

The Hertzian Herald



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Off The Kuf:

By Mike – N8KUF



As August all too quickly passes us by, the end of summer approaches. The dusk of summer is traditionally represented by the Labor Day holiday unless, of course, you are a Ham operator in which case the passing of summer is signified on the following weekend at the closing of the Findlay swap. In just a few short months I'm afraid we'll be stepping outside in heavy winter coats, looking fondly back at the 95 degree / 98 % humidity days that we are cursing now and wishing we could have a few more of those.

If you made it to July's MCRCA meeting, you saw a very interesting video by Dave Casler KE0OG on powering your amateur radio station. The video did a great job in explaining that "12 volts is not as simple as Black and Red", and I hope you were able to learn along with me some of those important details.

I'd like to encourage anyone with a specific interest area (operating / technical / other) to share that interest with others by means of a presentation at a club meeting. This could be in the form of show & tell, a computer based presentation, or as simple as sketches on the white board. It's a way for everyone to "pay it forward" to other club members by educating the group and perhaps sparking an interest in a few individuals. Please feel free to talk with any of the Board Members about your thoughts for a presentation.

The August meeting will include a video that discusses principles of grounding. It includes facts (and myths) about safety grounding, RF grounding, and lightening protection schemes. The act of grounding your station (or even the average home) is a topic that deserves MUCH more attention than it often gets. I hope you can join us in learning about the basic considerations involved in becoming WELL GROUNDED.

Remember, in order to remain a MCRCA member in good standing (or to obtain good standing as a member), you MUST observe the following rules of etiquette which include, but are not limited to:

- 1) No throwable fruits or veggies are allowed in the meeting room, and
- 2) All who are willing to have a good time are welcome, and
- 3) All who are willing to learn something new are encouraged to share, and
- 4) You must bring a friend to at least 2 meetings per year

I'll see YOU (and your friend) at the meeting,
Mike Karmol— N8KUF 2019 President – MCRCA

Club Officers

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MCRCA Minutes:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, or upgrade and 2 guests.

PROGRAM: Video – related to powering a ham radio operation

BREAK

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Doug K8OF

50/50: Gary W8GPR donated \$11 to the scholarship

MINUTES: Motion by Bob AC8DZ, supported by John N8DXR, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Doug K8OF, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

HAMFEST: Mike N8KUF thanked everyone for coming out to help. John N8DXR our new Public Relations person received lots of compliments even though the weather was bad with all the rain. He also received a couple of suggestions for next year's hamfest. The Monroe Hamfest is the largest hamfest in Michigan according to people at the ARRL. I have to say it's all because of the hard work our members have put into it for the last 50 years, K8EBI, Thanks everyone.

DX REPORT: Paul W8PI, reported nothing exciting is happening currently with the bad band conditions, but 6m has been open every day.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: **August** – Grounding Principles. **September** – Tom K8GP will be building a code practice oscillator. **October** – will be a program on SWR. **November** – KA9LA will do a prgm. on Skype. **December** – Potluck and gift exchange.

FOXHUNT: The next foxhunt will be September 14th.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. August 17, 2019.

MENTOR MOMENT: Mike N8KUF fielded questions from the members.

ARPSC: Mike reported that the Dundee 4th of July parade went well and thanked everyone that helped out. The ARPSC will be helping the county check the siren tests around the county coming up soon. No ARPSC meeting in August because of the Fair. August 17th will be the 30th and final Fermi energy run. If you want to help be there at 8:30 am.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK is at a board meeting in Newington, no report.

RRRA: Monroe County approved commercial climbers to climb the repeater tower to do some testing and repairs. If you haven't paid your RRRA dues now would be a good time as these climbers will be an expensive necessity.

OLD BUSINESS: Scholarship – Mailed to Aaron Jones - Airport High School

NEW BUSINESS:

ANOUNCEMENTS: 20-Jul-2019 ~ GMARC Shelby Twp., MI ~ GMARC SWAP

ADJOURNED: 8:31 pm

ATTENDANCE: 20

AC8WE Donald
KB8KQC Brenda
KE8DDM Dalton
N8NYP Terry
W8GPR Gary

K8EBI Fred
KB8OSU George
W8SMB Scott
W8PI Paul
W8BKT Brian

K8OF Doug
KC8SKP Wes
N8DXR John
AC8DZ Bob
Randy Meyers

KA8POH Neil
KD8ZUI Robert
N8KUF Mike
KE8CQW Sandy
Keith Hutchinson

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

ARPSC Schedule

Hopefully everyone is having a great summer! Hard to believe but how are we deep in the back half of 2019 already??!! Memorial Day-Done, Hamfest-Done, Field Day-Done, 4th of July and the Dundee Parade-Done, Fermi run upcoming.....

