Monroe County Radio Communications Association

The Hertzian Herald

October 2025 • Volume 49, Issue 10 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

D Fritz Bitz:

I have 2 more antennas to get up before winter. One for me and one for a friend. You had better get yours up now because the cold and wind will make you not want to later. Old legs make me not want to do mine now. I plan on moving in the spring so I just want to get up my G5RV this year to see how it works. If I get the type of property I want I will have a medium size tower with probably a 3-element beam. I hope.

I have been running a Cushcraft R-6 vertical that does 40 through 10 really well. I have talked all over the world on all bands with no trouble. I may put up a new version of that antenna also as my "omni" just because I have one and like it very much. I also want to put up a sixty-foot tower for my UHF and VHF yagis. I haven't talked this over with my wife yet so these things may change.

I have been thinking of building a separate ham shack in the back yard to set up my radios with plenty of room for my collection also. Nothing big but I do have enough antique radios to fill the wall of a small room. I've always wanted a separate shack to fill with radios. Then I can get a new radio too. My main radio now is about 30 years old. It has a couple of quirks but still works great. I use it for contesting all the time and have no complaints.

If I had a new radio that I could interface with my computer that would be fantastic! And new antennas on a new tower! And my own ham shack in the back yard!

My wife just walked up behind me and read this. She said I can get a new mag mount and park my car in the back yard if I want but that's about as close as I am going to get to my dream shack. She said if there is any money left after she gets her dream kitchen, she *might* give me some. She's so good to me.

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

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Inside This Issue

MCRCA Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Don N8BZN.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions: No new members or upgrades and one guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Keith KJ8H, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by John N8DXR, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, The BS7H Scarborough Reef DXpedition was an amateur radio expedition that took place April 29, 2007 – May 6, 2007. It was cut short at the request of the Chinese government. Bird Island everything lost in a storm, crossed in a tube. Look for Chas, NK8O to again be active from Dodoma, Tanzania as 5H3DX during September 1-23, 2025. [QRT] E44OM – Palestine [SEPTEMBER 22 @ 1900Z] Today we disassembled antennas + equipment and prepared them for transport.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, QSO Parties, NJ, TX, IA, MN, WA, ME, CA, NV, AZ, PA, SD, NY, & IL

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 – **Technician class** No one signed up yet, just a few interested. December will be a General Class.

ARPSC: Lance KE8BYC, the upcoming S.E.T. write up is in the Herald.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, Took the remote out of service and getting a total rebuild. Working on network upgrade in Ida.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Jeff Giles K8OLV, and John Miller K8UMF

50/50: Dennis Hulvey KE8ZAR

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PROGRAM: Our September MCRCA program will take a look at "Antenna Tuners".

ADJOURNED: 8:38 pm

ATTENDANCE: 24

KE8PUN Aaron	WA8EFK Dale	KE8ZAR Dennis	N8BZN Don
K8EBI Fred	WD8NWF James	KN8CR Jeff	K8OLV Jeff
N8DXR John	K8UMF John	KJ8H Keith	KE8BYC Lance
N8KUFMike	KF8AYH Omar	W8PI Paul	KC8AZZ Peter
N9PWL Rick	KE8OSX Ron	WA8PYL Scott	KE8MFY Steve
N8NYP Terry	KG8P Tom	Jill Miller	Ron Guyor

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

Monroe Country ARPSC

October….Fall, SET, Spook Patrol, Cider, Pumpkins...and coming soon.. Snow...

"Hey Lance, can we meet and discuss our 2 groups doing a small training exercise together this summer?" This message from Matt Homer the training coordinator for Frenchtown CERT started the ball rolling and blew up from a 2 hour event with roughly 24 folks between the 2 groups to a 6 hour exercise consisting of almost 20 ARPSC members, 50 some members from Michigan Region 2 CERT, a dozen evaluators and controllers, 4 members of the Incident Management team, Frenchtown Fire Dept, Monroe Community Ambulance, Sterling State park and their Rangers, our com trailer, an Incident Command Truck from Wayne County and Monroe and Wayne county EMD staff...

The 2025 Monroe County Simulated Emergency Test was held Saturday October 4th at Sterling State Park in Newport.

