

# The Hertzian Herald



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Hello everyone,

I hope everyone can attend our next meeting Thursday Nov. 21, 7:30 pm. It's great when we have all the seats filled with enthusiastic hams. I hope every meeting has something for everyone who attends.

I found a web site that is a treasure of information for many low cost handheld radios and some mobile radios too. Want to find a use for that handheld on the shelf?

A \$20 usb cable and a \$6 app for your phone or tablet for an instant APRS rig. You'll find a complete guide to CHIRP and programming. There are antenna guides and tips and tricks to get some better performance from your radio. There is a section on DMR radios. There is info on the nano VNA.

[https://www.miklor.com/#INFO\\_Section](https://www.miklor.com/#INFO_Section)

I think any ham could get useful info at the Miklor website which is presented clearly and simply in easy to navigate sections.

Have you ever heard of EQSL cards? They are an email card or in the case of EQSL.com, you get an email link to the "QSL card" to fetch from their website. I often get a friendly message along with the picture of their card with the contact info on them. One picture QSL card has a photo taken during the POTA activation I hunted. No postage or delays getting them. I suppose one could print them too. The paper postcards have been in a popularity decline for a long time. I can't imagine having to send a card for all the FT8 contacts I've made in the last year. It would be cost prohibitive. The EQSL site makes things nearly effortless and cheap. Perhaps I'll find time to play with it and also ClubLog.com too. There are so many directions a person can go as a ham and never enough time!

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving with all the trimmings. For some it's the food. For some it's the family and friends. I suppose football and shopping are right up there in excitement too. You could turn your radio on too. You might be tuning HF or you might hear a guy asking for a QSO on 146.52 several times a week. He's still using the social networking he learned after semaphore flags, and smoke signals fell out of fashion. ( Not that he's that old ) CQ CQ Anybody have their radio on? Almost 90 and still calling CQ. You can too and please don't wait till you are 90!

If I don't see you at the meeting please have a safe and loving Thanksgiving. I hope the changes we face in the future will be kind to all of us.

Thanks for reading, 73 and peace.  
Keith KJ8H



<http://mcrca.org/>

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

## Club Officers

### PRESIDENT

Keith Hutchinson KJ8H  
[keithhutch999@gmail.com](mailto:keithhutch999@gmail.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Don Fritz N8BZN  
[donfritz56@gmail.com](mailto:donfritz56@gmail.com)

### SECRETARY

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC  
[ka8ebi@yahoo.com](mailto:ka8ebi@yahoo.com)

### TREASURER

Fred VanDaele K8EBI  
[ka8ebi@yahoo.com](mailto:ka8ebi@yahoo.com)

### DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI  
[ptrouten@bex.net](mailto:ptrouten@bex.net)

### DIRECTOR

Mike Karmol N8KUF  
[mikarmol@bex.net](mailto:mikarmol@bex.net)

### DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP  
[busdiecw@netscape.net](mailto:busdiecw@netscape.net)

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**MCRCA Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2024**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: One new member, no upgrades and one guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Dale WA8EFK, supported by Paul W8PI, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, PX0FF 160 too noisy – 6m to 80m. – TI9 Cocos Isl. – Sun has reached its total maximum, 1-1/2 years of good ops left. 10m is good and everyone can use

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, Super Fox and Hounds FT8 – updated version 2.7.0 RC7. WSJX? – QSO Parties, look up websites and find out who is roaming that area. CQ WW DX SSB Contest good for working countries

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. October 19, 2024. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd -- Be there 15 minutes early for paperwork.**

CLASSES: Sat. December 14, 2024 contact Don N8BZN – **GENERAL class. Last Tech class two people passed.**

ARPSC: Dundee Spook Patrol, meet at Burger King 5pm. Runs to 7:30pm. Tell Dale or Lance if you can help. Next ARPSC Meeting Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm at EMD. Link on MCRCA website to ARPSC.

RRRA: Dale WA8EFK, this is a separate club that maintains repeaters. Everything is working

OLD BUSINESS: For T-Shirts, see Barb NM8I.