A huge Thank you to those folks who took time on the 4th of July to help out with the Dundee parade! It went very smooth and our help was appreciated deeply by the Dundee Veterans and by Dundee Police and Chief Tim Garbo. **Mike-N8KUF**, **Dale-WA8EFK**, **John-N8DXR**, **Terry-N8NYP**, **Dalton-KE8DDM**, **Scott-W8SMB**, **Jay-WB8TKL**, and **Mary Anne-W8VWY** were the operators who made sure this fun event went off without a hitch.

The next ARPSC meeting will be Thursday September 5th 7:30pm at the EMD. Everyone is welcome to attend and find out what is happening for the SET. This meeting will be discussing plans for the annual Simulated Emergency Test which will be held in Michigan on Saturday September 28th from 8am until 1pm.

Upcoming Events

-Saturday August 19th is the 30th Energy run at Fermi II, 9am-12pm. Briefing will be at 8:30am. We need a minimum of 6 operators to man the checkpoints, extra help is welcome as we can train new operators, and do a better job covering the course.

This is the 30th and LAST run at Fermi, come out and be a part of this historical run. Please email or contact me by Thursday the 15th if you can help

-Saturday September 7th 9-12 at EMD ARPSC session- We will be getting hands on in practicing our NTS skills and passing messages both via phone and digitally in preparation for the SET

-Saturday September 28th 8am-1pm State SET

Everyone is welcome to participate in this important preparatory event. You do not have to be an ARPSC member or even directly activate, just checking in from your home station sometime during that morning will help us complete our task list. Operating from emergency or backup power when you check in? Even better, that gives us extra points.

We also are looking for operators willing to spend a few hours practicing emergency station set-up, communications and procedures.

In 2018, those that participated helped Monroe County ARPSC meet it's goal of top points in the Great Lakes Division (Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky), with 529 in ARES, 115 points in NTS and we were also in the top 1/4 of operations in the country (15th out of 135)! Our score along with entries from Saginaw County and Washtenaw County also put Michigan in the TOP 10 sections in the country! Thank You to all who participated and helped us rack up our outstanding score, but more importantly, illustrated your commitment to amateur radio and public service!!

I am looking for 1 person this year to help me with putting this event together and corresponding with our local served agencies which is a major component of the SET program. If you are interested, please contact me via email ke8byc@yahoo.com or at a meeting/on the air.

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. There is also a master calendar of events on the MCRCA page which lists MCRCA, RRRA, and ARPSC events. We thank the group and the club webmaster for doing this for us!

Remember, anyone with an interest in public service is welcome to attend our meetings held the first Thursday of each month except August, 7:30pm at the EMD training room 987 S. Raisinville Rd. just south of the fairgrounds. Don't forget to check into the Monday ARPSC Net every Monday at 8pm on 146.720 '72 Monroe.

73 until next month, stay cool!

Lance Charter KE8BYC Emergency Coordinator
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp

Can you copy at 20 words per minute by hand?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was send to the CWOps mailing list:

From: Fusaro, Norm W3IZ [<mailto:w3iz@arrl.org>]

Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM

Subject: W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate

Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.

That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73,

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ
Director of Operations

Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at KB6NU.Com), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, "How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?" When I replied, "Typing," he countered, "On page 98 of the July 2019 QST, it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...'"

To this, I replied, "Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can't copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it's really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I'm guessing that I'm not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think."

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, "By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine." I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven't yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, "Copy one of W1AW's qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible)."

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and is one of the presenters the ICQPodcast (ICQPodcast.Com). Feel free to reply to his CW CQs at any speed you so choose.

NOTE: You can find an image of the new certificate at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Code-Proficiency-Certificate-Vibroplex-768x597.jpg>

Getting loaded (antenna-wise, anyway)

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of years ago, I homebrewed a "Cobra" antenna (<https://www.kb6nu.com/yet-another-new-antenna-the-cobra/>). It's a doublet antenna, meaning that it consists of two elements connected to a center insulator, where it connects to a feedline. The unique thing about the Cobra antenna is that each element consists of three parallel conductors connected in series.

