

The Hertzian Herald



November 2008 • Volume 32, Issue 11 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

The Editor Says:

It's getting near the end of the year and the time when we have to elect new officers for the club. We will need to appoint a nominating committee to go out and start twisting some arms. If you are interested in being on the nominating committee or running for an office in the MCRCA, please let me or any one of the current officers know so we can get things rolling.

Since I have missed the last two meetings, I don't know if we are having a Junque Auction at this months meeting. If you have something to sell or get rid of, bring it along anyways and maybe we can help you sell it at the meeting.

Since it is getting near the end of the year, I would also like to remind everyone that dues will be due in December so you can legally vote in the January elections. Dues are \$10.00 for all regular members and \$5.00 for any additional family members living in the immediate household.

I am working on a new regular column for the Hertzian Herald that I thought would be interesting for everyone to read. The title would be, Getting to know our members, I am currently working on a questionnaire to send out to everyone to help with this endeavour. What I want to do is find out how each of us got started in Amateur Radio, who helped us get here, and what we have done, and are doing, with Amateur Radio in our lives. I am sure some of us have been licensed quite a long time, but I think everyone should be able to remember how it all started. I think some of us can tell a few interesting stories that they have heard or been involved in a long the way also. If anyone has a particular question that they would like answered or any other ideas, please email them to me (ka8ebi@yahoo.com) so I can get them in this questionnaire. I think this will prove to be a very interesting column for all our members to read, and can't wait to get started on it. Fred, KA8EBI

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Richard Kraatz N8YQW
rjkmailbox-1@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Imber W8RRI
kc8qhn@msn.com

SECRETARY

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

Diana Lindner KB8VIU
kb8aiz@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI
ptrouten@aol.com

DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE

Rita Baker WB8FBG
wb8fbg@chartermi.net

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MCRCA Minutes:

Minutes, Monroe County Radio Communications Assn. October 15, 2008

1. Call to order by President Rich Kraatz at 7:33 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Introductions by members and guests.
4. Door prizes were won by Bill, WB8JAI, Neil KA8PQH, Dale WA8EFK.
5. 50-50 won by Neil KA8PQH and donated to Chuck DeWilde Scholarship Fund, \$8.00
6. Approval of minutes. Moved by Terry Colpert KC8RQI, seconded by John Bills N8RWI, passed.
7. Treasurer's Report, deferred to future meeting.
8. Reports:
 - a. DX: No report.
 - b. Hertzian Herald: No report.
 - c. Training: No report.
 - d. Testing: Testing scheduled for the coming Saturday, October 18.
 - e. ARPSC: Spook Patrol in Dundee on October 31. Participants are to meet at the Wendy's restaurant and then begin the patrol at 5:30.
 - f. Repeater Assn.: The 224.78 system is expected to be back operational at the Monroe site on Friday.
9. Announcements: None
10. Program: None.
11. Adjournment 7:40 PM, by the president.

Attendees: KA8OAR, WB8JAI, K8YKD, KC8RQI, N8RWI, KC8UFV, KA8PQH, N8YQW, WA8EFK.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Williams for Secretary Brenda VanDaele

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 KD8DMJ

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

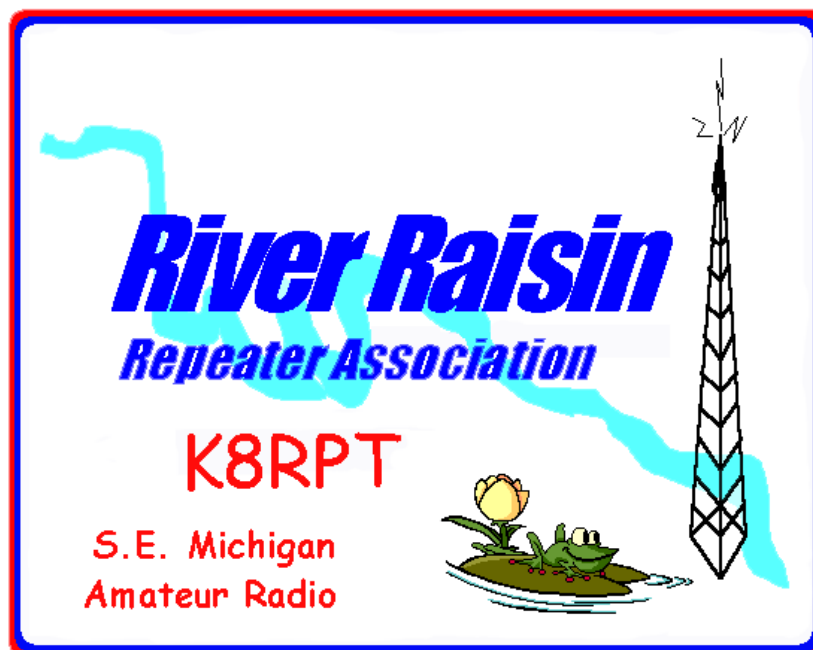
River Raisin Repeater Association - Repeater Updates

