

# The Hertzian Herald



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## Off The Kuf:

By Mike – N8KUF



Well, it's been about 2 weeks now since the return to Eastern Standard Time (from DST), I'm already disgusted with the "dark before it's time" syndrome (or as someone once asked in a very innocent question ... "why does it have to get late so early???"). Even though we "gained" an hour of sleep, my body clock is still messed up and feels like something is missing. I'm afraid that I am looking at what will play out as a long, dark, winter filled with cabin fever.

If you were at the October meeting you watched a well-done video titled 'Discovering Amateur Radio'. The video explored the evolution of "communications", from shouting across the valley to sending up smoke signals and then to the development of Ham Radio as we know it today and as we look forward to what it may become tomorrow. I hope that you enjoyed the video and managed to learn something new along with the rest of us.

I'm thankful to have been able to participate this past month in the annual Spook Patrol in Dundee, and with MC ARPSC in a full-scale mass casualty exercise at Promedica Monroe Regional Hospital. I expect you will read much more on these activities elsewhere in this issue of the Herald so I will simply state here it was a very detailed drill involving police, fire, ambulance/EMT responders, and hospital staff/ Security. A bevy of MHS student actors, staged and made up as very realistic looking, and acting, disaster victims helped to ensure realism throughout the exercise. ARPSC provided logistical communications between Incident Command in the Hospital's EOC and the On-Scene Incident Commander/staff. Congrats to everyone involved.

**The November MCRCA meeting** promises to be both interesting and educational. The guest speaker for the evening will be **Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA**. Carl (licensed since October 1961) retired in early October 2013 after 41 years as an RF Design Engineer with Motorola and Raytheon (formerly Magnavox). Carl's interest in propagation goes back to his college days at Purdue University (BSEE 1969, MSEE 1972).

The web site <http://k9la.us/index.html> contains selected articles and presentations about propagation and solar topics from his monthly Practical Propagation column in CQ Plus (formerly WorldRadio), and from contributions to other Amateur Radio publications, and from various presentations he's given. These items are grouped into Monthly Feature, Timely Topics, Basic Concepts, Tutorials, General, 160m, HF, VHF, Contesting, Webinars and DXU presentations. You can also read about his early Novice days at the My Novice Days link, his aviation days at the Aviation link, RF power amplifier topics in the RF Power Amps link and antenna topics in the Antennas link and the Receive Antennas link. Also, check out some of his early "detective" work in the WN9AVT Mystery link.

Carl and his wife Vicky AE9YL have been on several DXpeditions (YK9A, OJ0, and many trips to ZF as ZF2LA and ZF2YL). Carl is on the Top of the Honor Roll (worked all current DXCC entities), has 160-Meter DXCC and needs only four zones on 80-Meters for 5BWAZ.

(Continued page 3)

### Club Officers

#### PRESIDENT

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# MCRCA Minutes:

October 17, 2019

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: One new member, Don N8BZN, no upgrades or guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Tom KG8P, supported by Paul W8PI, 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: Some out there, T30GC has uploaded a total of 12,000 contacts, CW is still king with most contacts, FT8 is second most contacts. – 5K0K is also active, - VP6R is starting on the 19<sup>th</sup>? – D68CC is starting the 20<sup>th</sup>? – Oct. 26-27 World Wide DX Contest, - FT8 is changing the rules – getting contacts you never could before.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

**November** – KA9LA will do a program on Propagation and Solar Event Topics.

**December** – Potluck and gift exchange.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. December 21, 2019. A least one Extra is expected to test.

MENTOR MOMENT: One question: How to reset crowbar circuit in a PS, turning off PS did not work, any ideas??

ARPSC: - S.E.T. A big thank you to all who participated – final report not complete but lots of activity to thank folks for. – Coming up, hospital mass casualty test on the 30<sup>th</sup> looking for help, starts about 8:00 am. – Spook patrol at Dundee, help needed, looking for about 6 cars, 5:30 start to 7:00 pm, meet at Burger King.

ARRL: Coming in January, a new magazine called "On the Air" for new folks to ham radio, but all ARRL members can access online version. – California 'Ham Out' – is likely not to happen – money issues, so still not fully flushed out. More details will come but as things are worked out over time.

RRRA: All healthy at this point. Configuration of former Luna Pier repeater 444.55, waiting on updated packet system.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Sandra asked if lighting could be improved outside? Likely not being this is not a public building.

