

# The Hertzian Herald



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From the Pen of Glen  
de **K8GO**



January 2017

Hope your holidays were jolly and safe.

This is the final edition for my column. If anyone reads it, I hope you enjoyed it. Someone else will have the honor after our next meeting.

Speaking of the next meeting, we have elections and a program about fixing old radios. Our how to make your boat anchor float!

Also at the next meeting, you can find out more about the new Great Lakes HamCon. The inaugural event will be at Michigan International Speedway on October 7 & 8 of 2017. I am honored to have been asked to be the President of the organization tasked with putting on the event. Momentum is building already. Forums and seminars are in the works and the venue will be fabulous. More will coming on the web at GLHamCon.org and on Twitter @GLHamCon as well as Facebook.

Michigan State Parks on the air is coming. Lasting three years, this will be a fun event. More information at the next meeting. The meeting is Thursday January 19, 7:30- pm at the Red Cross building See you there.

73 and have fun on the air,

Glen, K8GO



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## Inside This Issue

Christmas Party . . 2  
ET Phones Earth....3  
FCC Petitions.....4  
Cliff W4KKP.....5  
Renewal form.....6  
ARRL DX . . . . . 7

## MCRCA Minutes:

Christmas Party, no meeting held.



### Committees

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**Club Station**  
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

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## E.T. Phones Earth? 1,500 Years Until Contact, Experts Estimate

*Earth's broadcasts reach only about 80 light-years into space. If humanity is average, then other civilizations would have reached a similar distance, covering less than a tenth of 1 percent of the Milky Way.*

SAN DIEGO — Aliens may be mediocre just like Earthlings, which could explain why humanity hasn't heard from advanced civilizations yet. If life on this planet develops at an average pace, rather than an exceptionally slow pace, then extraterrestrial life likely followed a similar path.

Like humanity, average civilizations have barely scratched the surface of galactic communication, so humans shouldn't start to worry about whether they're alone for another 1,500 years or so.

"Communicating with anybody is an incredibly slow, long-duration endeavor," said Evan Solomonides at a press conference June 14 at the American Astronomical Society's summer meeting in San Diego, California. Solomonides is an undergraduate student at Cornell University in New York, where he worked with Cornell radio astronomer Yervant Terzian to explore the mystery of the Fermi paradox: If life is abundant in the universe, the argument goes, it should have contacted Earth, yet there's no definitive sign of such an interaction.



Solomonides said the enormous size of the galaxy means the silence comes as no surprise.

"Space is very big. It takes a long time to reach anyone, even at the speed of light," he said.

### Silent space

When Enrico Fermi formulated his namesake paradox in the 1950s, planets around other stars were only hypothetical. Today, scientists suspect that nearly every sun has at least one if not more worlds, dramatically increasing the chances for life to have evolved throughout the universe. However, for some people, the lack of confirmed greeting from another civilization suggests that life may not be so common after all.

Solomonides applied the mediocrity principle — the idea that Earth's attributes are likely common in the rest of the universe, rather than unusual — to the Fermi paradox. Scientists think that Earth is an average planet around an average star, orbiting in an average place within an average galaxy.

"There's nothing even remotely special about where we are in the universe, or even in the galaxy," Solomonides said.

The 1936 Berlin Olympic games broadcast was the first radio signal strong enough to leave Earth. Traveling at the speed of light, this program is the leading edge of a bubble of broadcasts racing outward through space from Earth. But that signal has managed to travel only 80 light-years from the planet.

Solomonides said advanced life elsewhere in the universe is unlikely to have arisen much before life on Earth. That's because bodies like those of humans require a mixture of the heavy elements produced over the lifetimes of stars, and it takes several generations of star formation to produce the necessary quantities. As a result, civilizations capable of communicating throughout the galaxy wouldn't have started out much earlier than happened on Earth.

Based on the assumption that life and technology on Earth should have evolved at a relatively average pace, not significantly faster or slower than for other civilizations, Solomonides calculated the communication bubbles that life would produce throughout the galaxy. He found that, as of today, only about a tenth of 1 percent of the Milky Way would be blanketed by signals. With those numbers, it's likely that Earth won't hear from other life-forms for another 1,500 years.

