

The Hertzian Herald



The Editor Says:

Well it's February already, the heavy snows have melted and the river has flooded with large chunks of ice all over Hellenburg park. Now all we have to do is make it through the once a week heavy snows that usually come at the end of February and through out March. It's begining to look like I might survive the winter one more year. (knock on wood)

If you didn't make it to the January meeting it was decided to wait untill February to hold elections for this year due to a lack of attendance. So you still have another chance to run for that office you have been dying to hold. If so please contact John N8RWI or Dale W48EFK to let them know.

It's also that time of year to update your dues if you haven't done so already. Membership dues are \$10 each and \$5 for additional family members living at home.

Remember the February meeting is This Thursday the 19th at



Hellenburg Park, the baseball field and parking lots are all filled with huge chunks of ice. The ice went all the way accross Front St. and had to be moved with a front loader to open the road.

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:

January 15, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm, by Paul W8PI

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: no new members no upgrades one guest Scott KD8HSO

PROGRAM: Dale W8EFK gave a presentation and slide show about the ARRL in Michigan

MINUTES: Motion by Olimpio WB8SEZ, supported by John N8RWI, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Terry KC8RQI, supported by Nick AF8CS, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: By Olimpio. Tunisia TS7C had 8 stations operating with 24 operators, 26,000 contacts in 4 days Jan. 8th

TESTING: Paul reported Next session Feb. 21st 2 signed up for tech test

ARPSC: Pete was absent, but looking for people to run the Tuesday night net.

RRRA: Dale announced audio glitch on 2m was fixed.

FIELD DAY: John N8RWI asked about having Field day at his house or Maybee park this year. It was decided to discuss this next month.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Dale talked about a high speed Tech class being held in Bedford on Feb. 28th 8am to 5pm with testing to follow at the end of class.

ADJOURNED: 8:00 pm

Election of officers was tabled till next month due to lack of attendance.

Attendance: 13

Nick AF8CS	Fred KA8EBI	Neil KA8PQH
BrendaKB8KQC	Terry KC8RQI	Tom KG8P
John N8RWI	Paul W8PI	Dale W8EFK
Rita WB8FBG	OlimpioWB8SEZ	JosephKD8AAK
Scott Dunaway	KD8HSO	

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 W8EFK

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

Green Comet Approaches Earth

Comet Lulin, named after the observatory in Taiwan where the discovery-photo was taken, is now approaching Earth. "It is a green beauty that could become visible to the naked eye any day now," says Ye.

Amateur astronomer Jack Newton sends this photo from his backyard observatory in Arizona:

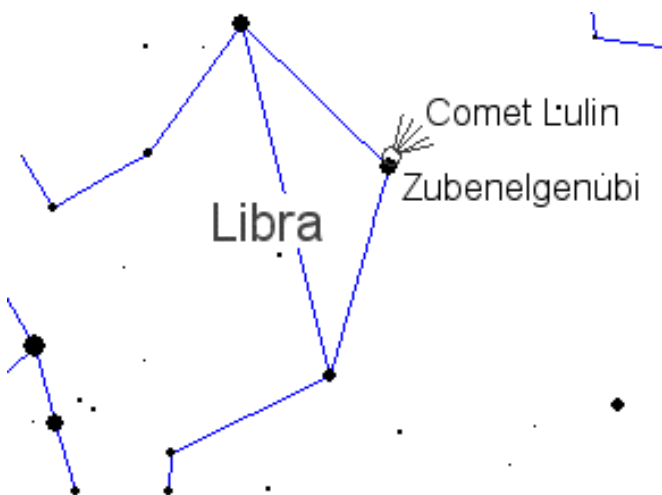
"My retired eyes still cannot see the brightening comet," says Newton, "but my 14-inch telescope picked it up quite nicely on Feb. 1st."

The comet makes its closest approach to Earth (0.41 AU) on Feb. 24, 2009. Current estimates peg the maximum brightness at 4th or 5th magnitude, which means dark country skies would be required to see it. No one can say for sure, however, because this appears to be Lulin's first visit to the inner solar system and its first exposure to intense sunlight. Surprises are possible.