**DOOR PRIZE DRAWING:** Wes KC8SKP

**50/50:** Gary W8GPR - \$15 returned to the club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PROGRAM: Video titled 'Discovering Amateur Radio'.

ADJOURNED: 8:31 pm

ATTENDANCE: 16

AD8EP Keith  
W8SMB Scott  
N8KUF Mike  
W8GMA Bob

KA8PQH Neil  
KE8KNZ Tom  
N8NYP Terry  
KE8CQW Sandra

KC8SKP Wes  
KF8LT Jim  
W8PI Paul  
W8GPR Gary

KE8DDM Dalton  
KG8P Tom  
WA8EFK Dale  
N8BZN Don

## 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

Please join us in welcoming Carl to the November meeting.

Also, you should start making plans to attend the December MCRCA meeting which will include the annual Christmas potluck along with the "giveth then taketh awayeth gift exchangeth". If you've never taken part in one of these exchanges, you absolutely owe it to yourself to live the experience. If you've taken part in one of them previously ... perhaps you've had a chance to fine tune your trading strategies. Make sure to add it to your calendar now, and standby for more details in next month's edition.

In closing this month please remember that, 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 meeting etiquette which include, but are not limited to:

- 1) All throwable fruits/veggies must be checked at the door and
- 2) All who are willing to have a good time are welcome, and
- 3) All who attend are encouraged to learn something new, and
- 4) All are encouraged to occasionally bring homemade cookies, and
- 5) You should bring a non-member friend to at least 2 meetings per year

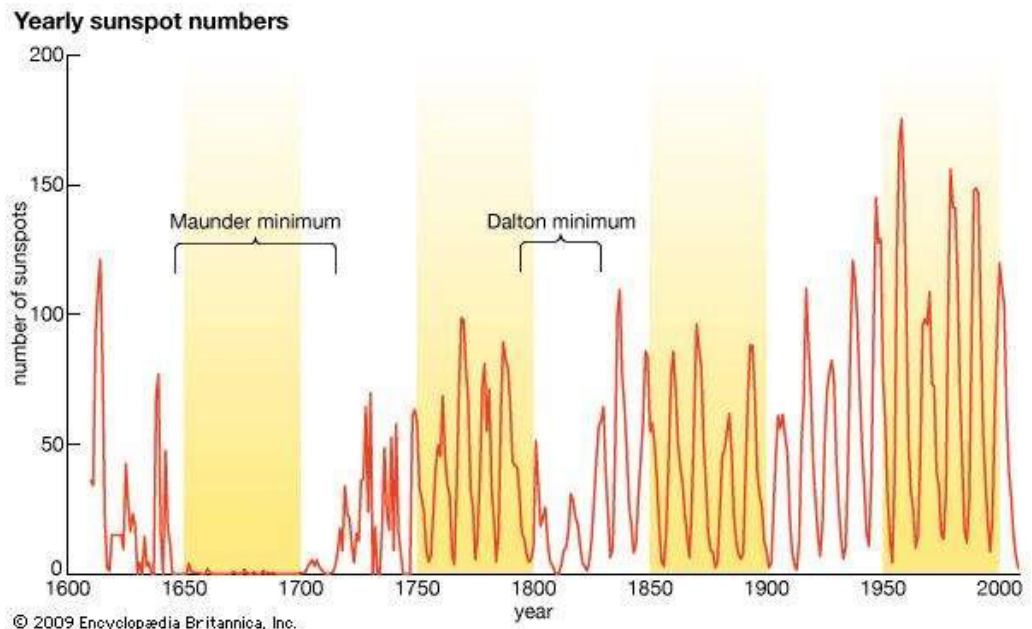
I'll see YOU (and your friend) at the meeting,

*Mike Karmol* – N8KUF      2019 President – MCRCA

## Maunder minimum

**Maunder minimum**, unexplained period of drastically reduced [sunspot](#) activity that occurred between 1645 and 1715.