My antenna uses a lightweight, three-conductor rotor cable that used to be available from Radio Shack. The feedline is 450 ohm ladder line that connects to an antenna tuner to give me multi-band operation.

Connecting the conductors in this way is supposed to provide "linear loading." Somehow, running the conductors in parallel is supposed to increase the antenna's effective length. My antenna is only 73-ft. long, but it easily tunes up on 80m.

The *ARRL Antenna Book* has a short section on linear loading. It says that linear loading is a "little understood" alternative to inductive loading that can be applied to almost any type of antenna. Furthermore, "...it introduces very little loss, does not degrade directivity patterns, and has low enough Q to allow reasonably good bandwidths."

As I mentioned, I've been using this antenna with good results for a little more than two years now. When I first put it up, someone mentioned the concept of linear loading to me, but not being an antenna guru, I didn't give it much thought. About a week ago, though, I ran across a link to the page Short Ham Antennas for HF (<https://www.hamradiosecrets.com/short-ham-antennas.html>). That got me thinking about the topic again.

This page describes a way to build a linearly-loaded dipole antenna with a feedpoint impedance of approximately 35 Ω . This allows you to feed it with coax instead of the ladder line that I use. The author uses 390 ohm ladder line for the elements. He says it's commonly available, but I don't think I've ever seen 390 ohm ladder line. You could probably use 450 ohm ladder line by adjusting the element lengths a little.

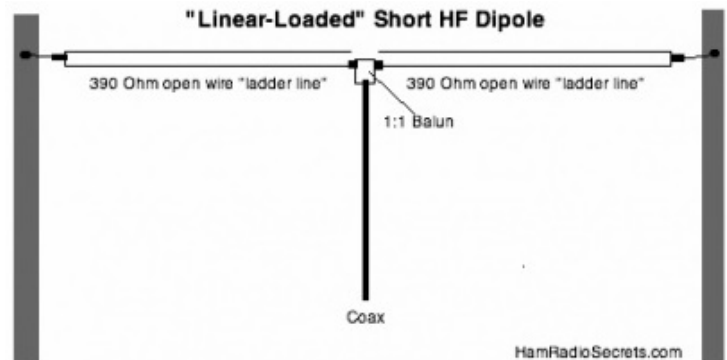
At that point, I started Googling. The next linear-loaded antenna design that I ran across is a design from MOPZT (<http://www.mOpzt.com/40m-linear-loaded-dipole/>).

He built his elements from some sturdy wire and homebrewed spacers made from PVC pipe. He's used this design for the 40m elements of a fan dipole covering the 40m, 20m, 15m, and 12m bands. Only the 40m elements are linear-loaded.

I also found a design for a linear loaded vertical antenna for 40m and 80m (<https://www.qsl.net/pa3hbb/II.htm>). This antenna is only 7.736m, or 25.4 ft. tall. Of course, it requires a good radial system to work well, but it will work a lot better for DX than a low doublet or dipole.

Finally, there's an eHam discussion on linear loading (<https://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=84418.0>). Unlike a lot of eHam discussions, this one is quite civil. It's worth reading if you're interested in the topic.

So, if you're thinking of getting loaded, errrrr, I mean loading your antennas, here's a method for you to consider. It works!



Why You Should Get Your Extra Class License

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Amateur Extra Class license is the highest class of license in the United States, and perhaps the world. Many hams—even hams that live outside the U.S.—aspire to pass the test and be awarded one.

There wasn't always an Amateur Extra Class license. The Extra class license, as we know it today, was created as part of the 1951 license restructuring, that also created the Novice and Technician Class licenses. (In 1951, the Novice license was the "beginner's license." To get a Technician Class license, you had to pass the written test that General Class operators had to pass.)

Although it gave an operator no additional privileges, to get an Extra Class license, one had to:

- * Pass a 20 wpm code test (Generals had to pass only a 13 wpm code test).
- * Pass a longer and more difficult written examination than the General Class exam.
- * Have at least two years of experience as a licensed radio amateur.

Today, without the code test and the experience requirement, many hams upgrade to Extra Class as soon as they can. Some even pass the Technician Class, General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class exams in a single test session.

So, what's the attraction? Why should you upgrade to Extra?

One of the reasons that you should upgrade to Extra is that you get use of the entire 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. Portions of those bands, such as 3.6 – 3.7 MHz in the 75m band and 14.150 – 14.175 Mhz in the 20m phone band, are reserved exclusively for Extra Class licensees. Extra Class operators also have exclusive privileges in the CW portions of the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. These are the frequencies where the DX stations hang out.

