

The Hertzian Herald



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D Fritz Bitz:



My license was about to expire a few weeks ago and like most things I do, I procrastinated long enough that after the government shut down I was unable to log on to renew. When the government was up and running again, I could not log into my ULS account to renew online. After trying to log in 15 times, I got frustrated and signed up with 5YI to have them renew it. Later that day I tried to log in again, and it worked. The money Gods were against me again. As usual, they won.

The annual Christmas party is this week and personally, I look forward to this for a couple of months. First, it's pretty good food and there is always a great selection of deserts, most of them home made, in addition to a couple of great entrées. Second, It's just a great time to sit around and talk with people we don't get to visit with much. Third, everyone goes home with a Christmas present thanks to Fred and Brenda. They put a lot of work into the Christmas party and as the President, I would like to thank them very much for everything they do for the club.

Lastly, elections are coming up soon. If anyone would like my job, just ask. So, until next month, 73.

See you at the meeting.

Don Fritz, N8BZN



<http://mcrca.org/>

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

- Club Officers**
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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: 1 new member, 0 upgrade and 0 guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Dale WA8EFK, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Barb NM8I, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, DX is out there, propagation can't be explained. Starting to include more young people on DXpeditions. Kure Atoll, Midway, and Johnson Atoll they are trying to get a DXpedition together. Johnson is still contaminated. N. Korea allowed one contact.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, slow contest time of year. A few are still happening: CQ WW DX CW, ARRL 160 Meter CW, ARRL 10 Meter CW/SSB, and ARRL Rookie Roundup. After the first of the year it should pick up again. Paul read the Field Day results. We did good better than anticipated.

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. December 20, 2025. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd** The FCC is almost back in operation for FRN numbers.

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

ARPSC: Jim WD8NWF, The Dundee spook patrol, on Halloween, was a good event. We were thanked by the Dundee Police Dept. December first Thursday will be the next ARPSC meeting.

RRRA: All repeaters are operating, need a clean up at a couple of sites, happening Saturday. Dundee is being upgraded.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Election of officers will be held at the January meeting. Christmas party in December, there will be a map and times emailed out to all and posted in the December Herald.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Terry N8NYP and Paul W8PI

50/50: Steve KE8MFY

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PROGRAM: 3D Printing, presented by Keith, KJ8H. At our November meeting you will get the full details on 3D printing.

ADJOURNED: 8:47 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

Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp

Another busy year come and gone already.....

The Monroe team continues its successful run and with the success we continually get asked to do more by our partners and Served Agencies.... Never a bad problem to have I would say.

I would like to say a big Thank you to the operators and their navigators who participated in Dundee Spook Patrol Friday October 31st. Mike Karmol N8KUF, Dale Williams WA8EFK, Jim Toomey WD8NWF, Rick Durham N9PWL and Karen, Rodney Haddix KD8ZMZ and Yvette, Fred K8EBI and Brenda KB8KQC VanDaele, Jay WB8TKL and Mary Anne W8VWY and my co-pilot Lisa.



As we head to 2026 we already have several important and exciting events to look forward to:

-FERMI II Drills

-We plan on participating yet again with the Erie Race 4 the Kids on June 13th. This event is a large 5k run/walk which supports and helps out with medical expenses for seriously ill children in the county. This is a fun event every year and to see the hope in the faces of these kids and their families, along with the huge support of the community, makes it that much more special.

-Now that EMD has confirmed chain of custody for the com trailer, we can begin working on the overall transformation to make it usable for our operations. Toward that end, we will be scheduling some work bees to make things happen.

-Dundee Independence Day parade on Saturday July 4th, Dundee Spook Patrol Saturday October 31st.

As far as upcoming training, I hope to have some very interesting sessions presented this year on topics that I think any operator will find informative and useful.

For those new operators, we will also be hosting an Introduction to Monroe ARPSC class in January which will examine the ARPSC operations, how to get involved, how we operate and professionalism.