Lulin's green color comes from the gases that make up its Jupiter-sized atmosphere. Jets spewing from the comet's nucleus contain cyanogen (CN: a poisonous gas found in many comets) and diatomic carbon (C_2). Both substances glow green when illuminated by sunlight in the near-vacuum of space.

In 1910, many people panicked when astronomers revealed Earth would pass through the cyanogen-rich tail of Comet Halley. False alarm: The wispy tail of the comet couldn't penetrate Earth's dense atmosphere; even if it had penetrated, there wasn't enough cyanogen to cause real trouble. Comet Lulin will cause even less trouble than Halley did. At closest approach in late February, Lulin will stop 38 million miles short of Earth, utterly harmless.

To see Comet Lulin with your own eyes, set your alarm for 3 am. The comet rises a few hours before the sun and may be found about 1/3rd of the way up the southern sky before dawn. Here are some dates when it is especially easy to find:



Feb. 6th: Comet Lulin glides by Zubenelgenubi, a double star at the fulcrum of Libra's scales. Zubenelgenubi is not only fun to say (*zuBEN-el-JA-newbee*), but also a handy guide. You can see Zubenelgenubi with your unaided eye (it is about as bright as stars in the Big Dipper); binoculars pointed at the binary star reveal Comet Lulin in beautiful proximity. [[sky map](#)]

Feb. 16th: Comet Lulin passes Spica in the constellation Virgo. Spica is a star of first magnitude and a guidepost even city astronomers cannot miss. A finderscope pointed at Spica will capture Comet Lulin in the field of view, centering the optics within a nudge of both objects. [[sky map](#)]

Feb. 24th: Closest approach! On this special morning, Lulin will lie just a few degrees from Saturn in the constellation Leo. Saturn is obvious to the unaided eye, and Lulin could be as well. If this doesn't draw you out of bed, nothing will. [[sky map](#)]

Ye notes that Comet Lulin is remarkable not only for its rare beauty, but also for its rare manner of discovery. "This is a 'comet of collaboration' between Taiwanese and Chinese astronomers," he says. "The discovery could not have been made without a contribution from both sides of the Strait that separates our countries. Chi Sheng Lin and other members of the Lulin Observatory staff enabled me to get the images I wanted, while I analyzed the data and found the comet."

FIRST REPORTS OF NAKED-EYE VISIBILITY: Comet Lulin is now visible to the naked eye from dark-sky sites. "This morning, Feb 6th, I noticed a faint smudge above [Zubenelgenubi](#)," reports Jeff Barton from the Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus in West Texas. "I then trained my 9x63 binoculars on the fuzzy patch. Yep, nailed it! I was thrilled to finally bag Comet Lulin without optical aid."



GET YOUR HAM RADIO LICENSE!

Serve your community

Make new friends around the world

Learn about electronics and communications

Saturday, February 28, 9 am to 3 pm

Bedford Township Government Center

8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI

The Monroe County Radio Communications Assn. will be holding a *one-day*, amateur radio license class Saturday, February 28, 2009. The class will begin at 9 am and last until 3 pm. Immediately after the class, you will take the Technician Class license exam.

Pre-study is encouraged! You don't need to be an electronics genius to get your ham radio license in one day, but you will increase your chances of passing the test if you read through our study guide beforehand. You can download a PDF file of the study guide for no charge (at www.kb6nu.com/2006techstudyguide.pdf). Printed versions of the study guide can be purchased for \$13 at www.booklocker.com/books/3408.html.