Another reason to get your Extra Class license is that only Extra Class licensees can administer General Class and Extra Class license exams. General Class operators can become Volunteer Examiners (VEs), but they are only allowed to administer Technician Class exams.

Another reason you might want to get an Extra Class license is to get a fancy vanity callsign. Only Extra Class operators can apply for 1×2 or 2×1 callsigns, such as W8RP or KT8K. A short, snappy callsign can help you work more DX or improve your contest scores.

Whatever your reason, studying for the Extra Class exam will open your eyes to many aspects of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. And, as you work your way through the material, you'll learn things that make you a better amateur radio operator and enable you to enjoy the hobby more. It's not easy, but in the end, an Extra Class license will help you have more fun with amateur radio.

Dan, KB6NU is the author of the "No Nonsense" line of amateur radio license study guides, a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com), and an active CW operator in the Extra Class portion of the HF bands. If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



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 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.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Gil, IZ2DLV is active as 8Q7GB from Nika Island until August 18. Activity is holiday style on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW or ClubLog.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Rick, AI5P is active as VK9APX until August 10. Activity is on 40 to 17 meters using CW and FT8. QSL via AI5P, direct or by the Bureau only. Also, look for Michael, DF8AN, to be active as VK9LQ from November 21 to 27. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, RTTY, FT8 and other Digital modes. QSL via home call, direct, by the Bureau or eQSL.

GHANA, 9G. Chip, KB1QU will be active as 9G5QU from September 8 to 21. Activity will be on 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW, FT8 and FT4. QSL via N4GNR direct.

WESTERN KIRIBATI, T30. Operators Yuris, YL2GM, Jack, YL2KA, Kaspars, YL1ZF and Kristers, YL3JA will be active as T30L from September 6 to 15. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, and possibly 60 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via YL2GN direct or via ClubLog.

NAURU, C21. Operators Yuris, YL2GM, Jack, YL2KA, Kaspars, YL1ZF and Kristers, YL3JA will be active as C21W from September 16 to 25, after their Western Kiribati operation. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, and possibly 60 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via YL2GN direct or via ClubLog.

MADEIRA ISLANDS, CT9. Operators Gerd, DF9TS, Detlef, DK3QZ, Michael, DK6QW, Marcus, DL1EKC, Kai, DL3HAH and Andreas, DL3YM will be active as CR3W from Santana during the Worked All Europe DX CW Contest, August 10 and 11 as a Multi-Single entry. QSL CR3W via DL5AXX, OQRS or LoTW. Look for operators to be active outside of the contest as CT9/home call usually on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home call signs.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Operators Michael, DL2GMI and Bernhard, DL2GAC will be QRV as H44MI

and H44MS, respectively, from August 23 to September 2. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meters using SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via their home call sign, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW.

THE NETHERLANDS, PA75. Look for special event station PA75OMG to be active September 12 to 22 to celebrate the anniversary of freedom and Operation Market Garden during World War II. QSL via the info on QRZ.com.

CUBA, T45. Members of the DX Punta Maya Group will be active as T45FM from the Punta Maya Lighthouse (NA-105, ILLW CU-032, ARLHS CU-005) from August 15 to 19. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. An emphasis will be on the International Light-house/Lightship Weekend (ILLW). QSL via RW6HS.

LIBERIA, A8. The Italian DXpedition Team of 11 operators will be active from September 28 to October 11. They plan to use two call signs: A82X for CW, SSB and RTTY and A82Z for FT8 only. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. They are planning to use 5 stations with maximum flexibility. QSL via OQRS, I2YSB direct only or LoTW after the operation.

ANTIGUA, V2. Bud, AA3B will be active as V26K from September 8 to 20. Activity will be sporadic because he is doing maintenance on the station but will be primarily CW on various HF bands. QSL via LoTW or via AA3B, direct or by the Bureau. An OQRS will be available via ClubLog.

MICRONESIA, V6. Al, K7AR will be active as V63AR from November 18 to 26. Activity will be on various HF bands with a focus on 160 and 80 meters, including an effort in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23 and 24). QSL via home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

The WAE DX Contest, CW, QRP ARCI European Sprint, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Maryland-DC QSO Party and The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are all on tap for this weekend.

Please see August QST, page 84, 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.

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

August 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