

The Hertzian Herald



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D Fritz Bitz:

Like Randy Quaid said in Independence Day, 'I'm baaaaak' I'd like to thank Keith, KJ8H for leading the charge for the last 2 years. Although I've stayed very involved in most club activities I haven't had time for some of the things I hoped I would. I have been trying to retire for several months but just can't seem to get more than 2 days off a week. Retiring can be a lot of work.



The Hamfest is coming up in a few months and I am looking forward to working hard to increase vendor participation and attendance. I am trying to put together a major vendor to sponsor the hamfest and have already secured hundreds of dollars in gift cards for door prizes from a major Amateur Radio equipment supplier.

I'm pretty sure I'm going to reduce the number of Tech classes I have each year because I have too many classes with 3 or 4 people and have cancelled half of them due to low attendance. I think 2 or 3 Tech classes and one General upgrade class may be the right mix. We'll see.

I had a plumbing issue in my basement a few weeks ago and my HF radio got a good bath and stopped working. I was able to borrow another HF radio from a friend but I've only been on it once. This has been a terrible winter for radio work for me. I just haven't had the time. I'm hoping I can really retire some day and spend more time on the radio.

See you at the meeting and in the log. 73

Don Fritz
N8BZN

February MCRCA Club Program

We all have heard the discussions about which is better, a Vertical HF antenna or a Horizontal HF antenna.

Or....which is the "Best Compromise" to install in your backyard.

This month's MCRCA program will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each of these antennas and hopefully help us each decide which is better in our own installation.

Dale WA8EFK

<http://mcrca.org/>

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

Club Officers

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Inside This Issue

Minutes	2
ARPSC Report	3
Misc Info	4
Satellites	5
N8DX Letter	6
Renewal form	8

MCRCA Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, two upgrade and one guest.

MINUTES: Motion by Dale WA8EFK, supported by John N8RWI, 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, 6m not as exciting as in the past – very short and unreliable lately. — DX – announce DX in Google whole year at once. — 14 people on Marquesas Islands TX7N now. 3000 miles SW of Mexico, 800 miles NE of French Polynesia.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, NA QP SSB Jan. 18-19. — ARRL VHF Jan. 18-20. — WINTER FD Jan. 25-26. — VTQP, MNQP, BCQP, Feb 1-2. — ARRL INT DX CW Feb. 15-16, — SCQP, NCQP Feb. 22-24.

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. Feb. 15, 2025. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

CLASSES: Sat. Feb. 8, 2025 contact Don N8BZN – **Technician class**. December General class had 5 people, all passed.

ARPSC: Siren testing was done. — Next meeting Feb. 6 – net with Ohio. — Ohio Mesh, March first register in advance on web site. Nuclear and shelter drills later in March.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, reminder, looking for new members. Most all repeaters working at base level. Some cross link FUBAR. Membership runs May 1st to May 1st. Annual meeting May 3rd.

OLD BUSINESS: Club T-shirts see Barb. Keith noted that the Christmas party was a lot of fun.

NEW BUSINESS: Elections. Motion by Paul W8PI seconded by Keith KJ8H to accept the slate as presented. Passed

President	Don N8BZN
V-President	Mike N8KUF
Secretary	Fred K8EBI
Treasurer	Brenda KB8KQC
Director 1	Paul W8PI
Director 2	Aaron KE8PUN
Director/Station Trustee	Wes KC8SKP

Motion by Don N8BZN and supported by Paul W8PI to donate \$70 to MIQP plaque again this year. passed

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Omar KF8AYH, Ken K8KDL

50/50: Omar KF8AYH

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

PROGRAM: How Starlink Satellite network operates, and Tom KG8P, how to build a loading coil for a 40-meter vertical.

ADJOURNED: 8:45 pm

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

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/md5STqhv1Lj2VDho6>

Please sign up by February 20th

Looking forward to your enthusiastic participation!

SKYWARN - NWS Training, County Procedures and on air drill

The Monroe County NWS SKYWARN Training will be Wednesday March 26th from 6:30pm-8:30pm at the new Frenchtown Municipal Center. Limited to 50 people. You MUST register with EMD by going to: <https://www.co.monroe.mi.us/305/Sky-Warn-Spotter> and filling out the registration form.

We will then discuss county SKYWARN reporting procedures at the April Meeting 4/3.

We will also hold an On Air Drill Wednesday Evening April 9th from 6:45pm until around 8pm. This will allow new operators the opportunity to see how we handle SKYWARN nets, and allow everyone a chance to practice reporting during a weather net. We will be looking for participants to be Net Control, Be a liaison station for MICON Net, and also need multiple operators to inject simulated reports during the net. If you wish to participate, please email me and let me know. You do NOT have to be an ARPSC member to participate, SKYWARN nets encompass any licensed operator.

