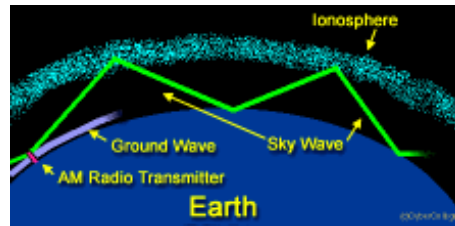


The Hertzian Herald



March 2018 • Volume 42, Issue 3 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A. • www.mcrca.org

N8DXR's Ground Waves



Our meeting on the 15th of this month will be held only five days from the first day of spring. Hopefully we will be past the worst winter had to offer and well on our way to warm weather and sunny days.

Late winter and early spring is usually when many of us venture out to survey the outside portion of our station to see what survived and what didn't. This is also a great time to make decisions about any improvements or additions to our antenna system that we would like to make in the coming months. Despite claims that "The bands are dead" they are not dead all the time. Sometimes they are good to fair and at other times they are weak and stubborn. It's often antennas and feedlines accompanied by good radio practices that can make the difference between a QSO that is completed or not in this low solar cycle. Last weekend was a good example. During the ARRL DX Contest on SSB contacts could be made from Pacific Asia to the Indian Ocean and all of Europe and all of South and Central America. Sure a tall tower with a monster Yagi on top would make things easier but last weekend many contacts could be made with well installed, and sometimes modest, wire antennas. Besides the ARRL's plethora of great antenna publications there are others that can be of great information value to newer amateurs as well as those with more experience. Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur is the one of them and should be in everyone's station library. Another is the ARRL's Best of The Doctor is In by Joel Halas. This compendium of answers to questions submitted to Joel by amateurs covers all types of antennas and transmission lines. These publications are both informational and instructional. They offer many tips and solutions that can lead to a better functioning antenna system and more QSOs.

March is the gateway to the start of the busiest part of the spring and summer radio season for the MCRCA. Our Michigan QSO party will be held the 21st of next month. In past years we have had operations from our station in the Red Cross Building so if there is enough interest we should be on the air there this year. June is our big month with our Hamfest at the fairgrounds on the 16th and 17th followed a week later by the ARRL Field Day at Vienna Park. The June Hamfest is our single most important event. It is the major source of the clubs operating revenue for the coming year. We need all the volunteers we can get for setup on Saturday and especially on Sunday for the event. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Hope to see you at our meetings and on the air. 73 John - N8DXR

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MCRCA Minutes:

February 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by John Copeland N8DXR

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades and one guest.

PROGRAM: Tom K8GP program on the N9MM Vertzilla antenna

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Tom K8GP, Dale WA8EFK, and Wes KC8SKP

50/50: Paul W8PI

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

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Wes KC8SKP, supported by Paul W8PI, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom K8GP, Bouvet Island Cancelled because of weather a \$1M DXpedition. Z61DX Kosovo has been added as a new entity and will be on the air soon. ARRL CW DX Contest this weekend, they are testing their equipment now. Two weeks later will be the Phone Contest.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: March program by Jim Kvochick, K8JK, Michigan Section Manager.
April program by Jerry Begel W9NPI
May everyone will be in Dayton.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. February 17, 2018.

ARPSC: Mike N8KUF, The muskrat run held at the State Park went well. Next ARPSC meeting will be March 1st at the EMD.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, The Great Lakes Convention will be held at Dayton and the Michigan State Convention will be held at HamCon in October at MIS. ARRL's chief executive officer for the past 2 years, Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, announced his retirement as CEO, as the ARRL Board of Directors is searching for a new CEO.

RRRA: Dale WA8EFK, It's been 18 months since the repeater move and doing upgrades etc. almost done now. Going to hardwire the link to the Ida repeater, then upgrade all remote sites. Most of them have 40-year-old equipment.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANOUNCEMENTS: Livonia Hamfest Feb 18, 2018. TMRA March 18th the club has a table if anyone has equipment to sell.

