

The Hertzian Herald



August 2023 • Volume 47, Issue 8 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to another edition of the newsletter. I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer and their summer vacation time.

Solar cycle is believed by some to be near its maximum. Noisy band conditions can be heard during the day and M U F (maximum usable frequency) has made the higher frequencies often not usable. The very best way to check the bands is to turn your radio on and "call CQ"!



IN TOUCH WITH HUTCH

I had the privilege to help out Don with the Technician class Sat 8-12. I was happy to help but showed up on short sleep. After sitting for an hour or so with not much to do, I was in kind of a daze, and was alerted by a surprise question from Don. I wasn't really ready for a question but his humor made everyone laugh about it including me. That is part of what makes him good at teaching the class. I'm not sure of the exact numbers but unofficially about 90% pass, which is very good for a Technical subject most people see as "Greek".

The strength of any group is the good will and effort of all its members. We get together to promote the functions of the club and to help each other do better. Don't be shy at asking for info or help.

My cell number is 330-328-5264, My home number 419-972-1569 I'll help if I can or point you to someone who can.

One last thing, Sue, a rep from Clear Captions will be at our meeting to offer you (hearing damaged people) a free captioning phone. No proof of hearing loss required but you do need an internet connection for it to work. It's LOUD if you need loud and it is totally free. Sue is as nice as they come and will deliver and set up the speakerphone for you.

Please attend the next meeting if you can make it Thursday Aug 17, and have fun on the bands.

Keith, KJ8H

<http://mcrcra.org/>

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

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This is an AI Free Zone!

Text created by ChatGPT and other Large Language Models is spreading rapidly across the Internet. It's well-written, artificial, frequently inaccurate. If you find a mistake on mcrcra.com, rest assured it was made by a real human being.

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Keith KJ8H.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Mike N8KUF, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved with one correction – Dale is no longer spelled Sale. Can't trust Al.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Don N8BZN, supported by Paul W8PI, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Paul W8PI, DX is out there 15/20/10 open a few locations out there – 6m doing well most days.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, several upcoming in August – Paul spoke of 6m and VOTA all year. Also gave update on some current VOTA standings for several club members.

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. Aug. 19, 2023. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

CLASSES: Sat. August 12, 2023 contact Don N8BZN, looking for anyone looking to take the class – FCC issues from last class have been fixed, all pending ones have been completed – May do a general class in Oct.

HAMFEST: Paul W8PI spoke about the costs and profits of the hamfest using provided notes in the report, Don also read report to club.

FOX HUNT: Mike N8KUF, Paul and Vicky took first place at last fox hunt. Next hunt will be Sept. 9th Saturday before Findlay Swap. This will be the last one for this year.

Field Day: Paul W8PI, report on Field Day Points - 5216 / ranking by points 13th, by contacts 23rd. Total contacts 1049 (fairly low place). In the middle of the pack of those years we have data for. Kind of a lack of phone support during the operation was the reason for low number of total contacts, better support would have resulted in better numbers overall.

ARPS: Skywarn 14th activation. Siren Test Saturday the 22nd at 9 am Nike Park.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, tomorrow and Saturday ARRL board meeting. Dues raise likely coming – May have to pay more for QST magazines, E-Pub maybe no other cost than membership. Membership almost certain to rise.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, Dundee has been replaced with newer version and more capabilities.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: May have a person speak to us about hearing phone systems – free phone for those qualified. Likely here next meeting.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Don N8BZN 50/50: \$24 to KE8NSU

ANNOUNCEMENTS: DXCC Plaque update – let Paul W8PI know if you qualify.

PROGRAM: Mike N8KUF, Video of FT8WW DX op. One-man operation – with help setup/down but only one operator.

ADJOURNED: 8:45 pm

ATTENDANCE: 15

WA8EFK Dale
WA8YZB John
KA8PQH Neil
KE8NSU Tony

N8BZN Don
KJ8H Keith
W8PI Paul
KC8SKP Wes

KB8OSU George
W8MCW Mark
KE8YQE Phil
KE8VTT Isaac

WD8NWF James
N8KUF Mike
W8SMB Scott

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

WANTED

Membership

Terry Kolton N8NYP

n8nyp@arrl.net

Property Custodian

Paul Trouten W8PI

Happy Birthday to the best bang-for-the-buck antenna ever

Five years ago, I bought an MFJ product that has turned out to be one of my best ham-related purchases in 45 years.