Don't forget to participate in the weekly Monday night ARPSC net at 8pm on 72 Monroe.

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.

continued next page

ARPSC meetings are usually the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. The next meeting is Thursday March 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.

73, Lance Charter, KE8BYC
Emergency Coordinator
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps

Being a ham is NOT when you pass an exam. You are now a licensed radio amateur.

Getting some equipment and antennas will give you ownership of the apparatus to use your license. There is an expectation you will follow some code of conduct but reality and expectations don't always match.

Kerchunking a repeater, just says you found out how to put in the tones properly (or had someone figure out that Baofeng).

Setting on a net for the left-handed nuclear scientists who retired on Wednesday says you are fully satisfied with your life and need nothing else.

Looking at what is available, opening up the box of chocolates and doing something outside the box. Now, you're warming up.

Going after something and then looking at what else you can do is the real ticket. Not asking what will "they" make up for me to do?

Enjoy.....you be a ham. de KG8P licensed 62 years and still hamming fun

Training the Next Generation of Net Controllers

ARRL, 02/07/2025

Amateur radio operators are known for their desire and unique ability to provide public service through communications. Whether activated for a severe weather event or a local event such as a marathon or bike ride, the utility value and versatility of the Amateur Radio Service is enjoyed by communities around the country. One critical aspect of coordinating the communications is the role of net controller. These key volunteers bring order to chaos and flow to information. It is a specialized skill that requires development, practice, and training.

On February 1, Connecticut volunteers in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) held a training session. The session drew dozens of radio amateurs from around the state to a packed room inside the Newington Volunteer Fire Department. The half-day course, led by ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Douglas Sharafanowich, WA1SFH, was dynamic and participatory.

Georg Papp, K1YBO, is a controller and Assistant Net Manager for the Western Connecticut (WESCONN) Traffic Net, a part of the ARRL® National Traffic System® (NTS®). It serves to flow messages into, out of, and throughout the state and to serve as a training net. He was excited to see the high number of attendees. "We always encourage new people to step up to volunteer for the net, and this helps provide a pathway for them," he said.

In the training, Sharafanowich highlighted examples of needing a robust group of trained Net Control Station (NCS) operators. "When a 'Black Sky' event takes place, it is rarely limited to an 8-hour shift. We will need trained NCS operators not only to provide for initial shift coverage, but also, we will need relief NCS operators to cover following shifts," he said.

If you'd like to get involved as a net control station, talk with your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or District Emergency Coordinator to express interest. You may also find NTS net resources in your area at nts2.arrl.org.

Dayton Bus Trip

The ARROW Communications Association and the Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) are proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the Hamvention 2025 in Dayton, Ohio. This one-day trip leaves early in the morning on May 17, 2025 and returns the same day after Hamvention closes for the day at 5:00 p.m. The bus has two pickup spots, in Ann Arbor and in Toledo (Rossford). Please join us!

Tickets are \$70 per person. Please note that this does not include the Hamvention ticket, which you need to purchase separately.

To Register and see full Details visit: <https://w8rp.org/daytonbus2025/>

There are two pickup/drop off locations on May 17th, 2025

Ann Arbor – 601 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI – Departing 4:30 am

Toledo – 727 Lime City Rd. Rossford, OH – Departing 5:30 am

On board, you can stretch out, relax, take a nap, chat with other hams, and enjoy a light breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the country's largest amateur radio event!

Thanks
ARROW & TMRA

Communicating with Satellites Like It's 1957

by: Bryan Cockfield

When the first artificial satellite, Sputnik, was put into orbit around Earth, anyone in the path of the satellite could receive the beeps transmitted by the satellite provided they had some simple radio equipment. Of course, there was no two-way communication with this satellite, and it only lasted a few weeks before its batteries died. Here in the future, though, there are many more satellites in orbit and a few are specifically meant for ham radio operators. And, like the '50s, [it doesn't take too much specialized equipment to communicate with them](#), although now that communication can be two-way.

The first step in this guide by [W2PAK] is to know where these satellites are in the sky. The simplest way to do that is to use a smartphone app called GoSatWatch and, when configured for a specific location, shows the satellites currently overhead. After that it's time to break out the radio gear, which can be surprisingly inexpensive. A dual-band handheld is required since satellite uplink and downlink can be on different bands, [and the antenna can be made from simple parts as well as \[W2PAK\] demonstrates in a separate video](#). Combined, this can easily be done for less than \$100. [W2PAK] also goes over the proper format and etiquette for a satellite contact as well, so a new operator can pick it up quickly.

