

The Hertzian Herald



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Hello everyone,

Baby, it's cold outside! I had to look for my snow shovel because I think it's been 3 years since I used it last. It was kind of fun being thankful it wasn't more than a couple inches to move. I thought about a few snowmen from my past as I moved the snow. Then I went back inside to the warmth of my house. I'm grateful for my home, family, and friends. They're a different kind of warmth.



I hope you didn't miss the Christmas party. Everyone there had fun and enjoyed food and fellowship. I had a great time watching the confusion that goes on during the selection of gifts. It seems like some of the items were more boomerang than choice. Some items were hard to track around the room. Lots of fun. Thanks to all who helped setup for the party. Thanks for the cleanup which went so smoothly you couldn't tell we were ever there. The food was great and the company was even better. Win-win.

I have plenty of things to keep me busy and I am planning to stay close to home during these next few weeks of cold weather. I've been playing around with Meshtastic devices and hope to get the base unit up on the roof soon. I'll have to admit that I've had a unit taped to a window and haven't had a single hit on it. I knew in my area I'd need a higher antenna to connect with people so I guess I'll see if that works when I get it built and mounted. These devices are inexpensive so I thought I'd take a chance that it would be useful. I will find out in time.

I hope to see you at our January meeting. Drive safely and bundle up.

Keith KJ8H

<http://mcrcra.org/>

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

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MCRCA January Club Program.

It's Election time, and the opportunity to help guide the MCRCA into a successful 2025. Be prepared to cast your votes for our slate of officers.

Following those festivities, we will have the opportunity to glean a little insight into how the Starlink Satellite network operates. We have all heard about Elon Musk's system, but how does it actually operate and why is he putting so many satellites into orbit. These questions are answered in the presentation.

Then, courtesy of Tom KJ8P, we have a video on how to build a loading coil for a 40 meter (17 foot vertical) antenna in as little as 15 minutes.

Hope to see you at the meeting. Dale WA8EFK

Contest Calendar

Well. I asked for it. Which resulted in a more accurate "Periodic Table of Major Amateur Radio Contests" calendar.

Here's the link to Revision 2 of the table:

<https://www.semdxa.org/wp-content/SEMDXA/Contest%20Calendar/Periodic%20Table%20Contest%20Calendar%202025.pdf?t=1735951663>

See you in a couple weeks.

Good DX, 73, - Chet VE3CFK
SEMDXA Secretary and Long Path editor/publisher

MCRCA Christmas Party, fun for all.



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

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Dale WA8EFK
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Membership

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n8nyp@arrl.net

Property Custodian

Paul Trouten W8PI

ARPSC Report

Maybe the cold and snow has actually decided to join us for the winter...

All Licensed Operators,

We're excited to announce a training session designed to enrich our collective skills and knowledge of the AREDN MESH Network and its applications locally. Knowledge experts from the **NWO AREDN Mesh Committee will be presenting** this training in conjunction with Monroe Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. Scheduled for Saturday March 1st at the Monroe EMD EOC 987 S. Raisinville Rd starting at 9am this session will cover practices, and recommendations for ARDEN as used in Northwest Ohio, providing valuable insights and practical applications.



An Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN™) is a high speed data network built with Amateur Radio Operators and Emergency Communications Infrastructure in mind.

AREDN™ is self-configuring and self-healing. Where possible, AREDN™ will establish connections with as many other AREDN™ compatible devices (nodes) as possible and form a redundant mesh like network.

AREDN™ nodes automatically finds the "most reliable" nodes (greatest chance of success on packet delivery) to attempt delivery of the packets sent across the network. One need not know the exact path to get to the destination, only to know what the destination is.

AREDN™ uses commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) hardware originally intended to be used for unlicensed WIFI and re-purposes it to fits the needs of Amateur Radio Operators. By using such common gear we are able to benefit from affordable pricing and easy availability of reliable communications gear.

By itself AREDN™ is only a networking technology - it provides the basis to move traffic around. It can be thought of as similar to a radio or a repeater, where the infrastructure is an AREDN™ node and the content that flows across it is one that the local users decide.

Networks built on top of AREDN™ are IP based, very similar to but not dependent upon, the Internet and operating under the rules for Amateur Radio operators. Well-used publicly documented protocols (IPv4) are utilized to provide the greatest flexibility to local implementers of these high speed networks.

The NWO AREDN MESH Committee has developed a robust network in Lucas County including adding MESH nodes to every hospital in Lucas County and extends into Wood and Ottawa Counties. Gaining operators in Monroe and creating a network here would provide an additional communications data pathway from BG to Monroe. Working with operators in Washtenaw and Wayne could create a true regional network.

This training is open to licensed Amateurs in Monroe, Lucas, Washtenaw, Wayne, Lenawee, Wood and Ottawa counties. To maximize training, we will limit to approx 35 operators, so you must Pre-Register at the following Google Link: <https://forms.gle/md5STqhy1Lj2VDho6>

Please sign up by February 20th

Looking forward to your enthusiastic participation!