— News from your local repeater group.

The 442.825 IRLP link is expected to go offline during the week of November 10 to begin some planned modifications. This outage may take as long as three weeks to fully implement and test. The repeater association will keep everyone posted with announcements in the Hertzian Herald and on the air as work progresses on these changes. Testing will involve the new Internet connectivity as well as a revamped control interface to the repeater.

The proposed crosslink between the La Salle 224.78 repeater and the 442.825 Dundee system has been installed. It is currently undergoing testing and should be ready for full use shortly. RRRRA Members will be given instructions on its operation as soon as the testing is complete. The link is virtually transparent to users of the 442.825 repeater while the 224.78 users will hear an extra beep to indicate the link is in service.

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



Let's Get on the Maker Bandwagon

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I got an e-mail from a ham down in Texas who had attended the Maker Faire (makerfaire.com). "Makers" are people who love to tinker and make things. They even have their own magazine, Make (www.makezine.com).

He was amazed at the lack of any amateur radio content. He wrote, "The Maker Faire was unbelievable. Incredible stuff. Pedal powered carnival rides, robots, computer drive routers, kits. Outside of a table with a Vectronics kit, and a license manual, and a QRP book, the only radio stuff was from a pirate radio group."

I'm kind of amazed at this as well. It just goes to show how disconnected amateur radio is getting from the mainstream. These are exactly the kind of people we want to get interested in amateur radio, yet there was no one there representing us.

Ham radio needs to be at these events and get plugged into the "maker community." The Faire has not yet released attendance figures for this particular Faire, but more than 65,000 people attended the Faire held in May 2008. Dayton, with its attendance of about 20,000, looks anemic by comparison.

I blogged about this back in May (<http://kb6nu.com/why-cant-dayton-be-more-like-the-maker-faire/>). One of the things I suggested then is moving Dayton to some place like Austin. Seriously, if you were a new, young ham, where would you rather go, Dayton, OH or Austin, TX? Let's be real here.

And can there be a worse place for an event than Hara Arena? The parking lot, where they hold the flea market looks like a mine field, and it usually rains, making the flea market a wet, unpleasant experience. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer vendors choose to haul stuff out there? Some of us older hams might fondly reminisce about the bargain we found while traipsing around wearing a trash-bag poncho, but a story like that is not going to resonate with new hams.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to badmouth the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or the Hamvention. I actually think that they do a great job, all things considered. I'm just pointing out that if ham radio wants to again be part of the mainstream, we have to get with the program. Unfortunately, that program probably won't be at the Hara Arena.

Ham radio has got to figure out how to latch onto the Maker phenomenon. At the very least, the ARRL should have a booth at the next one, and in addition to all the books and t-shirts, they need to come up with some kind of demo or display to attract makers into ham radio. I don't know what exactly, but I'm willing to start talking about it.

This phenomenon might also be a boon for clubs who hold hamfests. Just as the computer craze turned ham swaps into ham and computer swaps in the 80s, perhaps ham clubs could turn their hamfests into a combination hamfest and Maker Faire in their communities.

As I said earlier, Makers are exactly the kind of people we want in ham radio. Let's go out and get them.

