Monroe County Radio Communications Association

The Hertzian Herald

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D Fritz Bitz:

'Tis the season to be in the house talking on the radio. There were a lot of times during the summer I wanted to be on the radio but just had too many things to do outside. I'm about done doing things outside. There are fewer hamfests this time of year and fewer state QSO parties too, so calling CQ and rag chewing are more the order of the day this time of year.

Remember, if you are have a Technician license and would like to get more involved in HF, I have a General license upgrade class on December 13, 2025 and there are several spots open. Email me and I will send you the registration form and everything else you need to sign up.

The Christmas party is coming up in December also. If you have never been to our Christmas party, you are in for a treat. We supply the main course and beverages and everything else is potluck. It is always a very good dinner and then at the end, everyone goes home with a prize (whether you want it or not). Fred and Brenda do a great job of putting the party together and getting all of the great gifts. We will have more info on the Christmas part at the November meeting.

I would also like to thank Keith, KJ8H, for his great 3-D printed gifts last month. I think he has a presentation coming up soon which should be very interesting to those of us who know nothing about 3-D printing. 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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Don Fritz N8BZN
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DIRECTOR
STATION TRUSTEE
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

Inside This Issue

MCRCA Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2025

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

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by John N8DXR, 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: Paul W8PI, Yes, DX is out there – some stuff in Pacific Ocean. A South Indian Ocean in January 160-40 working – folks to work low bands.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, several upcoming, NY / IL / ARRL SS CW & SSB / CQ WW DX WW. IL is typically a good one & can work all counties.

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. October 18, 2025**. Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**
No testing; no one signed up and no FCC at this point. Looking forward to December.

CLASSES: Don - Next class - Sat. December 13, 2025 contact Don N8BZN – **General class**
Anyone interested please contact Don.

ARPSC: a few weeks back the SET worked with 370 other organizations and went well, with lots of folks working the event. First place in state went to Monroe ARPSC!! Spook Patrol in Dundee upcoming.

RRRA: Dale WA8EFK, nothing really to report, all is good. Rebuilding Satellite receiver in Dundee.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Christmas party coming up – same location as last year.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Ron, KE8OSK and Scott, WA8PYL

50/50: Scott, WA8PYL, won and returned to scholarship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PROGRAM: Is it the ultimate DX? Or is it DX the hard way?
Earth-moon-Earth (EME) or more commonly called Moon bounce 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!!!

ADJOURNED: 8:13 pm

ATTENDANCE: 19

NM8I Barb
KB8OSU George
N8RWI John
KJ8H Keith
W8PI Paul
WA8PYL Scott
KC8SKP Wes
WA8EFK Dale
WD8NWF James
N8DXR John
KA8PQH Neil
N9PWL Rick
KE8MFY Steve
N8BZN Don
K8OLV Jeff
K8UMF John
KF8AYH Omar
KE8OSX Ron
N8NYP Terry

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 County ARPSC

A few weeks back the S.E.T. worked with 370 other organizations and all went well, with lots of folks working the event.

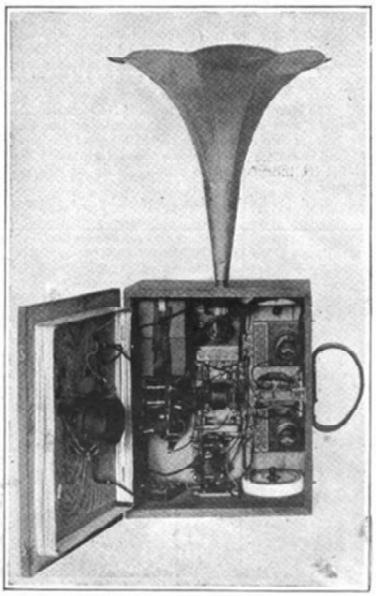
First place in state went to Monroe ARPSC!! Spook Patrol in Dundee upcoming.

The Portaphone

https://earlyradiohistory.us/

Described as "Articles and extracts about early radio and related technologies, concentrating on the United States in the period from 1897 to 1927".

Here is an example of a 1920's walkman from Scientific American, May 22, 1920, page 571:



Portaphone with case open to show the loop antenna and detecting and amplifying apparatus

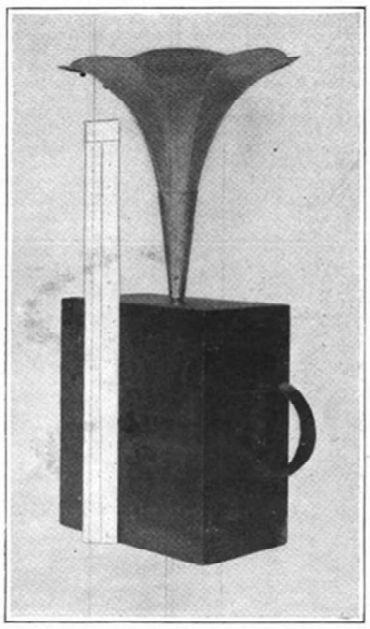
The Portaphone—A Wireless Set for Dance Music or the Day's News

THOSE who have not kept pace with the developments in radio communication are apt to think of the wireless telegraph or telephone as a complicated arrangement of delicate apparatus, involving also aerial wires and an array of various devices formidable and involved in appearance. They would be surprised indeed to learn that a receiving instrument—the Portaphone—has been developed in the Radio Section of the United States Bureau of Standards at Washington, which, packed in an ordinary case, can be transported with much less difficulty than a simple talking machine, and which may be placed anywhere and receive wireless impulses in the form of signals, music or speech, reproducing the same through a loud-speaking telephone and horn as shown in the illustrations below.