ADJOURNED: 8:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: 17

K8GO	Glen	KA8EBI	Fred	KA8PQH	Neil
KC8SKP	Wes	KD8ZNZ	Rodney	KF8LT	Jim
K8GP	Tom	N8DXR	John	N8KUF	Mike
N8NYP	Terry	W8PI	Paul	WA8EFK	Dale
AC8DZ	Bob	KE8CQW	Sandra	W8GPR	Gary
K8TMS	Tom	Jimmie Guyor			

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

Looking Back: Radio Shack soared, with several stores in Sioux Falls

Eric Renshaw, For the Argus Leader Published 11:22 a.m. CT Feb. 22, 2018

The first Radio Shack store came into existence in Boston in 1921. It was established by Theodore and Milton Deutschmann as a retail outlet for amateur or ham radio enthusiasts.

The company was named after the structures aboard ships that held all the radio equipment. Amateur radio was really taking off in the early '20s, and the Deutschmanns were able to tap into this fervor with one retail outlet and eventually a thriving mail-order business. Radio Shack sent out its first catalog in 1939 as it began diversifying into high-fidelity music.

By 1954, Radio Shack started selling its own branded stereo equipment under the name Realist. The company was forced to change the brand name to Realistic after being sued by a company called Stereo Realist, which made stereo cameras - cameras that would allow users to essentially take their own View-Master pictures. In the early 1960s, Radio Shack fell on hard times and careened toward bankruptcy. It was at that point that Charles D. Tandy entered the picture.

From the age of 12, Charles Tandy had worked in his father's leather business. While serving in the US Navy during World War II, he noticed sailors doing needlepoint and knitting as recuperative therapy. Tandy thought the men might prefer working with leather as their medium and established a system of craftwork involving leather for the sailors' recuperation.

After the war, Tandy took this concept, named it Tandycraft and turned it into what would become a major part of his father's business. In 1963, Tandy acquired the ailing Radio Shack for \$300,000, seeing the potential in the company. At the time, Radio Shack consisted of the mail-order business and nine retail stores around Boston.

Looking Back: Park Ridge mall enhanced southwest part of 1955 Sioux Falls

Tandy shut down the mail-order business, ended credit purchases, slimmed down top management and streamlined the product line from 40,000 items to 2,500. He used data from mail-order purchases to select markets in which to expand. Managers of the stores were required to take an ownership stake in their location as incentive to remain profitable. Radio Shack grew quickly with Tandy's hand at the wheel.

On March 3, 1968, Tandy Corporation announced a new complex of stores in Sioux Falls, to be built at the northeast corner of 42nd and Western, just east of the new Western Mall. The complex would include Radio Shack, Color Tile Supermart and Tandycrafts - all of which were Tandy Corporation properties. General contracting was handled by Gil Haugan Construction.

Radio Shack opened its doors on June 26, 1969, with amazing deals on radios, home intercom systems, reel-to-reel recorders and more. A battery club card could be had for the asking, and each proud member of this club could receive a fresh, new battery once a month upon presentation of the card. At this time, the Tandy Corp. owned more than 650 Radio Shack locations across the country.

A second Radio Shack opened in the new Empire Plaza in September 1975. This location was smaller, but if you were at the mall anyway (and who wasn't, back when malls were popular), it was more convenient.

Less than a year later, a third location popped up in the Eastside Plaza at the southwest corner of 10th and Thompson, with a grand opening date of July 21, 1976. At this time, Radio Shack had more than 4,600 stores in the U.S. and Canada.

In early 1983, Radio Shack opened a computer store at 1700 S. Minnesota Ave. It was a place to attend computer camps and take classes to learn about these new-fangled computer things the kids were into. Radio Shack had introduced one of the first mass-marketed personal computers in 1977. The TRS-80, named for Tandy Radio Shack and the Zilog Z80 processor, was ground-breaking in its marketing only; it used a proprietary operating system, TRSDOS. This meant most of the software available for the machine could be purchased only through Radio Shack.

