

The Hertzian Herald



Decembert 2008 • Volume 32, Issue 12 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

The Editor Says:

Well it's December already, and the cold weather seems to have come very early this year, and going to stay with us. We've been lucky, all the snow so far has gone North of us, and there has been quite a lot for this early in the winter. Hopefully it's not a sign of things to come.

It's also the end of the year and time to start thinking about election of officers for the new year. If you want to run, or nominate someone, for office please contact John N8RWI or Dale WA8EFK.

It's also time to renew your dues if you haven't already done so. Membership dues are \$10.00 for all regular members and \$5.00 for any additional family members.

December is usually the MCRCA's "Christmas party meeting". We usually have a large buffet set up and ask all members to bring a dish to pass or some kind of their favorite goodies. We also have a special hilarious, crazy auction type activity where members go nuts swapping gifts back and forth all evening long trying to end up with a most special prize at the end. After spending a long arduous amount of time, trying to decide if we wanted to do something totally and absolutely different this year, we finally unanimously concurred....NOT! Why change a good thing? So, bring a goodie, and get yourself to this month's meeting for a wonderful evening of fun.



Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Richard Kraatz N8YQW
rjkmailbox-1@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Imber W8RRI
kc8qhn@msn.com

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DIRECTOR

Diana Lindner KB8VIU
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DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI
ptrouten@aol.com

DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE

Rita Baker WB8FBG
wb8fbg@chartermi.net

Inside This Issue

Minutes.....	2
RRRA news.....	3
FCC & Maps.....	4
BBC News.....	5
Propagation.....	6
DX news.....	7

MCRCA Minutes:

November 20, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm, by Pres. Richard Kraatz, N8YQW

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members or upgrades, one guest ????

PROGRAM: Junque Auction Bernie N8VLT donated several radios and misc. items. Dale WA8EFK bought three Icom HTs, and John N8RWI bought one Radio Shack HT.

BREAK

DOOR PRIZES: Paul W8PI, Bill WB8JAI, Pete KD8DMJ— 50/50 John N8RWI

MINUTES: Motion by Jerry WB7RUM, supported by Paul W8PI, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Wes KC8SKP, supported by Dale WA8EFK to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Olimpio reported Sunspots are returning and there is a CW contest last days of Nov. Fri. & Sat.

TESTING: Paul reported 3 people tested results: one general and two techs. Next session December 20th.

ARPS: Pete announced a skywarn weekend Dec. 6th article in Monroe News about times and radio testing. Pete asked for help with the Dundee Christmas parade Dec. 13th at 5:45pm.

RRRA: Dale WA8EFK announced that the 220 repeater was moved from Ann Arbor to Dundee and cross linked with the 440 machine.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Election committee formed, includes John N8RWI and Dale WA8EFK. (good luck)

Pete announced that Monroe High school student council volleyball tournament needs sponsors. It was agreed that the MCRCA would pay \$50.00 to have the club name embroidered on T-shirts.

Rita provided large envelopes for anyone wanting to send Christmas cards to the troops in Iraq.

ADJOURNED: 8:08 pm

ATTENDANCE : 19

Nick AF8CS	Bernie K8VLT	Fred KA8EBI
Clarenc KA8OAR	Neil KA8PQH	Brenda KB8KQC
Bill KC8KFY	Terry KC8RQI	Wes KC8SKP
Pete KD8DMJ	Mike N8KUF	John N8RWI
Rich N8YQW	Paul W8PI	Dale WA8EFK
Rita WB8FBG	Bill WB8JAI	Olimpio WB8SEZ
		1 Guest ????