The format was a bit different this year as we worked with the multiple other organizations on a large scale search and rescue exercise after a simulated sustained high wind/derecho/seiche triple punch that resulted in damage in the N.E part of the county and flooding along the lake shoreline. With the damage and flooding, there were a number of missing/trapped persons at the park and Frenchtown Fire Dept. activated Frenchtown CERT to look for these folks as the fire dept. was tied up with other incidents throughout their area.

Due to the scale, utility damage and communication tie ups, CERT then asked for addition help from ARPSC for comms and Civil Air Patrol for drone search and ground team assistance. (Unfortunately due to the National Government shutdown, CAP was not able to participate in person this year)

ARPSC had 19 operators in the field staffing the simulated EOC, in the Incident Command truck at Sterling, Staging, a simulated shelter and 4 search team liaisons. Dale WA8EFK also handled NTS messages for us from his home. In a real event, this is how we would be utilized in the field, all communications from any Volunteer Organizations Assisting in a Disaster (VOAD), would be gathered and handled by Amateur Radio back to the EMD.

We had several operators that had never participated with ARPSC volunteer to assist, and several additional operators that had never participated in a Simulated Emergency Test.

It has been a long time since we had participated in a large scale exercise like this, so it was an excellent learning experience for everyone involved.

I am also very proud to announce that the scoring for the Michigan State SET report was turned in and the Monroe team effort put us squarely in 1st place for the state!! (Se Excerpt from the Michigan ARPSC website below)

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The Fall 2025 Statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was held on October 4, with a focus on local exercise planning, the notification process for activation, Winlink Field Situation Reports, MI CIMS, and a few

(Continued next page)

other items. The structure of the exercise was local activations with the SEOC available to provide support. A few facts about the exercise:

- Over 370 volunteers and agency personnel participated, including 135 from outside the AUXCOMM and ARES community.
- 60 of the volunteers were new or returning after an absence of 3 or more years.
- 23 counties participated.
- All 7 districts were represented in reporting.

Once again, feedback from the exercise was generally positive. As is the goal of any exercise, a number of improvement opportunities were identified and are included in the After Action Report and Improvement Plan which is currently being edited. It will be published for site members once it's finalized.

Scores have been tabulated based on reports submitted, and the top counties are:

- Monroe County in 1st place
- Roscommon County in 2nd place
- Macomb County in 3rd place

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I am currently working on the National scoring and after action reports which will take a bit longer this year. It is my hope to have the reports done and announced at our meeting and here in the newsletter by the end of the year. The National scores will not be announced by the league until June of next year in the July issue of QST.

I cannot begin to express the gratitude I have for the Monroe ARPSC team and the rest of the Amateur Operators in Monroe County for their work and support in the SET and EVERYDAY! THANK YOU ALL!!

The next upcoming event is the Dundee Spook Patrol. This year it is Friday OCTOBER 31st from 4-8pm. If you can help out, contact me or Dale WA8EFK. We will need at least 5 teams to cover Dundee. You must either have a mobile radio in your vehicle or a mag-mount antenna to connect to an HT to participate. HT's without an exterior antenna do not provide acceptable coverage especially from the subdivision on the east side of town. This is a fun event where we provide extra sets of eyes for the Dundee Police while enjoying the decorations and the kids' costumes.

There will be a Saturday Training Session Saturday November 1st at 9am at EMD. Ed WS8Y will be presenting First Aid training. Please bring your ARES Position Task Book for sign offs.

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 November 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

Is it the ultimate DX? Or is it DX the hard way?

Earth-moon-Earth (EME) or more commonly called Moonbounce is the topic for the October club program as we take a look at how a couple of VK stations work DX by bouncing their signals off the moon. They cover the equipment involved, how to target and track the moon and how to plan ahead for its location in relation to the station at the other end.

—- Try this for Parks on the Air!!!

1965 Computer

The 20-bit **General Electric GE 210 Data Processor**[1] used for banking, utility billing, and inventory at First National Bank of Denver, November 29, 1965.

