



THE HERTZIAN HERALD



Vol 32 Issue 1

January 2008

President of the MCRCA

I think we had the biggest turn out of the year at the December meeting for the Christmas party.

We had the annual Christmas program which was scheduled for the December meeting. The MCRCA Christmas party is one of the nicest Christmas parties I have ever attended. Everyone went home with a nice gift.

I purchased from my own pocket a Video and Book for our school liaisons to use in schools. I showed the video to the members at the October meeting. The video shows a man walking through a circuit board explaining basic circuits. The book that came with the video has much Amateur Radio history in it. The video and book may be useful for putting together a presentation for schools. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with school presentations let us know.

Dale made a motion at the September meeting to have a tri-fold brochure made to advertise Amateur Radio and the club. Dale showed us a brochure from another Amateur Radio Club. Fred Checked with local printers about the cost and it was \$600.00 dollars to print the brochures (Non Glossy). He found a place online for \$220.00 dollars (Non Glossy). We could put the brochures in the racks they have at various places. Pete has mentioned at the November meeting that the ARRL has a brochure that we could use. All we have to do is add our club info to the brochure. Pete is going to bring a brochure to the next meeting so we can look at it.

We still need a Program Manager for the monthly meetings. The program manager would plan and present a program for each meeting. I would be working with the program Manager to schedule the programs.

We need our members to come to the meetings and help support the club.

See you at the next meeting.



Richard L. Kraatz
N8YQW

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The "National Radio Quiet Zone" affects what state?

1. Maryland
2. Virginia
3. West Virginia
4. All of the above

What is the maximum power allowed for a standard AM broadcast station in the USA?

1. 100,000 watts
2. 25,000 watts
3. 5,000 watts
4. 50,000 watts

For what purpose could a ham use a 1R5 in homebrew equipment?

1. As a converter in a portable HF receiver
2. As an RF power amplifier for 2 meter FM
3. As an RF power amplifier for 13 cm EME work
4. As a long-life, rechargeable power source

Heathkit sold which of the following build it yourself kits?

1. A 6-meter transceiver with a super-regenerative receiver
2. A desktop linear amplifier
3. HF SSB transceivers that only worked one band
4. All of them

The GAP "Titan" vertical antenna uses how many "traps?"

1. 3
2. 1
3. 4
4. none

What is the Maximum permissible CW speed permitted for identifying an amateur radio repeater?

1. 13
2. 15
3. 20
4. 25

Where were Swan amateur radio gear made?

1. Osaka
2. Fort Dodge
3. Benton Harbor
4. Oceanside

Tech Trivia 60
Scanning The HF Bands
Print in 2002



Now I know that every "So You Want To Be A Ham" book has a listing of the various ham bands and what you can expect from them, but to me they all seem to have been written by some guy with a kilowatt, stacked beams, and a call like W1AW. Here's how the HF bands look to a guy with a 100-watt rice box and a few dipoles 25 feet up.

160 is seasonal. Drowned in QRN (static) from April through October, and totally inactive during daylight. However, on crisp January nights it can't be beat for long ragchews. QSB (fading) is not the problem here that it is on most HF bands. Typical distances are 50 miles to 400 miles. 1000-mile QSOs happen, but they're kind of special. The big problem with 160 is the antenna size; a half-wave dipole is 270 feet long. "Top Banders" tend to consider themselves a breed apart, since not many hams can get up a good antenna, and many folks ignore the band because it is so seldom active.

80 (the phone segment is called 75) is much the same as 160, but is very much more active, especially in the phone segment. 75-meter ssb ops tend to hang out in groups of "Old Buddies" who talk to each other regularly. You seldom hear a CQ (general call.) The cw segment from 3500 to 3565 is full of general contacts and rag chews, with the faster ops tending to hang out at the low end, 3500 - 3435. The novice segment, 3675 - 3725 attracts new cw ops and hams who are not quite so confident about their cw speed or operating practice. The space from 3570 to 3675 holds traffic nets and digital (RTTY) modes, but not much general operation. Again, 80 is dead during the day, and lightly used in the summer because of QRN. Typical QSOs cover distances of 50 - 600 miles, but 2000-mile QSOs happen occasionally, and the high-power boys work DX on the low end of 80.

40 is the 7/24 band; open day and night, summer and winter. Distances of 100 - 1000 miles are typical, with European DX QSOs not uncommon on the low end. QRN is a little troublesome, but not nearly so bad as it is on 80 and 160. The phone section is shared with international AM broadcast stations, which absolutely ruin the band after dark. This seems to have broken up the "Old Buddies" that dominate many other ssb areas; you can call CQ on 40 ssb (in the daytime or early evening) and have a nice random contact. Newcomers hang out on 7100 - 7150, although the broadcast QRM makes it necessary to avoid frequency multiples of 5 (like 7120 or 7135) to keep clear of their carriers. High-speed cw ops hang out around 7030, and the DX clusters down around 7000 - 7015.

