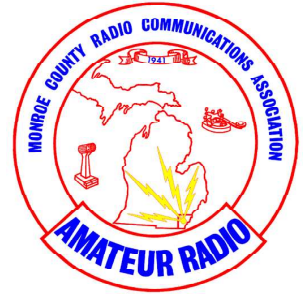


The Hertzian Herald



D Fritz Bitz:



I normally have an idea what I want to talk about in this article but this time I don't which will become very obvious in the next few lines. I've been trying to think about where I want the club to go in the next 2 years. Not that I don't like hanging around with you...old people once a month for a couple of hours but we need to figure out a way to get some new (and younger) people into our great hobby. I do several classes a year, which has helped get some people involved, but I think we need to do a little more.

I tell people all the time that I am a ham radio operator and they ask, "Do they still do that?" They think that cell phones have eliminated ham radio. When I explain how it works and all the things I can do with it they are amazed and usually quite intrigued. The real trick is getting them interested enough to take the next step. That's what we need to figure out. How do we get these people to take the next step? Your mission, (should you decide to accept it) is to help me figure out how to get more people involved.

I had a tri-fold brochure made a couple of years ago to hand out at different events that I go to. If you are going somewhere that you think you may be able to put some handouts, please let me know and I will get you some. If you have any ideas on how we can get more people involved, please let me know and we can figure out how to make it work. Start with family and friends. Have them take my class; bring them to a meeting; show them our radios at the meeting. Hey, I did have an idea I just didn't know it.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

So, until next month, 73
Don Fritz, N8BZN



<http://mcrca.org/>

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

- Club Officers**
- PRESIDENT**
Don Fritz N8BZN
donfritz56@gmail.com
- VICE PRESIDENT**
Mike Karmol N8KUF
mkarmol@bex.net
- SECRETARY**
Fred VanDaele
ka8ebi@yahoo.com
- TREASURER**
Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com
- DIRECTOR**
Paul Trouten W8PI
ptrouten@bex.net
- DIRECTOR**
Aaron Liske KE8PUN
aaron.liske@gmail.com
- DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE**
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

Club Program September

Our September MCRCA program will take a look at "Antenna Tuners". Actually, most are not what they are claimed to be.

If they are not antenna tuners, what are they and do they really do anything to help radiate a signal?

Come to the September meeting and find out what happens in that magic box that sits between your transmitter and your antenna.

Inside This Issue

Minutes 2
 ARPSC Report 3
 TAP article 4
 TAP article 5
 Tech article 6
 Memb List 7

MCRCA Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Don N8BZN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: One new members, no upgrades and no guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Tom KG8P, supported by Ron KE8OSX, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Dale WA8EFK, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, wasn't much DX, and you can go online to find out what's happening. **KH7AL/KH9** is now permanently QRT from Wake Island having accepted a new job in CONUS. Jim, **K9HEI/KH9** updates to say he is now QRT. Bouvet Isl. the planned 3Y0K expedition in 2026. These expeditions are challenging, requiring significant planning, funding, and risk to operate from the "most wanted" island on the ClubLog list

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, Upcoming QSO Parties: Aug 23, HI and OH – Aug 30, CO and KS – Sept 7, TN – Sept 20, NJ, TX, IA, NH, and WA QP Salmon Run. Sept 27, ME.

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. October 18, 2025. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

CLASSES: Don - Next class - Sat. October 11, 2025 contact Don N8BZN – **Tech class**

ARPSC – Jim WD8NWF, see Aug Herald – Fair – Erie Run – Dundee parade. Monroe County ARPSC, was 2nd highest score in the country 2024 S.E.T.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, everything is on the air. One satellite link is not functioning at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Ron KE8CQO

50/50: Keith KJ8H, donated to scholarship

ANNOUNCEMENTS: **09/13/2025 - [GMARC Trunk Swap](#)**, General Motors

09/13/2025 - [Swap Meet / Hamfest](#), Lucas County ARES, 6182 Summit St

09/07/2025 – [Findley Swap](#)

09/14/2025 - [Adrian Hamfest](#), AARC at the Airport

PROGRAM: RRRA Tech Team will cover the history of DMR, its unique features and the background that drove the logical choice to implement this digital mode. The talk will cover the fundamentals, unique terminology, the network and some more advanced features offered by DMR.

ADJOURNED: 8:49 pm

ATTENDANCE: 23

KE8WYY Brian
K8EBI Fred
KJ8H Keith
W8PI Paul
W8SMB Scott
KC8SKP Wes

WA8EFK Dale
WD8NWF James
KE8QGU Madonna
N9PWL Rick
KE8MFY Steve
W8MRA Mike

KF8DZD Delmer
N8RWI John
N8KUF Mike
KE8OSX Ron
N8NYP Terry
Jill Miller

N8BZN Don
K8UMF John
KA8PQH Neil
KE8CQO Ron
KG8P Tom

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

2025 Simulated Emergency Test - Updates

The 2025 Monroe County Simulated Emergency Test will be held Saturday October 4th starting around 8am and going until around 2pm at Sterling State Park. The format will be a bit different this year and hopefully will provide some excitement, fun and camaraderie.

