Monroe County Radio Communications Association

The Hertzian Herald

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D Fritz Bitz:

I went to the TMRA Hamfest this morning (which means my article is late again, sorry Fred). I have been working on two big projects the last few days. One is a video presentation due Monday at 6 and I still have about 5 hours left on it. The other is the BBA trade fair, which is next Saturday, and I still have many things to do for that. I'm sure I'll get them done but the pucker factor is a little high right now. I would have had more done last night but I fell asleep at the computer and didn't get as much done as I wanted. Not the first time I've done that.

I participated in the ARRL Worldwide DX contest last week and made a lot of 10 and 15 Meter contacts all over the world. The conditions were good and there were plenty of people to talk to. The Wisconsin QSO party was today but I was unable to participate this year. First year in a longtime I have not done Wisconsin. I'm looking forward to the Michigan QSO party in April. I won't miss that one!

It's time to start the big push for the MCRCA hamfest. I see Fred has the fliers made up and they were passing them out at TMRA. I'm hoping to get a sponsor this year to do the mailing and a radio vendor to supply some prizes again. My goal is to try to maintain the attendance at about what it was last year or a little better. Everyone is reporting a slight drop in attendance but I am working very hard not to see that here. Maybe dancing girls at the club booth. I'll talk to Vicky and Brenda. So, until next month, 73.

See you at the meeting.

Don Fritz, N8BZN

MCRCA March Program

This month's program is an overview of how the US government's GPS Navigation system works. It includes information on the satellites, the system timing and what is necessary in your hand held device to make it all work. Amazingly, it requires timing accuracy to better than 1 millionth of a second.

See you Thursday. **Question:** Whose GPS does Iran use?

Barb NM8I says she still has some shirts at the Red Cross for club members.
Rodney KE8ZNZ - Brian KE8WYY - George KB8OSU - Phil KE8YQE

http://mcrca.org/

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

Club Officers

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donfritz56@gmail.com

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Don N8BZN.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions: One new member, no upgrades and one guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Mike N8KUF, supported by Scott W8SMB, 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: Paul W8PI, some DX out there. KP5/NP3VI — Desecheo Island is workable. — AU7RS – Lakshadweep an island near India. -– 3Y0K, Bouvet Island is back on track with more people on two sides of the island.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, ARRL America250 WAS contest, two states each week. All territories, Guam, PR, on air also. The schedule can be found here: https://shorturl.at/aLaHq there is no virus either I just shortened the link. – ARRL Intl DX CW AND SSB Contests. – CQ WW WPX SSB Contest.-- QSO Parties: SC, NC, OK, ID, WI,VA

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. February 21, 2025**. Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

CLASSES: Don - Next class - Sat. February 14, 2025 contact Don N8BZN – Tech class 4 people - 3 passed, and one went all the way to General

ARPSC: Jim Toomey WD8NWF, we had visitors from the state of Michigan, Emergency Coordinators, presented Lance Charter with awards. – Skywarn coming up, registration required. — March 5th will be the next ARPSC Meeting and following Saturday WIN??????

RRRA: One new member, All working on air. Working on Echolink

OLD BUSINESS: Barb still has T-shirts for KE8ZNZ, KE8WYY, KB8OSU, KE8YQE. At the Red Cross.

NEW BUSINESS: Find new **Hamfest Chairman**, Monthly snack and door prize person, Field Day food person, and Christmas Coordinator.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Barb NM8I, and Dennis KE8ZAR

50/50: Dave KF8DRN, donated his winnings to scholarship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Livonia swap this February 21, 2026.

https://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop/

TMRA Swap March 15, 2026. https://w8hhf.org/hamfest/

PROGRAM: The history of some of our amateur radio satellites and focus on OSCAR Seven