The MFJ-1979 has surpassed all my expectations. Previously, I had (to some degree) thought of MFJ products either as “unfinished kits” or as disposable, temporary items.

I've owned several MFJ tuners, an antenna analyzer and an AL-80B amp. All of these items informed the above opinion.

And then came the MFJ-1979, which, if you don't know, is a telescoping whip antenna.

At full plumage, it's 17 feet (5.1m) long - a full 1/4-wave on 20 meters. Retracted, it's 27 inches (69cm) short. Partially retracted, it's a full 1/4-wave on any band between 6 and 20 meters.

No inductive loading as with Hamsticks. Add a few - two is enough - radials for a no-compromise DX antenna. Or for a quickly-erected POTA antenna.

Last night, with the MFJ-1979 in my backyard, on a 10-foot photo-type light stand, I copied VK3QI working TT8SN on 10m CW. With my FX-4CR. After their QSO, I called TT8SN and received a 559 from him - my 5th (of 6) continents with the FX-4CR/MFJ-1979 combo.

I need only Asia for WAC with this combo. Ironical, given where these products are made ;-)

The MFJ-1979 has activated many a park, worked a ton of DX and has traveled abroad in my suitcase. ***It still, after frequent, almost constant use, extends and retracts smoothly.*** For \$90, it replaces five Hamsticks in less space, and does so with more efficiency.

Less money, less bulk, greater efficiency than Hamsticks. The *only* advantage of Hamsticks over this antenna is that Hamsticks can be used while in motion (mobile ops).

Six Meters — How I Love It!

Days, nights, and weeks in total silence (save for the local FT8 beacons...), followed by absolute pandemonium! Yes! Yes! Yes!

This was all too much amplified by the openings the past few days that added a few new grids and one new DXCC to my six-meter logbook.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| • N7PHY — DN38 | • K7BWH — CN76 |
| • D2UY — Angola | • KJ6VHZ — CM89 |
| • KH6HI — BL01 | • NH6JC — BL02 |

I now have four grids worked in Hawaii.

That's one more amazing aspect of six meters. No need to stop when you've worked a new DXCC. Keep after it and work more grids. Case in point, I've worked 24 grids in Argentina.

Of course, the real prize on six meters is working the 488 grids required for the Fred Fish Memorial Award (FFMA). Thanks to some rovers and excellent Es, I now have 473 and searching for those rare grids to fill in the remaining 15. Three of the grids above contributed to that total. That's an increasingly rare event.

Thank you, rovers, for your excellent work and putting up with the impatient operator that wants first that you point your antenna in their direction and then, once the grid is worked, suggests that you move to another grid they need. I know how that works, having done some roving myself.

The E season is just starting, and there has already been fantastic excitement, at least in my ham shack. I encourage you to get on the air and have fun before the magic activity moves into tragic quiet.

If you'd like to learn more about six meters, check out my [Guide to 6 Meter DXing — Getting Started on the Magic Band](#).

ARRL Files Comments Against “Seriously Flawed” HF Rules Petition

ARRL, as part of its mission to protect Amateur Radio, has filed comments against a proposal that would introduce high-power digital communications to the shortwave spectrum that in many instances is immediately adjacent to the Amateur HF bands.

The “Shortwave Modernization Coalition” (SMC), which represents certain high-frequency stock trading interests, filed the petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). ARRL responded on behalf of its members and the 760,000 licensees of the Amateur Radio Service in the US.

The petition can be found online at, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1> .

The ARRL Laboratory performed a detailed technical analysis over several months to determine if the proposed rules would affect operations on the bands allocated to Radio Amateurs that are inter-mixed with the Part 90 bands in the spectrum in question.

ARRL’s analysis determined that, if the proposed rules are adopted, the new operations inevitably will cause significant harmful interference to many users of adjacent and nearby spectrum, including Amateur Radio licensees. Ed Hare, W1RFI, a 37-year veteran of the ARRL Lab and internationally recognized expert on radio frequency interference, was the principal investigator on the study. Hare concluded the petition should not be granted. “This petition seeks to put 50 kHz wide, 20,000-watt signals immediately next to seven different amateur bands with weaker protections against interference than required in other services,” said Hare.

In its formal opposition, ARRL stated, “That destructive interference would result if operations commenced using anything close to the proposed maximum levels.”

