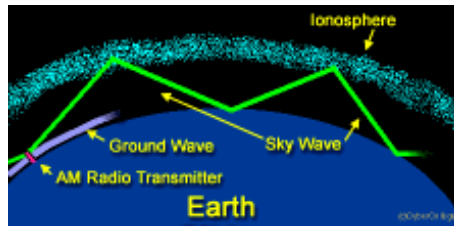


The Hertzian Herald



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N8DXR's Ground Waves



We are continuing to slide nearer to the minimum of solar cycle 24 with sketchy band conditions that might last longer than usual. This could be a great time for operators to consider the use of some other means to make QSO'S. The list of alternate modes is long and includes those available to all license levels from technician on up. Here are just a few of them.

CW is alive and well and this could be the moment for those so inclined to invest the time to gain skills in this mode. The organization FISTS is a great resource for learning or improving CW existing skills at <http://fists.co.uk/>. Also the K7QO code course page found at <http://www.kkn.net/~k7qo/> offers a PDF format of his course manual along with other assets to help a person get started in gaining CW skills. Other sites on the internet, including the ARRL, can help a person on the path to gaining CW skills.

Besides the more esoteric modes in Analog Voice there is AM. You do not need a station full of ancient room heating gear to get on AM. Even without a ton of power AM can be enjoyed with most current HF radios. You will find that the people on AM welcome new people to the mode and will often ask you to join them again. AM recommended frequencies can be found on the ARRL web site

The amateur image modes consist of fast scan television (ATV), slow scan television (SSTV) and facsimile. Of the two SSTV is the easiest to get started with since it only requires a radio, a computer, free software and the time to learn how to put it all together. More info about this mode is on Ham Universe with this link to SSTV. <http://www.hamuniverse.com/sstv.html>

Next is Satellite Communications. With one of the new inexpensive hand held radios with 2M and 70cm capabilities, a dual band hand held Yagi antenna and some free tracking software plus some practice you can be on the air making contacts day or night. Information can be found on the AMSAT-NA site to get you started in using satellites for amateur contacts.

Of course there are all of the digital modes that are found on Ham Radio Deluxe and WSJT-X that we have become very familiar with. More information can be found about these digital resources on their websites.

Experiment with some of these alternate modes. You might be surprised on the number of contacts you make.

Just a reminder to keep you calendars up to date with upcoming club events.

17 MAY - CLUB MEETING
16 and 17 June - MCRCA HAMFEST.
23 and 24 June - ARRL FIELD DAY

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

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MCRCA Minutes:

April 19, 2018

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, no upgrades and 4 guests.

PROGRAM: April Program "Do You Really Need a Tower?" by Jerry Begel W9NPI

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Dalton Daggett KE8DDM, Walt Carter KD8LWC, and Gary W8GPR

50/50: David AC8SI donated to scholarship

MINUTES: Motion by Bob AC8DZ, supported by Sandra KE8CQW, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Dale WA8EFK, supported by Sandra KE8CQW, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P reported that DX is challenging but we are still not at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. 3B7A Saint Brandon Islands DXpedition just finished and had 69,000 contacts, 15% were from North America. Kosovo is now on the air. Christmas Island is on the air now with a larger group going later. Plenty of other DX out there if you look. Looking for 6m to open up soon.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: May Meeting???, everyone will be at Dayton, also last Meeting before Hamfest.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. April 21, 2018.

ARPSC: Mike N8KUF reported that the Spring S.E.T. will be held April 28th and will be a Com Center based exercise. Please check in if you hear a net running. The Dundee 4th of July parade will be coming up soon.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK reported that there will be changes coming up, more news later.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF reported that the annual RRRA meeting will be held Saturday May 5th 10 AM at the Red Cross building. Everyone is welcome to attend to find out what is happening. Everything is currently working.

GLHamCon: Oct 6-7, 2018. Planning is under way, a meeting was held Wednesday, and we will be selling tickets out of a trailer this year, no more arm bands.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Scholarship selection was made and Karlee Lambert from Ida High School was chosen to receive this year's Chuck DeWilde Scholarship. The club will open the Com Center at the Red Cross for the MIQP Saturday if there is any interest in working the contest.