Committees

Classes

Rita Baker WB8FBG

Club Station

Rita Baker WB8FBG

DX Net

Olimpio Varsogea WB8SEZ

Field Day

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Finance

Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Dale Williams WA8EFK

HamFest

Pete Hendrick KC8DMJ

Hertzian Herald

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Historian

Nick Peth AF8CS

Public Relations

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Scholarship

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

School Liaison

open

Programs

open

Membership

open

Planning

open

Property Custodian

open

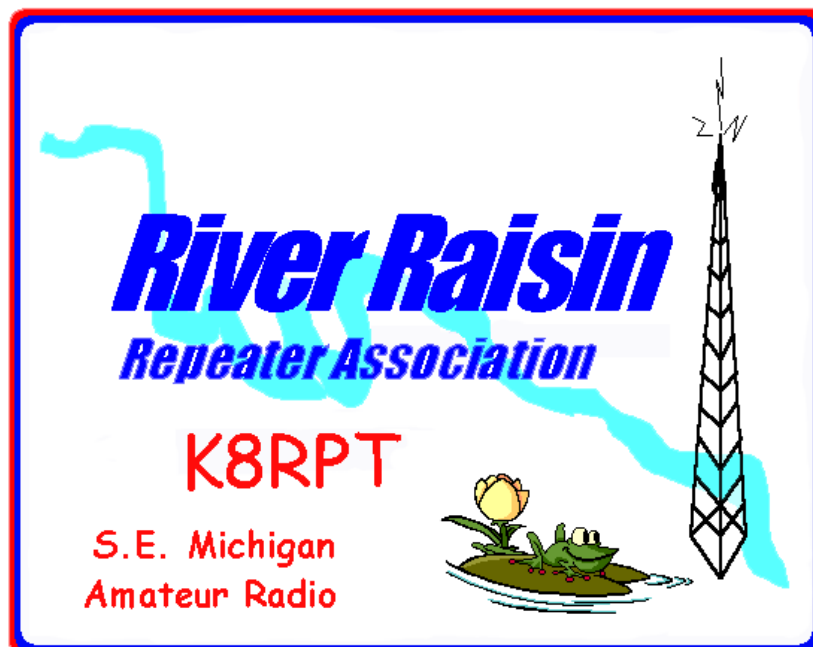
River Raisin Repeater Association - Repeater Updates

— News from your local repeater group.

The RRRRA is still prepping the changes for the IRLP link. They are testing the routers and insuring that they will have a sound network connection before making the physical changes. For the time being the IRLP interface to the Dundee 442.825 Repeater will continue in uninterrupted service. The IRLP outage schedule will be announced as soon as a firm date is available. For more information on the IRLP VoIP system, see www.irlp.net.

An interesting note, the RRRRA digipeater and JNOS system monitors itself and reports that it was in continued un-interrupted service for 620 days before a re-boot took place. These are reasonably good results for the computer operating system. RRRRA does try to keep very high reliability targets for the RRRRA repeaters and the packet system has exceeded those goals. Occasional planned outages take place on the repeater systems for upgrades and testing, but these are normally announced so that no ongoing uses are interrupted.

Founded in 1971, RRRRA operates 5 systems to serve Monroe County hams. These are the 146.72, 444.55, 442.825, 224.78 voice repeaters and the RRRRA 144.91 J-nos packet radio digipeater. RRRRA does encourage everyone to join and support the organization, as this of course helps in offsetting the continued operating costs. Interested individuals can contact Mike N8KUF for membership information n8kuf@arrl.net RRRRA will hold their Annual Meeting the first Saturday in May.



US shuts down 'scareware' sellers

The US government has moved to shut down sellers of fake security software.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has won a restraining order that stops several sellers of "scareware" from continuing to trade.

Millions of people are thought to have been caught out by the software which, once installed, issues false alerts about viruses and illegal porn.

The FTC is pursuing further legal action to win a permanent ban on those peddling the scareware.

Frozen funds

Court papers submitted by the FTC show that the peddlers of the fake security software tricked websites into advertising their products.

The companies behind the fake security software won customers via adverts on many popular websites.

Anyone clicking on an advert was taken to the webpages run by the fake security firms which then ran a "scan" looking for security problems.

Every scan found a host of security problems and urged visitors to buy software to fix them. Typically the scans found evidence of viruses, spyware and, in some cases, illegal pornography.

"However," said the FTC, "the scans were entirely false."

In its legal action the FTC targeted two firms: Innovative Marketing, Inc. and ByteHosting Internet Services, LLC.

The fake security products the firms were peddling were: WinFixer, WinAntivirus, DriveCleaner, ErrorSafe, and XP Antivirus.

A US District court granted an injunction which stops Innovative Marketing and ByteHosting Internet Services from continuing to advertise their products, and from making false claims about their efficacy.

It has also asked firms hosting the websites owned by these firms to block customers from accessing them. And it has also frozen the assets of the two companies so it can reclaim cash and refund those caught out.

More than one million US citizens and many more around the world are thought to have been caught out by the "scareware" scam.

"The popularity of the rogue anti-virus and spyware products has rocketed," said Yuval Ben-Itzhak, chief technology officer at security firm Finjan.