ARRL’s filed comments highlight flawed analysis and incomplete data submitted by the petitioners. It noted the petitioners “...significantly understate the harmful interference that is not just likely, but certain, if the rules proposed by SMC are adopted as proposed. It is noteworthy that SMC’s proposed rules would provide less protection than the much-lower power amateur radio transmitters are required to provide Part 90 receivers.” ARRL’s opposition also noted that there was no reported tests conducted with Amateur or other affected stations, but referenced a spectrum capture in the Comments filed with the Dayton Group that showed actual interference into the Amateur 20-meter band from one of the High Frequency Trading experimental stations.

Part 90 HF rules currently authorize a maximum signal bandwidth equal to a voice communications channel, at up to 1000 W peak envelope power (PEP). The petition seeks multiplication of signal width, greater transmitted power, and weaker rules that protect users of adjacent spectrum. ARRL’s comments expose the likely fallout:

“Incredibly, notwithstanding the significant increase in potential interference that would result from using digital schemes with 50 kHz bandwidths and 20,000 watts of power, SMC also proposes to substantially lessen the protections required to protect adjacent and neighboring licensees. SMC proposes [out-of-band emissions] limits that offer less protection than the existing Part 90 limits and would actually permit no attenuation (0 dB) at the edge of adjacent allocations, many of which are bands allocated to and heavily used in the Amateur Radio Service. Consistent with lessening protections while increasing the potential for harmful interference, SMC also proposes a lower limit for spurious emissions. SMC would reduce the existing protection of -73 dB for the applicable 1000-watt power limit to just -50 dB protection for their proposed 20,000-watt limit. Due to the much wider 50 kHz proposed bandwidth, the resulting interference would penetrate deep into the adjacent Amateur bands.”

The proposal has been assigned FCC Docket No. RM-11953. While the period for commenting on the petition has now closed, replies to comments in the record may now be submitted.

Hundreds of licensed Radio Amateurs filed comments in the Docket, expressing overwhelming opposition to the proposal. Those interested may read ARRL’s full comments and the results of the technical analysis, which are included in the filing. “If granted as written, this would be devastating to Amateur operation for many tens of kHz into our bands,” said Hare.

ARRL will continue to advocate for its members and the Amateur Radio Service in this proceeding.

THE GREAT SOLAR STORM OF MARCH 1940:

This story is shocking. On March 24, 1940, a solar storm hit Earth so hard it made copper wires in the United States crackle with 800 volts of electricity. A *New York Times* headline declared that a “sunspot tornado” had arrived, playing havoc with any signal that had to travel through metal wires.

“For a few hours it completely disrupted all long-distance communication,” wrote astronomer Seth B. Nicholson in [a recap of the event](#) for the *Astronomical Society of the Pacific*. Radio announcers seemed to be “talking a language no one could understand.” The *New York Times* [reported](#) that more than a million telephone and teletype messages had been garbled: “Veteran electrical engineers unhesitatingly pronounced it the worst thing of its kind within their memory.”

So why have you never heard of this storm? Even in 1940 it was fairly quickly forgotten. World War II was underway in Europe, and the USA was on the verge of joining. People had other things on their minds.

Modern researchers, however, are paying attention. A team led by [Jeffrey Love](#) of the [USGS Geomagnetism Program](#) just published a new study of the event in the research journal *Space Weather*. Their work confirms that it was no ordinary solar storm.

“It was unusually violent,” says Love. “There were very rapid changes in Earth’s magnetic field, and this induced big voltages in long metal wires.”

Love and colleagues learned about the voltages from old engineering reports. In 1940, the United States was cross-crossed by copper wires hundreds to thousands of miles long. They were not for power distribution; electrical systems were still mostly regional. Instead the wires were used for communications such as telephone calls and telegrams. When the “sunspot tornado” hit Earth, electricity began to move through the system. Technicians

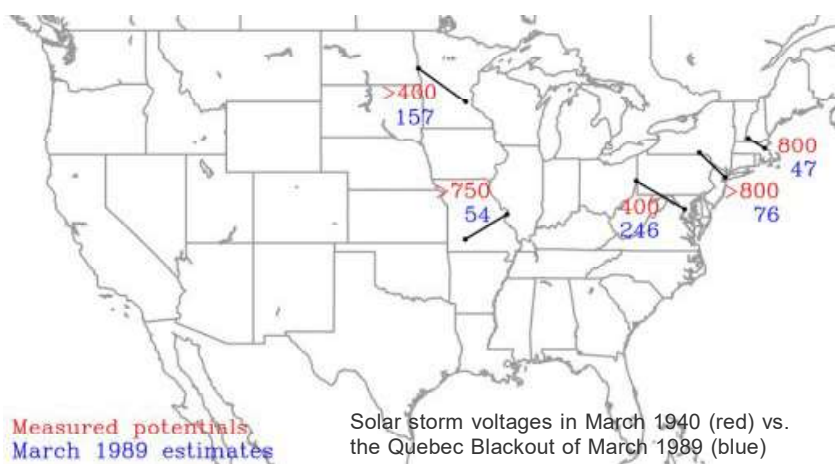
“Records show 400 V in Minnesota, 750 V in Missouri, and more than 800 V in Massachusetts,” says Love. “These are 10 times greater than long-wire voltages recorded during the [Great Quebec Blackout](#) in March 1989.”