ANOUNCEMENTS: MI QSO Party Saturday, April 21 Noon to Midnight at Red Cross.
GMARC Hamfest April 29th. - Cadillac Swap May 5th.
Check out the new web page at: <http://www.mcrca.org>

ADJOURNED: 8:49 pm

ATTENDANCE: 20

AC8SI Dave	K8GO Glen	K8TMS Tom	KA8EBI Fred
KA8PQH Neil	KB8KQC Brenda	KC8SKP Wes	KF8LT Jim
KG8P Tom	N8DXR John	N8KUF Mike	W8PI Paul
WA8EFK Dale	AC8DZ Bob	KE8CQW Sandra	W8GPR Gary
KD8LWC Walt Carter	KE8DDM Dalton Daggett		
W9NPI Jerry Begel	Sandi Begel		

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

The future of Ham Radio (Australia article)

Retiring WIA Vice President David Ford VK4MZ looks forward to a future where amateur radio is one of the fastest growing hobbies on the planet and Multi-operator contest stations are streamed live online via YouTube and Twitch

G'day from David Ford, VK4MZ for the last time on the weekly broadcast as the Vice President of the WIA. I step down from office at the AGM in a few days' time.

Today, a vision for the future of Amateur Radio. The world is a different place to when Amateur radio first became popular, and that time has passed. Going forward, what Amateur radio will become is entirely up to you, the current AR community.

Working together towards a common goal we can rejuvenate the hobby for decades to come, but to be successful the hobby will take on a different identity.

Just imagine, in a not so distant, hypothetical future. A world where heroes solve cyber-crimes and business superstars exist due to their ability to exploit technology. E-sports, battle-bots and drone racing have taken over from sports like AFL and rugby.

A future where amateur radio is one of the fastest growing hobbies on the planet. Multi-operator stations running contests are streamed live online via YouTube and Twitch. Online scoreboards are tracking who's leading contests live and, in a technology driven world, AR contests are fast becoming the biggest gambling and team events on the planet. SDRs are used to record contests and commentators discuss the SO2R play of the day.

Fantasy contests are run, like fantasy football, where you choose a hypothetical point on the planet to setup your virtual shack and the real propagation proves whether you chose the best site and equipment, or not. There are adventure sports ran like marathons but with SOTA and parks and peaks contacts gaining you extra points towards a win.

ARDF contests are run at schools around the country and ARDF is now an Olympic sport. Amateur Radio manufacturers are now some of the most influential companies on the planet.

It's not a future that is all that difficult to imagine. Imagine if you will.

In this future every occupation is aligned with making the best use of technology, budding technologists looking to build a career, become an entrepreneur or build something ground breaking will need to learn about how to harness the power of IT systems. Here, Amateur Radio is a stepping stone and a way to learn about the ones, zeros and maybe even qubits that are the keys to being successful in that future.

Your future descendants live and breathe this life as a reality. They think back to how granddad, or grandma was a pioneer in Amateur Radio. They reflect with great admiration and tell their friends, about how what you did today made all the difference.

The WIA is fundamental to realising this destiny. In this future the WIA is a virtual office that buzzes with activity, it sounds and feels like a war-room coordinating events, on-going contests, training materials, manages the press and works to coordinate the efforts of radio and electronic enthusiasts across Australia's states and territories. The WIA working with clubs, both online and local, drives and supports this resurgent interest in Amateur Radio and helps to build Australia into the knowledge economy that it is so compelled to become.

From that possible future, and back to the present. This year has seen a strong financial re-positioning of the WIA. We've setup new systems that will be central to running and automating the business processes of the WIA and systems that act as a central point to collect data, manage communications and enable marketing efforts. We've got a very capable group of people to help run the organisation.

We've initiated and brought on board six IT project managers who are eager to run projects and we have an organisation that is now prepared for transformation over the coming years.

At the WIA there are people who dedicate a huge amount of time to working together and achieving the advancement of Amateur Radio. Unfortunately, it is currently a herculean effort of a few, whereas what's needed is small contributions from many. If the Amateur Radio community cannot work together to build a future, then it's a future that will see the decline of Amateur Radio.

That future is up to you as you a part of the amateur radio community. You can support a legacy that see's AR fade into history or take up a call to action and work together to be a part of something great. Support the WIA so that the WIA can continue to be an agent for change and the future of Amateur Radio. Your support can be as simple as sharing a supportive word for the organisation, becoming a member, or even volunteering your time to work on something productive that you enjoy doing with a great bunch of people.