NEW BUSINESS: Reserved the Community Room at Monroe Country Club Estates. Potluck dinner. — Library Cart with books to loan at every meeting.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Jim WD8NWF and Don N8BZN

50/50: Rob Lowe KD8ZUI, donated his winnings to scholarship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Anyone having articles for the Hertzian Herald please email them to Fred K8EBI

PROGRAM: Videos — Soldering 101 for Makers and Radio Hams, and VSWR - SWR Demystified

ADJOURNED: 8:42 pm

ATTENDANCE: 16

WA8EFK Dale	N8BZN Don
WD8NWF James	K8EBI Fred
K8UMF John	KJ8H Keith
W8PI Paul	KE8OSX Ron
KE8CQO Ron Hills	KG8P Tom
KC8SKP Wes	N8YZ Dave Tkack
KD8ZUI Rob	KF8CCH Doug
Jill Miller	Scott Retzlaff

**Christmas party 2024**

Mark your calendars. The December 19th Christmas Party of the MCRCA will be held, in the Community Room, at **Monroe Country Club Estates, 5840 E. Dunbar Rd.** about a quarter of a mile West of S. Dixie Hwy. More information in the December Herald.

**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

**Scholarship**

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

**Program Chairman**

Dale WA8EFK

dale.wms1@frontier.com

**Membership**

Terry Kolton N8NYP

n8nyp@arrl.net

**Property Custodian**

Paul Trouten W8PI

## ARPSC Report

I would like to Thank the following operators and their navigators for their participation during the Dundee Spook Patrol on Halloween:

Dale Williams WA8EFK  
Mike Karmol N8KUF  
Fred K8EBI and Brenda KB8KQC VanDaele  
Rodney Haddix KD8ZNZ  
Jay WB8TKL and Mary Anne W8VWY Nugent  
Jim Toomey WD8NWF  
And my navigator, Lisa Charter



Another successful event, Looking forward to next year.

If you are interested in honing your skills or building new ones, please feel free to stop in to any of our meetings or training sessions, or participate on our nets. We are here to help every operator learn and perform better. It doesn't matter if your call sign was just posted on the FCC database or you have had your ticket for decades, we are always looking for additional operators.

ARPSC meetings are usually the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. The next meeting is Thursday December 5th, That is our annual planning meeting, we would like to see everyone there to submit your ideas for next years training and events.

As always Thanks to the club and the club webmaster for linking our FB and webpage, and to Fred for his time getting this newsletter out.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and their families!  
73, Lance Charter, KE8BYC  
Emergency Coordinator  
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps

## NCVEC Question Pool Committee Removes Two Pool Questions From Use

11/15/2024

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed one Extra Class pool question and one General Class pool question from use. Both Extra pool question E2A13 and General pool question G8C01 have been deleted from use on examinations as the two questions each have more than one correct answer. The deleted questions must be removed from examinations as soon as possible.

Updated question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC Extra Class question pool web page at <https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>. The current Element 4 Extra question pool became effective on July 1, 2024, and it is valid through June 30, 2028.

Updated General Class question pool files, also including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC General Class question pool web page at <https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release>. The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027.

The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <http://www.ncvec.org/>



## Zinc Creep And Electro plasticity: Why Arecibo Collapsed

Comments by: Dan Maloney

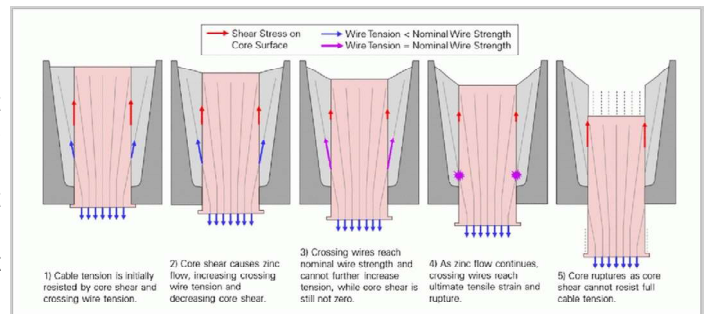
November 5, 2024

It's been nearly four years since the Arecibo Telescope collapsed, an event the world got to witness in unprecedented detail thanks to strategically positioned drones. They captured breathtaking video of one of the support cables pulling from its socket as well as the spectacularly destructive results of 900 tons of scientific instruments crashing into the 300-meter primary reflector. But exactly why did those cable sockets fail?

