

The Hertzian Herald



May 2020 • Volume 44, Issue 5 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

Off The Kuf:

By Mike – N8KUF

April came and went, now May is half-way through

As I referred to last month – we in SE Michigan have witnessed a (pardon the pun) flurry of weather changeups including snow along with frost / freeze warnings. C'MON SPRING – you need to get here before summer arrives.

Those of us caught up with staying home during the "lockdown" have come to realize that days of the week mean something totally different of late. The seven days are now known as Thisday, Thatday, Otherday, Someday, Yesterday, Today, and Nextday. AND they all seem to blend together.

Good news – Our organizations (MCRCA, RRRRA, and ARPSC) have developed at least tolerable skills in conducting videoconference meetings. The RRRRA annual meeting took place on May 2 as scheduled and was reasonably well attended. Organization business was discussed, and the Board of Directors was re-elected for another term. MCRCA has held one monthly meeting via videoconference and is getting ready for a repeat performance for the May Monthly meeting. ARPSC has held a few monthly meetings and at least one training session via video conference. So, while the learning curve has been steep for some of us old timers, we are finding our way down the path of coming together on-line while staying apart. While some of you may never have used a dial telephone (let alone know what one looks like) – we should appreciate just how far (and quickly) technology has advanced in the last 50 or so years.

More good news – the "numbers" seem to have flattened and, while still a very polarized topic – folks are starting to talk about returning to some new level of normalcy. In whatever direction we ultimately proceed – we all must remain vigilant and do the things necessary to "stay safe" and to NOT put others at risk (covid19 AND otherwise).

Unfortunate news – your Board of Directors came together recently to discuss the fate of Monroe Hamfest 2020. Without getting into all the details of reasoning – the Board decided unanimously that cancellation of this year's Hamfest has become necessary.

I hope to see many of you for the May MCRCA meeting (via Zoom). Please remember 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, masks will not be required
- 3: Bring a smile and be prepared to have a good time

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

STAY HEALTHY and STAY SAFE

Mike Karmol – N8KUF 2020 President – MCRCA



<http://mcrca.org/>

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

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Mike Karmol N8KUF
mkarmol@bex.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Trouten W8PI
ptrouten@bex.net

SECRETARY

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Fred VanDaele K8EBI
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

John Copeland N8DXR
jcn8dxr@gmail.com

DIRECTOR

Rodney Haddix KD8ZNZ
rodhaddix@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR

STATION TRUSTEE
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

Inside This Issue

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Meeting Minutes . . . | 2 |
| Titanic's Radio . . . | 3 |
| AR Talks on Zoom . . | 4 |
| ARPSC report . . . | 5 |
| Miscellaneous . . . | 6 |
| ARRL DX News . . . | 7 |

MCRCA Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2020

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Don N8BZN, supported by Dale WA8EFK, 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.

DX REPORT: Paul reported that there was DX out there but no DXpeditions. 6m has been open late in the day to South America and the Caribbean. Dale and Paul were both able to worked HK Ecuador. The MI QSO Party is this Saturday Noon to Midnight, everyone will work from home and can send their logs in and attach them to the club.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. April 18, 2020. **Canceled due to CV19.**

HAMFEST: Due to the COVID-19, we decided to email all the vendors and have them reserve tables online and if we decide to have the HF I will send them an invoice for their orders. We will decide in late May whether we will go forth with the hamfest. In the event we do have to cancel the hamfest this will save the club some money.

ARPSC: Upcoming Nationwide ARES, ICS qualifications needed for Fermi Exercises.

ARRL: Dayton has been canceled. ARRL says improvise on Field Day. We will wait and see.