From the time it was purchased by Tandy, Radio Shack grew exponentially, but perhaps it flew too close to the sun. Though it was always the place to go for diodes, resistors and other electronic components, the sort of nerds who needed these things were eventually able to find them online and for less. By the late 1990s, the company had started to decline and, by early 2015, had filed for bankruptcy.

Sioux Falls' first Radio Shack at 3410 S. Western Ave. closed at the end of March 2015, as did The Empire Mall location. Now there are very few locations left across the US, and most of them are in smaller communities. Maybe they'll bounce back with a major restructuring. I for one could use a free battery for my venerable Flavoradio.

Eric Renshaw of Sioux Falls has written the book "Forgotten Sioux Falls" and gives a historical perspective on his website GreetingsFromSiouxFalls.com.

Have you ever wondered about some of these?

1. Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

BECAUSE When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

2. WHY? Why do ships and aircraft use 'mayday' as their call for help?

BECAUSE This comes from the French word m'aidez - meaning 'help me' - and is pronounced, approximately, 'mayday.'

3. WHY? Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

BECAUSE In France, where tennis became popular, the round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'the egg.' When tennis was introduced in the US, Americans (naturally), mispronounced it 'love.'

4. WHY? Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

BECAUSE In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

5. WHY? Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called passing the buck'?

BECAUSE In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

6. WHY? Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

BECAUSE In earlier times it used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

7. WHY? Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?

BECAUSE Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the Centre of attention.

8. WHY? Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

BECAUSE Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

9. WHY? In golf, where did the term 'Caddie' come from?

BECAUSE When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf.' He had the first course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into caddie.

10 ... WHY? Why are many coin collection jar banks shaped like pigs?

BECAUSE Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks.' When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

Which way does current really flow?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I was recently taken to task by one of my blog readers regarding my description of current flow in my *No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide*. He wrote:

You casually say that current flows from Positive to Negative (with cool accompanying directional arrows), without any accompanying qualifying statement. Over the years I have looked at ALL the views on the subject. Positive to Negative is NOT what I was taught 48 years ago, and I have never seen a good reason to change my view.

In a subsequent email, he pointed me to a Nuts 'n Volts article, ["Which Way Does Current Really Flow?"](#) and asked my opinion. In the article, the author, who is a ham by the way, does a good job of explaining the various types of current flow.

I agree that in electronic circuits electrons flow from negative to positive, but it really doesn't matter. I agree with one the article's commenters who says,

This is a silly argument. It's like comparing apples and oranges and challenging people to take sides.

Electron flow is not current flow. Electron flow is easy to understand, an actual physical property, and a real help in understanding vacuum tube operation. But it falls apart when one needs to understand complex electronic systems.

[Conventional] current flow is a mathematical abstraction. It is defined as a net flow of positive charge, irrespective of the polarity of the physical charge carriers — whether electrons, holes, positive or negative ions, or whatever.

When looking at any circuit containing a resistance with a voltage across it, conventional current through that resistor says that the voltage drop occurs as the current through it meets resistance. On the other hand, in negative (electron) flow, a voltage INCREASE will correspond to the 'current' flow through it, clearly violating physical laws. Conventional current flow is consistent with the laws of physics and those of other engineering disciplines.

You are correct that engineers, professors and scientists use conventional current flow. That is not because they are too obtuse to understand electron flow; I assure you they fully understand it. It is because in their world they have to solve more general problems involving complex math and science, and, again, conventional current flow is consistent with physical laws.

It is unfortunate that electron flow and current flow are so often confused. They both have their place.