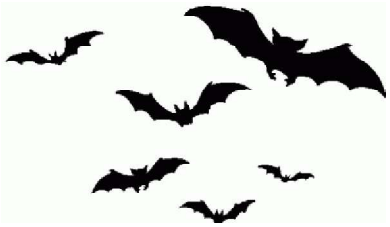
The serial 6-digit decimal machine was designed by **Arnold Spielberg**[2] **(father of Steven Spielberg)** in 1959 based on the earlier ERMA[3] (Electronic Recording Machine Accounting) system that used MICR **(Magnetic Ink Character Recognition)** which revolutionized bank check processing. The computer could decode 124 instructions and used the General Electric Common Language with additions taking 64 µs and multiplications 550 µs. A mechanical document transport picks up magnetically imprinted documents one at a time from items in its feeder, moving the documents past a read head where a magnetic character reader then scans the magnetic ink characters and transmits the information to the central processor, sorts the documents, and inserts each one into the proper pocket.

The 4.5 tonne mainframe consisted of 9,998 transistors and 39,333 diodes, consumed 50 kW of power, and had 4,000 words of core memory. The buffering system permits simultaneous operation of computation, reading magnetic tape, writing magnetic tape, reading magnetically encoded documents, reading punched tape, printing with online listers and Flexowriters. GE sold 44 of these $225,000 systems from 1960 to 1964.

https://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/BRL61-g.html#GE-210

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arnold_Spielberg

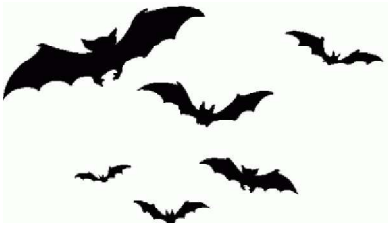
https://en.wikipedia.org/.../Electronic_Recording_Machine...



References:

The New General Electric GE 210 Data Processing System (11 page brochure at CHM)
https://d1yx3ys82bpsa0.cloudfront.net/.../ge.210.1959...

GE225 Programming Manual (53 MB) https://wwcm.synology.me/.../CPB-126A%20GE225...



Tech Trivia 21 — Decibels, Part One

"Great signal here, OM. You¹re peaking 20 dB over S9. This receiver has a 50-dB notch filter and it took that carrier right out."

Decibels (dB) are everywhere in ham radio, but how many hams understand them? The first point to grasp is that a decibel does not represent an amount, like a volt or a watt — it represents the ratio of two power levels.

Consider an amplifier that receives a 1-W input signal and delivers a 10-W output signal. It has a gain of 1 Bel, or ten decibels, or 10 dB.

(The original unit Bel, developed at the Bell Telephone Labs, was deemed too clumsy, so it was split into tenths.) The formula for getting from power ratio to gain (G) in decibels is:

G = 10 log (P2 / P1)

In our example, G = 10 log 10 = 10 x 1 = 10 dB.

The logarithm (log) of a number is the power that you have to raise 10 to get that number. The log of 10 is 1; the log of 100 is 2; the log of 1000 is 3; and so on. Logs do not have to be whole numbers. For example, the log of 316 is 2.5. Literally this means we multiply 10 by itself 2 times (getting 100) and then by a half a time (square root of 10, or 3.16) getting 316. Extending this idea, we can (with a calculator) get a log for any number. For example, log 567 = 2.754.

Now we are in a position to see how decibels can be more useful than simple power ratios. Let¹s say we have two amplifiers in cascade. The first builds 1 W up to 10 W (a gain of 10 dB) and the second builds 10 W up to 100 W (also a factor of 10, or 10 dB.) The overall power ratio is 10 x 10 or 100 times. However, the overall decibel gain is 10 dB + 10 dB, or 20 dB.

****Decibel gains don't multiply; they add.****

Going back to our formula:

G(tot) = 10 log (100 W / 1 W) = 10 log 100 = 10 x 2 = 20 dB

If this seems confusing, remember that a decibel is a log, and a log is a power of ten. And when you add another power of ten you multiply your result by ten. Perhaps the example of two x10 amps is too simple to make the point. Let's consider a first amp with a power gain of x39 (which is 16 dB), feeding a second amp with a power gain of 6.3 (which is 8 db). Using power ratios, the overall gain is:

A(tot) = A1 x A2 = 39 x 6.3 = (can you do that in your head?)

But in decibels, it¹s easy to do in your head:

G(tot) = G1 + G2 = 16 + 8 = 24 dB.