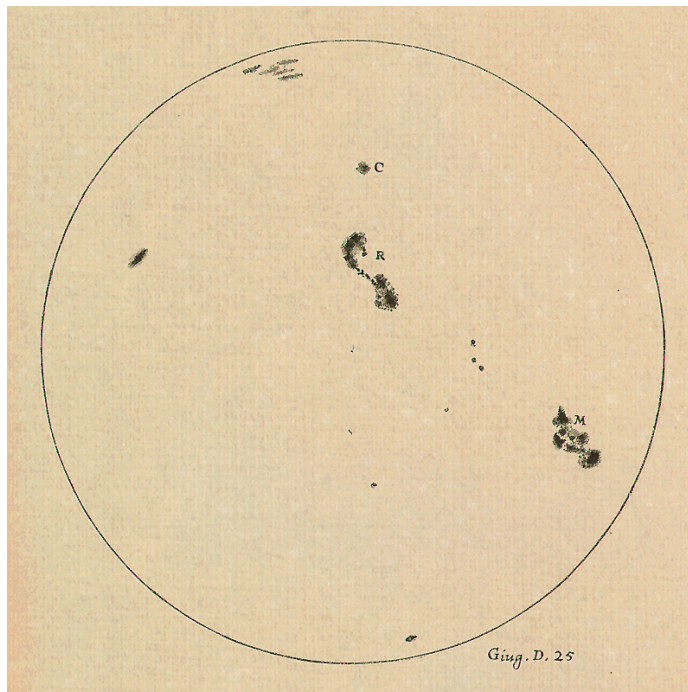
The class will cost \$10. In addition, there is a license examination fee of \$15, payable when you take the test. Two forms of photo ID are also required to take the test.

For more information, or to register, contact: Dale Williams, WA8EFK, 734-529-3232 or wa8efk@arrl.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GALILEO:

On February 15, 1564, Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, Italy. Galileo is an important person in the history of space weather. Contrary to popular belief, he didn't discover sunspots, but he was one of the first to observe them using a telescope.

In Galileo's day, many people believed sunspots were satellites of the sun. Galileo proved otherwise. By drawing sunspots every day, he discovered that [the sun spins](#) and that sunspots are located on (or very near) the sun's surface. Galileo thought sunspots might be clouds.



Sunspots sketched by Galileo on June 25, 1613: [more](#).

Now we know what sunspots really are: huge [islands of magnetism](#). Magnetic fields generated by the sun's inner dynamo poke through the sun's surface, forming dark areas typically a few times wider than Earth. The behemoths Galileo sketched in 1613 were as wide as Jupiter.

If Galileo were alive today, the 445-year-old scientist would make very little progress on the problem of sunspots. This is a year of deep solar minimum. So far, 85% of the days in 2009 have brought blank suns—no sunspots, no flares, no great magnetic storms, in short, no way to celebrate Galileo's birthday! To the sunspots we wish many happy returns.

15 Mar 2009 TMRA Hamfest and Computer Fair

Toledo Mobile Radio Association <http://www.tmrahamradio.org> **Talk-In:** 147.27+ (no CTCSS)
Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR 4463 Holly Hill Drive Toledo, OH 43614
Phone: 419-385-5624 Email: brian.harrington@utoledo.edu
Maumee, OH Lucas County Recreation Center [2901 Key Street](#)

Desecheo Island Expedition

Monday, January 26 2009 @ 11:17 PM EST

Contributed by: [Jay](#)

The following is information about the upcoming K5D Desecheo Expedition that will be on the air from Feb 12 - 26. This should be easily workable for all of us on multiple bands. (from K5D team and other sources)



We have reserved the special call sign K5D for our upcoming Desecheo operation. The operation will begin late in the day on Feb 12th.

QSO philosophy...because Desecheo is so very rare (#6 worldwide, #3 in Europe and # 2 in Asia) there are many, many hams worldwide that need KP5 for an all-time new one. Therefore, we are asking that you not contact the Dxpediton on any band/mode that you have confirmed from a previous DXpedition. This will allow the people who really need a new DXCC entity a better opportunity to get through the pileups.

Our objective is not to establish a world record for contacts...there will be no "greenies", no boxes to check, no competitions for most band/mode QSOs, no certificate or awards for contacting the Dxpediton more times than anyone else. So, if you have KP5 already confirmed on a particular band/mode, we respectfully ask that you exercise restraint. If, late in the DXpedition, we are calling CQ for contacts, we will welcome your call.

The team has encountered higher expenses than anticipated. These mainly involve the transportation and feeding of other personnel that will be traveling to the island with us. Approximately ten other personnel will share our campsite and facilities for the duration of the DXpedition. They will be on Island with us to provide security and carry out field research. Therefore, we ask that you consider a contribution to the DXpedition to help with these incremental expenses. Just go to www.kp5.us and click the button that reads "How you can Help".

We are all counting the days until we assemble in Puerto Rico on Feb 7th.