30 meters is cw-only, and the ops tend to be a little higher-speed than on 80 and 40. It's open pretty much all the time, although sometimes there seems to be nobody around. I call it the QSB band; it's not uncommon for a signal to be 579 one minute, and down below the noise five minutes later. QRN is much less

severe than on 160, 80, and 40. Skip distance is quite evident: you seldom QSO a station closer than 300 miles away. 1500-mile QSOs are common, with DX all over Europe and into Africa or farther if you wait, listen, and fish for it. There are no contests on 30, so it's a great place to hide when contest activity is making the other bands boiling hot.

20 is the DX-man's band. Russia any evening, Japan and Australia late at night or early in the morning, are readily do-able with just 100 watts and a dipole. The ssb ops again tend to hang out in their "Old Buddy" Groups, although random QSOs are more easy to come by than on 75. The band usually folds up and goes dead sometime in the evening, between 7 pm and midnight. We're just now coming down off the high of the 11-year sunspot cycle (2002. Ed.), and the 20 is often open late. In a few years it will be a "daylight only" band again. Thankfully, QRN and broadcast QRM are not troublesome here. The cw DX hangs out mostly down below 14020, and they do tend to send at 25 or 30 wpm, but you can find some slower DX in the 14050 - 14060 area.

15 is great for DX when it's open. It's almost exclusively a daytime band, and there are lots of days when it's not open even then. It depends on sunspot activity. Now, at a sunspot peak, 15 is open more days than not. In four years it will be a rare day when you hear many signals on 15. But when it IS open, the signals just pound in, from almost everywhere. Contacts tend to be shorter on 15, partly because of QSB terminating them, and partly because everybody is too busy chasing the DX to talk for long.

10 meters is like 15 meters squared! Most of the time when you tune around on 10 you hear nothing. But when the band opens up, you hear everything - the whole world. And you can work them too. Low-power, high-power - it doesn't seem to matter.

I've left 17 and 12 meters for last, because there usually isn't that much activity there. But 17 is my favorite place to work ssb. I'm not in any "Old Buddy" groups, and it's real easy to pick up a random QSO on 17. The DX is good too, a lot like 15.

Here is a band-activity scan that I did on a Friday winter evening, about 10 pm at the height of the sunspot cycle:

160 meters: cw 2 stns, phone 4 stns
80 meters: cw 11 stns, phone 21 stns
40 meters: cw 16 stns, phone 2 stns (BC QRM)
30 meters: cw 5 stns, no phone seg
20 meters: cw 7 stns, phone 20 stns
15 meters: cw 6 stns, phone 2 stns

17, 12, and 10 meters had no activity at that time of night, but in the day-time, each had typically 2 cw and 2 phone QSOs coming in.

73 de K8JWR

Dan's articles have been printed for many years - since 1997. If you wish a certain one, contact the Editor. Thank you Dan for giving us laughs, food for thought and some lessons in common sense.

*** 4 2 5 D X N E W S *** No 870
 ***** CALENDAR *****
 Edited by IK1ADH and I1JQJ
 Direttore Responsabile I2VGW

PERIOD CALL
 05/01-20/01 II4TRI: SP*
 05/01-11/01 PZ5YV: Suriname
 from 05/01 H44V: Solomon Islands
 06/01-20/01 TO5FJ: St. Barthelemy
 (NA-146)
 07/01-13/01 ZL/IK1PMR and ZL/IZ1GLO:
 New Zealand (OC-036)
 08/01-29/01 6W/F6HMJ: Senegal
 08/01-26/01 HI: Dominican Republic *
 by IZ5JNQ
 08/01-12/01 OA4/DL5YWM, OA4/DL3OCH,
 OA4/DL2JRM: Peru
 09/01-11/01 FJ5KH: St. Barthelemy
 (NA-146) * by W6IZT
 09/01-22/01 FO: Marquesas Isls
 (OC-027) * by OHs
 09/01-20/01 VA7MJR: Entrance Island
 (NA-075)
 10/01-14/01 KH0/JI5USJ and AH0V:
 Saipan (OC-086)
 11/01-13/01 PJ7/W6IZT: Sint Maarten
 (NA-105)
 11/01-21/01 J5C: Bubaque Island
 (AF-020)
 till 12/01 5Z4/DL7UCX: Kenya
 till 12/01 TR8CR: Gabon
 13/01-27/01 YS3/I2JIN: El Salvador
 14/01-26/01 EA8/OZ7FOC: Canary
 Islands (AF-004)
 14/01-16/01 ZL/IK1PMR and ZL/IZ1GLO:
 Waiheke Island (OC-201)
 till 15/01 FO5RU: French Polynesia
 till 15/01 TM8P: SP*(France)
 15/01-18/01 DL9DAK/HC8: Galapagos
 (SA-004)
 till 15/01 VP8CXV: Falkland Islands
 (SA-002)
 17/01-20/01 VK7AAP/3 and VK7CLA/3:
 Australia
 18/01-21/01 HL5YI/4: Sorok Island
 (AS-060)
 18/01-28/01 VI2BMARC50: SP*
 (Australia)
 19/01-25/01 F5RMY/P: Porquerolles
 Island (EU-070)
 19/01-21/01 DL9DAK/HC2: Ecuador
 till 20/01 3D2AG: Rotuma (OC-060)
 21/01-31/01 VK7AAP and VK7CLA:
 Tasmania (OC-006)
 23/01-27/01 3A/ON5NT: Monaco
 26/01-09/02 TM4A: SP* (France)
 till 26/01 EA8/ON5JV and EA8/ON6AK:

