

The Hertzian Herald



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D Fritz Bitz:



First, I want to thank Fred and Brenda for putting the Christmas party together. I had a great time visiting and talking with everyone and my wife and I took home a couple of great gifts. I would also like to thank Dale (WA8EFK) for the programs he put together last year and am looking forward to this year's programs (and maybe a couple of projects).

Elections are coming up so like I said last month, if anyone wants my job, just ask. I got out the Hamfest folder and started my checklist of things to do. Last years Hamfest went real well and I'm sure we will have plenty of volunteers this year so I'm sure everything will go fine. Start marking your calendar (Hamfest, Field day, my birthday).

The Contest calendar is heating up so I've been putting a little time in the shack to get some things cleaned up (power and coax cables) and organized. I was hoping to activate a couple of parks in the UP last year and was never able to. I'm going to try real hard to accomplish that this year. The last time I was there we got 2 feet of snow. The only thing I activated then was a snow shovel. So, until next month, 73.

See you at the meeting.
Don Fritz, N8BZN

January MCRCA program.

Tom KG8P will introduce us to the details and intricacies of the upcoming DX-pedition to the island of Desecheo which is happening very soon this January.

Well...we all wonder where the heck Desecheo is and why it is so darned rare. And when Tom answers the first question, you will *really* wonder how it possibly could be so rare!!!

For those of us who have grown up in ham radio using only a VHF HT, here is a good chance to look into the exciting world of HF DXing, its interesting challenges and worthwhile rewards. Tom will also include video from the last Desecheo operation.

<http://mcrca.org/>

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

Club Officers

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Inside This Issue

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Minutes | 2 |
| ARPSC Report | 3 |
| ARPSC Report | 4 |
| Tech Trivia K8JWR | 5 |
| Desecho Isl pics | 6 |
| Memb List | 7 |

MCRCA Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2025

No meeting in December

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

MCARPSC Training Outline-Meetings and Supplemental Sessions

Meetings are 1st Thursday at 7:30pm @ EMD Training Room 987 S. Raisinville

Saturday Sessions are 1st Saturday of odd months September-May unless noted- 9am @ EMD

Bring your PTB's to a meeting to have training courses checked off-Saturday sessions will be used for skills check-offs.

January 8th Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
- NTS Basics Review

January 10th Saturday Session 9am-12pm
-NTS Operations/Practice

Feb 5th Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-Winlink Operations Review

Feb 7th Saturday Session 9am-12pm
-INTRO TO EMCOMM/ARPSC

March 5th Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-NTS Handling—Codes and Movement/Delivery

Mar 7th Saturday Session EOC 9a-12pm
-Winlink VARA Ops/Practice—Outside??

April 2nd Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-County SKYWARN Operations

May 7th Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
- 800MHz Training for those in person after ZOOM Session

May 9th Saturday Session EOC 9am
-FLDIGI Ops/Practice

June 4th Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-Public Service Operations Review

July 2nd Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-REP 101-Must have every 2 years

Aug 6th Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
*** Tentative -Short Meeting Possibly Zoom only*

Sept 3rd Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-Programming your HT

Sept 5th Sat EOC 9am-12pm
-Radio Programming Workshop



(Continued next page)

Oct 1st Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-SET Pre-Meeting

Oct 3rd Saturday State wide Simulated Emergency Test ECC 8am-12pm

Nov 5th Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-NTS Message Passing—Bring an HT

Nov 7th Sat EOC 9am-12pm

Dec 3rd Monthly Meeting EOC 7:30pm
-2027 Planning

SKYWARN-NWS Training, County Procedures Training

The Monroe County NWS SKYWARN Training will be Wednesday March 25th from 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Bedford Library Community Room. Limited to 75 participants.

We will then discuss county SKYWARN reporting procedures at the April Meeting 4/2.