ADJOURNED: 8:38 pm

ATTENDANCE: 24

NM8I	W8PH	WA8EFK	KF8DZD	KE8ZAR	N8BZN
K8OF	K8EBI	WD8NWF	KN8CR	N8DXR	N8KUF
KA8PQH	W8PI	N9PWL	KE8OSX	W8SMB	N8NYP
KC8SKP	KF8DRN & XYL		W8HEJ	Ron Guyor	
Michael Ebbs					

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

The Monroe County NWS SKYWARN Training will be Wednesday March 25th from 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Bedford Branch Library 8575 Jackman Rd. Temperance, MI. You MUST register with EMD by going to: https://www.co.monroe.mi.us/305/Sky-Warn-Spotter and filling out the registration form.

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

We will be having an on-air SKYWARN Tuesday April 7th on air on 72 Monroe at 7pm-8:30pm. Though it is geared towards preparing operators to handle SKYWARN net control duties, it is also a good refresher to anyone that participates in the SKYWARN activation's on how to properly report any weather issues. We are in need of operators to inject reports, work as a liaison station with another county (Lenawee), and liaison with the simulated MICON (DTX Amateur Radio) net. If you are interested, please email me by April 2nd and I will get you all the information you will need. If you don't want to expend a lot of energy, but still wish to participate, simply check in when we call for check ins.

While I am still on the topic of nets, I would like to take this opportunity to convey a HUGE Thank You out to the folks that operate as Net Control Stations for the weekly nets. These operators have taken the leap of getting behind the microphone and directing the nets, which can be daunting in itself, but allows them to become more proficient operators and hone many skills. Several of these Operators also step up and fill the important role as SKYWARN Net Controls when bad weather threatens the county. If you talk with any of these folks, please thank them for their time in helping out the county. Better yet, ask them what it takes to become a NCS and consider volunteering one Monday.

Tom Imlach KE8KNZ
Mark Wheeler W8MCW
Ed Keller WS8Y
Jim Toomey WD8NWF

Next week, March 15-21 is Michigan Severe Weather Week. The State suggests all sirens be tested at 1pm on Wednesday March 18th and the NWS weather radios will also be tested at that time. HOWEVER, Monroe County will NOT be participating in the siren test on Wednesday as sirens are tested monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at 10am which will be the following Wednesday. EMD does not want to cause any confusion with setting sirens off 2 weeks in a row, but your weather radios should still sound as long as there is no severe weather anywhere in the state that day.

You can go to https://www.michigan.gov/miready/be-informed/severeweatherawareness for more information on preparedness.

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 the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. Next meeting is Thursday April 2nd

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
Emergency Coordinator
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps

PY6CJ - João Grisi Online is in **Brasil (País)**.

Dipole Gain and Electrical Length

The dipole antenna is one of the most fundamental and widely used radiating structures in radio frequency engineering and amateur radio communications. Its radiation characteristics are strongly dependent on the electrical length of the conductor relative to the operating wavelength (λ).

A half-wave dipole (0.5λ) represents the classical reference antenna for many RF systems. In free space, it provides a theoretical maximum gain of approximately 2.14 dBi relative to an isotropic radiator. This value is commonly used as a baseline in antenna comparisons and link-budget calculations.

As the electrical length of the dipole increases, the current distribution along the conductor changes significantly. Instead of a single current maximum at the center, longer dipoles develop multiple current maxima and phase reversals along the element. These changes modify the far-field radiation pattern and create additional radiation lobes.

For example:

- At 1λ, the antenna develops two main radiation lobes with a gain increase compared to the half-wave dipole.
- Around 1.25λ, constructive interference between current sections can produce a higher forward gain, reaching values near 5 dBi depending on the exact configuration and environment.
- When the dipole length approaches 1.5λ, the radiation pattern becomes more complex, with several lobes appearing at different elevation angles. While certain lobes may exhibit increased gain, the overall distribution of radiated power becomes less uniform.

Because of these pattern transformations, increasing the dipole length does not always result in a monotonic gain increase in the desired direction. Instead, the energy is redistributed into multiple lobes, which may be advantageous or undesirable depending on the application.