"There could be life everywhere in the galaxy, and we still wouldn't know it," Solomonides said. (cont'd next page)

In fact, "if we had been contacted by another civilization, we would actually be special."

That doesn't mean humanity should stop searching for signals or cut off broadcasts (though the rise of cable to carry television signals may mean that Earth is getting quieter anyway), Solomonides said. Instead, humans should keep broadcasting and listening in order to avoid missing the historic chance of contact, he said. People simply shouldn't expect results any time in the near future.

Even if, in the next 2,000 years, humans still haven't heard from other life-forms, that won't mean life doesn't exist throughout the galaxy, Solomonides said. He pointed out that communication requires the evolution of advanced life; molecular life won't be sending out signals, and so isn't considered in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Other scientists have suggested alien life may have evolved but then died out.

Another possibility is that advanced civilizations are unwilling to respond, because they'd rather avoid contact. After all, Solomonides said, Earth's first broadcast was Adolf Hitler's Olympics remarks.

"That's not really a great introduction," he said, wryly.

Follow Nola Taylor Redd on Twitter @NolaTRedd or Google+. Follow us at @Spacedotcom, Facebook or Google+. Originally published on Space.com.

## FCC dismisses two petitions from Radio Amateurs

The FCC has turned down two petitions filed in 2016, each seeking similar changes in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules.

James Edwin Whedbee, NOECN, of Gladstone, Missouri, had asked the Commission to amend the rules to reduce the number of Amateur Radio operator classes to Technician, General, and Amateur Extra by merging remaining Novice class licensees into the Technician class and all Advanced class licensees into the Amateur Extra class.

In a somewhat related petition, Jeffrey H. Siegell, WB2YRL, of Burke, Virginia, had requested that the FCC grant Advanced class license holders Morse code operating privileges equivalent to those enjoyed by Amateur Extra class licensees.

"Thus, Mr. Siegell's proposed rule change is subsumed within the changes Mr. Whedbee requests, so our analysis is the same for both proposals," the FCC said in dismissing the two petitions on January 5.

The FCC streamlined the Amateur Radio licensing system into three classes - Technician, General, and Amateur Extra - in 1999. While it no longer issues new Novice or Advanced class licenses, existing licenses can be renewed, and Novice and Advanced licensees retained their operating privileges.

"The Commission concluded that the three-class structure would streamline the licensing process, while still providing an incentive for licensees to advance their communication and technical skills,"

the FCC recounted in its dismissal letter to Whedbee and Siegell. It specifically rejected suggestions that Novice and Advanced class licensees be automatically upgraded to a higher class, concluding that it would be inappropriate for these licensees to "receive additional privileges without passing the required examination elements." The FCC cited the same reason in 2005, when it denied requests to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General class and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra class, as part of a wide-ranging proceeding.

The FCC said the two petitions "do not demonstrate, or even suggest, that any relevant circumstances have changed that would merit reconsideration of those decisions."

Whedbee had argued that automatically upgrading current Novice and Advanced classes would simplify the rules and reduce the Commission's costs and administrative burden, but the FCC said Whedbee provided no evidence that an administrative problem exists.

"Moreover, such benefits would not outweigh the public interest in ensuring that amateur operators have the requisite incentive to advance their skill and technical knowledge in order to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and improvement of the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC said.

"The Commission has already concluded that it will not automatically grant additional privileges to the discontinued license classes,"

the FCC said. "Consequently, we conclude that the above-referenced petitions for rulemaking do not warrant further consideration at this time."



## My name is Cliff. I am now 105 years old.

Cliff Kayhart, Born 14 October 1911

Licensed 1937 W2LFE then W9GNQ then W4KKP

At age 10 built first crystal radio which hooked me. I modified the coil to make it stronger and began hearing hams on am frequency below normal broadcast frequencies. That was the second hook and began interest in electronics.

Finished high school in 1929 and worked as a runner and messenger on Wall Street for a short time. Then got a job with AT&T. Had to pass a test by wiring up a buzzer so I could prove I had some skill. Later I was told in order to go farther I would need a college degree.