We will be working with Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) from Region 2, led by Frenchtown CERT and the Monroe Squadron Civil Air Patrol (CAP) REMEMBER, you do NOT have to be an ARPSC member to participate, in fact, I encourage you to help out if you are not an ARPSC member. We will need LOTS of operators for this exercise. Just like Field Day, this is an opportunity for EVERYONE to practice and participate.



This is being coordinated through the regional volunteer council and they have stated that they see this as a worthwhile cooperative event and they want to see high participation and for this to succeed. I 100% agree and I want to make it a shining example for the county.

We have added participation from the Regional Incident Management Team, Monroe Community Ambulance, Sheriff Dept. and Fire Explorers. The CERT search groups will have several live and simulated victims to find with ARPSC providing communications. ARPSC will have those communications to handle, along with the normal county communications and participating with the State ARPSC scenario.

We will be looking for operators to act as search team shadows, staging managers, operators in the trailer and CERT rehab truck, NTS Liaison, WINLINK operators, State and regional liaisons, etc. Whether you are brand new and don't know where to start, or well-seasoned, there will be a spot just for you.

We will also have roles for those that want to participate from home. There will be a county net going on the 72 Monroe for those folks to check-in, answer a couple questions and also pass along a Radiogram. In fact, I would like to ask EVERYONE to have a radiogram ready and pass it along on the 4th. Send well wishes to your brother Bob in Boston, Birthday cheer to your former classmate Tina in Tacoma or your HI to weird cousin Sam in Shiloh. Contact any of the ARPSC leadership to find out where you can pass along your radiogram that day. If you know how to use Winlink, I have a form to send you how to fill out a Field Status Report to participate in the SET scoring.

The SET is ARRL's primary national emergency exercise and is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers, as well as those affiliated with other organizations involved in emergency and disaster response.

In 2024, Monroe's team was announced as the #2 scoring team in the USA! Want to be part of the team and make a run for #1 spot in the Nation this year?

If you are interested in participating, please fill out the survey at this link so we can get an idea of those available and their capabilities. <https://forms.gle/Yee7XQNg3zE8J69i9>

There is also a county questionnaire you will have to fill out if you are participating, I will send it to you when you sign up with our survey.

73

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



TAP

A Morse alternative mode for the HAM, with no need for training

article written on 19-May-2022, mode originally thought by **sv3ora**

Introduction

The thinking of this new mode, came to me when someone posted that he quit the HAM hobby because he did not learn Morse code and he did not want to use computers to do the job for him. Some time I faced a similar situation and I believe many do one day or the other. So I thought that I had to do something about it. It is too bad people quit the hobby or missing the fun of the KEY operation, because of the obstacle of Morse code. No matter what CW operators that already learnt Morse might say, the fact is that Morse requires patience, continuous practice and most importantly time. After all military had dedicated courses on it in the past, so it must be more than true. These are things not all people can, or are willing to do. An alternative that gives the same pleasure like Morse and operates with the same techniques, but requires no training and time must exist. Meet the **TAP** mode!

Mode description

This mode has its roots to ancient Greece. You may read the article in [Wikipedia](#) for more information on the Polybius square. A form of it, was used in the previous century in war times, for [in-prison communication](#). A modified version is presented here by me, that fits perfectly the HAM radio. This modified TAP code scheme, is dedicated to HAM radio and includes the numbers and the letter "k".

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	a	b	c	d	e	f
2	g	h	i	j	k	l
3	m	n	o	p	q	r
4	s	t	u	v	w	x
5	y	z	0	1	2	3
6	4	5	6	7	8	9

This is all you need to know in order to send and receive TAP. It is easy to follow and easy to generate on paper. This is a 6 by 6 table, with the first six alphabet letters placed in the first line, the next six in the second and so on. After the alphabet ends, the numbers are put in the same manner. That's it!

Sending TAP

It is better to describe the sending procedure with an example.

To send the letter "i" you send two dots ("i" is on the second row), wait a bit and then send 3 more dots ("i" is on the third column). In other words, you first count the number of rows where the letter exists, then wait a bit and then you count the number of columns where this letter exists. Before sending the next letter, leave a bit of more time, so as to distinguish that this is a separate letter and not the time between rows and columns. That's it!

Try it now without any transceiver! Write the TAP table on a piece of paper (you do not need to write the row and column numbers), or read it from the website. Tap on your desk with your finger and send some words to the colleague near you. See how easy it is?