27/01-28/02
 till 03/02
 till 14/02
 till February
 till 14/03
 till 31/03
 till 31/03
 till April
 till April
 till May
 till 15/05
 till 30/06
 till August
 till 30/09
 till November
 till 31/12
 till 31/12
 till 31/12
 till December
 till ??
 till ??
 till ??
 January
 Jan-Feb
 01/02-08/02
 02/02-03/01
 06/02-15/02
 06/02-11/02
 11/02-28/02
 13/02-23/02
 16/02-02/03
 22/02-29/02
 28/02-07/03

Tenerife (AF-004)
 VP8DIF: South Georgia
 (AN-007)
 UN/4J9M: Kazakhstan
 3Y0E: Bouvet Island
 (AN-002)
 OJ1ABOA: Aboa Station
 (Antarctica)
 II9CAR: SP*
 J20MB: Djibouti
 LZ130LO: SP*
 VQ9JC: Diego Garcia
 (AF-006)
 ZD7X: St. Helena-AF-022
 V73RY: Kwajalein (OC028)
 YI9MI: Iraq
 VR10: SP*(Hong Kong)
 C91R: Mozambique
 9A73AA: SP*
 YE2IPY: SP*
 C4EURO: SP*(Cyprus)
 DR8M: SP*
 ON40BAF SP*
 HF0POL: Henryk Arctowski
 Station (South
 Shetlands)
 DP0GVN: Neumayer Base
 (Antarctica)
 LU1ZA: South Orkneys
 (AN-008)
 R1ANR: "Blue One Runway"
 (Antarctica)
 CE0Z/LA6IKA: Juan
 Fernandez (SA-005)
 ZS7BYRD: SANAE IV
 (Antarctica)
 PW2M: Moela Island
 (SA-071)
 KH2/JA0SC: Guam (OC-026)
 TI9K: Isla del Coco
 (NA-012)
 ZF2XD: Cayman Islands
 (NA-016)
 VP6DX: Ducie Island
 (OC-182)
 CN2XW: Morocco
 TM1R: SP* (France)
 8R1PW: Guyana
 V4: St. Kitts (NA-104) *
 by W1USN, AA1M, W1SSR

425 DX NEWS HOME PAGE:
<http://www.425dxn.org>

SP=Special Call sign
 Remember-day and THEN month

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CLUB MEMBERS:

Who is
having the
30th
anniversary
of his



January

- 3 Kraig Hayner N8KJF
- 12 Ken Kreuchauf N8VGE
- 17 Larry Lindner KB8AIZ
- 16 Olimpio Varsogea WB8SEZ
- 28 Jay Nugent WB8TKL

February

- 4 Martin Goins KB8TMJ



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 48162

Walk-ins are always welcome

2008

February 16

April 19

June 21

August 16

October 18

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

The River Raisin Repeater Association meets once a year on the first Saturday in May at the Red Cross Bldg on N. Dixie.

Did you hear about the cell phone over load on New's eve? It seems so many people were text messaging or calling friends that some systems failed, This has caused folks to rethink about the reliablilty of cell phones.

RADIO TO THE RESCUE. No. we didn't, but we could have. Tell about the reliablity of our hobby. Bring someone to the meeting. Monitor the repeater in case someone does call for help. Talk about radio when ever it fits the conversation. Tell your neighbors you are active in Skywarn or even have them ride with you to see how you help sight trouble or how your presence calms jittery nerves. A very young lad lived next door and every time it rained he would get hyper. He ran into my yard one day and asked why I wasn't scared. I eventually found out that he was terrified because of the tornado that had hit Hamtramck a few months before. We talked about how storm clouds look and the sound of a tornado. He went home allot calmer than when he had first come over.