When Dan's not pontificating about ham radio, you'll find him working CW on 40m, teaching ham classes, or running for the ARRL Board of Directors. Read more by going to www.kb6nu.com. Send e-mail to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

NASA's Shuttle Endeavour launches on 'home improvement' mission

Space shuttle Endeavour and its seven-member crew lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center at 7:55 p.m. EST Friday to repair and remodel the International Space Station.

Endeavour's STS-126 mission will carry to space about 32,000 pounds, which includes supplies and equipment necessary to double the crew size from three to six members in spring 2009.

The new station cargo includes additional sleeping quarters, a second toilet, a water reclamation system and a resistance exercise device.

The mission's four planned spacewalks primarily will focus on servicing the station's two Solar Alpha Rotary Joints, which allow the outpost's solar arrays to track the sun. The starboard SARJ has had limited use since September 2007.

Shortly before launch, Commander Chris Ferguson thanked the teams that helped make the launch possible.

"It's our turn to take home improvement to a new level after 10 years of International Space Station construction," he said. "Endeavour is good to go."

Joining Ferguson on Endeavour's 15-day flight are Pilot Eric Boe and Mission Specialists Donald Pettit, KD5MDT, Steve Bowen, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, KD5TVR, Shane Kimbrough, KE5HOD and Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE.

Magnus will replace current station crew member Greg Chamitoff, KD5PKZ, who has lived on the outpost since June. She will return to Earth on Discovery's STS-119 mission, targeted for February 2009.

NASA is providing continuous television and Internet coverage of Endeavour's mission, which is the 124th shuttle flight, the 22nd for Endeavour and the 27th shuttle mission to the station. NASA Television features live mission events, daily mission status news conferences and 24-hour commentary. NASA TV is webcast at:

<http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>



A booth-like compartment holds the new Russian-built toilet system. Image credit: NASA



Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE

Field Day 2008 Results

It is now November and the 2008 Field Day results are now official and published in QST. MCRCA participated in Field Day once again this year and due to the efforts of our stalwart operators, we finished very well both nationally and in Michigan section.

Weather and band conditions were decent this year, not much rain with the bands fairly good even though the sunspots were not in our favor. A good time was had by all those who participated, even if Mike Karmol, N8KUF, did get scratched up in the brier patch in the woods.

We operated in class 2A, which means we had two transmitters on the air using gasoline powered generators. All the antennas were installed at the site, Vienna Park, on the day of Field Day, tents and campers set up, generators tested and transmissions started promptly at 2:00 PM. Using the call sign W8PI we had one transmitter on phone bands and the second on CW bands. A special third transmitter called a GOTA (Get On The Air) station using the call sign W8DWL was also used by those operators that were new to the hobby and/or have not been on the air recently.

After 24 hours of non-stop operations we amassed 1,596 contacts combined both with phone and CW. This placed us in the third place for class 2A in the Michigan section, with a total of 5,376 points. In the 15 years that I have been keeping records of MCRCA Field Day operations, this was our second

best year. Only 2002 was better. Last year (2007) we only had 601 contacts and 1452 points, so quite an improvement.

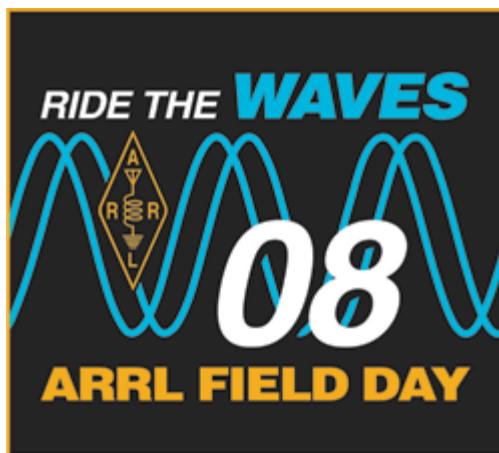
Nationally, there were 2,409 club/individual entrants in the Field Day operations, with 35,798 amateurs working these stations. In the Michigan section we had 92 stations on the air. Many of these groups had up to 15 transmitters on the air simultaneously. In the Michigan section we placed number seven (7) overall even against the bigger clubs with many more operators and transmitters. On a country wide basis, MCRCA placed in the top 11% nationally.

Now we have to start thinking of how we can do even better next year. The more members we can get to help out with Field Day, the better we can finish.