RRRA: The annual RRRA meeting will held online May 2nd 10 am via Zoom. Watch the MCRCA website for more info. RRRA dues are due May 1st if you want to vote at this meeting. All equipment is working normally.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: MI QSO Party, Saturday, April 18th – Noon to Midnight. Operate from home, add score to club call W8DWL

ANOUNCEMENTS: RRRA Meeting Saturday, May 2, 2020, online using zoom

PROGRAM: A video about amateur radio

ADJOURNED: 8:45 pm

ATTENDANCE: 15

AC8SI David
KA8NCR Jeff
N8DXR John
WA8EFK Dale

K8EBI Fred
KE8DDM Dalton
N8KUF Mike
WA8YZB John

K8GO Glen
KE8KNZ Tom
N8NYP Terry
Greg Osborn

K8OF Doug
N8BZN Don
W8PI Paul

**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

Relic hunters plan to retrieve Titanic radio that relayed the ship's final pleas for help

By **Brittany Shammas** – Washington Post

Jan. 22, 2020

The messages burst from the RMS Titanic to other ships navigating the icy waters of the Atlantic in the early morning hours of April 15, 1912.

"Come at once. We have struck a berg. It's a CQD, old man," the famed ocean liner's wireless operator, Jack Phillips, tapped in one of the first calls for help moments after the collision.

Soon, he added calls of SOS, a newly adopted distress signal that would ultimately come to replace CQD. Junior wireless operator Harold Bride had suggested using the new code, later [telling the New York Times](#) that he joked to Phillips that it "may be your last chance to send it."

The state-of-the-art wireless telegraph transmitter, installed by a leading technology company called Marconi, was the Titanic's sole connection to the rest of the world. And in the hours after the ship hit the iceberg, as frigid water flooded the lower decks and panicked passengers scrambled to the scarce lifeboats on board, the messages grew more frantic.

"We are putting passengers off in small boats," said one, [according to a BBC account](#) of the calls. "Women and children in boats. Cannot last much longer. Losing power." Then came the last words, just minutes before the "unsinkable" ship foundered: "Come quick. Engine room nearly full."

After resting at the bottom of the ocean for more than a century, the rust-covered device that relayed those messages — which summoned the liner RMS Carpathia to rescue survivors — could be recovered. RMS Titanic Inc., the Atlanta-based company with the sole rights to salvage artifacts from the shipwreck, is seeking a court's permission for the "surgical removal and retrieval" of the Marconi set.

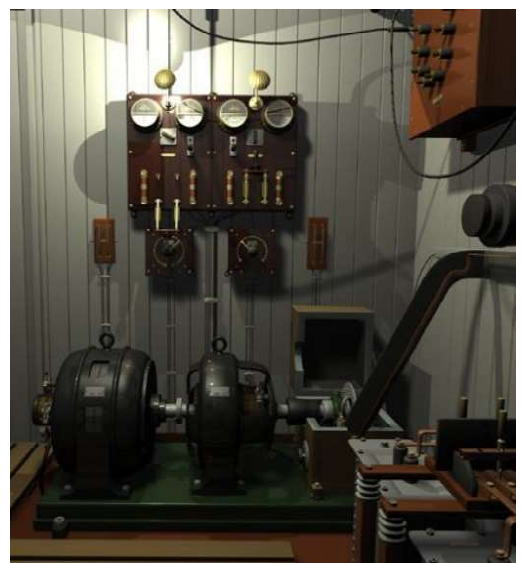
The request, laid out in documents filed this week in U.S. District Court in Eastern Virginia, represents the first time salvagers would collect something from inside the doomed ship, [noted the Telegraph](#), which was first to report on the planned expedition. Sure to be controversial, the request came as British officials [announced](#) a "historic treaty" with the United States to better protect what remains of the Titanic. The countries will now have the authority to approve or deny licenses allowing people to enter the wreck and remove items found outside it.

"Lying two and a half miles below the ocean surface, the RMS Titanic is the subject of the most documented maritime tragedy in history," British Transport and Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani said in a statement. "This momentous agreement with the United States to preserve the wreck means it will be treated with the sensitivity and respect owed to the final resting place of more than 1,500 lives."

RMS Titanic Inc. argues that the wireless transmitter must be recovered soon, and ideally within the year, as expeditions to the site more than two miles below the ocean's surface have noted deterioration over the years. The "Silent Cabin," the soundproof room where it is housed, withstood years of damage and protected the transmitting switchboards and regulators, the company wrote in court documents.

But the deckhouse above the Marconi transmitter has been falling apart since 2005, and holes have been forming over the Silent Cabin. The overhead will probably collapse within the next few years, Titanic expert Parks Stephenson wrote in court documents, "potentially burying forever the remains of the world's most famous radio."