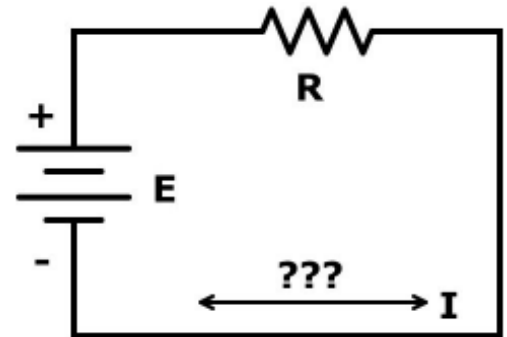
After reading that article, I thought I'd see what the ARRL Handbook has to say about current. In the 1963 edition, they don't mention electron flow at all. They have one diagram showing the direction of current flow in both series and parallel circuits, but the voltage source has no polarity. It's simply labelled "Source of E.M.F." Diagrams giving practical examples of series and parallel circuits do include a battery, and if the reader were to mash up the two diagrams, they would conclude that current flows from the positive terminal to the negative terminal.

The most recent edition of the Handbook that I have is the 2005 edition (it might be time to get another copy!). It says,

Electrons move from the negative to the positive side of the voltage, or EMF, source. Conventional current has the opposite direction, from positive to negative. This comes from an arbitrary decision made by Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century. The conventional current direction is important in establishing the proper polarity sign for many electronics calculations. Conventional current is used in much of the technical literature. The arrows in schematic symbols point in the direction of conventional current, for example.

Having said all that, I really don't see that there's much of a controversy here. I did learn to think of current as conventional current in college, although it was mentioned that electrons actually flow in the opposite direction. Using the concept of conventional current has never seemed to hold me back. I've been able to design circuits and repair electronic equipment thinking that current flows from positive to negative.

Although it's a departure from my "no nonsense" style, I am thinking of including a sidebar, similar to the paragraph above from the 2005 Handbook explaining the two ways of looking at current flow. What do you think?



When he's not trying to figure out which way current flows, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

The Bouvet Island DXpedition - 3YØZ

Press Release #13 March 4, 2018

The 3YØZ team members are safely home. We have been home about two weeks now, after 31 days aboard our vessel M/V Betanzos.

We have been to Bouvet Island, and as a result, we have a better appreciation for the challenges we face. It is a dark, dismal and dangerous place. Yet, when the sun shines, it is magnificent.

The most difficult thing to reflect upon is the final day offshore, when we saw the island, crystal clear in calm winds, less than a mile away. The conditions were perfect for our first reconnaissance flight and possible landing of men and camp infrastructure. But, during the violent night before, the Captain had made the decision to abort. In retrospect, his call was clairvoyant. The mechanical, propulsion failure on the ship that occurred would have brought disaster, if it resulted in some of our men being stranded ashore.

We are sure you are wondering what happens now? Well, we are not the kind of people to give up. The same thing happened when we were trying to activate Peter I in 2005. We came back the following year and with DAP's (the vessel owner) help, we got it done.

We are optimistic about a fair settlement and a resulting refund of some of our money paid to DAP for this recent attempt to activate Bouvet. That money, and what we still have in the bank will allow us to begin making plans to try again. We have begun the difficult task of looking for a suitable vessel, and would hope to go back to Bouvet in the next year or two. Obviously, we will keep you informed.

Thank you for the hundreds of favorable and encouraging comments from our financial supporters and sponsors. No one has asked for any of their contributions back, and, in fact, many have offered additional support for the next chapter in this book. We are hopeful that those of you who have invested in this project will see fit to "roll over" your financial support to the next attempt.

So, if we can pull all the moving parts together, we are going to try it again. Hopefully, this time, with a different outcome.

73, Bob, K4UEE



DXCC Most Wanted

The 'DXCC Most Wanted' entities list has been updated on ClubLog as of March 1st.