(Continued next page)

The WIA's Radio and Electronics Convention being held on the 19th and 20th of May on the Gold Coast is talking about Amateur Radio as it moves towards 2020. Registrations closed this week, however, we've been able to negotiate an extension for new registrations until Wednesday the 16th of May, all-be-it with a late-fee. So go online to the WIA website today and get your registration in.

That's it from me as Vice President for the 2017/2018 year. Support your WIA where you can. I hope to hear you around the bands and I'll still be around the WIA from time to time. I've enjoyed this year immensely and I've certainly enjoyed hearing the support for building Amateur Radio's future.

Have a great day, and I hope to see you at the AGM in a few days time.

73, David Ford

Source WIA News http://www.wia.org.au/members/broadcast/wianews/display.php?file_id=wianews-2018-05-13

Monroe Hamfest 2018

Once again, it's time for our annual Monroe Hamfest. As in years past it will again be held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds at M-50 and Raisinville Road, on Father's Day, June 17, 2018.

May is our last meeting before the hamfest, The June meeting will be right after the hamfest.

Set up will begin on Saturday morning at 9 AM. The fair people are setting up and taking down the tables again this year which will greatly reduce the heavy labor of years past. We still need to label all of the tables with numbers and vendor names, align them properly and string up 4 electrical cords so the vendors in the center can have electricity. We will need to spread chairs out according to the diagram so that each vendor that wants one will get a chair or two. Dale WA8EFK, will also need help running wires and installing the PA system throughout the trunk sales area and inside the building.

The fair people permanently installed the handicap parking signs out in the parking lot and since we allow them to park inside we need to cover 6 or 7 signs with bags. I have one sign we can use inside the fence to mark the handicap parking area. There are other miscellaneous jobs such as putting up banners and flags, changing locks on the gates and putting up signs. This usually is all accomplished by lunch time if we get enough help.

Sunday morning the early workers will enter through the Raisinville Road gate. It will be opened by 6:15 AM so that we can get in place in time to start letting trunk sales people in at 6:30 AM. Building captain, trunk sale guides and ticket sellers need to be in place by 6:30 AM. **We will use 446.60 simplex during the Hamfest** but please don't announce this on the 72 repeater as the trunk sale people will harass us to no end.

After the Hamfest, about 1 PM we need people to go around and police up the area. We must clean up the fairgrounds and the building or they will charge us if they have to do it. If we get lots of help this won't take long.

We still need some more helpers for the Hamfest. We need 1 guard for an hour on the Raisinville Rd. gate Sunday 6:15 AM and 2 people to direct trunk sales people as they enter the grounds and show them where to park so they don't end up blocking the walk and drive ways through the sales area. Please contact Fred KA8EBI if you can help out.

We need about 8 people to sign up for ticket sales Sunday Morning hourly from 6:30 to Noon, so people won't have to spend all day out standing in the sun. If you can help out selling tickets, please contact John Copeland N8DXR as soon as possible.

Phyllis, is doing the food this year from Holy Ghost Lutheran Church same as the last 5 years.

If we get enough help and good weather we should have a pretty nice Hamfest again this year.

We have only 8 tables left as of Sunday May 13, last year we had 27 left in mid-June.

Fred KA8EBI, Hamfest Chairman for 22 years.

Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

May 8, 2018 by Dan KB6NU

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

KONR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio?
NOSSC's Millennials are killing ham radio
PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio?
NZOT's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio?

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, KONR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a superstation? I've written about that topic, too.

There have also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post, talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 - Damaging to Amateur Radio?" show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, NOSSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes,

A hackathon isn't a coding competition. It's explained well in this Medium article. It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders...anyone with an interest in solving a problem with technology.

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn't just millennials we're talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don't think it's my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don't even know if that's really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote-control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take ham radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill ham radio as we know it. Make it better!

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

Bouvet Island DXpedition News via OPDX

To the DX Community.....

There have been several important milestones reached and decisions made in the last few weeks.

We have received a partial reimbursement on our payments made to DAP, our transportation contractor. In our view, this it is a fair settlement with them. Our vessel, Betanzos is now back in Punta Arenas and we believe the container with our personal gear and equipment are intact. We will be arranging to transport the container back to the US, arriving in a few months.

It has become apparent that the chance of finding a suitable and affordable vessel for the 2018-19 Austral season is becoming less and less likely. It appears that the very earliest that we could mount a second attempt to activate Bouvet would be the 2019-20 season or possibly beyond.