Skywarn classes will be here before we know it. It is a good time to renew what we have forgotton over the winter.

Our local Monroe County Repeaters are:

Input	Output
146.12	- 146.72
223.18	- 224.78
449.55	- 444.55
447.825	- 442.825



MCRCA meetings are on

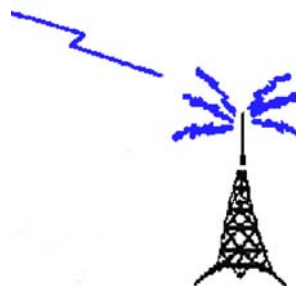
the 3rd Thursday of the month at the American Red Cross Bldg on N. Dixie (near I-75). 7PM for goodies and eyeball QSO's. Meeting at 7:30.

Pre meeting dinner at Bob Evan's at I-75 and N. Dixie - about 6:15 or so.

The MCRCA is a general interest club and as such programs can be about most anything.

ARPS net meets Monday Evening at 9PM on the 146.72 machine courtesy of the River Raisin Repeater Association

The ARES/RACES group meet on the first Thursday of the month at the EMD bldg. on S. Raisinville Rd. at 7PM.



Tubs of Tubes

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU'

The other day I got a call from a guy whose website I'm working on. He says he's calling from the Ann Arbor Reuse Center and that they have two tubs full of vacuum tubes there. He asked, "Do you know anyone who might want them"?

"How much are they asking for them"? I reply.

"Ten cents a piece."

"How many are there"?

"I'd guess about two hundred."

"Well, tell them I'll give him 20 bucks for all of them."

He tells them that I'll give them \$20 for the lot. I hear some mumbling. He comes back on the line and says they're negotiating.

After a minute or two, he says, "OK. You got them. How do I get to your house"?

I gave him directions, and in about 15 minutes, he pulls up to my house, gets out, opens the hatch, and pulls out two plastic tubs and a cardboard box with vacuum tubes in them. I can tell he was way off in his estimate. There must be at least 400 tubes in all.

Welcome to Monroe County Radio Communications Association. MCRCA

We are a community oriented, full service organization and welcome all who wish to participate.

The monthly meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30PM. Eyeball QSO's and goodie table = about 7PM.

There's nothing really exotic--most of them seem to have been taken out of old TV sets--but I did find a couple of 6J6s. These are the tubes used for the single-tube transmitter I have been thinking about building (see http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones_6j6.html for more info). In one of the tubs, there was even a socket for the 6J6.

There are also a bunch of 6KS7s. According to the RCA tube manual, these tubes were often used as RF or IF amplifiers. That sounds like the beginning of a receiver project, doesn't it? In fact, 6SK7s were used in the receiver section of the ParaSet, a "spy radio" used during WWII.

:<http://www.mines.uidaho.edu/~glowbugs/paraset.htm>.

And, of course, there are a bunch of rectifiers to make a power supply. Now, all I have to find some cheap transformers. Anyone know a good source for them?

When he's not wondering what he's going to do with more than 400 vacuum tubes, KB6NU works CW and PSK on the HF bands and blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com. You can reach him by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

(Dan has asked to be a regular columnist for the Hertzian Herald. (Ed. Jan 2008))

The River Raisin Repeater Association is also a non profit association. It is entirely separate from the Monroe County Radio Communications Association. Fill in the above information and remit \$15.00 and I will see that the money is given to them.

Along with the above organizations is the ARES. NO dues are required.

We request you become available during an emergency. Trainings will benefit you! Are you interested? YES_____ NO_____

Name_____	Call_____
Address_____	Telephone #_____
City/State/Zip_____	Email_____
Program I would like to see_____	
I am interested in ___ DX ___ Contests ___ UHF/VHF ___ Nets ___ ARPSC	
Yes, I would like to join the MCRCA. Due are: Regular = \$10.00	
Additional Family members = \$5.00 each. Amount paid_____	
I would like to join the RRRR. Dues are \$15 regular.	
Please return to PO BOX 237, Monroe, MI 48161-0237.	
MCRCA MEMBERSHIP FORM. FORM WILL BE FORWARDED TO RRRR.	

Grattan Gray
K8WXO
1925 – 2008

MCRCA meeting January 17, 2008 at 7:30 at the American Red Cross Building on N. Dixie Hwy near I-75 exit 15. Pre meeting Eyeball QSO's at 7:00, and goodies available. For those who wish, dinner at Bob Evans at 6:15 or so.

ELECTIONS

Monroe County Radio
Communications Association
P.O. Box 237
Monroe, MI. 48161-0237