

# The Hertzian Herald



March 2020 • Volume 44, Issue 3 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

## Off The Kuf:

By Mike – N8KUF



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 is recently upon us and my body clock is still a bit out of whack. The weathermen have been teasing us with "spring fever weather" and I am ready for the real thing.

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 was happy to see that many of you were able to take advantage of SKYWARN spotter training. Even if you've been there before ... go again whenever the opportunity arises. For as long as I've been going, as the training materials and presentation technologies improve ... I manage to 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)). This year's material and presenter were among, if not the best, training sessions I've attended. 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.

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.*

(continued page 3)

<http://mcrca.org/>

[www.facebook.com/  
groups/  
1643856795878368/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/)

### Club Officers

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**MCRCA Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2020**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: One new member and upgrade Joe KE8KXR, and no guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob W8GMA, supported by John N8DXR, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, - W8S, Swain's Is. postponed until September 23 - October 6, 2020. - VP8PJ, S. Orkney Is 6<sup>th</sup> most wanted Feb. 21, 2020 - Mar. 6, 2020. - Tom says there is an average of 10 years between these DXpeditions so get them while they are hot.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Fox Hunts, Hands On, Coax, Lightening Protection and more.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. April 18, 2020.

MENTOR MOMENT: None

ARPSC: Mike N8KUF, said that at the last meeting they went over the training MCARPSC guide book. March 5<sup>th</sup> will be the next ARPSC meeting and Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> will be a training session on Field Operations Basics. Skywarn training will be held March 12<sup>th</sup> in Dundee Fire Dept. and you must register online.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, reported that the ARRL did not renew their contract with the General Manager, and they will be searching for a new one. There are some changes to the dues and life memberships. Soon there will be an online only membership and they are working on a new band plan for HF.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF reported that all repeaters are working since the glitch has been fixed at Ottawa Lake. The annual meeting of the RRA meeting is coming up on the first Saturday in May.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: MI QSO Party is April 18 from Noon to Midnight. The Red Cross station will be on the air, come and help operate this station. TMRA ARRL convention and Hamfest March 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**DOOR PRIZE DRAWING:** Sandy KE8CQW

**50/50:** Doug K8OF, donated his portion to the scholarship.

ANOUNCEMENTS: Skywarn 3/12/2020 Dundee  
ARRL Great Lakes Convention 3/14/2020  
TMRA Swap 3/15/2020 Club table reserved

PROGRAM: A video about an early DX-pedition (3Y0PI).

ADJOURNED: 9:02 pm

ATTENDANCE: 22

AC8WE Donald	K8EBI Fred	K8GO Glen	K8OF Doug
KB8KQC Brenda	KB8OSU George	KC8SKP Wes	KE8DDM Dalton
KG8P Tom	N8BZN Don	N8DXR John	N8KUF Mike
N8NYP Terry	W8BKT Brian	W8PI Paul	W8SMB Scott
WA8EFK Dale	W8GMA Bob	K8ONZ Gary	KE8CQW Sandy
KE8KXR Joe	WA8ZPW Rick		

**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

*(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.

The traditional visit to the TMRA swap will not be taking place this year. In case you haven't heard by now, there is this strange virus thingy hanging around. Many many events are being impacted and cancelled, schools will be closed, nursing home visitors are being outlawed – it's a big deal. All of us will need to remain vigilant and will need to adapt to the many shut-ins, shut-outs, shut-downs, and shutterings as best as we can. There is no precedent set, at least in modern times, for the actions, reactions, and changes taking place all around us. Let's all hope and pray that we round the corner on this nasty bug and soon see the rapid spread slowed or eliminated. In the meantime – hang on to your socks – this is going to be a crazy ride!!!!

The program for the March meeting is still being determined. It is likely to be educational in nature. Perhaps we will conduct some training to reinforce the need to wash your hands thoroughly and frequently. Cough into your elbow (if you can't reach your elbow anymore – cough into somebody else's elbow – haha)

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.

We are always looking for suggestions for club programs and/or activities. I am envisioning a number of fun programs this year and am 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, and .... HAVE SOME FUN!!

Remember rules for meeting attendance-

- 1: All weapons of mass embarrassment MUST be checked at the door and,
- 2: Be sure to wash your hands before and after the meeting and,
- 3: All who are willing to have a good time are welcome

Much MORE to come .... 73s - I'll see YOU at the meeting.

Mike – N8KUF      2020 (re)President – MCRCA



## Monroe County Radio Communications Association meeting CANCELLED

In accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and particularly in light of the latest testing activities and confirmed cases in Michigan and more specifically within Monroe County - your Monroe County Radio Communications Association (MCRCA) Board members have elected to cancel the March 19<sup>th</sup> MCRCA Meeting.

