

# The Hertzian Herald



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## Off The Kuf:

It is March in Michigan and there's a LOT to think about in the HAM radio arena .... not to mention all the chores you've been putting off until the weather warms up (I've got a few of those). Warm weather is sure to be here soon (the groundhog promised) and as I write this, DST has just recently arrived and our bodies and brains are still adjusting to the time shift. (I have to admit that as I get older, my clutch slips a lot more than it used to when shifting gears)



With March (and many other months come to think of it) in Michigan ... you all know that means ANYTHING goes weather wise. In particular, springtime means the arrival of severe weather season. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of upcoming SKYWARN spotter training (see details elsewhere in this issue). Even if you've been there before ... go again. For as many years as I've been going, as the training materials and presentation technologies improve ... I invariably learn something new each and every time I go. (AND other than a few hours of your time, there is NO cost (a favorite topic of many HAMS)). Even if you don't want to take part in spotter nets, knowing what to watch for and how to react to dangerous conditions is IMPORTANT to the safety of yourself and family - be aware and be safe - oh, and use the net to help protect others by getting the word out. Remember, a tornado traveling at 50MPH will go just under a mile in a minute - think of how many people might be at risk in that mile -early warning benefits everyone

HAM Radio exists today in large part because of the public safety and emergency communications aspects.

I frequently (or as often as someone leaves the back door cracked open) like to quote FCC part 97 language stating the purposes of the Amateur Radio service:

### §97.1 Basis and purpose.

*The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:*

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

If we (each one of us) are not fulfilling one or more of these founding principles, we fall outside of the basis for the Amateur Radio Service - plain and simple.

By the time you are reading this ramble, the TMRA Swap will have come and gone. I hope you made time to enjoy the swap and to participate in the traditional comradery of stale donuts & bad coffee (along with some great conversation with friends that perhaps have not been seen since last year's swap). Hopefully some of you were able to pick up a new toy or two ... that's what keeps the vendors coming back ya know.

(cont'd next page)

### Club Officers

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For me ... TMRA represents the 'official' arrival of spring and the time when thoughts shift seriously to our own Monroe SWAP (some have already been working on this since last summer), followed shortly thereafter by Field Day. Both CLUB activities have been around for much longer than my call sign has. They are truly dependant on support from ALL of us in order to remain successful and, dare I say it .... FUN.

This year is not my first stint as MCRCA President, and I'm very excited about the opportunities that lay before us. I'm very pleased to be working with a team of enthusiastic board members and I encourage everyone to support them in whatever they ask of you. If you read my rant last month, the good news is that we've scored an extra full weekend in June this year and I hope to be able to take full advantage of that oddity.

We are always looking for suggestions for club programs and/or activities. I am envisioning a number of fun and educational programs this year, and along with the Board have been planning on a number of ACTIVITIES that will surely bring you to the realization that HAM RADIO is FUN.

Give it a shot, GET INVOLVED, do your part to fulfill the purpose and .... HAVE SOME FUN!!

I hope to see YOU at the meeting.

73, Mike - N8KUF

## MCRCA Minutes:

### February 21, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Mike Karmol N8KUF.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, one upgrade and no guests.

PROGRAM: HF-101 an overview of ham radio, by Tom KG8P

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Neil KA8PQH, Tom KG8P, and Don AC8WE

50/50: Terry N8NYP

MINUTES: Motion by Bob AC8DZ, supported by Tom KG8P, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Tom KG8P, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Paul W8PI – Two QSO Parties coming up South Carolina and North Carolina this weekend. They will be a joint venture.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: If anyone has any input please contact a board member we will be having a board meeting soon. Working on some fox hunting this Summer, and some kit building. Code practice oscillator, Antennas and Attenuators.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. April 20, 2019. Two people tried last session, one passed and one failed.

ARPSC: March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jnos and Packet demo at the EOC. ARPSC meetings first Thursday of the month at EOC. April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Skywarn training at Bedford Library with a new presentation.