"People are paying 40-60 dollars for bogus software which does nothing," he said, adding that Finjan research suggests up

to five million people around the world have fallen victim to the huge number of firms selling "scareware".

Dan Hubbard, chief technology officer at Websense, said many "scareware" firms ran very sophisticated operations. Many use search engines to ensure web users see their adverts and tune their products to each territory.

"They seem to know the law in different regions," he said. "They monetise it very well."

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/technology/7779223.stm>

Published: 2008/12/12 12:18:39 GMT

Microsoft to offer free security

In a surprise move, Microsoft has announced it will offer a free anti-virus and security solution from the second half of next year.

It will stop selling OneCare, its all-in-one security and PC management service, from the end of June 2009.

The new software, code-named Morro, will be a no-frills program suited to smaller and less powerful computers.

The software will be free to download and will support Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7.

The move comes as sales of the OneCare subscription service are flagging - reportedly because the anti-virus marketplace is already flooded with big-name players such as Symantec and McAfee.

Since its launch in May 2006, OneCare has garnered less than 2% of the security software market share.

In a statement, Microsoft said that Morro would be designed specifically to be a small-footprint program that uses fewer system resources. This, it said, would be ideal for users with low-bandwidth connections or computers without much processing power.

That will be of particular interest to consumers buying comparatively low-powered "netbook" computers.

Amy Barzdukas, senior director of product management in the online services division at Microsoft, said: "This new, no-cost offering will give us the ability to protect an even greater number of consumers, especially in markets where the growth of new PC purchases is outpaced only by the growth of malware."

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/technology/7737520.stm>

Propagation de K7RA

13 December, 2008 ARLP052

Finally this week a sunspot group appeared, and this time there was about three weeks since the last group disappeared. The first spotless day after sunspot group 1008's last appearance was Tuesday, November 18 and the last spotless day before group 1009 emerged was Tuesday, December 9. As expected, this was another Cycle 24 group, emerging far south of our Sun's equator.

This weekend is the ARRL 10-meter contest, and it would be great to have enough sunspots to drive the MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) above 28 MHz, but that doesn't seem likely, as group 1009 is near the western limb of the visible solar disk.

What level of solar activity would we need in order to see the MUF above 28 MHz? That varies according to the locations of the two stations trying to communicate, the season, and the time of day.

For example, if the date is December 13, the path from Cleveland, Ohio to Dallas, Texas is likely to briefly have an MUF at 28.0 MHz around 1730z, if the average sunspot number was at least 105 for several days.

In our example, if the average sunspot number for several days was 125, the three-hour period from 1700-2000z would have an MUF above 28 MHz, and the 1730-1800z period would likely have the best signals.

If we calculate the path from Boston to Atlanta for the same date, instead of 105, the average sunspot number for several days should be at least 131 to reach an MUF of 28.0 MHz.

But don't expect 10 meters to be unusable this weekend. An MUF above 28 MHz is desirable for very reliable communications, but perhaps sporadic-E skip will offer surprises. Summer sporadic-E is more intense, but this time of year we should see some sporadic-E.

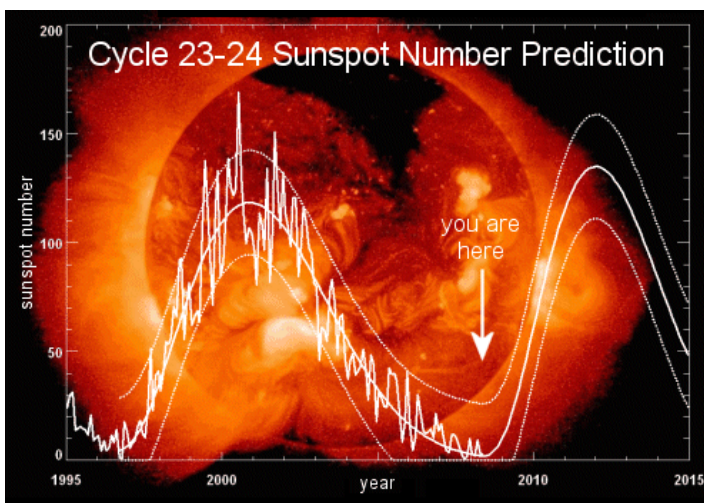
A few weeks ago Vic Woodling, WB4SLM of Centerville, Georgia wrote about an experience on 30 meters in the middle of the day, copying strong European stations, and also 5R8IC working into Europe from Madagascar, but with weaker signals on Vic's end. This was at 1630z, and when Vic came back to the radio at 1830z, they were even stronger.