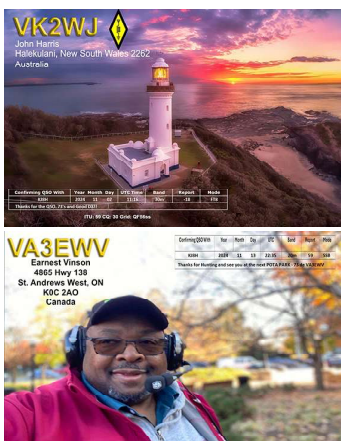


A new report aims to answer that question, and in the process raises some interesting questions of its own. The proximate causes of the collapse have been known for a while, including the most obvious and visible one, the failure of the zinc “spelter sockets” that were cast around the splayed ends of the wire ropes to hold them in place. The new report agrees with this conclusion, at least in part, implicating “zinc creep,” or the tendency for zinc to deform over time under load. Where it appears to differ, though, is with the quality of workmanship on the sockets, finding no issues with the way the individual wires in the failed support cable were manually splayed within the socket before the molten zinc was poured. The report also points out that the collapse probably started when Hurricane Maria swept over Puerto Rico 39 months before the collapse, after which zinc creep in the sockets seemed to accelerate.

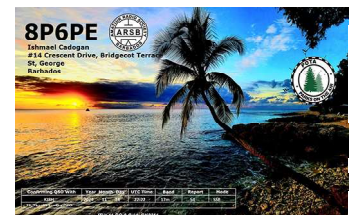
But why did the sockets fail? As the report points out, spelter sockets are commonly used to anchor cables that support heavy loads under conditions similar to the tropical climate at Arecibo. After ruling out every other cause, the committee was left with the conclusion that Arecibo itself may have been to blame for the accelerated zinc creep, thanks to electrical currents induced in the cables and sockets when the telescope’s powerful transmitters were used. They call this “long-term, low-current electro plasticity.” Electro plastic effects have been observed since the 1950s, and while far from certain that’s what happened here, the thought is that skin-effect currents induced in the support cables flowed to ground through the zinc sockets, increasing the plasticity of the metal and accelerating the zinc creep that ultimately led to collapse.



Case closed? Hardly. The electro plasticity mechanism for the Arecibo collapse offered by this report is almost a “diagnosis of exclusion” situation. It makes sense, though; since no other spelter sockets have ever failed this way in a century of use, there’s a good chance that the root cause was specific to Arecibo, and since it was once the world’s most powerful radio transmitter, it seems like a red flag that bears further investigation.



### Keith's QSO Cards



## Tech Trivia 6: What Do You Say After “Wx Hr Is ...”

Last night I talked for an hour and twenty minutes to Bernie on 40-meter cw. Bernie had been an engineer on the EDVAC, which he staunchly maintained was the first 'real' electronic computer. (ENIAC, which was in the next room at the U of Pennsylvania, was really just an overgrown calculator, he said.) He gave me all sorts of details about the tubes and memory elements used in the earliest computers.

I have had equally enjoyable CW ragchews with

Paul, in Ireland, who gave me travel tips and sent pictures of his family, and of spots to visit if we come over.

Larry, a state legislator in Texas, who was CW mobile.

Prose, whose first rig was a spark transmitter in 1923, and who told me what a thrill it had been to work 'DX' of 25 miles.

Ed and Larry, who were land-line CW ops, and attempted to teach me American Morse over the air.

Rod and Betty, who were in their honeymoon cottage in Canada. (When I apologized for intruding, the new XYL came back with, NO PROB - CABIN FULL OF KIDS ES GRANDKIDS, SO ONE MORE WELCOME.

Ty, for whom I was his very first CW QSO.

And yet, I keep running into ops who sent RST, NAME, and QTH on the first round, WX and RIG on the second, and QRU ES 73 on the third. To me, radio is \*communication\* and you're not really communicating with the ham on the other side until you get beyond these preliminary and really rather repetitive exchanges.

So what do you send after WX HR IS ... ? Some of us get so wrapped up in the formality of those first two exchanges that we forget how to loosen up for the fun that comes after them. Here are some ice-breakers.

AGE HR IS 53 ES BEEN HAM SINCE 1958. If your ages are similar, on the next go-around you can talk about common interests: school, kids, house-fixing, grandkids, retirement. If you both got into radio around the same time you can compare notes on your first rigs. (If you get hold of an old-timer, don't fail to ask about those 1930's ham stations, or the WW II experiences - there are some great stories out there.)

See ya next month. Dan

## Tech Trivia 6, What Do You Say After 'Wx Hr Is ...' ? pg. 2

1. AGE HR IS 53 ES BEEN HAM SINCE 1958. If your ages are similar, on the next go-around you can talk about common interests: school, kids, housefixing, grandkids, retirement. If you both got into radio around the same time you can compare notes on your first rigs. (If you get hold of an old-timer, don't fail to ask about those 1930's ham stations, or the WW II experiences - there are some great stories out there.)