There are actually four spacing's involved. The spacing between adjacent dots, the spacing between the row and the column, and the spacing between letters and the spacing between words. Follow the PARIS spacing, like Morse code

(Continued next page)

does, if your intent to write a software for it. However, in practice, manual operators would need to consider just two spacing's, the spacing between rows and columns and the spacing between letters. These are the most important. Just make the one bigger than the other and communication should be achieved without problems.

Receiving TAP

It is better to describe the receiving procedure with an example.

To receive the letter "i" you listen two dots ("i" is on the second row), then a short silence time and then listen 3 more dots ("i" is on the third column). In other words, you first listen for a number of dots (this is the row where the letter exists), then sense the silence and then you listen for the next number of dots (this is the column where the letter exists). The silence time between two letters is greater than the silence between rows and columns and this can be distinguished easily. That's it!

Try it now without any transceiver! Write the TAP table on a piece of paper (you do not need to write the row and column numbers), or read it from the website. Put your colleague to sent you some TAP words and you should be able to decode them by counting the rows and columns in the TAP table.

A programmer that may need to implement the mode in software, should follow the PARIS spacing to distinguish the different parts of the code, as described above.

TAP advantages

Here are some advantages I can think, of TAP in comparison to Morse.

- No training is required, start using it immediately, even by non-HAM people and kids. This probably is the greatest advantage and this is why most would want to use TAP in HAM radio.
- The encoding/decoding square can be drawn easily; it is very easy to remember how to draw it.
- Decoding by hardware or software means, becomes very easy, as there are no dashes to account for. Dot lengths can be anything and can be even varying from dot to dot, it does not matter.
- All you count, is how many ON-states (taps) there are and the rough timing between them, to decide between a row-column or a letter. Because of this independency from dashes, the code can be used on any means, radio, light, pipes, walls, desks etc.
- If dot lengths are kept very short (up to the point where channel noise allows it), RF amplifiers can be pushed beyond their limits (due to limited duty cycle), or otherwise run cooler within their limits. There are some mediums, like light communication, where bright pulses of light can be produced easily (eg. xenon tubes), but not kept for duration and TAP is ideal on them.

TAP disadvantages

Here are some disadvantages I can think, of TAP in comparison to Morse.

- Speed limit issues probably. TAP beginners achieve for sure faster speeds than Morse beginners. However, a trained Morse HAM, can achieve greater speeds with Morse.
- Learning the table by heart, can be tricky in comparison to Morse. However, war prisoners had tricks to learn by heart the 5x5 TAP square.
- Not known (yet) among the HAM community, like any new mode. Why not change that by let HAMs know about it?

TAP common points to Morse

There are some common points shared between TAP and Morse code.

(Continued next page)

- Both are relatively slow modes.
- Both are ON/OFF keying modes; efficient Class-E amplifiers can be used.
- Both share the same channel bandwidth and noise-related characteristics.
- Both are human-oriented, although TAP does not require training. Both share the PARIS timing when implemented in software.
- Both allow for the “joy of the KEY”. You send TAP with the same equipment as Morse.
- Both are ideal for homebrew QRP, due to efficiency and transceivers simplicity.

TECH TRIVIA 20 - Who Said That?

1. Our inventions are but improved means to an unimproved end. We are in great haste to construct a magnetic telegraph from Maine to Texas; but Maine and Texas, it may be, have nothing important to communicate. We are eager to tunnel under the Atlantic and bring the old world some weeks closer to the new; but perchance the first news that will leak through to... America will be that the Princess Adelaide has the whooping cough.

Henry David Thoreau wrote that in his essay “Walden” in about 1850. The first intercity telegraph line, from Washington DC to Baltimore, had been completed in 1844. The first successful “tunnel under the Atlantic” began operation in 1866.

I often sigh and think of Thoreau’s remark when a ham sends “QRU TNX ES 73” on the second transmission. “Nothing important to communicate.”

2. My dear you fail to read the scale Correct to tenths of a division. For gentler trade those eyes were made and not for methods of precision.

James Clerk Maxwell, in England, penned those whimsical lines about female students in his physics classes — then called natural philosophy classes. By about 1864 Maxwell had devolved a set of 20 equations (later compacted to four) from which all of electrical and radio science can be derived. Yes, Ohm’s Law, the capacitive -reactance formula, all the transmission-line and antenna formulas — all of them are implicit in the four equations of Maxwell. Among other things, Maxwell’s equations predicted the existence of radio waves. Heinrich Hertz, in Germany, managed to generate these waves (wavelength about 6 meters) and send them across a room in 1888. Marconi, in Italy, read of Hertz’s work, and the rest is well known to history. Aside from a stereotypically Victorian attitude on the “place” of women, Maxwell’s lines show that a towering mathematical genius can have a touchingly human side. 3.