It will appear from the scale placed alongside of the portaphone, that its height is some 12 inches exclusive of the horn, while the compactness of the apparatus is shown in the view representing its interior. This device, furthermore, does not require an expert operator, but may be arranged by any one without previous special knowledge or training.

The portaphone opens up many new possibilities. For instance, at 8:30 o'clock each evening a central station might send out dance music from its transmitting apparatus and those who cared to dance could set up their portaphones on a table, turn on the current and have the music furnished sufficiently loud to fill a small room. Or in the morning a summary of the day's news might be sent out to he received by a portaphone and digested by a family at breakfast, in which all could participate whether paterfamilias had the paper or not.

Obviously there are a number of other applications of this simple device which serves to reproduce sound from the waves sent through space. A glance at the apparatus shows its simplicity. On the inside of the door of the case is shown a rectangle of wire forming the radio compass, direction coil, or "loops," which takes the place of the usual elevated aerial or antenna. The capacity can be adjusted so as to tune the apparatus to the required wave length. The receiving set makes use of a vacuum tube detector and a two-stage amplifier, all operated by dry cells. The signals are passed on to a special loud-speaking telephone to make the vibrations audible, while the large horn reinforces the sound waves until they completely fill a small room.



The portaphone alongside a 20-inch rule, showing its relative size

The instrument as constructed at present has a range of about 15 miles, or well within the limits of an ordinary city. The impulses sent out can be of such a wave length as not to interfere with commercial wireless. The instrument is not sufficiently sensitive to respond to the ordinary long-distance signals coming from Government or marine or commercial stations. So far the only application of the portaphone has been purely experimental at the Bureau of Standards, but it presents interesting possibilities for more general and utilitarian applications. A similar device with a larger coil has been built there in the Radio Section, which develops sufficient power in connection with a transmission source to reproduce music loud enough to fill a very large room suitable for dancing.—By Herbert T. Wade.

United States Early Radio History > Broadcasting After World War One > Pioneering News and Entertainment Broadcasts (WWV)

QSO Cards from Keith

Club program, November

3D Printing, presented by Keith, KJ8H.

You may think this is a little remote from Ham Radio, but consider for a moment about some of the items that are quite useful for us, like coil forms, insulators, enclosures, special knobs, brackets, spacers, terminal blocks.....Things that you wish you had on hand and now can actually custom make using 3D Printing.

Is it a tool or a tool maker? Is it a factory, a toy shop, a parts supplier, a tool? Is it a waste of time to make more plastic junk?

Keith will talk about some if the history of the filament printer and the glue gun you probably own and will show some short videos demonstrating the printer in action, including a video of an actual house being printed with concrete and other material printers.

As previewed at our October meeting, Keith displayed many items print-related. He also brought ham related items to give away. Everyone was able to take home something 3d printed.

At our November meeting you will get the full details on 3D printing.

Tech Trivia 22 — Decibels Part Two

Last month we learned that a bel is the logarithm of the power gain of a system, and a decibel is a tenth of a bel. The formula for gain (G) in decibels is:

G = 10 log (P2 / P1)

If the gain is actually a loss, and P2 is smaller than P1, the value of G becomes negative. (Try it on your calculator — a power gain from 1 W to 2 W is 3 dB; a loss from 2 W to 1 W is -3 dB.)

Voltage is much easier to measure than power, so we would like to be able to determine dB from voltage measurements. This is possible IF the two voltages, V1 and V2, are measured across equal resistances. Since power varies as the square of voltage, and doubling a log squares the number, the voltage-ratio-to-dB formula is:

G = 20 log (V2 / V1)

We must emphasize that this equation is valid **ONLY** if V2 and V1 are measured across equal resistances. People who work with decibels a lot soon commit the following table to memory:

dB	V/V	dB	V/V
3	1.41	30	31.6
6	2	40	100
10	3.16	50	316
20	10	60	1000

Using the table, you can quickly see that 26 dB is 20 dB + 6 dB, which is a voltage ratio of 10 x 2, or 20 times. As another example, 37 dB is 40 dB - 3 dB, a voltage ratio of 100 / 2 = 50 times.

Notice that decibels are nonlinear: 40 dB is not twice the voltage ratio, nor twice the power ratio as 20 dB.

OK, so we can convert power ratios, or voltage ratios, to decibels. How do we go the other way: dB to gain factors? Here are the formulas:

P2 / P1 = inv-log (dB / 10) and
V2 / V1 = inv-log (dB / 20)

The Inverse-Log key on your calculator may be labeled Log -1, or 10-to-the-x power.

We have said repeatedly that decibels specify a ratio, not an amount — but engineers often do specify a signal level in dB. This is possible because they are assuming a standard level for P1 or V1. In the audio industry the standard (0-dB) level is 1 mW. Thus a 2-mW signal is 3 dB, and a 10-mW signal is 10 dB. In cable TV, the standard is 1000 uV on 75 ohms, so a 500- uV signal is -6 dB.

Finally, let¹s try to put decibels into an everyday context. The threshold of audibility for humans under ideal conditions is the 0-dB reference level. A whisper is 15 dB; average conversation is 55 dB, and 85 dB is a jackhammer. A 1-dB change is just about the smallest perceptible change. A 10-dB change is what most listeners would judge to be “twice as loud,” although, of course, it is actually ten times the power, or 3.16 times the voltage.

73 de Dan Metzger, 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
KE8VLQ	Gregory Milatz	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

November 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 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.

Gregory Milatz KE8VLQ