As amateur radio operators we believe in the principles of planning ahead and preservation of the wellbeing of our families and our surrounding community. We will get through this as a Section, as a hobby and as Michiganders.

Please remain vigilant and follow all recommendations provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Stay safe, stay healthy and 73!

Mike N8KUF  
2020 President, MCRCA

## Why Marconi's genius was on a different wavelength

By Lauren Oldershaw –

THIS June will mark exactly 100 years since the world's first public broadcast took place - and it took place right here in Essex, in Chelmsford to be precise.

It was June 15, 1920, when Australian opera star Dame Nellie Melba sung down a microphone at the Marconi works in New Street.

She belted out two arias in her famous trill. By the time of her second broadcast a few days later, the great diva's warbles were being listened to across Britain, and as far away as New York.

Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi was used to being a leader in his field.

In December 1901 he had succeeded in sending the first radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean, disproving detractors who told him that the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles or less. The message – simply the Morse-code signal for the letter "s" – travelled more than 2,000 miles from Poldhu in Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland, Canada.

Today Chelmsford is still celebrated as the birthplace of radio – and we have the great man to thank for that.

The key role of Essex in the birth of broadcasting was entirely down to the Marconi company, where technology was produced that would give Britain the edge over the rest of the world.

Radio science was still in its infancy in 1914, but it developed almost exponentially between 1914 and 1918, thanks to the pressures of war.

The man forever associated with the birth of radio, Guglielmo Marconi, was the son of an aristocratic Italian father and a Scottish mother. From an early age, he displayed dual skills – as a practical inventor, and a natural entrepreneur.

He channeled the experiments and theories of other scientists to make radio systems that – unlike those of his rivals – actually worked in the field.

In 1890, the British Post Office started to fund Marconi's experiments, resulting in a collaboration that was to prove fruitful for both sides.

The Marconi company would end up being one of the few beneficiaries of the Titanic disaster.

Without the contribution of radio, all aboard would have perished, and the fate of the ship would have remained a mystery.

In 1899, Marconi also pioneered the idea of consumer electronics, founding the world's first radio factory. The site chosen lay in the Essex town that had become Marconi's base, Chelmsford.

There he built up an unrivalled research and development team. At the outbreak of war, all Marconi's efforts were diverted to the war effort.

German technology was, in many fields, superior to that of the Allies. When it came to radio, however, Britain led the way, thanks to Marconi.

Marconi technology proved particularly crucial when it came to the largest and most critical naval engagement of the war, the Battle of Jutland. The vast battle fleet of the German Imperial Navy had the potential to wreak havoc on British maritime lifelines. But the Royal Navy patrolled the mouth of the Skagerrak strait, bottling the Germans into the Baltic.





On May 30 1916, the German fleet attempted a break-out. However, thanks to radio intercepts, the British admiral, Lord Jellicoe, had advance warning of the move, giving him time to order his ships to battle stations.

Following the cessation of hostilities, Marconi and his boys found a new use for the radio technology they had developed for military use. They switched it to a vast new peacetime enterprise - the enterprise of the airwaves.

After more than 100 years in Chelmsford, the Marconi Corporation finally closed down in 2006. The legacy it left, however, and impact it had on the creation of Chelmsford as a thriving town and later a city, cannot be overestimated.

Marconi himself died in Rome on July 20, 1937 at the age of 63, following his ninth heart attack.

Italy held a state funeral for him. As a tribute, shops on the street where he lived were closed for national mourning. In addition, at 6 pm the next day, the time designated for the funeral, all BBC transmitters and wireless Post Office transmitters in the British Isles observed two minutes of silence in his honor.

Today there are countless university buildings, streets, squares and even an airport named in his honor across the earth – and even out of it. The asteroid 1332 Marconia is named in his honor, while a large crater on the far side of the moon is also named after him.

I ESSEX 2020 – a year of science and creativity – is the biggest event of its kind to ever be held in the county.

The year-long program will bring together inspiring STEAM – science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics – events for all ages and across all corners of Essex to celebrate our county's pioneering past and present-day innovators.

A highlight will see Essex hosting the prestigious British Science Festival. The historic event will be held here for the first time in its almost 200-year history. It will take place from Tuesday, September 8, to Saturday, September 12, and will feature a variety of talks, debates, performances and activities on the Chelmsford campus of Anglia Ruskin University and surrounding area.