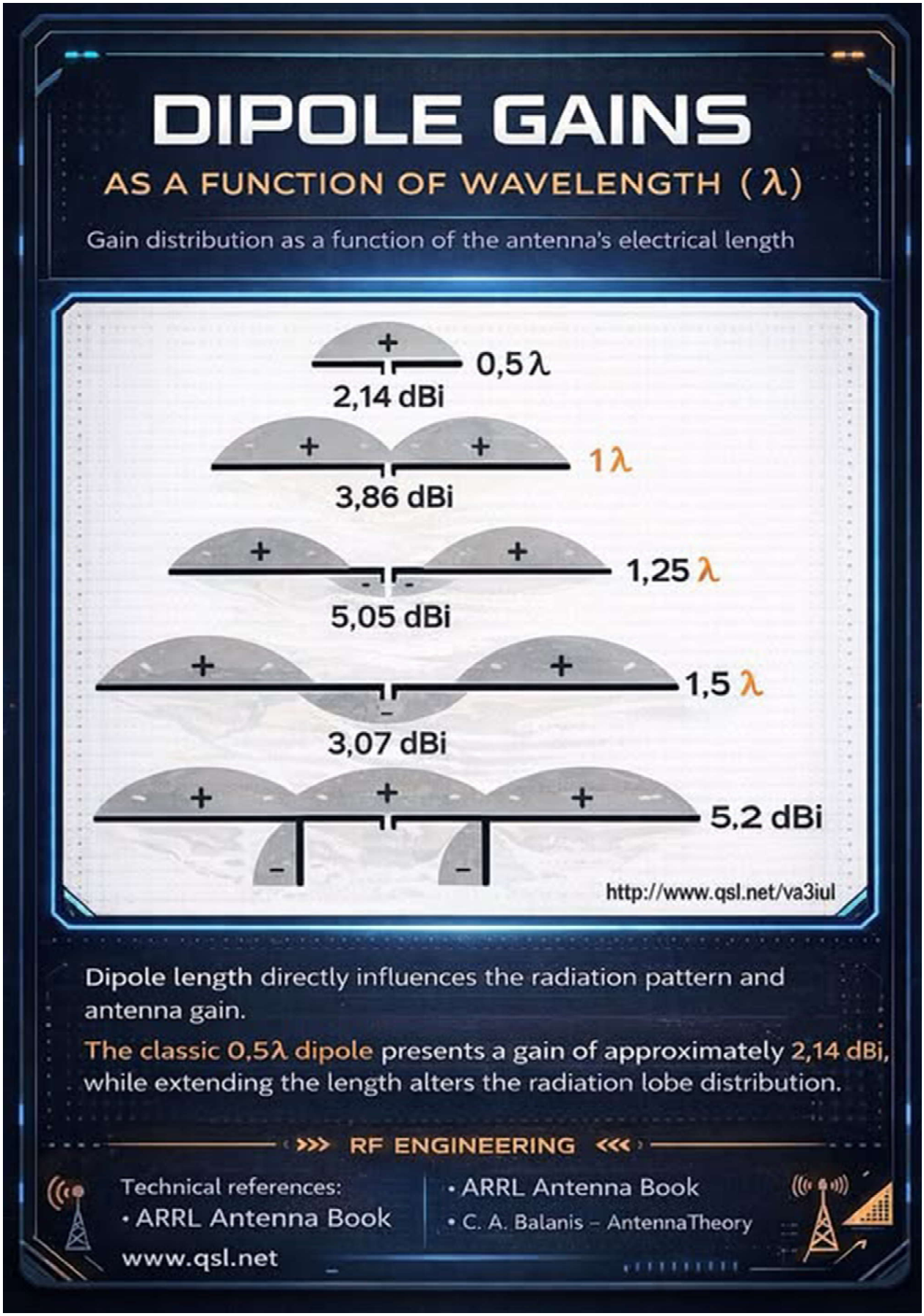
In practical antenna engineering and amateur radio practice, these behaviors are important when designing antennas for:

- HF long-distance communication (DX)
- directional radiation control
- multiband wire antennas
- pattern shaping for specific propagation angles

Understanding the relationship between dipole length, current distribution, and radiation pattern allows engineers and radio amateurs to optimize antenna performance for their specific operating conditions.