I, too, am an amateur.

Guglielmo Marconi said those disarming words to ARRL representative Paul Godley in 1921, when the latter had come to Great Britain to attempt the first reception of amateur signals across the Atlantic. (He made it.) I take nothing away from the real achievements of Marconi — they were many and impressive. But the public acclaim that was lavished on him was not accorded to others of equal accomplishment, because they were not “smooth operators.” For example, Marconi’s claim to have achieved transatlantic communication in 1901 was universally accepted, even though he and his assistant were the only ones to hear the signals. And in 1912 he personally blocked news from the Titanic’s rescue ship because he had made a lucrative deal with the New York Times for an exclusive story. But the public still lionized him.

3. It ain’t the things you don’t know that get you into trouble. It’s the things you know for sure — that ain’t so.

While not original with him, this was the favorite quote of Major Edwin Howard Armstrong, inventor of regeneration (1912), the superheterodyne (1918), and FM radio (about 1935). The triode vacuum tube (1906) was “known” to be a little less sensitive and a lot more troublesome than the crystal detector until Armstrong showed what it could do in a feedback circuit. Heterodyning was known as a curiosity; “The Major” gave us the standard radio receiver circuit by heterodyning to a super-audible frequency. FM had been “proven” by mathematics to have “no advantages whatever,” but Armstrong refused to believe it until he had tried it for himself. Commenting on his inventive style, Armstrong said, “Inventions are not made by theoretical musings, but by jackassing storage batteries around the laboratory.” Perhaps the day for that kind of stubbornness is over; but a part of me hopes that it is not.

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.

August 21, 2025

Call	Name	Exp date	Call	Name	Exp date
KE8PUN	Aaron Liske	2025	KJ8H	Keith Hutchinson	2025
NM8I	Barbara Wilson	2025	KE8LRD	Ken Grooms	2024
KE8TPU	Bill Mercer	2022	KE8BYC	Lance Charter	2020
KB8KQC	Brenda VanDaele	2025	KE8OTG	Larry Lenhart	2023
KF8AOL	Bob Morrison	2025	KE8QGU	Madonna Burkitt	2024
WB8GUN	Bob Van Klingerren	2025	W8MCW	Mark Wheeler	2027
KE8WYY	Brian Paules	2025	KN6EYQ	Mark White	2022
W8BKT	Brian Tennyson	2020	KE8RCO	Matthew West	2021
KE8RCN	Brody Madlock	2021	KE8UWZ	Mike Courington	2024
WA8EFK	Dale Williams	2025	KE8TYC	Mike Isbell	2022
KC8BUD	Daniel Bain	2024	N8KUF	Mike Karmol	2025
KB8AQJ	Dan Kay	2025	AD8EV	Michael Mc Peek	2021
	Nancy Kay	2025	KA8PQH	Neil Remaklus	2025
AC8SI	Dave Buchko	2026	KF8AYH	Omar Metwally	2025
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
KF8DZD	Delmer Taylor	2025	N9PWL	Rick Durham	2027
KE8ZAR	Dennis Hulvey	2025	KE8UNH	Rick Wykle	2022
N8BZN	Donald Fritz	2025	KD8ZUI	Rob Howe	2026
KF8CCH	Doug Orr	2026	K8HV	Robert Lawrence	2022
K8OF	Doug Wherry	2026	KE8OSX	Ron Duvall	2025
WS8Y	Ed Keller Jr	2023	KE8CQO	Ron Hills	2025
KC8RQK	Fred Kinsey	2025	KD8ZNZ	Rodney Haddix	2026
K8EBI	Fred VanDaele	2025	WO0O	Russ DeCrease	2025
KB8OSU	George Low	2026	KD8HYS	Sandra Burr	2026
KE8VTT	Isaac Burkey	2025	W8SMB	Scott Burkey	2025
KE8VLW	James Kiester	2024	WA8PYL	Scott Retzlaff	2025
WD8NWF	James Toomey	2025	KE8MFY	Steve Orlowski	2025
KN8CR	Jeff Breitner	2024	N8NYP	Terry Kolton	2028
K8OLV	Jeff Giles	2026	N8OSC	Tom Cooper	2024
KE8WMY	Jefferson Mathews	2023	KE8UDH	Tom Hughey	2022
K9JP	Jeff Peters	2025	KE8KNZ	Tom Imlach	2022
N8RWI	John Bills	2025	KG8P	Tom Jenkins	2025
N8DXR	John Copeland	2026	KE8NSU	Tony Griffin	2025
K8UMF	John Miller	2025	KC8SKP	Wes Busdiecker	2025
WA8YZB	John Turner	2025	N8MWQ	Woody Kirkman	2023

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**

2025 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

September 18th 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 October 11th, 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.