

The Hertzian Herald



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Off The Kuf:

By Mike – N8KUF

WOW – just WWWOOOWWWW!



I struggle to find ways to begin this month's Off the KUF article. With all the strangeness happening around us, perhaps I will try to focus on things that are normal and those things that are happening in attempt to regain some sense of normal in our lives.

One thing that seems normal is the weather. Now that it's April, those that perhaps didn't know or believe when I last wrote that anything could happen with the weather in Michigan, have had an opportunity to become believers. Where else might you find sun, snow, sleet, hail, thunder, lightning, snunder, snightening, rain, snain, snush, slush, slop, warm, chilly, cold, danged cold, way too danged cold, gloomy, cheery, breezy, gusty, windy, flooding, and dare I say nice all in the same month, or in the same week, heck sometimes even within the same day.

Late spring leading into early summer is a period when the level of Ham radio related activity normally peaks BIG TIME!!! From storm spotting, to disaster communications support, to public service event communications, to Hamfest, to Foxhunting, to Field Day and the list goes on. Weather and storms will surely occur and our support as storm spotters will surely continue even as we stay at home. We will certainly continue to support disaster communications should the need arise and should we be activated by our local Emergency Management officials. There is lots of activity on the ham bands, in fact many folks working from home find ways to cheat over to the radios while sitting in on their own work from home conferences. Public service event communications will no doubt fade into the background as we maintain our stay at home posture. We will continue with plans to conduct Fox Hunts, meetings, Hamfest, Field Day and adjust as necessary pending further extensions of the Stay At Home orders. We will manage our expenses in a risk aware manner while doing our best to carry on with our "normal" club activities.

In an attempt to allow us to continue to come together (while staying apart), leaders of our collective Ham Radio organizations have been exploring video conferencing platforms so that we might conduct our "normal" meetings via these conference tools even as we remain isolated (much like the rest of the world).

We are currently exploring Jitsi meeting and Zoom as preferred platforms. Primary considerations are affordability (can you say FREE) and ease of access/use by the majority of the Ham community. Current thinking is that we will be conducting this coming MCRCA meeting and most likely the upcoming RRRR meeting via video conferencing. ARPSC is also making similar adjustments.

Continued page 3

<http://mcrca.org/>

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

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No Minutes --No Meeting held in March due to COVID-19 virus

River Raisin Repeater Association annual meeting

The River Raisin Repeater Association (RRRA) would like to invite you to attend the annual business meeting to find out where the association has been and to help determine where it is going. Elections for the Board of Directors will be held at that time, and current / planned business and projects for the association will be discussed (only current members may vote on association business).

This year's business meeting will take place on Saturday May 2, 2020, 10:00 a.m. Based on COVID-19 restrictions (existing and future), we are exploring alternatives for conducting a video conferenced version of the annual meeting should the public gathering restrictions be extended beyond the May 2 date. Please monitor the MCRCA website www.mcrca.org for updates during the days preceding the scheduled meeting date.

There are five RRRA systems in operation to serve the amateur radio operators of the Monroe County region. Our first repeater, 146.72 (previously 146.73) went on the air in 1971, from downtown Monroe. Today, we operate from our transmitter site near Ida for 146.72, 224.78, 442.65, and our 144.93 BBS/ Digipeater. The 444.55 Repeater is located near Luna Pier, and the 442.825 system is in Dundee. Additional details are available via the MCRCA Web Page.

All of these RRRA systems are open to use by all amateur radio operators. However, if you are more than a "once in a blue moon" user of the RRRA repeaters, we ask you to consider joining the association. Your participation will help to insure the ability to operate, maintain and improve these systems while ensuring readiness to support any emergency/ disaster communications needs that may arise.

The Association is an independent radio club and is supported solely by member dues and contributions. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Additional Family Members (same address) are \$5.00 each. Membership runs from May 1 to May 1 of each calendar year. When you decide to join, you fill out the form at www.mcrca.org/RRRA and mail the form along with a check to RRRA. Your membership and participation are critical to the successful maintenance of RRRA equipment and continued services.

Whether you are a current/ past member or, if you are curious and would like to learn more – please join us at the meeting (be it in person or via video conference)

Mike N8KUF RRRA Sec / Treas.



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

For those who may not have cameras on their computers, cameras can be had at most Hamfests (if hamfests were being held :-/) and are available online from many sources including Amazon, Best Buy, eBay, or roll the dice via google (all include home delivery). USB cameras are easy to install and operate (most are plug and play). Barring a camera, you can still connect into the meeting and participate online via your computer's microphone. At worst case you can simply use a dumb telephone to call into the meeting and participate by voice only.

Watch for setup /log in instructions on the club web page and Facebook pages. We will try to also send instructions via email to club members prior to the meetings.

The rules for Video Conference attendance are:

- 1: Be sure to wash your hands for 20 seconds prior to sitting down at your computer
- 2: Observe good Social Distancing practices
- 3: All who are willing to have a good time are welcome

I'll see YOU at the meeting (via video conference) and above all –
STAY HEALTHY and STAY SAFE

Mike Karmol – N8KUF 2020 President – MCRCA

YouTube 'Lockdown Morse' Course

If anyone is interested in learning or improving their Morse, I'll be starting a new course on YouTube from Monday 13th April - **Lockdown Morse**.