Although in Vic's experience this is uncommon, a check with a propagation program for 30 meters on November 22 with zero sunspots between Georgia and England shows propagation

closely matching his report. At 1630z it shows the relative signal level at 15 db, and then at 1830z it jumps to 29 db.

But if he looks further east to the Czech Republic, the signals stay around the level that they would be for England at 1630z, all through the same period.

Ed Clulow, N7TL of Portland, Oregon commented on 75 meter conditions during the SSB Sweepstakes Contest, which was November 15-17. He uses an inverted-vee dipole, and said after dabbling in contests for several decades, he has never seen propagation like it was on Saturday evening, and said it sounded more like 20 meters. He worked Midwest and East Coast stations with ease, snagging them on the first or second call. He knows some hams never venture below 20 meters, and thinks some of us may be missing good propagation at the bottom of the sunspot cycle.



Dave Bennett, VE7YJ of Aldergrove, British Columbia wrote, "Carrying on from WEOH's report on 600 meter activities, I have noted in the past week or so reception from the powerful Far Eastern Russian broadcasters on 153, 180, 189, 234, and 279 KHz. They were at their best on November 29, around 0700z, but were heard as early as 0440z.

They haven't been as good the last couple of days, but were still detectable. I'm using an old IC-751A with a 160M inverted V antenna and could probably get even better results with a bigger antenna.

Last few nights 160 meters has been spotty as well. VE6s were strong, but the Century Club net on 1892 has been poor, whereas the week before I was hearing stations as far east and south as Texas and Ohio."

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>.

For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>.

An archive of past propagation bulletins is at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at, <http://www.arrl.org/gst/propcharts/>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of this bulletin are at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#email>.

Sunspot numbers for December 4 through 10 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 13 with a mean of 1.9. 10.7 cm flux was 69.6, 68.8, 69.1, 69, 68.5, 68.7, and 70.8 with a mean of 69.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 10, 7, 6, 5, 0 and 2 with a mean of 5.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 7, 14, 6, 1, 1 and 2 with a mean of 5.

DX Net, Tues. 8:30pm
Olimpio Varsogea
WB8SEZ



The editors of 425 DX News Mauro and Valeria Pregliasco (I1JQJ and IK1ADH) are the first Italian inductees into the CQ DX Hall of Fame (May 07)