Using satellites as repeaters opens up a lot of capabilities when compared to terrestrial communications. Especially for operators with entry-level licenses who are restricted to mostly VHF and UHF, it adds a challenge as well as significantly increased range compared to ground-based repeaters and line-of-sight communications. There are plenty of activities around satellites that don't require a license at all, too, [like this project which downloads weather imagery from weather satellites](#).

Watch the Videos.



Letter from N8DX follows:

The ARRL has stopped funding the incoming QSL bureaus!

Up until Dec 31, 2024, the ARRL reimbursed Bureau managers for expenses to maintain a Post Office box and forward QSLs received from the ARRL and foreign bureaus to its sorters. Although some bureaus were notified in July of this change it was never confirmed 100% until December of 2024 from Sharon Taratula from the ARRL.

As the W8 Incoming QSL Bureau Manager, I am appealing to 8th area users to help the Bureau in its time of greatest financial need. I am also contacting other radio clubs in the W8 District and appealing for their help as well.

The W8 QSL bureau is not part of any club. The WC8VOA club in West Chester OH provides a room for sorting and does not charge for its use. The club members graciously sort the cards. Until now I relied totally on the ARRL to pay for the expenses of the PO Box, shipping and supplies.

My total expenses for 2024 amounted to approximately \$1100.00 which is about 7/10 of a cent per ARRL member.

From January through December of 2024, we processed over 210 pounds of cards which represents approximately 32,000 QSLs and forwarded them to the W8 Bureau sorters in several shipments. After learning about the possible change in ARRL reimbursement policy, adjustments were made to lower these expenses by reducing the number of QSL shipments per year. In addition, shipping labels purchased from pirateship.com have been used exclusively, saving 60% of USPS retail shipping costs.

Given the above, I hope you will consider donating at least \$10-\$25 (or more!) to jump start a wider donation drive that will follow and be directed toward W8 QSL Bureau users and clubs in the 8th area.

Donations to the W8 Incoming QSL Bureau should be sent to : 8th AREA QSL BUREAU, PO Box 307 West Chester OH 45071-0307. You can also use paypal , w8buro@gmail.com

If you need another payment method, please contact me at N8DX@ARRL.net

Also, if you are a W8 QSL Bureau user and are dissatisfied with the ARRL's action to stop reimbursement of Incoming QSL Bureaus, you are encouraged to contact your ARRL Division Director and make your feelings known.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me directly.

Jack Shirley, N8DX
ARRL Eight Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau
N8DX@ARRL.NET



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.

February 20, 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	2027
KB8KQC	Brenda VanDaele	2025	KN6EYQ	Mark White	2022
KF8AOL	Bob Morrison	2025	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	2025	AD8EV	Michael Mc Peek	2021
KC8BUD	Daniel Bain	2024	KA8PQH	Neil Remaklus	2025
KB8AQJ	Dan Kay	2025	KF8AYH	Omar Metwally	2025
	Nancy Kay	2025	W8PI	Paul Trouten	2025
W8IIE	Dave Benoit	2023	KC8AZZ	Peter Forgacs	2025
K8EKG	David Hatfield	2024	KE8YQE	Phil Bardoni	2025
KE8RXC	Debbie Bardoni	2022	W8NBS	Randy Meyer	2022
KC8CCR	Debbie Forgacs	2025	KE8UNH	Rick Wykle	2022
	Delmer Taylor	2024	KD8ZUI	Rob Howe	2026
KE8ZAR	Dennis Hulvey	2025	K8HV	Robert Lawrence	2022
N8BZN	Donald Fritz	2025	KE8OSX	Ron Duvall	2025
AC8WE	Donald Saathoff	2020	KE8CQO	Ron Hills	2025
KFCCH	Doug Orr	2025	KD8ZNZ	Rodney Haddix	2026
K8OF	Doug Wherry	2025	WO0O	Russ DeCrease	2025
WS8Y	Ed Keller Jr	2023	W8SMB	Scott Burkey	2024
K8EBI	Fred VanDaele	2025	WA8PYL	Scott Retzlaff	2025
KB8OSU	George Low	2025	KE8MFY	Steve Orlowski	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	2025
K9JP	Jeff Peters	2025	KE8NSU	Tony Griffin	2024
	Jill Miller	2025	KC8SKP	Wes Busdiecker	2025
N8RWI	John Bills	2025	N8MWQ	Woody Kirkman	2023
N8DXR	John Copeland	2026			
K8UMF	John Miller	2025			
WA8YZB	John Turner	2025			
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 _____ 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 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

February 20th 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 April 12, 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.