73 from PY6CJ - João Grisi

(Dipole Gain Graphic - Nex Page)


DIPOLE GAINS
AS A FUNCTION OF WAVELENGTH (λ)
Gain distribution as a function of the antenna's electrical length
0,5 λ
2,14 dBi
1 λ
3,86 dBi
1,25 λ
5,05 dBi
1,5 λ
3,07 dBi
5,2 dBi
http://www.qsl.net/va3iul
Dipole length directly influences the radiation pattern and antenna gain.
The classic 0,5λ dipole presents a gain of approximately 2,14 dBi, while extending the length alters the radiation lobe distribution.
RF ENGINEERING
Technical references:
• ARRL Antenna Book
www.qsl.net
• ARRL Antenna Book
• C. A. Balanis – AntennaTheory

Tech Trivia 30 — What¹s In A Name?

Pick any field of study you like, and chances are the ancient Greeks originated it. The word for our technology, electronics, comes from the Greek elektra, meaning amber. Amber is the dark translucent yellow substance obtained when tree sap hardens — an early plastic, if you will. When amber was rubbed with lamb's wool, the Greeks noticed the clinging phenomenon familiar to any modern who has ever taken a piece of nylon clothing out of a dryer. Ben Franklin and others picked up this investigation of electrostatics 2000 years later, with results known to us all.

The words electric and electron were widely used in the first decades of the twentieth century, but the word electronics, implying applications of the vacuum tube beyond the original radio area, did not gain currency until a magazine bearing that name appeared in 1930.

Lee Deforest, inventor of the triode vacuum tube, called his invention the audion — a contraction of audio and ion. He remained convinced that its operation depended on ionized gas inside the bulb long after nearly everyone else had recognized the need for a near-perfect vacuum. DeForest also used the term 'wing' for the element which everyone now calls the plate. Of course, Ambrose Fleming, who invented the vacuum diode called it a valve, and the British continue to say 'valve' where we would say 'tube,' such are national loyalties.

The word transistor was coined as a contraction of transfer resistor. Transfer is an engineering term implying a relationship between an electrical output quantity and an input voltage or current. The idea was that an input current would control an output resistance. The term is not a good one, because the transistor¹s output characteristics are not at all like those of a resistor. Doubling the collector voltage does not double the collector current, for example; it hardly changes collector current at all.

We call a three-terminal variable resistor a potentiometer because an early version of this device was used in a potential-measuring circuit. A known voltage was voltage-divided down to exactly balance the unknown voltage, as indicated by zero reading on a galvanometer. Today, of course, a 'pot' is but seldom used in a potentiometer circuit.

No naming question generates so much heat on internet newsgroups as the BNC connector. Some say it means British Naval Connector, while others insist it stands for Baby N-series Connector. One authoritative-sounding post said it simply recognizes the style and designers: Bayonet Neill Concelman.