Sunspot activity waxes and wanes with roughly an 11-year [cycle](#). In 1894 the English astronomer [Edward Walter Maunder](#) pointed out that very few sunspots had been observed between 1645 and 1715. Astronomers such as [John Flamsteed](#) and [Gian Domenico Cassini](#) who did observe sunspots during that period noted that they were the first they had seen in years. However, most of Maunder's fellow astronomers blamed the lack of sunspots on haphazard and sporadic observations of the [Sun](#) by 17th- and 18th-century astronomers. In 1976 American astronomer [John Allen Eddy](#) used extensive historical data to show that 17th- and 18th-century astronomers had indeed been careful and diligent observers of the Sun. Eddy also conducted detailed analysis of levels of [carbon-14](#) (a [radioactive isotope](#) whose abundance increases during periods of low solar activity) in [tree rings](#) to confirm that during two distinct historical periods sunspot activity was greatly decreased. Eddy dubbed the conspicuous solar calm that lasted from 1645 to 1715 the Maunder minimum, after Maunder. (Eddy also examined evidence of an earlier peaceful interval between 1450 and 1540, which he called the [Spörer minimum](#) in honour of the 19th-century German scientist Gustav Spörer, another early observer of the irregularities.) The Maunder minimum coincided with the coldest part of the "[Little Ice Age](#)" (c. 1500–1850) in the Northern Hemisphere, when the [Thames River](#) in England froze over during winter, [Viking](#) settlers abandoned Greenland, and Norwegian farmers demanded that the Danish king recompense them for lands occupied by advancing [glaciers](#). The physical mechanism that explains how a drastic change in solar activity affects Earth's [climate](#) is unknown, and a single episode, however suggestive, does not prove that lower sunspot numbers produce cooling. However, if real, the phenomenon may indicate that the Sun can influence the climate on Earth with even slight fluctuations.



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*This article was most recently revised and updated by [Erik Gregersen](#), Senior Editor.*

## The Way It Was: Recalling the dawn of amateur radio

By John Straka | Columnist Published: March 23, 2016 12:00 AM

I graduated from high school in 1935, just about the time when radio was still very new. Amateur radio operators were having fun building their own transmitters and competing to see who had the best ones. The government assigned certain frequencies just for amateur use. Some frequencies would only reach a short distance, while others sent signals that bounced off certain layers in the atmosphere and reached halfway around the world.

I tried to get into that, but it required the ability to transmit and receive a minimum of 10 words per minute Morse code in order to get a license. I just barely managed 10, when the minimum was raised to 12, and I quit trying.

My high school classmates George and Ed had their licenses. A third classmate, Joe, got into ham radio, and that led to his getting a job in the police radio department of a nearby city. Another friend and neighbor, Pete, was not much interested in talking to other "hams," as he was in being able to build a working transmitter. So he built a "rig," and needed some way to see if it worked before applying for a license. For a very brief time, he used someone else's call letters. Of course that was not legal and he could have been in trouble, but he was on the air for such a short time that it did not matter. During the war, he served as radio operator on a destroyer, and I still have a few letters he sent me.

At about that time, our family radio had shortwave capability, and I could listen to the chimes of Big Ben directly from London, as well as music from Czechoslovakia. I even had the opportunity to talk to a ham in Australia, from the home of one of my friends with a shortwave transmitter.

I would spend hours waiting for the local police to say something on the police radio, but they seldom did. What did work, was being able to listen in on pilots talking to the airport as they approached Cleveland. When I heard a pilot say, "United 437 over Goshen," I knew he and his plane would roar over our house in exactly so many minutes. Goshen was a city in New York state, and when the plane passed over it, the call alerted the airport control to watch for the arrival and landing of the plane.

I had fun with that, because I would wait until just before the aircraft flew over my house, then I'd go outside and tell my buddies I could hear the airplane approaching. Of course they didn't hear it, and neither did I, but I knew it was coming. A few times, after dark, I aimed a flashlight at one of those planes and the pilot flashed his landing lights at me. Can you imagine the trouble I'd get into if I did that today? There have been some recent reports of lasers being used that way, but that's much more dangerous than my little flashlight had been.

Now we have cell phones and email. In those bygone days, if two friends both had transmitters, they could arrange a set time, and one would call the other at that same time every day.

Verification cards were a large part of amateur radio. Every operator wanted to know how good his home made transmitter was. Every time one operator reached another, they would exchange verification cards. If you had a transmitter, you would get those cards printed up to your own specifications, and some were very creative in their design.

When atmospheric conditions were just right, a signal might bounce or skip, and travel a lot further than it normally would. That generated a lot of activity as hams scrambled to get verification from seldom reached stations. On one such occasion, I happened to be tuned in, and heard a very pleasant sounding lady's voice calling from Nova Scotia. Female hams were in the minority, and this one, from the sound of her voice, must have generated many fantasies as to what she looked like.