Bob Allphin- K4UEE
Glenn Johnson-WØGJ
K5D co-leaders

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 07/02	VP8DLQ: Falkland Islands (SA-002)	11/02-15/02	H7/NP3D, YN2/EW1AR, YN2S: Nicaragua
till 07/02	PJ6/W6HFP, PJ6/N0TU, PJ6/N7UN: Saba Island (NA-145)	11/02-27/02	J7N: Dominica (NA-101)
till 08/02	XT2WC: Burkina-Faso	11/02-23/02	V8FHX: Brunei
till 09/02	J88XF: Mayreau Island (NA-025)	12/02-26/02	K5D: Desecheo Island (NA-095)
till 09/02	JD1BMM and JD1BND: Minami-Torishima (OC-073)	12/02-24/02	WA2USA/4: Bogue Banks (NA-112)
till 10/02	DU9/BA4DW: Mindanao Island (OC-130)	13/02-23/02	CN2XW: Morocco
till 11/02	FS/K8EAB, FS/KB9AVO: St. Martin (NA-105)	13/02-24/02	FG/IV3CGJ/p: Guadeloupe (NA-102)
till 11/02	FS/KC4VG, FS/N0TU: St. Martin (NA-105)	14/02-21/02	A35HA: Tongatapu Island (OC-049)
till 11/02	FS/N7UN, FS/W3FF: St. Martin (NA-105)	14/02-15/02	H81L: Miraflores Lighthouse
till 11/02	FS/W6HFP, FS/WW5L: St. Martin (NA-105)	14/02-15/02	PA3FKN: Ameland Island (EU-038)
till 11/02	PJ7/K8EAB, PJ7/KB9AVO: Sint Maarten (NA-105)	14/02-15/02	PA/DL2JRM/p: Schouwen Duiveland (EU-146)
till 11/02	PJ7/KC4VG, PJ7/N0TU: Sint Maarten (NA-105)	14/02-15/02	SX2CM: special callsign (Greece)
till 11/02	PJ7/N7UN, PJ7/W3FF: Sint Maarten (NA-105)	14/02-12/03	V5/DJ4SO: Namibia
till 11/02	PJ7/W6HFP, PJ7/WW5L: Sint Maarten (NA-105)	from 14/02	9G1AA: Ghana
till 12/02	3B7FQ: St. Brandon Island (AF-015)	17/02-24/02	H7/AC8W and H7/K8DD: Nicaragua
till 12/02	HS0ZGQ and HS0ZGQ/2 (AS-101)	17/02-24/02	H7/KB8TXZ and H7/N8LJ: Nicaragua
till 13/02	FR/OE3GEA: Reunion Island (AF-016)	17/02-02/03	T2: Tuvalu * by N7OU and W7YAAQ
till 13/02	5H1DF: Zanzibar Island (AF-032)	18/02-25/02	KP2/K3CT and KP2M: US Virgin Isls (NA-106)
till 15/02	OPOLE: "Princess Elisabeth" Antarctic station	20/02-27/02	HC1MD/HC4: Ecuador
till 17/02	FW5RE: Wallis Island (OC-054)	20/02-24/02	PX6T and PY6KW/p: Tinhare Island (SA-080)
till 25/02	V31YN and V31GW: Belize	20/02-24/02	VP2V/K6VVA and VP2VVA: British Virgin Islands (NA-023) 927
till 28/02	CF, CG, CH, CI: special prefixes (Canada)	21/02-22/02	AU30SHI: special callsign (India)
till 28/02	FM/F5IRO: Martinique (NA-107)	21/02-22/02	TC1ALH: Ahirkapi Lighthouse
till 28/02	TU8/F4EYS: Ivory Coast	21/02-22/02	XR1A: Puerto Antofagasta lighthouse
till 03/03	GB5OBH: special callsign (England)	21/02-03/03	ZP6/SP9MRO: Paraguay
till 07/03	FT5WP/(mm): Crozet	22/02-06/03	S79JF: Praslin Island (AF-024), Seychelles
till 07/03	VK0BP: Davis Base (Antarctica)	24/02-16/03	SV9/DJ7RJ: Crete (EU-015)
till 31/03	6W2SC: Senegal	25/02-01/03	PX6T and PY6KW/p: Boipeba Island (SA-080)
till 31/03	IY1GM: special callsign	26/02-05/03	FH/G3SWH: Mayotte (AF-027)
till 31/03	J5UAP: Guinea-Bissau	26/02-03/03	V31YN/p: NA-180