PERIOD

CALL

till 13/12	BD3BXH/2, BG3DCI/2, BG3DDB/2: JuHua Island (AS-151)	till April	VK2LNX and VK2FSNJ: Maatsuyker Island
till 14/12	5R8IC: Sainte Marie Island (AF-090) 913	till 31/08/09	VR2/F4BKV: Hong Kong Island (AS-006) 908
till 14/12	6W/F1TZG: Senegal 919	till Nov 2009	OD5/W5YFN: Lebanon 915
till 14/12	NE8Z/4: Lido Key (NA-034) 918	06/12-08/12	CT7FFG: Portuguese Parks and Nature Reserves
till 14/12	YW1TI: Toas Island (SA-066) 918	06/12-07/12	F4ELJ/p: Stagadon Island (EU-105) 917
till 16/12	5W0UK: Samoa (OC-097) 919	07/12-08/12	FK/F5AHO: Lifou Island (OC-033) 915
till 16/12	TC12AKUT: special event station 917	07/12-14/12	NE8Z/4: Lido Key (NA-034) 918
till 17/12	E51KAJ: Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cooks	09/12-14/12	YW1TI: Toas Island (SA-066) 918
till 18/12	OP0OL: Patriot Hills, Antarctica 914	10/12-13/12	BD3BXH/2, BG3DCI/2, BG3DDB/2: JuHua Island (AS-151)
till 18/12	XU7XRO: Cambodia 918		CT1/ON4LO/p: Portuguese lighthouses 917
till 19/12	9Q1TB: Democratic Republic of Congo 918	10/12-20/01/09	E51QQQ: Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cooks
till 19/12	FT5YI: Petrel Island (AN-017) 919	10/12-17/12	FK/F5AHO: Ile des Pins (OC-032) 915
till 26/12	KT3Q/4: Key Biscayne (NA-141) 918	10/12-12/12	FT5WO: Crozet Islands (AF-008) 916
till 28/12	YS1/HB9KNA: El Salvador	10/12-30/11/09	XU7XRO: Cambodia 918
till 31/12	9A08P: special event station 886	10/12-18/12	KT3Q/4: Key Biscayne (NA-141) 918
till 31/12	9A60A: special callsign 881	12/12-26/12	San Gabriel Island (SA-057) 918
till 31/12	9M1Cxx: special callsigns 890	13/12 CX1F:	OP0LE: "Princess Elisabeth" Antarctic station
till 31/12	AY0DX: special callsign (Argentina) 874	15/12-15/02-/09	TR50R: Gabon 907
till 31/12	C4EURO: special callsign (Cyprus) 867	15/12-31/12	KC4/K2ARB, CE9/K2ARB, VP8DKF: Antarctica
till 31/12	DR8M: special event station 870	16/12-30/01	T47C: Cayo Coco (NA-086) 918
till 31/12	E760DPR: special event station 913	16/12-21/12	TU8/F4EYS: Ivory Coast 917
till 31/12	HG1848I: special callsign (Hungary) 873	25/12-28/02/09	CT7FFE: Portuguese Parks and Nature Reservers
till 31/12	HG550REX: special callsign (Hungary) 873	26/12-27/12	CT7FFT: Portuguese Parks and Nature Reservers
till 31/12	IN3IPY: special callsign 904		JD1BMH and JD1BLY: Chichijima (AS-031), Ogasawara
till 31/12	IQ1AC: A. Cruto memorial activity 914	28/12-29/12	CT7FFM: Portuguese Parks and Nature Reserves
till 31/12	ON1000NOTGER: special callsign 873		ZD8UW: Ascension Island (AF-003) 915
till 31/12	ON1708M: special event station 897	28/12-02/01/09	OH9SCL: "Santa Claus Land" St. Martin's Isl. (AS-127) * by S21RC, S21AM, S21DM, S21S
till 31/12	ON40BAF: special event call 869		E44M: Palestine 918
till 31/12	ON50WAASLAND: special call 910	30/12-02/01/09	TR8CR: Gabon 907
till 31/12	ON55INR: special event callsign 912		P40CG: Aruba (SA-036) 917
till 31/12	ON70REDSTAR: special event station 879	31/12-09/01/09	TS7C: Kerkennah Islands (AF-073)
till 31/12	PY100JA: special callsign 886	December	H44MS & H40MS: Solomons Islands & Temotu
till 31/12	SB1658OZ and SC1658OZ: spcl call (Sweden)	December	ZD8N: Ascension Island (AF-003)
till 31/12	SH1658DK and SH1658OZ: spcl call (Sweden)		VP8YLx: Falkland Islands (SA-002)
till 31/12	SK1658DK and SK1658OZ: spcl call (Sweden)	01/01-11/01/09	KP5: Desecheo Island (NA-095)
till 31/12	VE2XB/VY0: Southampton Island (NA-007)	01/01-26/01/09	5J0M: San Andres (NA-033)
till December	HF0POL: Henryk Arctowski Stn (S. Shetlands)	03/01-17/01/09	V31UR and V31WL: Caye Caulker (NA-073)
till 05/01/09	KC4AAA: Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station	08/01-19/01/09	MM0NDX/p: St. Kilda Islands (EU-059)
till 03/02/09	EA8/ON5JV and EA8/ON6AK: Canary Islands	10/01-28/04/09	
till 06/02/09	9M2MRS: Penang Island (AS-015) 891	12/01-27/01/09	
till 28/02/09	FM/F5IRO: Martinique (NA-107) 906	17/01-31/01/09	
till February	OD5/F5TLN: Lebanon 908	12/02-26/02/09	
till 07/03/09	VK0BP: Davis Base (Antarctica) 912	19/06-05/07/09	
till 31/03/09	6W2SC: Senegal 915	22/07-29/07/09	
till 31/03/09	J5UAP: Guinea-Bissau 915	07-27/07/09	
till April	OD5/IV3YIM: Lebanon 915		

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.

2008 Schedule:

December 20

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

December 18 at 7:30 pm
American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48162

Local Nets

ARPSC Net - Every Monday evening on '72-Monroe (146.72 Mhz) starting at 9:00pm.

DX Net - Every Tuesday evening on '72-Monroe starting at 8:30pm.