Studied aeronautical engineering at Tristate University in Indiana and graduated in 1934. Because of the depression no job in airplane business.

I found a job with RCA in electronics in 1934. With my interest in electronics as a hobby I had practical experience but the only way I was hired was to tell them "hire me for a month and if I don't work out fire me!" I stayed on for 5 years but the economy was still bad. They laid off every one until I was the last. I left before I got laid off.

I found a one year contract job TT&T then repaired radios for Philco. Next tested aircraft instruments for Bendix. About this time, Pearl Harbor attack occurred. My shifts switched to 12 hours and very boring.

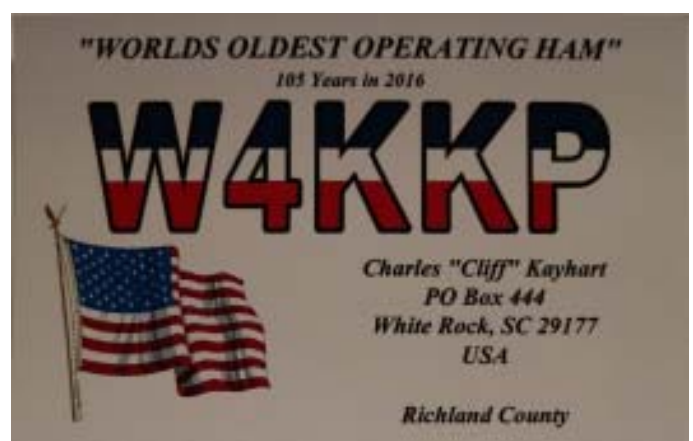
In 1943 I saw an article in QST that the Army Signal Corp was forming a new group so I thought I would be more useful joining up. Because of my electronics back ground I was offered a lieutenant's rank. Another group offered a major's rank but I had already committed. They Army sent me to MIT and Harvard for additional training while at Fort Monmouth in NJ.

I was transferred to Robbins Field to work on radar and then to Seattle, Washington. My family moved back to New Jersey. I was to go by ship to Oahu Hi. The Army chartered a Danish vessel to take us but it was in dry dock long enough I worked two jobs one of which was with the Longshoremen.

I made it safely to Hawaii attached to 3116th Signal Corp Service Battalion. I reported to a general who told me to take some time to learn the island. I was to get familiar with the radio equipment. I tried swimming on the north side of the island and almost drowned. We set up rhombic antennas with actual radio equipment in tunnels on the island of Oahu where the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. After months, the general showed me a map and pointed to an Island - Iwo Jima! He said that's where you are headed!

We landed on Iwo the day the flag was placed on Mt Suribachi. It was only 1/3rd secured at that time. I was in charge of setting up commercial type am transmitters so Iwo could talk with Washington, San Francisco and China and Hawaii. Navy Seabees and my crew put up the towers the I hooked it all up. When made open line, and set up fixed Rhombic antennas. I was at Iwo Jima for about 6 months. One day well after the airstrip was in and B 29's were landing we went on an aircraft alert which was unusual. I saw a lone B 29 flying over. I shipped out that same morning flying back by a marine aircraft to Hawaii by way of Guam. While in Guam I heard a lot of noise from men cheering. An atomic bomb had been dropped. That lone plane was the Enola Gay!

Well that's all for now. Thanks



## Monroe County Radio Communication Association

### Membership Application Form

**Time to renew your membership**, or to become a new member? Here's the perfect opportunity to do either. Just fill out this form and turn it in, along with your annual dues (see form for amount due) at the next general membership meeting OR mail it in to us at the address shown at the bottom of the form.

Membership has its privileges!