We also will be putting an emphasis on National Traffic System Training in 2026, along with a renewed emphasis on regularly having message passing practice on the Monday Evening Nets.

I have completed the National ARES and NET Manager scoring for the SET in October and I am proud to announce that for the ARES portion Monroe County operations tallied 679 points, and the NET portion tallied 258 points!! Now we wait until June of next year for the National rankings to be posted in the July QST!

I also want to take this time to say THANK YOU to all of YOU for your time and assistance promoting and making Monroe ARPSC one of the best teams in the state this year!!

Best Wishes to everyone during this holiday season and as we look forward to an exciting 2026!!

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 22nd** 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 January 8th, 2026. PLEASE NOTE, that is actually the 2nd Thursday but due to New Year's day being the first Thursday, we will move our meeting.

(Continued next page)

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.

From my wife Lisa and I, we would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and have a safe and prosperous New Year to everyone and your families!

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

Help Someone Get Their FIRST Ham Radio License by the End of 2025

12/12/2025

Know someone who's been curious about amateur radio but hasn't taken the leap yet? [ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio® has produced a two-day online course for prospective hams to earn their first license: [The ARRL Technician Class LIVE Video Course for Ham Radio Licensing](#). Taught by ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, this immersive instruction runs **December 20–21, 2025**, includes a [Technician Class prep book](#) by ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, and one- year of ARRL Membership.

The course breaks down everything needed to know to pass the Technician exam in bite-sized lessons. “By Sunday afternoon, you’ll be amazed by how much you have learned and how comfortable you feel about taking the exam,” said Greene. “Attaining your amateur radio license will open a whole new world of communication adventures.”

Encourage your friends, family members, club prospects, and community volunteers to take the step into amateur radio. Share with them the types of experiences you enjoy as a ham – from exploring communications and technology, public service, and global connection – to traditional shortwave radio, digital modes, satellites, and emergency communications.

Enrollment is available now in the [ARRL Store](#) for a special introductory price of \$99. If you know someone ready to begin their amateur radio journey, steer them to this excellent start. For more information about ham radio, visit www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.

The deadline to register for the inaugural [ARRL Technician Class Live Video Course](#) is December 14, 2025.

(Ed note: Don's class is a steal.)

Christmas
Party



Christmas
Party

Tech Trivia 27 — Computer Trivia MEGACHIP.

One of the most common questions that an electronics engineer hears from casual acquaintances is, "How is it possible to cram several millions of transistors on an integrated circuit chip the size of your thumbnail?" Of course, a complete understanding of the physics, chemistry, and optics involved is beyond most people's reach, including my own. But some notion of how it is possible might be obtained like this:

Let's say it's 1961, and Michigan Instruments, a maker of silicon transistors, has just give you a million dollars, and told you that, by the end of the year, you are to have two transistors interconnected on a single piece of silicon. Do you think you could do it? With a million bucks and the resources of a company that was already proficient in making single transistors behind you, I think you could.

Then imagine that in 1962 they gave you \$2 million and asked you to integrate three transistors by the end of that year. And suppose that this continued, with the company adding a million dollars to their payment and expecting a 50% increase in the number of transistors on the chip each year. I don't think that you would find the task impossible at any point, but by 1999 you would be putting ten million transistors on a chip. Do the arithmetic: on your calculator it's 2×1.5 to the 38th power.

We didn't leap to megachips overnight. It's a case of a new technology illustrating some old proverbs. Ben Franklin phrased it, "By diligence and patience the mouse chewed the cable in two." And long before that the Chinese said, "A journey of a thousand leagues begins with a single step."

BOOT IT. We don't switch our com-puters on; we "boot them up." Is that because they're like a lazy dog, that has to be kicked to get it going?