What caused the high voltages? Love’s team examined old magnetogram records from the date of the storm and found evidence that two coronal mass ejections CMEs hit Earth only 1.82 hours apart. The double blow rattled Earth’s magnetic field in a complicated way most single CMEs do not.

“This could be a harbinger of things to come,” says Love. Modern studies show that as many as 5 CMEs leave the sun every day during Solar Maximum. With Solar Cycle 25 underway and intensifying, a double hit could definitely happen again.

A similar storm today might not significantly impact communications; we live in the wireless age of cell phones. Electricity is another matter. Modern power systems depend on long wires to shuttle electricity across the country. A repeat of 1940 could interfere with their operations. Love notes that the 1940 voltages exceed [NERC](#) power-grid industry benchmarks for 100-year storms. As a result, some modern power grids might not be ready to handle the shock of another 1940 event.

Read Love’s original research here: [here](#).



Solar storm voltages in March 1940 (red) vs. the Quebec Blackout of March 1989 (blue)



2023 FINDLAY HAMFEST

Vendor set-up 6AM.
Doors open at 8AM.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Hancock County Fairgrounds
1017 E. Sandusky St., Findlay, OH 45840

41.036717 -
83.631166

General Admission STILL JUST \$10

\$20 Vendor Table (\$15 each additional table)

Each Flea Market Space \$10

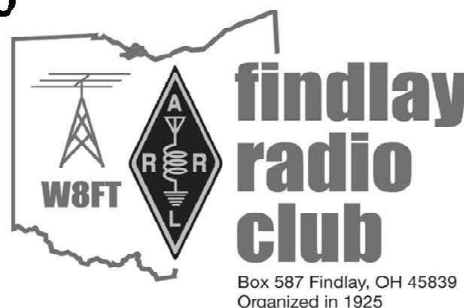
\$15 Overnight Fee

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444.15+ (PL 88.5)

Phone: 419-423-3402

www.findlayradioclub.org/hamfest
hamfest@findlayradioclub.org



RAIN OR SHINE

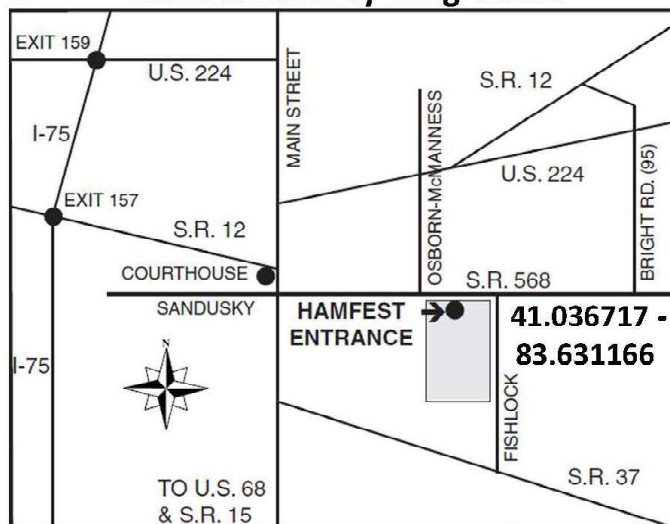
FREE PARKING



For more information and online ticket sales, just point your cell phone's camera on this QR code.



Hancock County Fairgrounds





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

BELIZE, V3. Jeff, W3AAB will sign V31JN from August 13 to 25. QSL via W3AAB, direct or bureau.

NAMIBIA, V5. Dieter, DL5GAN will be active as V5/DL5GAN from August 14 to September 7 on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via DL5GAN direct or bureau.

SOUTH KOREA, HL. Members of the Korean Amateur Radio Organization (KARL) mark the 78th anniversary of their country's liberation with the call sign HL78V during August. QSL to 6K0MF via bureau.

