur-satellite-index>

Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications <https://archive.org/details/dlarc?&sort=-week&page=2>

Radio Manuals [https://qrzcg.com/pub/RADIO\\_MANUALS/](https://qrzcg.com/pub/RADIO_MANUALS/)

# SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING CLASS

**Conducted by the National Weather Service**

In conjunction with the **National Weather Service, Monroe County Emergency Management Division** and **Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC)**, volunteer Skywarn Spotters work diligently to provide and confirm the earliest signs of possible severe weather.  
**Be part of the team!**



**March 9, 2023**

**Bedford Library  
8575 Jackman Road  
Temperance, Michigan 481382  
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**



**Registration required:**

**co.monroe.mi.us/emd**

(Click on the link labeled Sky Warn Spotter)

**Or call us at  
734-240-3135**



Handouts will not be available at the training. The **Weather Spotters Field Guide** is available only online at: <https://www.weather.gov/media/lwx/skywarn/SpotterFieldGuide.pdf> . The **Thunderstorm, Tornadoes and Lightning Guide** is available at: <https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/ttl6-10.pdf> .

Although the National Weather Service (NWS) has improved their ability to detect severe thunderstorms over the past twenty years, the human eye is one of the most valuable resources for both local emergency management offices and the NWS.

# The Livonia Amateur Radio Club



## 53rd Annual Swap-n-Shop



SATURDAY

February 18, 2023

Sale hours: 8:30am-1:30pm

ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest

BUY | SELL | TRADE

- Amateur Radio Gear
  - Computers
  - Electronics
  - Test Equipment
- Ham shack accessories and more

**NEW LOCATION!**  
**MONAGHAN BANQUET CENTER**  
**19801 FARMINGTON ROAD**  
*(north of 7 Mile)*  
**LIVONIA, MI**

- Door Prizes!
- DXCC QSL CARD CHECKING

**ADMISSION: STILL ONLY \$5**

(cash @ door)

Admission ticket pre-sales are available to vendors/sellers with advance table purchase, visit website for details.

Same-day tables subject to availability

Talk-in: K8UNS LARC Repeater  
145.350 PL100Hz

**ADVANCE TABLE SALES, INFORMATION:**

<https://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop/>

email: [swap@livoniaarc.com](mailto:swap@livoniaarc.com)

voice: (734) 648-6453

# 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, 4 Carl Dr, Monroe, MI 48162.**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ RRRR 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 – DIGITAL - PACKET - RTTY - FM - DX - MOBILE - EME - SAT - ATV - SSTV

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 \_\_\_\_\_



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 F8DVD, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

**BOUVET, 3Y.** A large group of operators are QRV as 3Y0J. Activity is on 30 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8 in F/H mode. QSL via M0OXO.

**TIMOR-LESTE, 4W.** Satoshi, JH2EUV is QRV as 4W/JH2EUV until March 3. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

**BURUNDI, 9U.** Elvira, IV3FSG and Vladimir, OK2WX are QRV as 9U5R and 9U4WX, respectively, until February 27. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL 9U5R via IK2DUW and 9U4WX via IZ8CCW.

**THE GAMBIA, C5.** Gerard, F5NVF and Luc, F5RAV will be QRV as C5C from February 14 to March 14. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**FRANCE, F.** Francois, F8DVD is QRV as TM20AAW from Macon until February 24 in celebration of the 20th Antarctic Week. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4.** Bernhard, DL2GAC will be QRV as H44MS from Honiara, IOTA OC-047, from February 10 to May 8. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and some FT8. QSL to home call.

**HONDURAS, HR.** Alex, K6VHF is QRV as K6VHF/HR9 from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, until February 15. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX RTTY contest. QSL to home call.

**ST. VINCENT, J8.** Gert, PA2LO will be QRV as J8/AJ4YX from February 11 to 21. Activity will be in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming Dutch PACC contest. QSL direct to home call.

**DENMARK, OZ.** Special event station OZ625E will be QRV from February 14 to 28 to commemorate the opening of the new Enigma Museum of Communications in Copenhagen. Look for other OZ625E/xx stations to be active as well. QSL via operators' instructions.

**BONAIRE, PJ4.** Scott, NE9U will be QRV as PJ4/NE9U from February 11 to 26. QSL via LoTW.

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2.** Greg, N9GB is QRV as V26DX from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, until February 16. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and possibly FT8. QSL via EB7DX.

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5.** Bill, AC0W and Pat, K0PC will be QRV as VP5/AC0W and VP5/K0PC, respectively, from February 14 to 20. Activity will be on the HF bands. They will be QRV as VP5K in the pcoming ARRL International DX CW contest. QSL via home calls, and VP5K via K0PC.

**NEW HEBRIDES, YJ.** Bob, W7YAQ and Al, K7AR are QRV as YJ0A from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, until February 23. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX RTTY and the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contests. QSL via K7AR.

**ST. HELENA, ZD7.** Andy, DK7MG will be QRV as ZD7MG from February 11 to 25. Activity will be holiday style on 17 and 15 meters using CW. This includes activating SOTA references Diana's Peak, SOTA ZD/SH-001, White Point, SOTA ZD/SH-002, Flagstaff Hill, SOTAZD/SH-003, and The Haystack, SOTA ZD/SH-004. He may be accompanied by Derek, ZD7CTO. QSL to home call.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Asia-Pacific Spring CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, KCJ Topband CW Contest, Dutch PACC Contest, OMISS QSO Party, FISTS Saturday CW Sprint, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest, Balkan HF Contest and the CQC Winter CW QSO Party will certainly keep testers busy this upcoming weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, ICWC Medium Speed Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, QRP 40 Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80, AGCW Semi-Automatic Key 80-Meter Evening and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Data Championship are on tap for February 13 to 15.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from February 13 to 17.

Please see February QST, page 69, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**2023 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

February 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

## One Day Bi-Monthly Technician classes

**Next class will be April 8, 2023**

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](mailto:Donfritz56@gmail.com)

## New MCRCA Members

Please welcome recent new members to the club.