NEW DISTRICT NET

There will be a new Michigan District (2) ARPSC Net on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening at 7pm starting this Wednesday January 14th. The net will be held on the WW8GM 443.075 (123.0/123.0) repeater that is located on the Renaissance Center in Detroit. It will be geared toward ARPSC and ARES, but any licensed amateur may check in. The purpose of the net will be to check connectivity in Michigan District 2 (Monroe, Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair Counties), and pass along information and events of interest to ARPSC/ARES. We wish to Thank the GMARC group for allowing the use of this repeater and its large coverage footprint.

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.

ARPSC meetings are usually the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. The next meeting is Thursday February 5th.

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

Tech Trivia 28 — Computer Trivia 2

In 1833, Britannia ruled the waves. England's vast colonial empire was held together by the Royal Navy and the merchant marine. But ships were occasionally going to the bottom because the navigator said they were 100 miles from shore, when in fact they were literally on the rocks.

Navigation, at that time, was done by sighting on a few selected stars, checking the ship's chronometer (a very accurate — for the time — clock,) and looking up your position in a book of navigational tables. (Sorry, no LORAN or GPS in 1833.) These tables were produced by rooms full of calculators — but at that time a calculator was not a pocket-sized, or even desk-sized, machine — it was a human being. Teams of calculators were hired to compute the values that went into the tables by hand, with pencil and paper.

Of course, these human calculators occasionally made a mistake, and that mistake occasionally resulted in a ship going down. The British Post Office, which seemed to be in charge of everything in England that wasn't nailed down, was not amused. So, when a gentleman named Charles Babbage told them that he could build a machine that would generate the table values and stamp them into printing plates — entirely eliminating the chance of human error — they gave him a pile of money and told him to go ahead.

Babbage called his machine a difference engine, because it produced its tables by using a process consisting mainly of a series of subtractions. It was to consist of hundreds of gears and levers, and was to be driven by a steam engine. Unfortunately, midway through the construction process, Babbage had a brainstorm.

"The difference engine can only do one job," he said. "But if I make it several times more complicated, I'll be able to configure or 'program' it to solve ANY mathematical problem. I'll call it the Analytical Engine." So he pulled his machinist off the difference-engine project, and told him to start over on the Analytical Engine.

This was not a good move, because (1) the requirements on the new system completely overwhelmed the precision available with the machine tools of the day, (2) Babbage was already involved in a dispute over who owned the tools that the machinist had developed for the project, and (3) the Government was already balking at the cost of the difference engine. (Pushing the envelope of a new technology, a product that's obsolete before it goes into production, labor problems, cost over-runs; where have we heard all that before?)

The end of it was that Babbage's projects were both cancelled before they were fairly started, but computer historians agree that, if it had been built, the Analytical Engine would have been the world's first digital computer. It had all the essentials: a Central Processing Unit (he called it the Mill), a Memory (Store, to Babbage), Input, and Output units. Most importantly, it was to have its program stored in memory, a defining feature of the modern computer.

Babbage is generally credited with the invention of the digital computer, even though his design was never built, let alone operated. By this standard, Samuel Langley, or even DaVinci, should be credited with the invention of the airplane. Langley actually built a flyable plane before the Wright Brothers, but a caught rope caused it to crash on its first trial. Langley's plane was rebuilt and flown after the success at Kitty Hawk, but we all know who gets credit for inventing the airplane.

Ada, Countess Lovelace, the niece of the poet Lord Byron, was an acquaintance of Babbage and a promoter of his inventions in the fashionable circles of London. Several moderns have attempted to cast her in the role of the first computer programmer. Alas, she never wrote a line of programming in her life — there was no computer to write a program for! But facts must never be allowed to get in the way of a romantic story. When the U. S. defense department set out to form a standard programming language several years ago, they called it Ada.

Next time we'll look at some of the modern claimants to the invention of the computer.

Until then, 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 | 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 | KD8ZNX | 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 Orłowski | 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

January 15th 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 February 14th, 2025.

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