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**Monroe County Radio Communications Association**

Dues run from January 1st to December 31st of each year. As a current / Past Member, you are invited to attend our monthly meetings to find out the latest plans for our club. You may pay your dues at any regular meeting or by filling in the form below and mailing it to: **MCRCA, PO Box 237, Monroe, MI 48161**. Your membership and support will help with the continued success of our club. Thank you.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM**

Regular – \$10 — Add'l Family – \$5 each

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ RRRA Member? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CALL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle All That Apply:

Active Bands: 160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 220 440 higher

Modes: CW - SSB – PACKET - RTTY - FM - DX - MOBILE - QRP - SSTV - ATV - EME - SAT

Interests: Traffic - DX - Contests - Foxhunts - Satellites - Nets – Antennas - Computers  
Emergency - ARES/RACES - Skywarn - Classic Radios (circle all that apply)

Do you plan to upgrade your license? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what class? \_\_\_\_\_

What kinds of meeting programs would you like to see?

\_\_\_\_\_

Other activities you would like to see the Club offer

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

General Comment's

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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.

**MAURITIUS, 3B8.** Nigel, G3TXF is QRV as 3B8XF until March 28. This includes being an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. QSL via LoTW.

**MALDIVES, 8Q.** Noel, F6BGC is QRV as 8Q7NC from Veligandu Island, IOTA AS-013, until March 21. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

**GHANA, 9G.** Alan, G3XAO is QRV as 9G5XA from Accra. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW. This includes being an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. His length of stay is unknown. QSL direct to G3SWH.

**KUWAIT, 9K.** Members of the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society are QRV as 9K2F from Failaka Island, IOTA AS-118, until March 15. QSL via 9K2RA.

**BAHRAIN, A9.** Special event station A91GP is QRV until March 22 to celebrate the 2020 Bahrain Grand Prix. QSL via A92AA.

**EASTER ISLAND, CE0.** Mike, VE7ACN will be QRV as CE0Y/VE7ACN from March 19 to 30. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters if conditions permit, using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

**PHILIPPINES, DU.** Lenny, N7MOT is QRV as DU6/N7MOT from Panay Island, IOTA OC-129. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. He is generally active on 80 and 40 meters around 1200 to 1600z, and 20 meters between 2300 and 0300z. QSL via LoTW.

**SPAIN, EA.** Special event station EH3DWN will be QRV from March 14 to 21 to mark World Down Syndrome Day on March 21. QSL via LoTW.

**NORTHERN IRELAND, GI.** Special event calls GB0SPD, GB2SPD and GB4SPD will be QRV from March 16 to 18 during the St. Patrick's Day On The Air operating event. QSL via operators' instructions.

**LITHUANIA, LY.** Special event stations LY11LY and LY30LY are QRV during March to celebrate Lithuania's independence. QSL LY11LY via LY2QT and LY30LY via LY5A.

**CURACAO, PJ2.** Andreas, DK5ON will be QRV as PJ2/DK5ON from March 15 to 31. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8

and FT4. This includes being entries in the upcoming Russian DX and CQ World Wide WPX contests. QSL to home call.

**ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL ROCKS, PY0S.** Look for PQ0S to be QRV from March 14 to 16. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via PP5BZ.

**SLOVENIA, S5.** Members of Radio Club Cerkno are QRV with special event call S500E for all of 2020 to mark half a million QSOs made from the S50E station. QSL via LoTW.

**SEYCHELLES, S7.** Nick, G7EQM is QRV as S79EQM until March 29. Activity is holiday style on 20 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

**BELIZE, V3.** Iain, G4SGX is QRV as V31GX. This includes being an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. QSL via M0OXO.

**NAMIBIA, V5.** Pat, KI4SVM will be QRV as V5/KI4SVM from March 14 to 28. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW and SSB. This may include being active from SOTA references as well. QSL to home call.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.** Colin, G4CWH is QRV as ZF2CA. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. This includes being an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. QSL direct to home call.

**NEW ZEALAND, ZL.** Frank, ZL2BR, Geoff, ZL3GA, Phil, ZL3PAH and Paul, ZL4TT will be QRV as ZM2B in the RSGB Commonwealth contest. QSL via LoTW.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint, YB DX RTTY Contest, RSGB Commonwealth Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest, F9AA SSB Cup, South America 10 Meter Contest, AGCW QRP CW Contest, Oklahoma QSO Party, EA PSK63 Contest, TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest, QCWA QSO Party, Idaho QSO Party, QRP ARC1 Spring Thaw SSB Shootout, North American RTTY Sprint, UBA Spring 2-Meter Contest, Wisconsin QSO Party and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The Bucharest Digital FT4 Contest and RSGB FT4 Contest Series are scheduled for March 16.

The CLARA Chatter Party is scheduled for March 17

Please see March QST, page 79, 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 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.

### 2020 Schedule:

February 15	April 18
June 20	August 15
October 17	December 19

### 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 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