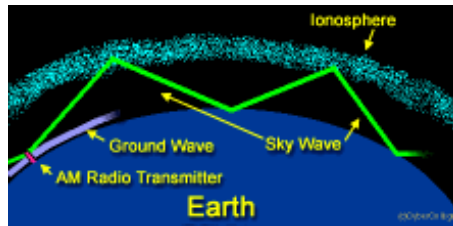


The Hertzian Herald



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N8DXR's Ground Waves



I would like to get started by announcing that the construction at the Red Cross Building is completed and we will resume our meetings there starting with our January 18th, 2018 meeting. During the extensive remodeling of the building our radio room was undisturbed and there was space designated for our meetings.

Well folks this is going to wrap it up for the year. Once again the MCRCA had a great year with all of the events we participate in. We started off the busy part of the season with the Michigan QSO Party in mid-April. Everyone should remember that if you are not be able to participate at the club station you can still work our state QSO Party from your home station and share your points earned with the club.

In May the Dayton Hamvention was held at the Green County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio and many of us were there to explore the new facility. It was a great event despite some things not going as planned plus the weather was not cooperative. But as usual DARA did an incredible job with this first time outing and one can be assured that each subsequent year will be better than the one before.

As usual June is our busiest month with our Hamfest and the ARRL Field Day a week apart. Both of these annual happenings were once again a great success. Because of those who plan, those who do set it up and those in attendance to make sure the event runs as it should, our Hamfest continues to be a well-attended, fun and popular event. Then there is Field Day. The MCRCA did a fine job with 6,734 points in the 2A category and finished 18th in the Great Lakes Section. The weather cooperated, the radios worked, the food was great and everyone had a good time. That's about as great as Field Day can get.

The following months were filled with special events, state qso parties and contests of all types. All of that brought us to October and the inaugural Great Lakes HamCon. The MCRCA was charged with conducting the door prize and grand prize drawings plus the awarding of the prizes. Because of the contribution of the time and the energies of those from our club and from other clubs who volunteered to help out, we got the job done and done right and contributed to making this first GLHamCon a success.

Thank you to everyone in the MCRCA for your support and I am sure that we will have a successful 2018.

Hope to see you at our meetings and on the air.

73 John - N8DXR

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

John Copeland N8DXR
jcn8dxr@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Glen Ohlemacher K8GO
goglen@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI
w8pi@arrl.net

DIRECTOR

Rodney Haddix
rodhaddix@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

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MCRCA Minutes:

November 16, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm, by John Copeland N8DXR

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

PROGRAM: None

BREAK

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Rodney KD8ZNZ, Gary W8GPR, and Bob AC8DZ

50/50: Rodney KD8ZNZ donated to scholarship

MINUTES: Motion by Bob AC8DZ, supported by Gary W8GPR, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Dave AC8SI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P reports plenty of DX, bands are open, DX on all bands. Lots of Caribbean and others. Bands are challenging but not dead.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. December 16, 2017. Cancelled till after the first of the year.

ARPSC: Nothing new.

ARRL: Larry Camp WB8R, Michigan Section Manager, is retiring.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF reports everything is the same as last month. The 220 is back up, crosslinks are adjusted and improved, still work to do on the downtown link and the Whiteford link. The RRRA is welcoming memberships new or old.

GLHamCon: Glen K8GO, Same weekend in October next year, getting ready for next year and making adjustments. May need to do a fund raising of some sort. Planning larger flea market, adjusting layout for next year.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Christmas Party will be held at the EMD office on Raisinville Rd.