No, the term has nothing to do with "giving it the boot." The original term was "bootstrap," and referred to the finger straps at the tops of some boots that help you pull them on. If a child is wearing such boots, an adult can pick the child up by the bootstraps. A common joke was to tell a child to pick himself up by his own bootstraps. The phrase became a metaphor for an impossible startup situation. For example, you need a job to get money to buy a car, but you need a car first to be able to drive to the job. Early computers had to "pick themselves up by their own bootstraps." As they came from the factory they had no stored program in them at all, so they didn't even know how to read their own key-boards or tape readers. Once the tape-reader program was in, other programs could be loaded easily from tape, but how do you get that first program in?



In 1971 I worked with a PDP-8 mini-computer. Starting it up was called boot-strapping, and it began by setting 12 binary address switches and 8 binary data switches and poking a load button. This was repeated about a dozen times to enter a short program which told the computer how to read its tape reader. Another program (on paper tape) was then loaded which instructed the machine how to access its keyboard and printer, and how to run BASIC or assembly-language programs.

Today's computers have BIOS (Basic Input-Output System) programs in nonvolatile ROM, so they are ready to access their disk drives and keyboards without a lot of switch flipping, but the term "boot" remains as a reminder of earlier days.

Christmas party plans for Thursday, December 18, 2025

The December Christmas Party of the MCRCA will be held in the Community Room at **Monroe Country Club Estates, 5840 E. Dunbar Rd.** about a quarter of a mile West of S. Dixie Hwy. Travel straight in the driveway, take a slight left, and it's the building on the right.

We will need a small crew to meet there at 5:00 pm to help unload and set up for the party.

The club will be providing - Chicken, Kielbasa & Sauerkraut, and Mostaccioli. There will also be some soft drinks (pop) and bottled water, along with coffee. The club will provide all paperware and plasticware, along with plastic and coffee cups.

It's Party Time! No meeting at the Red Cross this month.

Guests will start arriving at 6:00 pm. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm.

Members are asked to bring a dish to pass, or some kind of dessert or goodie that they may have created.



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	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	KE8UWZ	Mike Courington	2024
KE8RCN	Brody Madlock	2021	KE8TYC	Mike Isbell	2022
WA8EFK	Dale Williams	2025	N8KUF	Mike Karmol	2025
KC8BUD	Daniel Bain	2024	AD8EV	Michael Mc Peek	2021
KB8AQJ	Dan Kay	2025	KA8PQH	Neil Remaklus	2025
	Nancy Kay	2025	KF8AYH	Omar Metwally	2025
AC8SI	Dave Buchko	2026	W8PI	Paul Trouten	2026
W8IIE	Dave Benoit	2023	KC8AZZ	Peter Forgacs	2027
K8EKG	David Hatfield	2024	KE8YQE	Phil Bardoni	2025
KE8RXC	Debbie Bardoni	2022	W8NBS	Randy Meyer	2022
KC8CCR	Debbie Forgacs	2027	N9PWL	Rick Durham	2027
KF8DZD	Delmer Taylor	2025	KE8RIJ	Rich Spackey	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
KE8VLQ	Gregory Milatz	2026	W8SMB	Scott Burkey	2025
KE8VTT	Isaac Burkey	2025	WA8PYL	Scott Retzlaff	2026
KE8VLW	James Kiester	2024	KE8MFY	Steve Orlowski	2025
WD8NWF	James Toomey	2025	N8NYP	Terry Kolton	2028
KN8CR	Jeff Breitner	2024	N8OSC	Tom Cooper	2024
K8OLV	Jeff Giles	2026	KE8UDH	Tom Hughey	2022
KE8WMY	Jefferson Mathews	2023	KE8KNZ	Tom Imlach	2022
K9JP	Jeff Peters	2027	KG8P	Tom Jenkins	2026
N8RWI	John Bills	2025	KE8NSU	Tony Griffin	2025
N8DXR	John Copeland	2026	KC8SKP	Wes Busdiecker	2027
K8UMF	John Miller	2025	N8MWQ	Woody Kirkman	2023
WA8YZB	John Turner	2027			

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

December 18th 7:30 pm
Monroe Country Club Estates,
5840 E. Dunbar Rd.
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 14th, 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