Please subscribe to the YouTube channel here if it's something you're interested in - and feel free to share this with anyone you think might enjoy it: <https://youtu.be/RWDqg8bCSqM>

I've also created a Facebook page for the course: <https://www.facebook.com/lockdownmorse/>

Matt MOPTO

ARPSC Report

Welcome to April, the month of cold, warm, sleet, rain and everything in between along with COVID-19 and our changed lifestyle.

As I write this, we are still asked to stay home in Michigan until April 30th, and all in person activities are suspended at this time.

In this time of technology, many folks are accustomed to doing video chats and most likely do webinars for your work, so we have ways to continue to connect as ARPSC members. In the near future as long as we are asked to distance ourselves we will conduct our ARPSC meetings via either the ZOOM platform or Meet.Jit.Si. Keep an eye on the ARPSC Facebook or webpage for announcements and meeting links. We tested the Jit.Si platform last Thursday and it worked fairly well.

As we are moving into the warmer months with the chance of severe weather, just a reminder that all SKYWARN nets will be on the 72 Monroe Repeater. We do not activate anytime a Watch is issued due to the amount of times the Watches do not produce any weather, however we will activate for a **Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Tornado Warning**, or if there is weather that may become Severe as it moves towards Monroe County, we will activate approximately 30 minutes before the weather gets to the county. The SKYWARN nets have went very smoothly the past couple years due to everyone following net control directions, Thank You and continue to listen to what NCS is asking for and what they are not.

The next ARPSC meeting will be Thursday May 7th 7:30pm at the EMD if the Governor has lifted her stay at home order.

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 and Stay Safe
Lance Charter KE8BYC, -- Emergency Coordinator
Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp

Online MCRCRA meeting

Due to the latest Covid-19 Stay Home restrictions the MCRCRA will be conducting the April 16th Meeting using an on-line conferencing platform called Zoom.

The zoom session will be opening at 7:15 pm, and the meeting will get under way at 7:30 pm.

Please be aware that you can join via computer whether or not you have a video camera available but you should at least have a microphone, and there are methods for using a telephone to dial in without needing to use a computer.

If this is the first time you will be logging into Zoom, a few extra registration steps will be required **(best if you can give yourself 15 minutes before the meeting to complete this process -You should initiate your first time login AFTER 7:00 but BEFORE 7:15 in order for the process to run smoothly)**. You can follow this link for help in getting yourself set to join the meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

If you are already an established Zoom user, simply click on the following meeting link to join in:

Topic: MCRCRA Meeting

Time: Apr 16, 2020 - 07:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/641039684?pwd=VTRjbGE1bDARSW9nOGISVUNMLzBIdz09>

Meeting ID and Password are in your email this newsletter came in.

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,641039684#	US (Chicago)
+16465588656,,641039684#	US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799	US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656	US (New York)

If all else fails try the following steps:

Go to <https://zoom.us/>

Click **"Sign up free"**

Follow instructions to create an account with user name and password

You will receive an email to verify your account

Click verify -- **These first 5 steps can be done the day before, then continue with the 8 steps below on Thursday.**

Go to <https://zoom.us/>

Click **"Join Meeting"** in upper right

Enter **Meeting ID** from email

Click **"Join Meeting"**

Enter **password** from email

You should see yourself on screen

Click **"Join with video"**

Click **"Join with audio"**

Join the fun.

Zoom Meeting

Audio only

With video



If you have audio feedback, go the up arrow in the bottom left corner near the microphone icon. Select **Audi settings**.....Under Microphone, **Unclick - Automatically adjust volume**....Set volumes to about mid-way.

The Seven Thirty

...“Using Amateur Radio to prevent Social Isolation!”

...Social Distancing does NOT mean Social Isolation...

73, Bill VE3ES

The Seven Thirty family of nets: (most repeaters require a 118.8 hz PL tone for access)!

- **Sunday.....BCRC Sunday Night 6m Net**
 - VE3SMR 53.030 xmitter near Essex 90' AGL
 - 52.030 input, no PL in Windsor 225' AGL
 - 52.050 input, 118.8 hz PL in Leamington 200' AGL
- **Monday.....Essex County 220 MHz Society Monday Night Net**
 - VE3000 224.660, no PL 225' AGL
- **Tuesday.....Sun Parlour ARC Tuesday Night Net**
 - VE3TOM 146.970, 118.8 hz PL in downtown Leamington 150' AGL
 - VE3WIN 147.000 118.8 hz PL in downtown Windsor 225' AGL
 - VE3WIN 444.600 118.8 hz PL in downtown Windsor 225' AGL
- **Wednesday.... Sun Parlour Retirees ARC Wednesday Night Net**
 - VE3III 147.060 118.8 hz PL in downtown Windsor 200' AGL
- **Thursday.....Triple Zed FM Net** (analog mode on this FM / Fusion repeater)
 - VE3ZZZ, 147.100 118.8 hz PL high atop Mt. Ruthven 200' AGL
- **Friday.....SODA Friday Night DMR Local Net** (local talk group)
 - VE3UUU 444.4000 CKLW-FM tower near Amherstburg 400' AGL
 - VE3WIN 442.0625 downtown Windsor 275' AGL
 - VE3TOM 443.2625 downtown Leamington 150' AGL
 - VA3XLT 443.9875 downtown Chatham (currently off line) 150' AGL
 - VA3YFU tba Wallaceburg (under construction)
- **Saturday.....tba**

Note that the **VE3WIN**, **VE3SMR**, and **VE3000** repeaters listed above are located in Windsor, Ontario, the **VE3UUU** repeater is located south west of Windsor near Amherstburg, Ontario and the **VE3ZZZ** and **VE3TOM** repeaters are located in or near Leamington, Ontario along Lake Erie.