ANOUNCEMENTS: L'ANSE CREUSE swap December 3, 2017

ADJOURNED: ??:?? pm

ATTENDANCE: 13

AC8DZ Dave
KA8EBI Fred
KB8KQC Brenda
KD8ZNZ Rodney
KG8P Tom
N8KUF Mike
W8GPR Gary

K8GO Glen
KA8PQH Neil
KC8SKP Wes
KE8DRP Hank
N8DXR John
AC8DZ Bob



Committees

Classes

Club Station

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

DX Net

Field Day

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Finance

Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)
Fred VanDaele KA8EBI
Dale Williams WA8EFK

HamFest

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Hertzian Herald

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Historian

Paul W8PI

Public Relations

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Scholarship

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

School Liaison

open

Programs

open

Membership

open

Planning

open

Property Custodian

open

MCRCA Christmas Party

Thursday December 21st is our annual Christmas Party, Potluck and Dirty Santa Swap. The club will provide several entrees, lettuce salad, pop, coffee, paper and plastic ware. We ask that you bring a dish to pass or favorite treat or goodie, and join us in all the fun. You may even get lucky and take home one of the fabulous gifts.



Santa's prime time on amateur radio

The precise timing of Christmas celebrations varies from region to region.

For some it's Christmas Eve. For some Christmas Day. In some cases, it may even be later on in January when the Russian Father Frost makes an appearance. But in the world of Santa Radio, prime time is this coming weekend - December 16-17.

During the first Santa week, some 18,000 QSOs were made and the competition in the ClubLog for Santa slots was fierce; www.clublog.org/charts/?c=OJ9X

Conditions so far have not been favorable towards North America, thus more fire-power will be directed towards the US now. Also, RTTY will be getting a big boost on virtually all bands as Santa may even jump into deep waters and join the OK RTTY Contest, for 24-hours; Saturday from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC.

The overall target has been set to surpassing last year's QSO total - 33,615. You have a major say in this!

We are proud to announce this year's Santa team of some thirty (30) members, while some late arrivals may still be added onto the list;

OH0XX, OH1EG, OH1HS, OH1MA, OH1NOA, OH1NX, OH1TM, OH1RX, OH2BAD, OH2BCI, OH2BEE, OH2BH, OH2FB, OH2GEK, OH2EUU, OH2HAN, OH2KM, OH2KW, OH2LU, OH2MZB, OH2PM, OH2XX, OH5BQ, OH5CZ, OH6KN, OH6KZP, OH6MW, OH6NVC, OH6VDA, OH7ER, OH7UE, OH7WP, OH7XI.

These fine operators represent some ten (10) different clubs and have been in part selected based on their good operating skills as well as the force of their signals.

A few additional comments may be in order;

* The QSOs will be added to ClubLog with an approx. 24-hour delay - do not panic

* Dedicated specific band mode-stations cannot move as such, but other same band modes maybe QRV just around the corner

* If Santa Radio is calling a specific area, such as USA, please kindly cooperate and allow them to accomplish their mission

* See more details about "Finland 100-Years Award! in the QRZ.com - OJ9X

* If you expect Radio Santa to appear down the chimney - kindly leave some milk and cookies on the table

Merry Christmas to our Wonderful World of Amateur Radio and good luck to those who are keeping the dials lit for more Santa Radio slots.

Amateur Radio Volunteers Active in Latest Round of California Wildfires

12/11/2017 ARRL

The massive and barely contained Thomas Fire in Southern California has consumed more than 230,500 acres, and the emergency has caused residents in fire-threatened areas to evacuate. Amateur Radio volunteers remain active supporting communication for American Red Cross shelters in Ventura County. More evacuations are likely, although the need for Amateur Radio assistance remains dynamic. Cal Fire said today (December 11) that evacuation operations will occur ahead of westward fire growth, speeded by low humidity and gusty Santa Ana winds, which will push the fire further into Santa Barbara, County. One of several fires that have broken out across Southern California, the Thomas Fire is far and away the largest.

Ventura County Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS)/ARES activated a week ago to support Red Cross shelters there, providing communications between shelters. Radio amateurs also have deployed to the Ventura County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). ACS/ARES expects to be deployed while shelters are open. According to ARRL Ventura County District Emergency Coordinator Rob Hanson, W6RH, the ACS/ARES volunteers are staffing four evacuation centers, in addition to the EOC.

Santa Barbara Section Manager Jim Fortney, K6IYK, told ARRL, an Amateur Radio digital network (ARDN) MESH video network has been live streaming images from several sites, as long as the network remains up.



"Loss of primary power has required using the solar power backup capabilities, but, unfortunately, the heavy smoke has made that backup less than fully reliable," he said. In addition some sites are down because of power outages, and at least one hilltop site was overrun by fire.