ARRL: Dale's not here. (or was that Dave)

RRRA: Mike N8KUF – Repeaters are functional and behaving, Ottawa Lake is getting modernized, and the 220 issue is resolved. RRRA Annual meeting is Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Red Cross 10 am.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ANOUNCEMENTS: TMRA March 17th our club has 2 tables there.

ADJOURNED: 8:37 pm

ATTENDANCE: 17

## 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

Terry Kolton N8NYP

n8nyp@arrl.net

### Planning

open

### Property Custodian

open

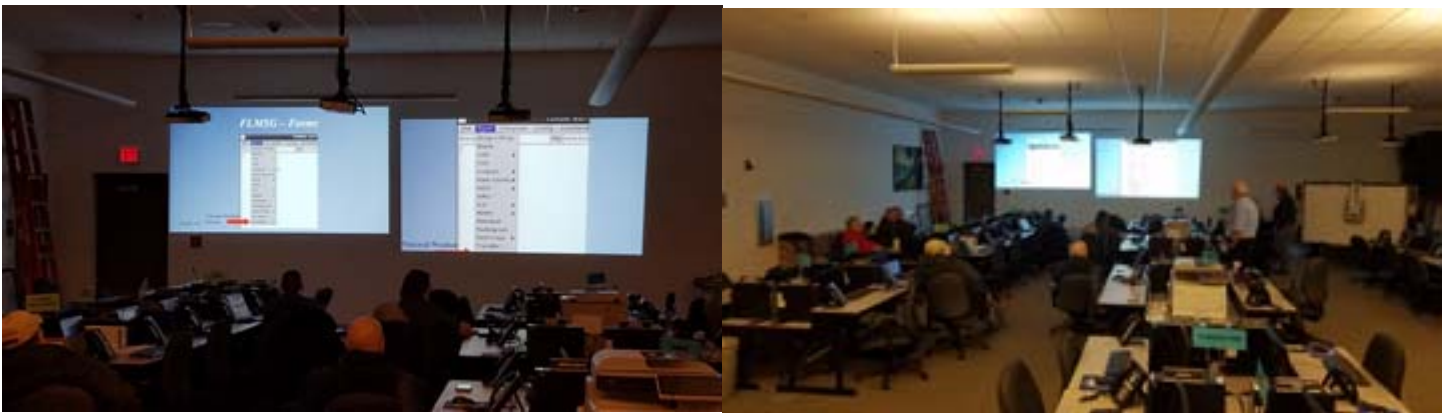
## Monroe County ARPSC

Welcome to March, the month of cold, warm, snow, rain and everything in between.

On the topic of weather.....

Reminder, SKYWARN training is **Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30-8:30pm** at Bedford Library, if you are attending you must register on the county EMD website under SKYWARN. NWS Cleveland is not hosting any SKYWARN training this year and we could see many folks from Lucas County attending which means we could fill up and close registration. Attendance is mandatory every two years to maintain ARPSC certification and highly recommended for all.

**Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup>**'s special session was getting started and navigating the FLDigi/Winlink communications modes presented by **Steve Bellner W8TER**, and Steven Judd WB8YLO. This was an information packed session and was attended by operators from Monroe, Washtenaw and Lucas counties.



**Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup>** presentation was on Packet/JNOS, the newly installed Ida HamGate and navigating packet connections. **Jay Nugent WB8TKL**, the chairman of the State Digital Radio Group put this presentation on for us. Again a well attended session jam packed with lots of information, and it helped to peak the interest of those in attendance to look at and start messing around with Packet and JNOS for the first time, or after many years of their TNC sitting in a box collecting dust...





These 2 digital data transfer modes are but a small drop in the bucket compared to what is out there, but because most state EOC's and served agencies are looking to us for more data (think forms) transfer capabilities, these are the primary two in Michigan and Ohio and we need to be familiar with both to do what we are asked by our served agencies.