Don't forget to participate in the weekly Monday night ARPSC net at 8pm on 72 Monroe, and be sure to tune in Monday Dec 23rd for a special annual Holiday announcement at the end of the net!!

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 February 6th.

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.

Stay warm by heating up around a well exercised ham radio.
73, Lance Charter, KE8BYC
Emergency Coordinator
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps

It takes all kinds to have a successful amateur radio club

DECEMBER 19, 2024 BY [DAN KB6NU](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Yesterday, our club—[ARROW](#)—held its annual holiday get-together. We had a great turnout, and it was a lot of fun. It's a really great club, and I'm really happy to be a part of it.

It takes all kinds to have a successful amateur radio club. Photo: James Forgac, AE8JF.

The agenda for yesterday's meeting included:

- Eat pizza. (The club sprang for pizza and beverages.)
- "Elect" next year's officers. There were no contested elections this year, so someone moved that we approve the slate presented by acclamation, and after a second, we did just that.
- Recap of 2024 activities.
- Take a peek at some 2025 activities.
- Hold a "white elephant" gift exchange.



2024 was a good year

James, AE8JF, recapped our 2024 activities. They included:

- Active mailing list in place of a newsletter. No newsletter means that we don't have to twist anyone's arm to be the newsletter editor.
- Weekly 2-meter club nets.
- AMP Team outings each month. AMP stands for ARROW Mobile and Portable and they're kind of like POTA activations and mini Field Days, but people bring all kinds of different stuff to them. The crazy people in our club even meet in the winter months.
- Monthly breakfasts at local greasy spoon.
- Fox Hunts
- Communication support for two bike tours: One Helluva Ride and Tour de Cure.
- Bus to the Dayton Hamvention. For more than ten years, our club has rented a bus and taken members and others to Dayton.
- Multiple training sessions and presentations. Every month, we have a technical presentation at our meetings.
- Two one-day Tech classes in 2024, with a total of 50 students.
- 14 VE test sessions that gave exams to 99 candidates.
- Great showing in the Summer ARRL Field Day. In 2024, our club finished first in class 4A in Michigan, and nationally, we ranked 43 out of 4,319 entries overall regardless of class.
- Participation in community tech events, including the Ann Arbor Library Creativity and Making Expo and the Maker Works Open House.
- Participated in Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
- Made several repeater upgrades.
- Obtained ARRL equipment/property insurance.
- Awarded ARRL special service club award status.

Keep it fun

I think that one of the keys to our success is offering a wide variety of activities and encouraging members to participate in those activities that appeal to them. We encourage everyone to do their own thing.

I'm not big on fox hunts, but I do enjoy teaching classes and exhibiting at community events. Our technical coordinator does a great job with the repeaters, but he's not one of our VEs. The VEs are committed to holding monthly test sessions and supporting my one-day Tech classes, but they may not show up for Jamboree on the Air. The wide variety of activities keeps it fun for everyone.

One result of this is that we haven't found it hard to fill club leadership positions. When someone decides that they have had enough, someone else steps up to fill the position. I think that's a very good sign.

Currently, ARROW has more than 160 paid members. And we're not all old guys, either. Our youngest member is 13, and we have many in their 30s and 40s. We even have a few women, too! Like I said, it takes all kinds to have a successful amateur radio club.

TECH TRIVIA 8: RIP VAN HAM SLEEPS 27 YEARS

Rip Van Ham was a jolly sort, captivated in his youth by the magic of radio and spending long hours as a teen sending CW, ragchewing with ham-club buddies, and home brewing the 'ultimate' 807 rig. But in his 25th year his key fell silent and a great sleep overcame him, from which he did not awaken until the summer of 1996, twenty-seven years later.

And what an awakening it was! All of his buddies on 160-meter AM mobile were gone, and in their place was a crowd of 2-meter FMers using things called 'repeaters' which made strange beep-boop noises, talked in robot-like voices, and covered impossible distances.



Collins

And their radios were incredibly small; and they had buttons instead of knobs on them. Yes, the new hams said they used 'radios.' In 1969, only CBers and BCLs had 'radios.' Hams had transmitters and receivers - a few rich ones had transceivers - but they'd be embarrassed to say they had a 'radio.' And the new hams talked politics and religion on the air - a thing unheard of in 1969.

So Rip got himself a radio - a used one - but from a Japanese company. The old companies were all gone: Hallicrafters, National, Hammarlund, Gonset, WRL-Globe, E. F. Johnson, Allied-Knight, 'king' Collins Collins, even Heathkit - all gone. But the new radio was incredibly inexpensive, even to someone used to 1969 prices, and it was far more stable than anything he had ever used. And wonder of wonders! It displayed the frequency in glowing digits, down to tenths of a Kc - oops - make that 1 kHz.

He tuned to the 40-meter CW band and heard guys sending 'QRL?' He had to look it up in the back of his yellowed old log book. Oh! A great idea. But useless in 1969; the answer then was always 'QRL!' 'Yes, the frequency is busy. They're ALL busy. Sandwich yourself in if you can.'