Thus, we have made the decision to offer a pro-rata return of the remaining 3YØZ DXpedition funds in our account. This will occur only after the container has arrived here and we have paid all our bills.

Only then, will we know the net balance to be distributed. As you may have concluded, this is going to be an enormous task with 137 DX Clubs and Foundations and 3700 individual DXers. The process will take some time. We ask that you be patient as we complete this.

You will have the choice of a pro-rata return of your contribution, or you may designate a foundation or club to receive your contribution.

Any "unclaimed" refunds will be proportionally distributed to the major contributing foundations. Later this year, we will explain the way to claim your refund.

After the return of the funds is completed, we will close the accounting books and the bank account of 3YØZ. This is always our procedure as each DXpedition must stand on its own. We believe this is the proper way to wrap up the DXpedition.

We all are unhappy and extremely disappointed that the project was not completed due to a mechanical failure on our vessel. This left the Captain no choice but to abort the mission for safety reasons.

Please accept our team's heartfelt thanks for your outstanding support of this project.



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 AK5Q, 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.

RODRIGUEZ ISLAND, 3B9. Operators Jacky, FR4NP, Bruno, FR4PF, Emile, FR4PM, Jean, FR5CB and Patrick, FR5FC will be QRV as 3B9RUN from May 11 to 16. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via EA7FTR

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Members of the Lions DX Team are QRV as C8T from Bilene-Macia, Gaza until May 15. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters and 2 meter EME, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via ON1DX.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Press, N6SS is QRV as DU6/N6SS from Sibalom, Antique Province, Panay Island, IOTA OC-129, until May 17. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and FT8. QSL to home call.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Bruce, WB7OTC is QRV as E51OTC from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, Aitutaki Island, IOTA OC-083, and Atiu Island, IOTA OC-083, until May 18. Activity is on the HF bands using QRP power. QSL to home call.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Members of the Union de Radioaficionados de Las Palmas are QRV with special call EG8CID until May 30 to commemorate Canary Islands Day that occurs on May 30. QSL via EA8URL.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. A group from the Ynomy DX Club will be QRV as HB0/PG8M/p and HB0/PHONO/p from various World Flora-Fauna sites and nature reserves on May 12 and 13. Activity will be on 80 to 2 meters, including 60 meters, using CW and SSB with two stations. QSL via operators' instructions.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Special event station HL50IARU is QRV until the end of October 2018 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of IARU Region III.

ITALY, I. Special event station 4U29MAY is QRV until the end of June 2018 to commemorate the International Day of UN Peacekeepers that occurs on May 29. QSL via 9A2AA.

JAPAN, JA. Take, JI3DST will be QRV with special call sign, 8J3XXIII/3 from Tanga Island, IOTA AS-117, on May 12 and 13. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, JT65 and FT8. Operations may vary based on local conditions. QSL via the bureau.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC, OM. Members of the radio club Horec are QRV with special event call OM75TESLA until the end of the year to commemorate Nikola Tesla's death 75 years ago. QSL via OM3KHT.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PB18MILL will be QRV on May 12 and 13 for the Mills on the Air event. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL direct to PB7Z.

CURACAO, PJ2. Savvas, SV2AEL is QRV as PJ2/SV2AEL until May 15. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands. QSL direct to home call.

FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1/F. Eugeny, RI1FJ has been QRV using CW on 30 and 20 meters at various times. QSL via UA2FM.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Special event station VI50IARU3 is QRV until August 31 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of IARU Region III.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Operators Chris, VK3QB, Brenton, VK3YB and Luke, VK3HJ are QRV as VK9LI until May 18. Activity is on 160 to 17 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via VK2CA.

TURKS AND CAICOS, VP5. Mickey, AK5Q is QRV as VP5/AK5Q from Providenciales, IOTA NA-002, until May 14. Activity is holiday style on 20 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

KOSOVO, Z6. Emir, 9A6AA and Robert, 9A5RBJ will be QRV as Z68AA and Z68RBJ, respectively, from Peja from May 14 to 21. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL to home calls.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

The CQ-M International DX Contest, Dutch National Windmill and Waterpump station Weekend, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, VOLTA World Wide RTTY Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Arkansas QSO Party, FISTS Spring Unlimited CW Sprint, 50 MHz Spring Sprint and the WAB 7 MHz Phone are all on tap for this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for May 14.

The RSGB 80-meter Club Data Championship, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for May 16.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs during all of 2018.

Please see May QST, page 83, 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

May 17th 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