The **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Muskrat Run** was held Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> at Sterling State park. We had 9 operators that assisted in covering the checkpoints and making sure everyone was safe and accounted for. A huge THANKS to **N8RWI-John, KE8KLY/ae-Scott, KE8DDM-Dalton, KD8ZNZ-Rodney, N8KUF-Mike, N8NYP-Terry, WA8EFK-Dale** and **KG8P-Tom** for taking time and bundling up on a Saturday and coming out to help!

The next ARPSC meeting will be Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm at the EMD and we will be in the EOC that night. We will cover county SKYWARN procedures in depth and review the training from the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone is welcome especially if you participate in SKYWARN nets.

As always, you can keep track of us via the webpage which is linked though the MCRCA Website and the Facebook page, which is also linked via the club webpage. We thank the group and the club webmaster for doing this for us!

73 until next month  
Lance Charter KE8BYC  
Emergency Coordinator  
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp



*From Left:* KE8KLY/ae Scott, KE8DDM-Dalton, N8KUF-Mike, KD8ZNZ-Rodney, and N8NYP-Terry *Camera Shy:* KG8P-Tom, N8RWI-John, and WA8EFK-Dale



## Survey: FT8 Growing as DX Mode in an Era of Waning Propagation

03/12/2019

In the 2018 update of his survey of modes used on the air, Club Log's Michael Wells, G7VJR, says the number of Club Log users uploading at least one FT8 contact to the site grew from 8,000 in 2017 to 14,200 in 2018. Wells worked with data from Club Log users who, he reports, uploaded 41.3 million contacts in 2018, up by 12% from last year.

"I think that fact is more significant given the ongoing decline of this particular solar cycle, and it's possible evidence of extra activity from FT8 and newly active amateurs who'd run out of steam on CW and SSB, but are back to try digital modes," Wells said.

He reports that 13,900 users uploaded at least one CW contact, and 18,000 had at least one phone contact. The total number of active users was just under 22,000 across all modes in 2018, Wells said, who added that number has been dropping each year since 2015.

"When we look at the graph of QSOs, you can deduce that FT8 users must be prolific in terms of the number of QSOs they make when they're on the air," Wells said. "Once you start making FT8 QSOs, I get the feeling it's more likely you'll be on the bands for longer in a session, as it can be quite addictive working DX in the noise. Having those absolute signal-to-noise figures is compelling."

In his discussion, Wells reported that operators from some 270 DXCC entities were active on FT8 in 2018. "It's quite a showing for FT8," he allowed, pointing out that the figure is close to the computed 287 active DXCC entities. About two-thirds of DXpeditions using Club Log used FT8 while active, and a bit more than 6% of Club Log DXpedition contacts were on FT8 last year.

Wells observed that while it's likely that more modest stations are logging rare DX, especially in DXpedition mode where FT8 favors weaker signals, its use comes at the expense of speed — or rate.

"With many expeditions to rarer locations being somewhat constrained logistically, and not having the luxury of staying a long time, operating FT8 could be seen as something of a trade-off," Wells said. "Even so, for pure throughput, it seems expeditions are still getting the numbers from other modes. Expeditioners like to work pileups and amass as many contacts as they can, after all."

Wells posits that FT8 may be the only way to stay in the hobby for operators living on small lots and confronting stringent zoning regulations. "However, I think we mustn't romanticize those particular situations too much. A lot of the FT8 on the bands today is just plain old competitive," he concluded. "It's generally become a QRO [high-power] mode, and it's fierce in its ways. SSB and CW CQs are often going unanswered, while a tiny sliver of each band heaves with FT8. This pattern hasn't relented in 2018. That's not great news."



## Pickett's Mill

Pickett's Mill was a civil war battlefield during the campaign for Atlanta, Georgia. They even have one of the cannons from the battle on site. Dillon in the picture of the visitor center, was most helpful and as a historian passed along extra information. When I told him that normally I make contacts with US, Canadian and Europe stations, he mentioned the 15th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry that fought here was made up of Scandinavians.

The picture with Dillon and the group was on one visit when they had an interpretive event going on near the trenches from the battle. This park is in Paulding County.