NORWAY, LA. Chris, OE6CUD plans an extended road trip from mid August until the end of October, visiting the islands Vaeroy (EU-055), Lofoten (EU-076), Vesteralen (EU-033), and Senja (EU-046). He will be QRV as LA/OE6CUD on HF CW and on QO-100. QSL via OE6CUD direct or bureau.

ICELAND, TF. Lau, PF3X will be QRV from August 11 to 25 as TF/PF3X on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and digital modes. QSL via PF3X direct or LoTW.

GREENLAND, OX. Look for Emil, DL8JJ operating as OX/DL8JJ from Tasiilag from August 11 to 16 on CW with a 10W rig. QSL via LoTW.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Gary, G0FWX will operate holiday style from V47JA's station as V47FWX from August 12 to 26. He will be QRV only on SSB. QSL via M0URX (OQRS). Also, John, W5JON, is heading back to his Calypso Bay vacation home. He'll be QRV as V47JA from August 28 to September 12. Listen for him on SSB and FT8 on 1.8 through 50 MHz. QSL via W5JON.

SAINT MARTIN, FS/PJ7. Burt, FG8OJ, will be active from the French part of the island as FS/FG8OJ. QSL via FG8OJ.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Uli, DL2AH will put Rota Island on the air from August 13 to September 14 as KH0/DL2AH on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via DL2AH direct, LoTW or eQSL.

DODECANESE, SV5. Juha, OH5CW and Pia, OH5JZP are QRV as SV5/OH5C on Rhodes Island until August 13.

FAROE ISLANDS, OY. Col, MM0NDX, and Jonathan, MM0OKG will be returning here as OY/home calls at the end of October.

INDIA, VU. In celebration of India's 76th anniversary of Independence, Vijayan, VU2WDP will be operating as AT2CMN from Pollachi, Tamilnadu from August 10 to 31. QSL via VU2WDP.

MALTA, 9H. Members of the Marconi Radio Circle and Central Radio Amateur Circle will be operating with special call 9H6XPO in Imtarfa from October 2 to 6.

CORSICA, TK. Alex, SQ9UM will be operating from two locations. His first stop will be in Porto Vecchio where he will be QRV as TK/SQ9UM from August 18 to 25, and then Calvi from August 25 to 31. QSL via SQ9UM.

SWAINS ISLAND, KH8/S. This effort, postponed since 2020, is now scheduled for October 4 to 17 using the call sign W8S. Six stations are planned, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8, on 160 to 6 meters, with ops DL6JGN, PA3EWP, DL2AMD, PG5M, KO8SCA, PA4WM, PA5X, PA2KW, DJ9RR and NG7M. QSL via M0OXO.

NAURU, C2. Phil, 3D2TS/FK1TS is QRV as C21TS. Look for him on FT8 and possibly SSB. On FT8 it's MSHV on secondaries in multi-stream mode. QSL through M0OXO OQRS.

FRANCE, F. TM0BSM will be active from August 16 to 21 from the lighthouse at Berck-sur-Mer. They will be using CW, SSB and digital modes on HF and the QO-100 satellite. The ops are DJ5KX, DJ8EI, DK5OPA, DL1DCT, DL5KA and DL8KR. QSL via LoTW, no paper QSLs for this one.

BELGIUM, ON. The Radio Amateurclub Diest, will put ON38IOF on the air August 12 and 13 from the 38th International Oldtimer Fly and Drive from the Diest Aero Club. QSL to ON7QC.

HUNGARY, HA. HG23YOTA is the special call sign to be used by the participants in the YOTA Summer Camp 2023 hosted by the Hungarian Radio Amateur Society (MRASZ) until August 12.

NIGER, 5U. Due to the recent crisis events in the country, the F6KOP team had to postpone their trip, initially scheduled for October. The group now is looking into alternative destinations.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The FISTS Saturday Sprint CW, ARRL EME Contest, WAE DX Contest, 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest, SARL Youth QSO Party, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Kentucky State Parks on the Air and the Maryland-DC QSO Party will keep contesters busy this weekend. The SARL HF Digital Contest is on August 13 and the 4 States QRP Grp 2nd Sun Sprint is on August 14. Please see August 2023 QST page 72 and the ARRL Contest Calendar 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

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

August 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

One Day Bi-Monthly Technician classes

Next class will be October 14, 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

New MCRCA Members

Please welcome recent new members to the club.