I remember being on a bus as the driver and a passenger were having a conversation. Now drivers are not allowed to talk to passengers while driving, but this was long ago. I had never seen the passenger before in my life, but there was something different about her. Something familiar about her voice. As the lady was getting off the bus, the driver said, "Goodbye, Molly!" With those two words I realized she was the ham on the air most afternoons, talking to friends while preparing supper in her kitchen.

I can pick up my cell phone and talk to anyone anywhere in the world. Or I can send an email. Today's young people may find it hard to believe there was a time when you could not do that. Not long ago, a disaster such as a California earthquake would totally isolate an entire region from the rest of the world. Amateurs with battery operated transmitters provided the only way to communicate out of stricken communities.

## How to get “plugged in” to the amateur radio community

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This morning, I found this email in my inbox:

Thank you for your website and great content. I passed the Tech and General tests on Saturday, and I will be taking the Extra exam in November. Your “No Nonsense” guides were very helpful.

I do have a question, though. How do I stay current on what’s happening in the ham world? For example the CQ WW SSB contest was this weekend. How do newbies know this kind of thing? How do we find local or regional hamfests and other events?

This is a great question. Like any special interest, it can seem daunting to get plugged in (pun intended) to the community. Here are a few of my suggestions:

**Join the ARRL (<http://arrl.org/>).** The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is really the place to start for information related to amateur radio. *QST*, the ARRL’s monthly magazine, includes news about upcoming contests and ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. It also reviews new amateur radio products and provides a wealth of technical information.

In addition to *QST*, the ARRL publishes many email newsletters that members can subscribe to. For example, *Contest Update* is a biweekly newsletter that not only lists upcoming contests, but also includes tips on operating contests. The *ARES E-Letter* is a monthly public service and emergency communications newsletters. There are also email newsletters for ham radio instructors, those interested in DX, legislative matters, and satellite operation.

**Join your local club.** While the ARRL will help you keep abreast of amateur radio news and events nationally and internationally, if you want to know what going on in amateur radio in your area, you should join your local club. To find clubs near you, go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

**Visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>).** This contest calendar has become my go-to resource for any and all contest information. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors. Its features include an 8-Day calendar, a 12-Month calendar, and separate calendars for state QSO parties, CW contests, and QRP contests. You can also get a weekly e-mail of contests taking place in an 8-day period (Monday through Monday), as well as a list of contests scheduled for the next week and a list of log submission information for recent contests.

**Ham radio blogs.** Blogs are also a good way to keep up with what’s going on in amateur radio. I like to think that I do a good job of covering what’s going on in amateur radio, but, of course, I can’t do it all. That being the case, you might also want read other blogs. Other amateur radio blogs that you might want to check out include:

- The K0NR Radio Site (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>)
- QRP—When you care to send the very least (<https://w2lj.blogspot.com/>)
- Everything Ham Radio (<https://www.everythinghamradio.com/>)

There are a bunch of other good ones out there. Find the ones you like and subscribe to them, so that you get a notification when new items are posted.

(Continued next page)



**Mailing lists.** Mailing lists are kind of old school, but if you have a special interest, chances are that there is a mailing list for it. For example, I own an Elecraft KX-3, so I subscribe to the Elecraft KX User Group mailing list (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/>). Many amateur radio mailing lists are migrating to the Groups.io. To find a list, just click on the "Find or Create a Group" link at the top of the page. I just did a search for "amateur radio" and found 910 different amateur radio mailing lists.

**Podcasts and videocasts.** Podcasts are also another great way to stay up with amateur radio. I'm partial to the ICQPodcast (<http://icqpodcast.com/>) because I am on the panel once a month. The podcast not only includes a discussion of what's new in amateur radio, but also a feature, which digs a little deeper into a particular topic. Other great podcasts are Ham Radio Workbench (<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>), and Linux in the Ham Shack (<https://lhspodcast.info/>). Internet video shows that are worth checking out are Ham Radio 2.0 (<https://www.livefromthehamshack.tv/>), Ham Radio Now (<https://www.hamradionow.tv/home>), and Ham Nation (<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>).

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have an amateur radio information resource that you find particular helpful, please let me know.

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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 often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep up with ham radio, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

## Old Hamshacks

Today, virtually all hams use factory-assembled or kit gear. Back in the post-war/1960s period, most middle-class hams built at least part or all of their HF transmitting gear.

My call, W3PYF, was that of my SK OM, W3PYF. Dad was also a well-known industrial photographer, and about 10 years ago, I discovered a cache of quite professionally made portraits of club members at their stations.