Remember, even if you do not want to operate one of the stations, there are plenty of other ways to help with this extremely fun program in your club. We always need help with putting up and taking down antennas and equipment, working the public service table, showing the non-amateurs that stop by the Field Day site how amateur radio actually works, and most importantly helping with the food for the operation.

Hope to see everyone again next year at Field Day 2009, the last weekend of June.

Paul Trouten W8PI



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 15/11	Caribbean cruise by SP7VC, SP3IPB and SQ3WN	15/11-31/03/09 6W2SC: Senegal
till 15/11	FG/F6AUS: La Desirade Island (NA-102)	15/11-08/12 AU2JCB: special event callsign (India)
till 15/11	TM6VG: special event callsign (France)	15/11-16/11 CX1F: San Gabriel Island (SA-057)
till 16/11	CE0Y/N6NO: Easter Island (SA-001)	15/11-19/11 II1ADV: special event station
till 17/11	9K2HN: Kuwait * by DLs	15/11-31/03/09 J5UAP: Guinea-Bissau
till 17/11	A35AU, A35IC, A35SS, A35TE, A35ZS: Tonga	15/11-20/11 JA7GAX/6: Daito Islands (AS-047)
till 18/11	TT8JT: Chad	15/11-16/11 N4AUG: Talbot Island
till 20/11	S79NS: Seychelles (AF-024 and AF-033)	15/11-17/11 OA4BHY/2: Guanape Islands (SA-075)
till 21/11	TM90AA: special event station (France)	15/11-29/11 TM8TEG: special event station (France)
till 21/11	V8FKT: Brunei	16/11-03/12 TO2HI: Les Saintes (NA-114)
till 23/11	3Z1918PR, 3Z2008PR, 3Z90PR: special event stations	from 16/11 OD5/W5VFN: Lebanon
till 23/11	GB4RN: special callsign	from 16/11 T31DX: Central Kiribati (OC-043)
till 23/11	HF1918PR, HF2008PR, HF90PR: special event stations	17/11-06/02/09 9M2MRS: Penang Island (AS-015)
till 23/11	SN1918PR, SN2008PR, SN90PR: special event stations	18/11-21/11 5K0T and HK0/HK3JJH: Roncador Bank (NA-133)
till 23/11	SO1918PR, SO2008PR, SO90PR: special event stations	18/11-09/12 E51QQQ: Manihiki (OC-014), North Cook Islands
till 23/11	SP1918PR, SP2008PR, SP90PR: special event stations	18/11-14/12 5R8IC: Sainte Marie Island (AF-090)
till 23/11	SQ1918PR, SQ2008PR, SQ90PR: spcl event stations	19/11-23/11 3DA0VM: Swaziland
till 25/11	A5100A: Bhutan	19/11-23/11 6M5XW: Orkney Islands (EU-009)
till 25/11	J3/DL7CM and J3/DM2AYO: Grenada (NA-024)	21/11-27/11 3D2YA: Mana Island (OC-121)
till 26/11	EY8/F4EGS: Tajikistan	21/11-30/11 EO15IVK: special event station
till 27/11	GB617SQN: special event station	21/11-23/11 ID9/IT9RKR and ID9/IT9GCG: Salina (EU-017)
till 27/11	TM6TNB: special event station (France)	21/11-23/11 ID9/IW9GUR, ID9/IW9HLM, ID9/IW9HQP: Salina (EU-017)
till 30/11	CK, CJ, CY, CZ: psecial prefixes (Canada)	21/11-03/12 T88CJ and T88CI: Koror Island (OC-009)
till 30/11	II20CJ: special event station	22/11-02/12 9J3A: Zambia
till 30/11	LY70: special prefix	22/11-03/02/09 EA8/ON5JV and EA8/ON6AK: Canary Islands (AF-004)
till 30/11	YL90: special event prefix (Latvia)	22/11-30/11 XV4BX: Phu Quoc Island (AS-128)