The Thursday night net in particular takes place on a FM repeater that regularly gets activity from W8-land in Ohio and Michigan.

More On air time opportunities while we are all locked up, this time from the other side of the pond...err... Lake. Had the opportunity to check in last night after our web meeting.

73, be safe

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



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.

ST. KITTS, V4. John, W5JON will be QRV as V47JA from June 11 to July 2. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, using SSB and FT8, with emphasis on 6 and 160 meter FT8. All QSLs to W5JON direct or via LoTW.

UNITED STATES, W3. Special event station W3A will be active from April 17 to 30 to bring attention to World Autism Awareness Month. Activity will be on various HF bands using FT8, CW and some SSB. Please QSL direct to WA3MD and include SASE. DX Stations should include return postage if direct. QSL is also ok via the Bureau.

NORTHERN IRELAND, GI. Special event call sign GB75VEC, will be used from the MI0MOD station in Lisburn City in May and June to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day ending World War II.

SPAIN, EA. EE1MGY commemorates the Titanic's inaugural voyage and sinking. Operations will be through April on 160 meters on CW, FT8, and WSPR. QSL to EB1LO, direct or via the Bureau.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernhard, DL2GAC continues to be active as H44MS on 40 and 17 meters using SSB and FT8.

JAPAN, JA. 8J4ROSE is QRV to celebrate the Fukuyama Roses Festival until May 17. QSL via bureau.

BRAZIL, PY. Gustavo, PT2ADM is QRV as ZW75FEB, commemorating the end of World War II and honoring the memory of his father, who fought in Italy as part of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (FEB). Operations continue until the end of May. QSL via PT2ADM, direct or via the Bureau.

TURKEY, TA. Members of the YM3KB team mark Turkey's National Sovereignty and Children's Day, April 23, with operations throughout the month as TC100KIDS on the HF bands using SSB, CW and FT8. QSL via YM3KB. Also, Metin, TA2BZ is QRV as TC19MED to pay tribute to workers in the medical sectors, until May 29. QSL via TA2BZ.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Members of the Radioamateurs du Luxembourg (R.L.) will be operating special event station LX5WARD for the 2020 World Amateur Radio Day, until April 26. Special QSLs will be available via the LX IARU QSL Bureau.

GUERNSEY, GU75. The Guernsey Amateur Radio Society (GARS) will be running a special event station from May 6 to 12 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Guernsey from Occupying Forces. Using the call sign GU75LIB, activity will be on the HF bands, all modes, QO100, and possibly some 2 meter and 70cm activity as well. QSL via the Bureau, or direct to Dave, GU8ITE (QTHR).

SPECIAL STAY AT HOME STATIONS/ACTIVITIES. Be looking for many special event stations to hit the airwaves to promote "STAY-AT-HOME" and raise awareness for the restrictions necessary to fight the spread of the corona virus. These stations include: 8A1STAYHOME (Indonesia), 9K9STAYHOME (Kuwait), A60SH/1 SH=StayHome (United Arab Emirates), A60SH/2, A60SH/3, A60SH/4, A60SH/5, AX2020STAYHOME (Australia), GB5NHS (NHS=National Health Service), HZ1STAYHOME (Saudi Arabia), TC1STAYHOME (Turkey), VC2STAYHOM (Canada) and XM2STAYHOM (Canada). QSL via operator's instructions.

NIUE, E6. Operators Stan, LZ1GC and Ivan, LZ1PM will be active as E6AM from September 28 to October 17. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via LZ1GC, ClubLog's OQRS, direct or via the Bureau.

TONGA, A3. Stan and Ivan will move on to Tonga as A35GC from October 19 to November 2. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via LZ1GC, ClubLog's OQRS, direct or via the Bureau.

GHANA, 9G. Matteo, IZ4YGS expects to be active as 9G5GS sometime between April 13 and May 15. Activity will be limited to his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 (F/H) and SSB. QSL via LoTW, IZ4YGS direct or eQSL.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party, JIDX CW Contest, OK/OM DX Contest, SSB, F9AA Cup, PSK, FTn DX Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, New Mexico QSO Party, North Dakota QSO Party, Georgia QSO Party, Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest, WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes, International Vintage Contest HF and the Hungarian Straight Key Contest are all on tap for this weekend. Please see April 2020 QST, page 71 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.

**Testing Cancelled for April
Due to COVID-19 virus**

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

April 16th 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