The list contain 340 entities and here are the top 10 entities:

1. P5 DPRK (North Korea)
2. 3Y/B Bouvet Island
3. FT5/W Crozet Island
4. CE0X San Felix Islands
5. KH1 Baker Howland Islands
6. BS7H Scarborough Reef
7. BV9P Pratas Island
8. KH7K Kure Island
9. KH3 Johnston Island
10. VKOM Macquarie Island

The complete "DXCC Most Wanted" entities list is available at: <https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>



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 PY2WAS, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

SPRATLY ISLANDS. A large group of operators are QRV as 9M0W from Layang Layang Island, IOTA AS-051, until March 13. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via YT1AD.

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Nigel, G3TXF will be QRV as 3B8XF in the RSGB Commonwealth CW contest. QSL via Club Log.

ANNOBON, 3C0. Operators YL2GM, YL1ZF and YL2KL are QRV as 3C0W from Annobon, IOTA AF-039, until March 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to YL2GN.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y. Operators Arkadiy, UA4CC and Arunas, LY2IJ are QRV as 9Y4/UA4CC and 9Y4/LY2IJ, respectively, from Tobago Island, IOTA SA-009, until March 12. Activity is holiday style on the various HF bands using CW, SSB and possibly RTTY and FT8. QSL to home calls.

BHUTAN, A5. Look for A5A to be QRV from March 14 to 18. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via JH1AJT.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Jacek, SP5APW will be QRV as DU1/SP5APW from Palawan Island, IOTA OC-129, from March 12 to 18. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20, and 17 meters using SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8. QSL to home call.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Will, W0ZRJ and Bill, KH6OO will be QRV as TX5X from Tahiti, IOTA OC-046, from March 10 to 17. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, JT9, JT65 and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Taka, JA8COE is QRV as HL4/JA8COE/5 from Namhae Island, IOTA AS-081, until March 9. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

AUSTRIA, OE. Operators OE3DMB and OE8AIR will be QRV with special calls OE100DMB and OE100AIR, respectively, from March 11 to November 13 to celebrate Austria's declaration of becoming a democratic republic on November 12, 1918. QSL to home calls.

CURACAO, PJ2. Ben, DL1RNT is QRV as PJ2/DL1RNT until March 15. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using mostly CW with some RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5. Operators SP2FUD, SP2GCJ and SP9FIH will be QRV as PJ5/home calls beginning March 12.

Activity is on the HF bands. They will be QRV as PJ5T in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as a Multi Op entry. QSL via operators' instructions.

PALAU, T8. Kiyoshi, JA0EKI is QRV as T88XH from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until March 14. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL to home call.

CAMEROON, TJ. A group of operators will be QRV as TJ3TT from March 15 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to I2YSB.

CONGO, TN. Members of the DX Friends Team are QRV as TN5R from Pointe Noire until March 19. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via EA5RM.

BENIN, TY. A group of operators are QRV as TY7C until March 18. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes including FT8, with four stations active. QSL via F5GSJ.

MACAO, XX9. A group of operators are QRV as XX9B until March 17. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SB, RTTY and FT8 with three stations active. QSL via PP1CZ.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Operators K0NR and KB9DPF will be QRV as ZF2NR and ZF2PF, respectively, from Grand Cayman Island from March 10 to 17. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. This includes some FM Satellite activity from grid square EK99. QSL to home calls.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

The Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest, RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, F9AA SSB Cup, South America 10 Meter Contest, AGCW QRP CW Contest, Oklahoma QSO Party, EA PSK63 Contest, TESLA Memorial 80-Meter HF CW Contest, QCWA QSO Party, Idaho QSO Party, QRP ARCI Spring Thaw SSB Shootout, North American RTTY Sprint, UBA Spring 2-Meter Contest, Wisconsin QSO Party and the WAB 3.5 MHz Phone will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for March 12.

The CLARA Chatter Party is scheduled for March 13.

The RSGB 80-Meter Club CW Championship, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 14.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs during all of 2018.

Please see March 2018 QST, page 85, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details

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.

2018 Schedule:

February 17	April 21
June 16	August 18
October 20	December 15

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 15th 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