As another example, let¹s say that we have an amplifier with a power gain of x39 feeding a transmission line with a loss factor of 'divide by 6.3.' 'Divide by' in power factors is represented by negative decibels, so the overall gain is:

G(tot) = G1 - G2 = 16 - 8 + 8 dB

When an entire communications system operates in the dB system, keeping track of the signal level at any given point is a simple matter of adding and subtracting decibels. Like the English-vs.-metric conflict, the conversions are the hassle. If you just stay in the more efficient system (metric or decibel) your measurement and calculation burden is greatly eased.

Next month we will see how to use decibels in real-life situations involving voltage, rather than power measurements.

Until then, here's a practical tip: Nobody writes mA = 32. That's obviously improper. You should write I = 32 mA. Similarly, you should not write dB = 32 (although many people do.) The proper way is to write G = 32 dB

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.

October 16, 2025

Call	Name	Exp date
KE8PUN	Aaron Liske	2025
NM8I	Barbara Wilson	2025
KE8TPU	Bill Mercer	2022
KB8KQC	Brenda VanDaele	2025
KF8AOL	Bob Morrison	2025
WB8GUN	Bob Van Klingeren	2025
KE8WYY	Brian Paules	2025
W8BKT	Brian Tennyson	2020
KE8RCN	Brody Madlock	2021
WA8EFK	Dale Williams	2025
KC8BUD	Daniel Bain	2024
KB8AQJ	Dan Kay	2025
	Nancy Kay	2025
AC8SI	Dave Buchko	2026
W8IIE	Dave Benoit	2023
K8EKG	David Hatfield	2024
KE8RXC	Debbie Bardoni	2022
KC8CCR	Debbkie Forgacs	2027
KF8DZD	Delmer Taylor	2025
KE8ZAR	Dennis Hulvey	2025
N8BZN	Donald Fritz	2025
KF8CCH	Doug Orr	2026
K8OF	Doug Wherry	2026
WS8Y	Ed Keller Jr	2023
KC8RQK	Fred Kinsey	2025
K8EBI	Fred VanDaele	2025
KB8OSU	George Low	2026
KE8VTT	Isaac Burkey	2025
KE8VLW	James Kiester	2024
WD8NWF	James Toomey	2025
KN8CR	Jeff Breitner	2024
K8OLV	Jeff Giles	2026
KE8WMY	Jefferson Mathews	2023
K9JP	Jeff Peters	2027
N8RWI	John Bills	2025
N8DXR	John Copeland	2026
K8UMF	John Miller	2025
WA8YZB	John Turner	2025

Call	Name	Exp date
KJ8H	Keith Hutchinson	2025
KE8LRD	Ken Grooms	2024
KE8BYC	Lance Charter	2020
KE8OTG	Larry Lenhart	2023
KE8QGU	Madonna Burkitt	2024
W8MCW	Mark Wheeler	2027
KN6EYQ	Mark White	2022
KE8UWZ	Mike Courington	2024
KE8TYC	Mike Isbell	2022
N8KUF	Mike Karmol	2025
AD8EV	Michael Mc Peek	2021
KA8PQH	Neil Remaklus	2025
KF8AYH	Omar Metwally	2025
W8PI	Paul Trouten	2025
KC8AZZ	Peter Forgacs	2027
KE8YQE	Phil Bardoni	2025
W8NBS	Randy Meyer	2022
N9PWL	Rick Durham	2027
KE8UNH	Rick Wykle	2022
KD8ZUI	Rob Howe	2026
K8HV	Robert Lawrence	2022
KE8OSX	Ron Duvall	2025
	Ron Guyor	
KE8CQO	Ron Hills	2025
KD8ZNZ	Rodney Haddix	2026
WO0O	Russ DeCrease	2025
KD8HYS	Sandra Burr	2026
W8SMB	Scott Burkey	2025
WA8PYL	Scott Retzlaff	2025
KE8MFY	Steve Orlowski	2025
N8NYP	Terry Kolton	2028
N8OSC	Tom Cooper	2024
KE8UDH	Tom Hughey	2022
KE8KNZ	Tom Imlach	2022
KG8P	Tom Jenkins	2025
KE8NSU	Tony Griffin	2025
KC8SKP	Wes Busdiecker	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_____ RRRA 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

October 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 December 13th, 2025.

The Monroe County Radio Communications Association (MCRCA) is offering a one-day Amateur Radio course for the **General** class license in December. 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.