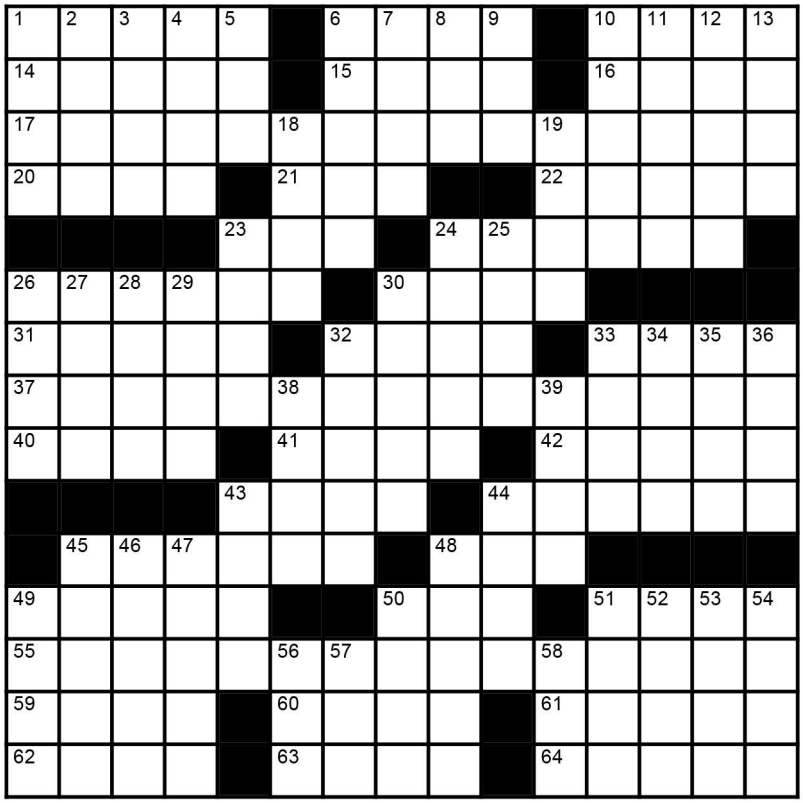
There is less controversy over the XLR mic connector. X is simply the manufacturer's series, L denotes a newer Locking version that won¹t fall out, and R is for the Rubber inset for the pins, replacing the hard plastic which resulted in pin damage.

National Radio¹s famous top-of-the-line receivers, beginning in the Œ30s and culminating in the Œ60s, were named the HRO series. An old timer at the company related that the original production run was done under pressure approaching panic — it was a Hell of a Rush Order. I can believe such flippancy, because when I worked for an elevator company the prototype for a certain controller was built on a wooden frame. Someone had scribbled the size of a saw cut on one of the boards: 4 x 5 inches. It became known throughout the industry as the 4XS controller.

Until next month, 73 de Dan, K8JWR

by Chris Codella, W2PA 2/9/2008

Aerial View



Across

1. 10 kilogauss
6. UA parliament
10. Kludge
14. Kind of socket or tube
15. Ancient OA-lander
16. Competent
17. Improbable dream VHF/UHF antenna
20. Achy, as after an antenna project
21. Transceiver knob label
22. Part connections
23. Ckt.between IF and AF
24. Suffix with bio- or proto-
26. Loud speaker
30. Eye part
31. US hams do it every 10 years, usually
32. "That's great, friend", on CW
33. Be next to
37. What rural hams fancy themselves?
40. Feedline badness
41. Baseball stats
42. Symbol in coax specs
43. Go out of your cell area
44. Unidirectional dipole
45. Where all good signals go, eventually?
48. Late summer contest
49. Tribander parts
50. Kind of FET
51. They have replaced tuning dials in modern rigs, often.
55. Improbable dream HF antenna
59. K, on phone
60. Elser-Mathes Cup target
61. Look of disdain
62. One meaning of V
63. Switch type
64. They deliver power