till November	CE9/CE3VPM: South Shetlands (Frei Montalva Base)	23/11-02/12 5K0T and HK0/HK3JJH: Bajo Nuevo (NA-132)
till November	YE2IPY: special callsign	23/11-05/12 6V7N: Senegal
till 02/12	C91LW: Mozambique	23/11-01/12 C6ARR, C6AKX, C6ATA: Bahamas
till 02/12	TC85TC: special station	23/11-05/12 FK/F5AHO: New Caledonia Island (OC-032)
till 15/12	FT5YI: Petrel Island (AN-017)	25/11-10/12 8Q7SC: Maldives (AS-013)
till 18/12	OPOOL: Patriot Hills, Antarctica	25/11-01/12 9M6/N2BB: Sabah (OC-088)
till 31/12	9A08P: special event station	25/11-30/11 HC2/SM6FKF and HC2/SM6LJU: Ecuador
till 31/12	9A60A: special callsign	25/11-30/11 HC2/SM7BUA and HC2/SM7NDX: Ecuador
till 31/12	9M1Cxx: special callsigns	25/11-01/12 IG9/IK1QBT and IG9X: Lampedusa Island (AF-019)
till 31/12	AYODX: special callsign (Argentina)	25/11-01/12 IG9/IZIGAR and IG9W: Lampedusa Island (AF019)
till 31/12	C4EURO: special callsign (Cyprus)	25/11-02/12 OH3SR/VP9: Bermuda (NA-005)
till 31/12	DR8M: special event station	25/11-02/12 OH1VR/VP9 and VP9I: Bermuda (NA-005)
till 31/12	E760DPR: special event station	25/11-06/12 TO3R: Reunion Island (AF-016)
till 31/12	HG1848I: special callsign (Hungary)	26/11-01/12 J49I: Crete (EU-015)
till 31/12	HG550REX: special callsign (Hungary)	26/11-03/12 PJ4/hc and PJ4A: Bonaire (SA-006)
till 31/12	IN3IPY: special callsign	26/11-01/12 V26K: Antigua (NA-100)
till 31/12	IQ1AC: A. Cruto memorial activity	29/11-30/11 3X5A: Guinea
till 31/12	ON1000NOTGER: special callsign	29/11-04/12 St. Martin's Isl. (AS-127) * by S21RC, S21AM, S21DM, S21S
till 31/12	ON1708M: special event station	November H44MY: Ontong Java (OC-192)
till 31/12	ON40BAF: special event call	November YW1TI: Toas Island (SA-066)
till 31/12	ON50WAASLAND: special call	04/12-07/12 YB3MM/9: Timor Island (OC-148)
till 31/12	ON55INR: special event callsign	04/12-07/12 ZY7EAM: special callsign (Brazil)
till 31/12	ON70REDSTAR: special event station	06/12-13/12 ZV5V and ZV5Z: Ilha da Paz (SA-027)
till 31/12	PY100JA: special callsign	07/12-08/12 FK/F5AHO: Lifou Island (OC-033)
till 31/12	SB1658OZ and SC1658OZ: special callsigns (Sweden)	10/12-12/12 FK/F5AHO: Ile des Pins (OC-032)
till 31/12	SH1658DK and SH1658OZ: special callsigns (Sweden)	10/12-30/11/09 FT5WO: Crozet Islands (AF-008)
till 31/12	SK1658DK and SK1658OZ: special callsigns (Sweden)	15/12-31/12 TR50R: Gabon
till 31/12	VE2XB/VYO: Southampton Island (NA-007)	16/12-21/12 CO7PH: Camaguey Archipelago (NA-086)
till December	HF0POL: Henryk Arctowski Station (S. Shetlands)	28/12-02/01/09 JD1BMH and JD1BLY: Chichijima (AS-031), Ogasawara
till February	OD5/F5TLN: Lebanon	31/12-09/01/09 ZD8UW: Ascension Island (AF-003)
till 28/02/09	FM/F5IRO: Martinique (NA-107)	01/01-26/01/09 TR8CR: Gabon
till 07/03/09	VK0BP: Davis Base (Antarctica)	
till April	OD5/IV3YIM: Lebanon	
till April	VK2LNX and VK2FSNJ: Maatsuyker Island (OC-233)	
till 31/08/09	VR2/F4BKV: Hong Kong Island (AS-006)	

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

November 20 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.