Continued next page



A rendering of the Marconi transmitter as it would have appeared in 1912. (U.S. District Court)

The idea of removing items from inside the vessel has come under fire in the past, according to the Telegraph, with the disaster's last survivor among the critics. Previous expeditions have collected artifacts only from the debris scattered alongside it.

"I think the ship should be left in peace," Millvena Dean said in a 2000 interview. She was 9 weeks old at the time of the disaster and died in 2009. "Any bits and pieces that have come out from the ship on the seabed — that is all right. But to go on the ship — no, that is all wrong."

RMS Titanic Inc. President Bretton Hunchak, however, has said the radio recovery mission would be limited in scope and undertaken in an effort to protect the important artifact before it's too late.

"It's not some kind of Trojan horse so that we can start grabbing suitcases full of diamonds from the wreck," he said, according to the Telegraph. "This is a careful, surgical operation to rescue a historically significant item so it can teach future generations about the story of Titanic."

The Marconi transmitter, which would be extracted by sending a manned submarine to the wreck and then using an underwater robot to perforate the deck plating and reach inside the Titanic, was key to the rescue of the 705 survivors of the disaster.

It has already brought to life some of the last, previously unknowable moments aboard the sinking ship, Stephenson wrote. In 2001, an expedition revealed the system was in the reset position — showing that Phillips, who did not survive the sinking, had attempted to boost the signal "one final time before the power completely failed."

If carried to the surface, it could perhaps be restored to working order, RMS Titanic Inc. said, meaning "Titanic's radio — Titanic's voice — could once again be heard."



The Marconi wireless transmitter as it appears in the wreck. (U.S. District Court)

Upcoming amateur radio talks on Zoom

Denby Dale Amateur Radio Society's series of online presentations using Zoom continues on Wednesday, May 13, with an Introduction to amateur satellites, meteor scatter, EME and ISS by **Robin Moseley G1MHU**

The following Wednesday, May 20, will see a talk from **Don Field G3XTT** Editor of UK radio magazine Practical Wireless. Both talks start at 7:30pm BST (18:30 GMT).

Zoom meeting ID 278 609 9353
<https://zoom.us/j/2786099353>

Denby Dale Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.ddars.net/>

Zoom satellite talk now on YouTube

A video of the talk on amateur radio satellites, EME, Meteor scatter and the International Space Station by **Robin Moseley G1MHU** given via Zoom on Wednesday, May 13 is now available on YouTube

Watch G1MHU talk on satellites
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKjCXepCK_s

The talk was organized by the **Denby Dale Amateur Radio Society**, their next talk on Zoom will be by the Editor of Practical Wireless, **Don Field G3XTT**, at 7:30pm BST on Wednesday, May 20, Zoom meeting ID 278 609 9353

<https://zoom.us/j/2786099353>
<http://www.ddars.net/>

AMSAT-UK <https://amsat-uk.org/>

ARPSC Monroe County

May...or December? With the sub freezing nights the past 10 days, one might be forgiven for guessing the latter... Hope your early Veggies and Flowers made it thru.

There are a few changes to the weekly Monday Night ARPSC net at 8pm. Check-ins will be done a bit differently to allow for a quicker check-in process while at the same time training to operate as we would in an emergency. Check-ins will be taken by call sign ONLY; names and locations will be secured during the round table. We are also asking NOT to use "this is" and drop the carrier before giving call sign. Please just give call sign when Net Control calls for check-ins and if you are not recognized the first time, please try again.

This is the procedure that would be used in an emergency net operation and by training weekly we will all be better prepared if we ever need to bring up an emergency net. This procedure is NOT used during a SKYWARN net.

As we are still currently asked to stay home, all in person activities are cancelled until at least May 29th, this includes Siren Testing.

On Saturday May 30th, we will participate in the nationwide ARES/Red Cross radio Drill. Information is still emerging so be sure to check our FB and web pages for updates. If the lockdown is lifted, we may choose to drive to a shelter and operate from the parking lot. If the order is extended, we can just as easily operate from home. If you have Winlink or FLDigi capability and would like to participate, please email me and let me know as this will be the basis for the 2nd part of the drill held in the afternoon.