"The Santa Barbara District ARES organization works closely with Santa Barbara County OEM [and] is prepared to support any requests as the Thomas Fire continues to burn into Santa Barbara County," Fortney said.



Rich Beisigl, N6NKJ, reported that the Fallbrook Amateur Radio Group and other groups in the North County (San Diego) are providing communication at some evacuation centers, and the Red Cross has activated its Amateur Radio group. He said a group in Carlsbad also was providing shelter communication support.

In addition to power loss to repeater sites, solar panels charging off-grid batteries have been affected by the huge plumes of smoke blocking the sun.

ARRL Los Angeles Section Manager Diana Feinberg, AI6DF, said little official use of Amateur Radio was made during the fires in her Section. "All city and county governmental

radio systems, commercial cellphone networks, and landline phone systems operated normally throughout the three fires in Los Angeles County, with just a few minor power outages of short duration." At one point, the ARES-LAX Northwest District was very briefly in standby mode when it was thought that power might become intermittent at a hospital in the Santa Clarita area.

Feinberg said the City of Los Angeles Fire Department ACS opened a net for any traffic resulting from the small Skirball Fire, which claimed a half-dozen expensive homes and shut down a major freeway during the morning commute.

Radio Anniversaries Abound in December

12/12/2017 ARRL

December is the month in which three notable events in radio history occurred — the first radio transmission heard across the Atlantic Ocean in 1901, the first broadcast of the human voice and music in 1906, and the first successful transatlantic Amateur Radio HF transmissions in 1921.

Marconi's 1901 Transatlantic Transmission

On December 12, 1901, Italian wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi succeeded in receiving the first transatlantic radio signal, transmitted from Poldhu, in Cornwall, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Marconi's team in Cornwall transmitted the letter "S" in Morse code, and this was heard by Marconi and his assistant George Kemp at a facility set up in Cabot Tower on Signal Hill in St. John's. On the Cornwall side, Marconi had erected a powerful spark-gap transmitter feeding a massive antenna. The receiving team used a kite antenna. The experiment proved that radio signals could be transmitted beyond the line of sight, opening the door to global wireless communication.



An article in the December 2007 issue of QST suggested that absorption may have been less in 1901 than in the 21st century, perhaps contributing to the success of the feat, which occurred during daylight on the Canadian end.

Fessenden's 1906 Broadcast from Brant Rock

On Christmas Eve 1906, experimenter Reginald Fessenden made what may have been the first radio broadcast to include speech and music. The transmission originated at Brant Rock, Massachusetts, about 30 miles from Boston.

Historic accounts say Fessenden played the violin — or a recording of violin music — and read a brief Bible verse, astounding radio experimenters and shipboard operators who heard the broadcast.

The ARRL Transatlantic Tests Revisited

In 1921, ARRL sponsored two series of transatlantic tests to see if signals from previously qualified Amateur Radio stations could be heard at a receiving station in Ardrossan, Scotland. The second series succeeded, with several ham stations heard on the receiving end, using equipment far superior to what had been available to Marconi just 20 years earlier. "The Story of the Transatlantics" chronicled the events in the February 1922 issue of QST, to great fanfare. As Mike Marinaro, WN1M, recounted in "The Transatlantic Tests," in May 2014 QST, the first signal "unofficially" heard in Scotland was actually that of a pirate, identifying as 1AW and not using the prearranged transmission format.

The "rough listening post" in Scotland, staffed by receiver designer Paul Godley and D.E. Pearson of the Marconi Company, was equipped with a superheterodyne and regenerative receiver connected to a 1,300-foot Beverage antenna, 12 feet above ground.

On December 10, the CW signals of official entry 1BCG, owned by Minton Cronkhite, "were solidly heard on 230 to 235 meters," Marinaro wrote in 2014. "This signal derived from the specially designed and constructed station of the Radio Club of America at Greenwich, Connecticut — the only station heard that morning."