Here are just a few:

... subscription to the Hertzian Herald

...an opportunity to do community service through club-sponsored events (e.g., The Fermi Energy Run)

...a network of incredibly helpful, friendly, knowledgeable people who share your enthusiasm for amateur radio

And that's just the beginning. As a member, you'll have opportunities to present your ideas, as well. So fill out the form below and get started

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NEW MEMBERS and Renewals: \$10.00 for the calendar year. Additional family members \$ 5.00 each

☐ New Member      ☐ Renewal      ☐ Address Change

CALLSIGN \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE EXP DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(LAST, FIRST, MI)

(**Family:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Comments, Questions or Ideas for Programs: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I need a paper copy of the Hertzian Herald mailed, instead of the usual emailed copy.

If you wish to submit this form by mail, please remit it, as well as a check for the amount specified to the MCRCA to the following address:

Monroe County Radio Comm Assoc  
P.O. Box 237  
Monroe, MI 48161-0237



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 VE3AYR, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

**SRI LANKA, 4S.** Peter, DC0KK is QRV as 4S7KKG from Moragalla, IOTA AS-003, until April 1. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using mainly CW with some digital modes. QSL to home call.

**ZAMBIA, 9J.** Peter, JK1UWY is QRV as 9J2HN from Lusaka. He is active on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK. QSL via JR2KDN.

**TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40.** Darren, VK4FEDX is QRV as H40DA from Nendo Island, IOTA OC-100, until January 17. Activity is on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

**HAITI, HH.** Operators Dale, N3BNA and Harry, N3FMO are QRV as HH8/N3BNA and HH8/N3FMO, respectively, until January 25 while here performing some humanitarian and radio work. Activity is in their spare time. QSL to home calls.

**ANTARCTICA, Juan, LU4CJM** is QRV as either LU1ZI or LU4CJM/Z from Carlini Base until the end of February. Activity is on 80, 40 and 20 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

**BULGARIA, LZ.** Members from the Headquarters of the Thracian Rose Club are QRV as LZ73TRC during all of 2017. QSL via LZ1YE.

**SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.** Members of the Peruano Radio Club of Peru are QRV as OA0MP from the Machu Picchu Antarctic Base on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, until March 31. Activity is mainly on 40 and 20 meters using SSB. QSL via OA4O.

**BANGLADESH, S2.** Yuki-san, JH1NBN plans to be QRV as S21ZBA from Dhaka from January 15 to 19 while on a business trip. Activity will be in his spare time primarily on 80 and 40 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

**PALAU, T8.** Hirotaka, JA6KYU, Kouko, JQ6FQI, Ichiro, JH7IPR, Mike, JA6EGL and Yasushi, JI6BFF are QRV as T88HS, T88WM, T88UW, T88SM and T88TK, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until January 19. QSL to home calls.

**CANADA, VE.** Special event station VE100VIMY commemorates the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 and is QRV as VE100VIMY/VE3 and VE100VIMY/VE4 from different regions of Canada during January. QSL via N7RO.

**BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V.** Andy, W4KDN, Charlie, W4KZK and John, WA5FAC will be QRV as VP2VAW from Tortola from January 14 to 21. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and JT65 with three stations active. They also plan to activate 60 meters. This includes entries in the North American QSO Parties. QSL direct to W4KZK.

**FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8.** Dave, VP8CLE and Carol, VP8DKW will be QRV from Saunders Island, IOTA SA-002, from January 15 to 22. Activity will be on 160 and 80 meters, and possibly other bands as well, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL direct to G1OCN.

**INDIA, VU.** Members of the West Bengal Radio Club are QRV as AU2WBR from Ganga Sagar Mela, IOTA AS-153, until January 17. QSL via VU2NRO.

**UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4.** Steve, G0SGB is QRV as ZC4SB until January 25. Activity is on 80, 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct to home call.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.** Peter, K8PGJ will be QRV as ZF2PG from Grand Cayman Island, IOTA NA-016, until January 22. This includes being an entry in the North American CW QSO Party. QSL direct to home call.

### THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

North American CW QSO Party, AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Old New Year Contest, UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest, NRAU-Baltic SSB Contest and NRAU-Baltic CW Contest are all on tap for this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for January 16.

The Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for January 18.

Please see January 2017 QST, page 85, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details



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## 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.

### 2017 Schedule:

February 18	April 15
June 17	August 19
October 21	December 16

### 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

January 19th 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