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.

The next ARPSC meeting will be Thursday June 4th 7:30 pm 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

HuskySat-1 designated HuskySat-OSCAR 107 (HO-107)

On November 2, 2019, the **HuskySat-1** CubeSat launched on the Cygnus NG-12 mission from Wallops Island, Virginia, USA

The satellite was constructed by the Husky Satellite Lab at the University of Washington, and utilizes an AMSAT-constructed radio system for primary communications.

Deployed from the Cygnus vehicle on January 31, 2020 after departing the ISS, HuskySat-1 began a 3-month educational mission. Upon completion of that mission, the satellite began operation of a V/u linear transponder in amateur service.

At the request of the Husky Satellite Lab and AMSAT teams, AMSAT hereby designates HuskySat-1 as HuskySat-OSCAR 107 (HO-107). We congratulate the Husky Satellite Lab, thank them for their contribution to the amateur satellite community, and wish them continued success on this and future projects.

73, **Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA**
AMSAT VP Operations / OSCAR Number Administrator

Huskysat-1 Transponder is Open
<https://amsat-uk.org/2020/05/10/huskysat-1-transponder-open/>

The Tumble Weed

Although there are quite a few symbols that call to mind the frontier history of the American West—ten-gallon hats, spurs, and low-slung six guns to name a few—nothing quite says dusty old cowboy town like a tumbleweed, well, tumbling by.

While the tumbleweed might be synonymous with the Wild West, you might be surprised to find out that it isn't a frontier native. In fact, it's not native to the region, or even anywhere in the entire North, Central, or South American landmasses for that matter. The invasive weed hitched a ride with Russian immigrants in the late 19th century. The immigrants brought flax seed from their home country and those seeds happened to be contaminated with the seeds of the weed Russian Thistle (*Salsola tragus*).

By the time anyone even noticed the weed spreading, it was essentially impossible to control. One full-grown thistle contains around 250,000 seeds, and when the plant is fully mature, it dries out, snaps off its stalk, and tumbles away in the wind. The tumbling motion quickly spreads the hardy and numerous seeds over a large area. Further, the plant requires very little precipitation and happily grows in adverse conditions.

Modern ranchers find the weed to be quite an annoyance since the weed displaces grazing grass and the dried-up tumbleweeds gather along fences and buildings, thus posing quite a fire hazard. But we do owe the sturdy weed a little bit of credit. During the horrible drought of the 1930s Dust Bowl that decimated cropland in the region, the Russian thistle saved the beef industry. When nothing else would grow and regular feed was non-existent, the hardy thistle rapidly colonized the cattle pastures and entire herds of cattle survived on thistle alone.



Historic first trans-Atlantic contact made on 432 MHz

On Tuesday the 7th of April 2020, a remarkable contact was made on the FT8 digital mode on the 432 MHz band between D4VHF on the Cape Verde Islands off the coast of Africa and FG8OJ in Guadeloupe in the Caribbean.

This was the first 70cms trans-Atlantic contact without using satellites or the moon. The most likely mode of propagation was marine ducting with the signal being trapped close to the ocean.

FG8OJ in Guadeloupe was also coincidentally the first to work across the Atlantic on 144 MHz when he worked D41CV in Cape Verde on the 16th of June 2019.

More info... <https://ei7gl.blogspot.com/2020/04/first-trans-atlantic-contact-made-on.html>

Samsung origins

Although they are now known as a global electronics firm that manufactures and distributes millions of television sets, computer monitors, mobile phones and other electronic gear, Samsung was founded in a more analog age to sell a much more analog product: noodles.

The original Samsung Trading Company (Samsung Sanghoe), founded in the 1930s, specialized in the distribution of groceries and specialty noodles. Over the years, the company branched out into all manner of enterprises including insurance, securities trading, tires, and even retail. It wasn't until the 1960s that they began venturing into electronics and, having found their niche, began to focus exclusively on the development of electronic devices. The first electronics-based Samsung product was a black and white television.





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.

GREENLAND, OX. Bo, OZ1DJJ is QRV from Aasiaat Island (NA-134) as OX3LX, in his spare time. He will be active until May 21. QSL via OZ0J.