With the permission of the page moderators, I'd like to upload a daily "Today's Hamshack of the Past" photo. I know a little about some of the hams in them - and where I do, I'll add a description.

The first photo is that of Lew Papp, W3MAC, of Martins Creek, PA. Lew lost his eyesight as a young man when he accidentally drilled into a blasting cap in a local PA quarry. He received a modest payment for his injury after a jury trial, and local hams collaborated to build him transmitting gear he could tune by touch and sound. He rotated his beams by manually turning a shaft with a pointer and pegs indicating direction.

In 1955, Lew gained national prominence when he refused evacuation during the rising waters of local rivers and the creek 30 feet below his shack, because he was a key relay station handling Red Cross traffic. Finally, just as he heard the waters lapping at the floor below his shack, he accepted evacuation.

Lew was an avid DXer, and earned just about every international award. Late in life, he married, moved away from his home and shack over Martin's Creek, and left the hobby.

It would be fun to see how many can ID the commercial gear in his shack.





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 AA3B, EA4NF, LU4AAO, 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.

**NIGER, 5U.** Pierre, HB9AMO is QRV as 5U9AMO until November 25. QSL via M0URX.

**GHANA, 9G.** Members of the Slovenia Contest Club will be QRV as 9G5W from November 16 to 27. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL via LoTW.

**BAHAMAS, C6.** A group of operators are QRV as C6AGU from Wood Cay Island, IOTA NA-001, until December 9. Activity is on the HF bands with a focus on 160 and 80 meters. This includes entries in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW and ARRL 160-Meter contests. QSL via HA7RY.

**CAPE VERDE, D4.** Eric, OE4AAC will be QRV as D4CC from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, from November 17 to 30. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW and some FT8. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

**CEUTA AND MELILLA, EA9.** Philippe, EA4NF will be QRV as EA9/EA4NF from Melilla from November 18 to 21. Activity will be on various satellites. QSL via LoTW.

**MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FO.** Didier, F6BCW will be QRV as FO/F6BCW from Hiva Oa Island, IOTA OC-027, from November 19 to 25. Activity will be on 40 and 20 meters. QSL direct to home call.

**TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40.** Rob, N7QT and Grant, KZ1W are QRV as H40KT and H40TT, respectively, from Pigeon Island, IOTA OC-065, until November 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being an entry as H40KT in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL via M0URX.

**ARGENTINA, LU.** Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano are QRV as LU4AAO until November 18 to celebrate the Argentine Traditions Day. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL direct to LU4AAO.

**SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5.** Wlodek, SP6EQZ and Janusz, SP6IXF will be QRV as PJ5/home calls from Saint Eustatius, IOTA NA-145, from November 16 to 30. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes a possible entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL to home calls.

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2.** Bud, AA3B will be QRV as V26K from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, November 16 to 26. Activity will be on the HF bands with an emphasis on CW. This includes being a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL direct to home call.

**MICRONESIA, V6.** Al, K7AR will be QRV as V63AR from Pohnpei, IOTA OC-010, from November 18 to 26. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5.** Dennis, K2SX, Art, KZ5D, Les, W2LK, Bill, AC0W and Jim, K4QPL will be QRV as VP5/home calls from Caicos, IOTA NA-002, from November 19 to 26. They will be QRV as VP5M in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL to home calls and VP5M direct to K4QPL.

**VIET NAM, XV.** Mats, SM6LRR will be QRV as XV9D from November 17 to 30. Activity will be on 40 to 20 meters. This includes being a Single Op/Single Band entry on 40 meters in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL direct to EA5GL.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Burkhard, DL3KZA is QRV as YB9/DL3KZA from Sumbawa and Lombok Island, IOTA OC-150, until December 2. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.** Dan, N6MJ will be QRV as ZF2MJ from November 19 to 25. He will be active as ZF1A in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest on all bands. QSL ZF2MJ to home call and ZF1A via K6AM.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO** The ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest, ARRL EME Contest, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, YO International 80-Meter PSK31 Contest, LZ DX Contest, All Austrian 160-Meter CW Contest, REF 160-Meter CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest and the Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment CW Party will certainly keep testers busy this upcoming weekend.

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

The RSGB 80-Meter Autumn SSB Series, CWops Mini-CWT Test, QRP

40-Meter CW Fox Hunt and Phone Fray are scheduled for November 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

November 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