2. I TEACH ELECTRONICS AT A JR COLLEGE (or whatever you do for a living.) RUFF DAY, KID DROPPED SCOPE ON FLOOR (or whatever disaster happened to you.) Folks all love to complain about their jobs.

3. OTHER HOBBY HR IS BARBERSHOP HARMONY. I SING BASS IN A MENS CHORUS (or boating, or golf, or whatever.) Most hams have other hobbies, and they love to tell you about them.

4. TOOK GRANDKIDS TO ZOO TODAY (or whatever you did today, or last week.) The other ham will surely respond with a kid or grandkid or pet story. One guy in West Texas seemed to take comfort from telling me the whole story of how his cat had been bitten by a rattlesnake that day, and what a good cat it had been.

5. HR WRK MOSTLY 40 CW, BUT WILL TRY 160 CW THIS WINTER (or whatever your favorite modes and bands are.) I got a real education in amateur satellite communications with this line once.

6. USING VIBROPLEX BUG HR - NW HR IS WW2 J38 STRAIT KEY. CW ops love their keys more than their rigs. I've gotten rhapsodies about WW1 keys and home-brew bugs with this leader.

(continued next page)

Contesters and SSB ops may want beams and kilowatts, but you can CW ragchew on 100 watts and a dipole. A successful technique is to find someone with a good fist and a 599 signal at your speed and monitor the QSO for a few minutes. If it's nearing its end, call one of the stations when they sign. This is more likely to get you a copy able signal that won't fade on you than just calling CQ. Listen on the FISTS CW club frequencies - 7.058 and 14.058.

So give it a try - send something besides QRU after you send WX HR IS ... I guarantee you'll find that there are almost no boring hams. Every one of them has an interesting story, for those who have the skill to draw it out and the patience to listen.

Dan, K8JWR

## WA7NBM Contest Calendar

+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Nov 16 to 0100Z, Nov 17
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Nov 20
+ LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 22 to 1200Z, Nov 23
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 26
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 29 to 2400Z, Nov 30

## December 2025

+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 2
+ QRP ARCI Topband Sprint	0000Z-0300Z, Dec 4
+ ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Dec 6
+ PRO CW Contest	1600Z, Dec 6 to 1559Z, Dec 7
+ FT Roundup	1800Z, Dec 6 to 2359Z, Dec 7
+ PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2359Z, Dec 15
+ ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2359Z, Dec 14
+ TRC Digi Contest	0600Z, Dec 13 to 1800Z, Dec 14
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Dec 13 to 2359Z, Dec 14
+ QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint	2000Z-2300Z, Dec 14
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Dec 15
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Dec 18
+ AGB-Party Contest	1600Z-1700Z, Dec 19
+ OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
+ Croatian DX Contest	1400Z, Dec 20 to 1400Z, Dec 21
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 21
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Dec 21 to 0100Z, Dec 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 24
+ DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
+ YB Banggai DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 27
+ RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 27
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28
+ RAEM Contest	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 28

## Monroe County Radio Communications Association

Dues run from January 1st to December 31st of each year. As a current / Past Member, you are invited to attend our monthly meetings to find out the latest plans for our club. You may pay your dues at any regular meeting or by filling in the form below and mailing it to:

**MCRCA, 4 Carl Dr, Monroe, MI 48162.**

Your membership and support will help with the continued success of our club. Thank you.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

**Regular – \$10 — Add'l Family – \$5 each**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ RRRRA Member? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CALL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle All That Apply:

Active Bands: 160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 220 440 higher

Modes: CW - SSB – DIGITAL - PACKET - RTTY - FM - DX - MOBILE - EME - SAT - ATV - SSTV

Interests: Traffic - DX - Contests - Foxhunts - Satellites - Nets – Antennas - Computers  
Emergency - ARES/RACES - Skywarn - Classic Radios (circle all that apply)

Do you plan to upgrade your license? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what class? \_\_\_\_\_

What kinds of meeting programs would you like to see?

\_\_\_\_\_

Other activities you would like to see the Club offer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

General Comment's \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Amateur Radio Examinations Monroe, MI

Monroe County Radio Communications Association Amateur Radio examinations are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**2024 Schedule:**  
February 17    April 20  
June 15        August 17  
October 19    December 21

### 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 21st 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 December 14, 2024

The Monroe County Radio Communications Association (MCRCA) is offering a one-day Amateur Radio course for the **GENERAL** 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](mailto:Donfritz56@gmail.com)

## New MCRCA Members

Please welcome recent new members to the club.

**Doug Orr KF8CCH and Scott Retzlaff**