GEORGIA, 4L. Look for Vakhtang, 4L8A in the CQ WPX CW contest May 30 and 31, on 20 meters, single op. QSL via M0OXO, OQRS and LoTW.

SINGAPORE, 9V. 9V1STAYHOME will be active until June 30. QSL via via LoTW only.

THAILAND, HS. Members of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) will be active as E2STAYHOME until July 15. QSL via E21EIC (d/B), LoTW or ClubLog.

GUANTANAMO BAY, KG4. Kelly, KG4NE expects to be QRV until at least May 28, with activity on 40 and 6 meters. QSL via LoTW, eQSL or his home call, NM7H.

KENYA, 5Z. Members of the Radio Society of Kenya (RSK) are joining the COVID-19 effort with the call sign 5Z4STAYHOME. QSL via bureau.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. The Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters Society (MARTS) will be QRV with special event call signs 9M4STAYHOME, 9M4COVID and 9M4DUDUKRUMAH for three months, beginning on May 15. Look for them on the HF bands using SSB, CW and digital modes. QSL via bureau or 9W2PD direct.

SPAIN, EA. AM40LAR celebrates the 40th anniversary of a radio program dedicated to amateur radio and broadcast by RNE Radio 4. They are QRV until May 31. QSL via eQSL or LoTW.

ENGLAND, G. GB2CCW will be active during the second half of May, honoring care workers during the pandemic. QSL via eQSL only. Also, stations celebrating the end of World War II include GB0PIE, GB1PIJ and GB4VED. QSL all via eQSL.

NETHERLANDS, PA. PD75DDAY commemorates the liberation of the Netherlands during World War II. They will be QRV until the end of May. QSL via bureau.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Australian amateurs may use the prefix AX on May 17 to mark the World Telecommunication Day.

INDIA, VU. Members of the Tripura Ham Radio Club support the present stay-at-home operations as AT2THC until August 1 on the HF bands. QSL via VU2LJB.

STAY AT HOME SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS. The following stations join the ranks to support stay at home efforts: 6Y6STAYHOME, AU2COV, GB2CCW, HA0HOME, HA0STAY, OE1STAYHOME and SZ3STAYHOME.

CANADA, VE. Jean, VE2JCW will use special call sign VE2SPEED, through the month of June to commemorate the Montreal Grand Prix, even if the race is canceled. QSL via VE2JCW info on QRZ.com.

COLOMBIA, 5J. 5JSTAYHOME is the latest COVID-19 special event station from Colombia. Note there is only one number in the call sign.

MOROCCO, CN. Look for 5C1WTIS to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, until May 17. QSL via RW6HS.

SAUDIA ARABIA, HZ. The Saudi Amateur Radio Society will join the on air activity for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day with HZ1WTIS, until May 17. Also, HZ1DG is a new six-meter beacon, transmitting on 50.055 MHz and using 5 watts into a vertical antenna. The grid locator is LK18gf.

GERMANY, DL. Station DL70IPA will be QRV as part of the 70th anniversary of the International Police Association. IPARC, the IPA Radio Club, plans various operations in August and November.

JAPAN, JA. Members of the Yoneyama HF Club (JR0YHF) will be operating special event station 8J0K in celebration of the 80th anniversary of Kashiwazaki city in Niigata Japan. They will be QRV until March 31, 2021, on 1.8 MHz through 5.7 GHz.

USA, K. Special event station K7P is on the air until May 16 to remember law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Look for them on 40 and 20 meters. There will be a commemorative QSL card. QSL direct with SASE to N7WR.

SAMOA, 5W. COVID-19 special event call 5W19STAYS SAFE will be operated by Atsu, 5W1SA. Samoa is one of the very few places on earth that has no reported cases of the novel Coronavirus due to the early government lockdown.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The UN DX Contest, NZART Sangster Shield Contest, Portuguese Navy Day Contest, His Majesty King of Spain Contest, Aegean RTTY Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest are all on tap for this weekend. The RSGB FT4 Contest Series is on May 18. Please see May 2020 QST, page 69 and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM Contest Web Site 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.

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

May 21st at 7:30 pm

**The Meeting will be held
online via Zoom**

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