Down

1. Narrowest tower sections, often
2. EME signal
3. Sirius, for one
4. Emit coherent light
5. Draft pick
6. One's self, on CW
7. Ampere, for one
8. Lots and lots of Hz in the old days
9. Word to a doctor
10. Bugs, Roger, Peter, et. al.
11. Garfield's middle name
12. Copper often does it
13. Enables, as a transmitter
18. Kind of hunter, in radio
19. Word of regret
23. "See you ____ the log"
24. Univ. teachers
25. Kilo follower
26. Not written
27. W7-land city
28. What this puzzle is about, for short
29. Connectors named for their shape
30. Italian yagi?
32. One C per V
33. BBs, e.g.
34. E, to a non-ham?
35. Encourage
36. Bygone UA leader
38. It glows amber
39. Part
43. Sometimes causes antenna failure
44. Window part, where the feedline might come in
45. Group of trees
46. 5 wpm, 70 mph, etc.
47. Eyeball benders
48. Least good
49. Gait faster than a walk
50. QSLs often go via them (abbr.)
51. Lead-ins to P
52. Future ham, sometimes
53. Became SK
54. Switching semiconductors
56. RX spec.
57. Break, during a long contest, say
58. Sig. src.

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.

March 19, 2026

Call	Name	Exp date
KE8PUN	Aaron Liske	2025
NM8I	Barbara Wilson	2026
KE8TPU	Bill Mercer	2022
KB8KQC	Brenda VanDaele	2026
KF8AOL	Bob Morrison	2026
WB8GUN	Bob Van Klingeren	2026
KE8WYY	Brian Paules	2026
WA8EFK	Dale Williams	2026
KC8BUD	Daniel Bain	2024
KB8AQJ	Dan Kay	2025
	Nancy Kay	2025
AC8SI	Dave Buchko	2026
W8IIE	Dave Benoit	2023
KF8DRN	Dave Grassley	2026
K8EKG	David Hatfield	2024
KE8RXC	Debbie Bardoni	2022
KC8CCR	Debbkie Forgacs	2027
KF8DZD	Delmer Taylor	2026
KE8ZAR	Dennis Hulvey	2026
N8BZN	Donald Fritz	2026
KF8CCH	Doug Orr	2027
K8OF	Doug Wherry	2026
WS8Y	Ed Keller Jr	2023
KC8RQK	Fred Kinsey	2025
K8EBI	Fred VanDaele	2026
KB8OSU	George Low	2026
KE8VLQ	Gregory Milatz	2026
KE8VTT	Isaac Burkey	2026
KE8VLW	James Kiester	2024
WD8NWF	James Toomey	2026
KN8CR	Jeff Breitner	2026
K8OLV	Jeff Giles	2026
KE8WMY	Jefferson Mathews	2023
K9JP	Jeff Peters	2027
W8HEJ	Joe Hays	
N8RWI	John Bills	2025
N8DXR	John Copeland	2026
K8UMF	John Miller	2025
WA8YZB	John Turner	2027

Call	Name	Exp date
KJ8H	Keith Hutchinson	2026
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	2026
AD8EV	Michael Mc Peek	2021
KA8PQH	Neil Remaklus	2026
KF8AYH	Omar Metwally	2025
W8PI	Paul Trouten	2026
KC8AZZ	Peter Forgacs	2027
KE8YQE	Phil Bardoni	2025
W8NBS	Randy Meyer	2022
N9PWL	Rick Durham	2027
KE8RIJ	Rich Spackey	2027
KE8UNH	Rick Wykle	2022
KD8ZUI	Rob Howe	2026
K8HV	Robert Lawrence	2022
KE8OSX	Ron Duvall	2027
KE8CQO	Ron Hills	2025
KD8ZNZ	Rodney Haddix	2026
WO0O	Russ DeCrease	2025
KD8HYS	Sandra Burr	2026
W8SMB	Scott Burkey	2026
WA8PYL	Scott Retzlaff	2026
KE8MFY	Steve Orlowski	2026
N8NYP	Terry Kolton	2029
N8OSC	Tom Cooper	2024
KE8UDH	Tom Hughey	2022
KE8KNZ	Tom Imlach	2022
KG8P	Tom Jenkins	2026
KE8NSU	Tony Griffin	2027
KC8SKP	Wes Busdiecker	2027
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

2026 Schedule:
February 21 April 18
June 20 August 15
October 17 December 19

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

March 19th 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 April 11th, 2026.

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

Dave Grassley