till 31/03	N2OB/150 and N2OB/LH: special event operation	27/02-12/03	V25TK: Antigua (NA-100)
till 01/04	C6ANM: Nassau (NA-001), Bahamas	28/02-08/03	HC1MD: Ecuador
till 01/04	J79XBI: Dominica (NA-101)	February	VP8DIF: South Georgia (AN-007)
till 28/04	H44MS: Solomon Islands	02/03-16/03	H40: Nendo (OC-100), Temotu Province * by
till April	OD5/IV3YIM: Lebanon	DL2NUB	
till April	VK2LNX and VK2FSNJ: Maatsuyker Island (OC-233)	02/03-16/03	H40FN: Nendo (OC-100), Temotu Province
till April	VQ9JC: Diego Garcia (AF-006)	02/03-16/03	H40MS: Nendo (OC-100), Temotu Province
till April	ZS8T: Marion Island (AF-021)	04/03-14/02	CX: Uruguay * by SP9MRO and SP9SX
till June	5X4X: Uganda	05/03-19/03	CT3/DL3KWR and CT3/DL3KWF: Madeira (AF-014)
till 31/08	LY1000: special prefix	02/03-16/03	02/03-16/03
till 31/08	VR2/F4BKV: Hong Kong Island (AS-006)	06/03-11/03	ZL7T: Chatham Islands (OC-038)
till September	LZ8WHST and LZ17ARDF: special event stations	07/03-12/03	S2: Bangladesh * by Korea DX Club
till 30/11	FT5WO: Crozet Islands (AF-008)	10/03-15/04	FT5XS/(mm): (Kerguelen)
till November	HFOAPAS: South Shetlands (AN-010)	12/03-17/03	V4/G4FAL: St. Kitts (NA-104)
till November	OD5/W5YFN: Lebanon	14/03-27/03	VK9AA: from Cocos (Keeling) (OC-003)
till 31/12	9A48IFATCA: special event station	15/03-22/03	VK9N/ON5AX: Norfolk Island (OC-005)
till 31/12	GB250RB: special event call (Scotland)	19/03-25/03	4K0CW: Azerbaijan
till 31/12	GB40WAB: special callsign	21/03-22/03	TC1RLH: Rumeli/Turkeli Lighthouse
till 31/12	HE8 and HB8: special prefixes (Switzerland)	25/03-05/04	C9: Mozambique * by K5WAF, K65U, N4AL
till 31/12	IA3GM: special callsign	25/03-05/04	C9: Mozambique * by W5MJ, W5PF, WF5W
till 31/12	II2RAI: special callsign	28/03-04/04	GT4BRS, GT6BRS, GD8K: Isle of Man (EU-116)
06/02-08/02	UE1RFF/3: World Flora Fauna Award	28/03-29/03	ZT2V: South Africa
07/02-10/02	9M6XRO and 9M6DXX: Sabah (OC-088)	31/03-11/04	PJ2/PA4JJ: Curacao (SA-006)
07/02-26/02	P29ZAD: Buka Island (OC-135)	March	YW0A: Aves Island (NA-020)
08/02	CQ1A: Nossa Senhora do Rosario Island	01/04-08/04	3B9/SP2JMR and 3B9/SP2JMB: Rodrigues Islands (AF-017)
09/02-10/03	OR3AX and OR4AX: Antarctic cruise	04/04-05/04	TC2FLH: Fenerbahce Lighthouse
10/02-13/02	C3/OV8FM and C3/5P1M: Andorra	09/04-17/04	3B8/SP2JMR and 3B8/SP2JMB: Mauritius Island (AF-049)
10/02-24/02	V31RW, V31UH, V31TB, V31WO: Belize		
11/02-16/02	3D2OU and 3D2NB: Fiji Islands		
11/02-22/02	D4C: Cape Verde		

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

2009 Schedule:
February 21 August 15
April 18 October 17
June 20 December 19

TESTING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:00 AM Walk-ins are always welcome.
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 19 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.