Then when Rip looked for the 40-meter novice band he found it moved 50 kHz. And there he heard a great silence, and he wondered what had happened to the thousands of lads with DX-20s and Globe Chiefs, and home-brew 807s who used to make that part of the spectrum a mad cacophonous party every night of the week. The guys he heard giving their ages were all in their 50s, 60s, 70s, even 80s. Where were all the kids?

He sent a tentative CQ. Yes; that was still recognized. And the RST - QTH - NAME routine was unchanged. But these hams gave honest signal reports. He got a 229 from a DX station! Rip was used to 599 = Great, 589 = OK, 579 = weak, and Anything Else = Insult. And they sent N when they meant 9. And in a ragchew someone used SK to mean deceased. Rip wondered if that came from Silent Key, or ..._._ meaning End Of Work. And another new term: Elmer. Never heard that before; wonder when it came in.

Oh, but many things were still the same. Wayne Green, the Rush Limbaugh of ham radio was still sounding off, just like he was in 1969. And Lou McCoy was still writing antenna-tuner articles. And hams still sent '73,' and meant much more than 'best regards' by it. And they still hurled their waves at the sky and marveled at how they bounced back to random corners of the globe, as they wondered who would reply to their calls. And radio was still magic.

Until next month - 73 de Dan, K8JWR

MCRCA Dues run from January 1st to December 31st.
Please check your name on the sheet below to see where you stand.
You can fill out the form on the next page to pay your dues.

Sign-In Sheet
January 16, 2025

Call	Name	Exp date	Call	Name	Exp date
KE8PUN	Aaron Liske	2025	KE8OTG	Larry Lenhart	2023
NM8I	Barbara Wilson	2023	KE8QGU	Madonna Burkitt	2024\
KE8TPU	Bill Mercer	2022	W8MCW	Mark Wheeler	2022
KB8KQC	Brenda VanDaele	2025	KN6EYQ	Mark White	2022
KF8AOL	Bob Morrison	2024	KE8RCO	Matthew West	2021
KE8WYY	Brian Paules	2025	KE8UWZ	Mike Courington	2024
W8BKT	Brian Tennyson	2020	KE8TYC	Mike Isbell	2022
KE8RCN	Brody Madlock	2021	N8KUF	Mike Karmol	2025
WA8EFK	Dale Williams	2023	AD8EV	Michael Mc Peek	2021
KC8BUD	Daniel Bain	2024	KA8PQH	Neil Remaklus	2025
KB8AQJ	Dan Kay	2024	KF8AYH	Omar Metwally	2024
W8IIE	Dave Benoit	2023	W8PI	Paul Trouten	2025
K8EKG	David Hatfield	2024	KC8AZZ	Peter Forgacs	2025
KE8RXC	Debbie Bardoni	2022	KE8YQE	Phil Bardoni	2025
KC8CCR	Debbie Forgacs	2025	W8NBS	Randy Meyer	2022
	Delmer Taylor	2024	KE8UNH	Rick Wykle	2022
KE8ZAR	Dennis Hulvey	2025	K8HV	Robert Lawrence	2022
N8BZN	Donald Fritz	2024	KE8OSX	Ron Duvall	2025
AC8WE	Donald Saathoff	2020	KE8CQO	Ron Hills	2025
KF8CH	Doug Orr	2025	KD8ZNZ	Rodney Haddix	2024
K8OF	Doug Wherry	2025	WO0O	Russ DeCrease	2025
WS8Y	Ed Keller Jr	2023	W8SMB	Scott Burkey	2024
K8EBI	Fred VanDaele	2025		Scott Retzlaff	2025
KB8OSU	George Low	2025	KE8MFY	Steve Orłowski	2025
KE8VLW	James Kiester	2024	N8NYP	Terry Kolton	2028
WD8NWF	James Toomey	2024	N8OSC	Tom Cooper	2024
KN8CR	Jeff Breitner	2024	KE8UDH	Tom Hughey	2022
K8OLV	Jeff Giles	2022	KE8KNZ	Tom Imlach	2022
KE8WMY	Jefferson Mathews	2023	KG8P	Tom Jenkins	2024
K9JP	Jeff Peters	2025	KE8NSU	Tony Griffin	2024
	Jill Miller		KC8SKP	Wes Busdiecker	2025
N8RWI	John Bills	2024	N8MWQ	Woody Kirkman	2023
N8DXR	John Copeland	2026			
K8UMF	John Miller	2025			
WA8YZB	John Turner	2023			
KE8LRD	Ken Grooms	2024			
KJ8H	Keith Hutchinson	2024			
KE8BYC	Lance Charter	2020			

Additional and Visitors please sign below:

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 _____ RRRR 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 3rd 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 15 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

Join us at the next meeting

January 16th 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 February 8, 2025

The Monroe County Radio Communications Association (MCRCA) is offering a one-day Amateur Radio course for the **Technician** 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

New MCRCA Members

Please welcome recent new members to the club.