Connecticut radio amateur and radio history buff Clark Burgard, N1BCG, will be among those celebrating the 96th anniversary of the first transatlantic shortwave transmission in Greenwich, Connecticut. Several other stations will take part by establishing contacts between the US and Europe, including GM7VSB in Ardrossan, Scotland.

No specific bands and frequencies were set in advance, in order to "permit flexibility due to propagation." Burgard has posted additional information on his QRZ.com profile page.



The American Radio Relay League's round-up of the forthcoming week's DX activity on the amateur radio bands

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

VIET NAM, 3W. Dirk, DF2XG is QRV as 3W9XG from Hai Phong while here on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via operator's instructions.

GEORGIA, 4L. Vlad, UA4WHX will soon be QRV as 4L/UA4WHX. Activity will be on 40 to 17 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

CYPRUS, 5B. Alex, 5B4ALX is QRV as special event station 5B4XMAS until December 31. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via IZ4AMS.

SENEGAL, 6V. Members of the Amateur Radio Association of Senegal are QRV as 6V1A from Goree Island, IOTA AF-045, until December 17. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via 6W7JX.

BARBADOS, 8P. Ernest, J69Z is QRV as 8P9JB until January 2, 2018. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters. QSL direct to home call.

PALESTINE, E4. Elvira, IV3FSG is QRV as E44YL from Bethlehem until December 18. Activity is on the various HF bands using SSB and possibly digital modes. QSL via IK3GES.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Mauri, AG1LE is QRV as E51DXX from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, until December 29. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB, PSK31 and FT8. QSL to home call.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Rieder, HB9FIH is QRV as EA8/HB9FIH from El Hierro Island, IOTA AF-004, until the end of March 2018. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 6 meters, using CW, RTTY, PSK, and some SSB. QSL to home call.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Shane, VK4KHZ is QRV as H44DA from Busone, Malaita Province until early January 2018. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, and satellite SO-50, but with a primary emphasis on 6 meters. QSL direct to home call.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Special event call DT23WOP is QRV until February 28, 2018 during the Winter Olympic Games that will be held here. QSL via HL1IWD.

DJIBOUTI, J2. Dane, S53T is QRV as J28ND until December 17. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via S57DX.

SVALBARD, JW. Morten, LA4JSA is QRV as JW4JSA from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until June 1, 2018 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on the various HF bands. QSL to home call.

BELGIUM, ON. Members of the Club Radio Durnal will be QRV as OT100BCA on December 17 from the Royal Castle of Laeken. QSL via ON4RCD.

POLAND, SP. Special event station SN20WHL is QRV until December 20 to draw attention to the city of Torun that was put on the UNESCO World Heritage List 20 years ago. QSL via SP2TMT.

CORSICA, TK. Georg, NZ1C will be QRV as TK/NZ1C from December 16 to 24. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW, with some SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8. QSL via DD5ZZ.

UKRAINE, UR. Members of the amateur radio club Band are QRV as EM25IWW until the end of the year to celebrate the club's 25th anniversary. QSL via UR7IWW.

INDIA, VU. Members of the Manipal Institute of Technology radio club are QRV as AT6MIT until January 7, 2018 to celebrate the institution's 60th anniversary. QSL via VU3BUN.

ROMANIA, YO. Special event station YP2018HNY will be QRV from December 15 to January 15, 2018 to celebrate Christmas and the New Year 2018. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via YO3KPA.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, NCCC RTTY Sprint, 80-Meter QRP CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, UN DIGI Contest, AGB-Party Contest, Russian 160-Meter Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, OK DX RTTY Contest, Padang DX Contest and the Croatian CW Contest are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for December 18.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and 40-Meter QRP CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for December 20.

Please see December QST, page 73, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.



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, PO Box 237, Monroe, MI 48161**. 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 – PACKET - RTTY - FM - DX - MOBILE - QRP - SSTV - ATV - EME - SAT

Interests: Traffic - DX - Contests - Foxhunts - Satellites - Nets – Antennas - Computers
Emergency - ARES/RACES - Skywarn - Classic Radios

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

Walk-ins are always welcome.

2017 Schedule:

February 18	April 15
June 17	August 19
October 21	December 16

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 21st at 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