I made two activations to Pickett's Mill. In the first, I managed 29 contacts with NA stations, 3 European countries and 2 Canadian provinces. For the WWFF program you need to make 44 or more contacts from that park to get credited for it. All hams who you contact get credit no matter how many contacts are made. So, I needed 15 more to make 44 from this park, but ended up with 45; just the second day. Europe included 7 countries and three Canadian provinces. Most contacts were with Europe, conditions were good for DX.

You can see my set up just across from the visitor center. With all the trees, you would think they would suck up all the RF, but no. It was a bit unnerving during the interpretive visit when they would shoot off muskets... They are loud.



I mentioned getting some post cards from the park to use as QSL cards. They gave me a handful and asked that I send them out and advertise their park. Again, everyone was most helpful and friendly.

73 de KG8P





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 5B4ALX, 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.

**VIET NAM, 3W.** Jean-Pierre, F6CTF will be QRV as 3W9JF from Hoi An from March 16 to April 6. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20 and 17 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct to EA5GL.

**TOGO, 5V.** Members of the EI DX Group are QRV as 5V7EI until March 26. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes with five stations active. QSL via MOOXO.

**UGANDA, 5X.** Members of the Italian DXpedition Team are QRV as 5X3C until March 25. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. They are active as 5X3E using FT8. QSL direct to I2YSB.

**SENEGAL, 6W.** Jacques, F6HMJ will be QRV as 6W7/ F6HMJ from March 19 to April 28. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL to home call.

**LESOTHO, 7P.** A group of operators are QRV as 7P8LB until March 16. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8 with two to three stations active. QSL via MOOXO.

**TONGA, A3.** Masa, JA0RQV will be QRV as A35JP from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, from March 16 to 27. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

**MOZAMBIQUE, C9.** Pedro, CT7AHV is QRV as C91AHV from Matola Rio until March 17. Activity is on 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters using SSB, WSPR and FT8. QSL to home call.

**PHILIPPINES, DU.** Press, N6SS is QRV as DU6/N6SS from Panay Island, IOTA OC-129, until April 17. Activity is on 160, 80 and 40 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

**NIUE, E6.** Alex, 5B4ALX will be QRV as E6ET from Niue, IOTA OC-040, from March 19 to April 2. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, except 80 meters, but including 60 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

**SPAIN, EA.** Special event station EE100V is QRV during all of March to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Valencia Football Club. QSL direct to EA5YJ.

**JERSEY, GJ.** Kazu, JK3GAD is QRV as MJ0CFW until March 17. He will be active as MJ5Z in the Russian DX contest. QSL via LoTW.

**CURACAO, PJ2.** Andreas, DK5ON is QRV as PJ2/DK5ON until March 30. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being active in the Russian DX contest. QSL to home call.

**INDIA, VU.** Members of the Bangalore Amateur Radio Club are QRV with special call sign AU60BARC until May 13 to celebrate the club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. QSL via Club Log.

**MYANMAR, XZ.** Yuki, JH1NBN will be QRV as XZ2C from March 20 to 28. Activity will be on 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters using all modes and QRP power. QSL to home call.

**OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT.** The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island, ZD9CW, 2018 operation.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The BARTG HF RTTY Contest, Russian DX Contest, AWA John Rollins Memorial DX CW Contest, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, Louisiana QSO Party, Virginia QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint and the UBA Spring 80-Meter SSB Contest are all on tap for this weekend.

The Bucharest Contest and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are scheduled for March 18.

The CLARA Chatter Party is scheduled for March 19.

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

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, operating event runs for the entire year of 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

## Amateur Radio Examinations Monroe, MI

Monroe County Radio Communications Association Amateur Radio examinations are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every even numbered month at:

**American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.**  
1645 North Dixie Highway  
Monroe, MI 48161

Walk-ins are always welcome.

### 2019 Schedule:

February 16	April 20
June 15	August 17
October 19	December 21

### 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 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