

The Hertzian Herald



August 2020 • Volume 44, Issue 8 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

Off The Kuf:

By Mike – N8KUF



I can hardly believe that, as of this writing, we are already halfway through August and closing quickly on September and the beginning of the school year (whatever that turns out to look like). A recent trip to a few of the local "big box" stores felt like walking into a time warp. The main aisles were lined with shiny fresh (not even dusty yet) snowblowers of all makes and sizes – and the "seasonal" aisles are seeing the beginnings of Halloween creeping (pun intended) into place. (REALLY???? It IS still August, ISN'T IT?)

A few club events this year have fallen victim to the nasty Covid creatures and the rules that they have prompted. A few hands-on kit building sessions that had been loosely planned, and a few larger "programs" that were envisioned are quickly falling into the shadows of – "maybe NEXT year?"

With the covid restrictions and the rapidly advancing calendar in mind – the MCRCA has decided to venture forth with conducting the first Foxhunt of 2020 (before it becomes 2021 8-/). Plans are shaping up to hold a foxhunt on the 1st Saturday in September, the 5th. All participants will need to be at the starting point (parking lot of the Emergency Management offices on Raisinville Rd) by 0845 to receive a pre-hunt briefing along with an envelope containing details of the fox's location. The envelopes must remain sealed until such time as the hunter has located the fox or the hunt time has expired. While everyone's goal is to find the fox – rankings are determined based upon least mileage traveled vs. time to find – making strategy an important factor.

The planning team understands that the first weekend in September is Labor Day weekend. We also believe that many folks may be planning on staying around home and forgoing travel plans. We hope that anyone not having larger Labor Day plans can join in for a few hours on Saturday to make this a fun and successful event. Masks when appropriate, distancing, sanitizer, etc. will help in facilitating an event that will be safe for all.

Those that I have spoken to really enjoyed the opportunity to get to know a bit more about the other meeting participants via the round table discussions during last month's club meeting. I expect that practice to become a "standard program item" to periodically happen at future meetings.

I hope to see many of you for the August MCRCA meeting (via Zoom). This month we will explain the foxhunt rules and time permitting we will have a short video. 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 (easy without the mask) and be prepared to have a good time
- 4: Be sure to wash your hands for another 20 seconds after leaving the meeting

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

STAY HEALTHY, STAY SAFE – do your part to protect yourself AND OTHERS, it is the RIGHT THING TO DO. 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

July Minutes	2
ARPSC Report	3
Fox Hunt Rules	4
Fox Hunt Map.	5
Cosmic Radiation	6
ARRL DX News	7

Minutes for July 16, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:36 pm, by Mike Karmol N8KUF.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades and one guest.

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Larry KE8HCD, 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: Paul W8PI reported that there is nothing special going on. We had Field Day in June and ARRL VHF contest the weekend before FD. CQWWDX contest this weekend, ARRL North American CW QSO party, Maryland QSO party, DC Hawaii, Ohio and Kansas QSO parties coming up plus regular DX.

FIELD DAY: Paul W8PI gave a report on FD activities. Operators worked from home, (no tents, bugs etc.) and scores were sent into the ARRL and attributed to the club as a total. MCRCA has a grand total points of 6409.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: A fox hunt soon.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. August 15, 2020. **Appointment only, Masks or better to win.**

ARPSC: Lance not here, no report.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK reported the second board meeting of the year was held via Zoom, setting up legal defense for hams. Two clubs honored for 100th anniversary.

RRRA: Mike reported that the weather receiver is back in service. Fixed the link between the 72 and Ida 440, slight improvement.

OLD BUSINESS: Club received a thank you card from Drew Harper for the scholarship.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANOUNCEMENTS: None

PROGRAM: Video by WD8AKX on DXing.

ADJOURNED: 8:56 pm

ATTENDANCE: 17

AD8EP Keith	K8EBI Fred
KB8KQC Brenda	KB8OSU George
KC8SKP Wes	KE8HCD Larry
KE8KNZ Tom	N8BZN Don
N8KUF Mike	N8NYP Terry
W8PI Paul	W8SMB Scott
WA8EFK Dale	KE8OSX Ron
WA8YZB John	K8UMF John
Madonna and Pete	



Meetings via Zoom

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

ARPSC August report

Still Summer, Still dealing with COVID,

On Thursday Aug 6th, the ARPSC team met at Vienna Park to discuss packet radio and its uses. We had 3 socially distanced stations set up in the pavilions. We found that as is the case when dealing with radio waves, very few things happen like you want and several things happen you can't explain. Some stations could not connect to local nodes that others could, but could connect thru the stations that could make the hop, some could not talk to each other even though we were only 50' apart and a few things just made us all scratch our heads. That is part of the interest in Amateur Radio, trying to figure out what should be the simplest things to do, but aren't, and trying to figure out the mystery of radio waves. Hihi



During the session we did have a chance to discuss ARPSC along with the amateur radio hobby with a couple of new folks, one who is looking to get her license and join the hobby and one operator that has been getting involved in the Monday Nets.

We usually do not have an August meeting as it is fair week and trying to dodge traffic and get into the EMD is a hassle we have gladly sidestepped before, but the opportunity to meet outside and do some hands-on work on the 6th, was enjoyed and we will revisit our meeting calendar for next year to possibly do it again.



The next ARPSC meeting will be Thursday September 3rd 7:30pm at the EMD (Hopefully). Everyone is welcome to attend and find out what is happening for the SET. This meeting will be discussing plans for the annual Simulated Emergency Test in October.

Upcoming Events

-Saturday TBD – Fox Hunt See information in “off the ‘KUF”

As always, you can keep track of us via the webpage which is linked through the MCRCA Website and the Facebook page, which is also linked via the club webpage. There is also a master calendar of events on the MCRCA page which lists MCRCA, RRRRA, and ARPSC events. We thank the group and the club webmaster for doing this for us!

Remember, anyone with an interest in public service is welcome to attend our meetings held the first Thursday of each month except August, 7:30pm at the EMD training room 987 S. Raisinville Rd. just south of the fairgrounds. Don't forget to check into the Monday ARPSC Net every Monday at 8pm on 146.720 '72 Monroe.

73 until next month, stay cool!

Lance Charter KE8BYC

Emergency Coordinator

Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp



The FOX is back – 2020 MCRCA Foxhunt

This year – MCRCA will be hosting a foxhunt. Everyone including members, non-members, friends, other organizations, hams and non-hams are invited to join in the fun. For those not familiar – all hunt teams meet at a given location and receive a pre-hunt brief along with a hunt package. At the designated start time, the FOX begins transmitting. Participating teams begin efforts to locate the fox, which is hidden within a designated area (in this case up to 5 miles away from the start location). Teams earn points according to the distance traveled in locating the fox. The winning team will be the one traveling the least number of odometer miles in order to find the fox. Each team records distance with the fox when located, and all teams receive points according to distance traveled. Time is not a factor in scoring, but the hunt is terminated when the fox stops transmitting after 3 hours.

Minimum Equipment necessary:

A 2M radio or receiver capable of receiving **146.475 Mhz FM**

Additional Equipment could include (but is not limited to):

Directional Antenna, Attenuator, Map of Monroe County, Compass, Straight Edge, Protractor

Basic Instructions

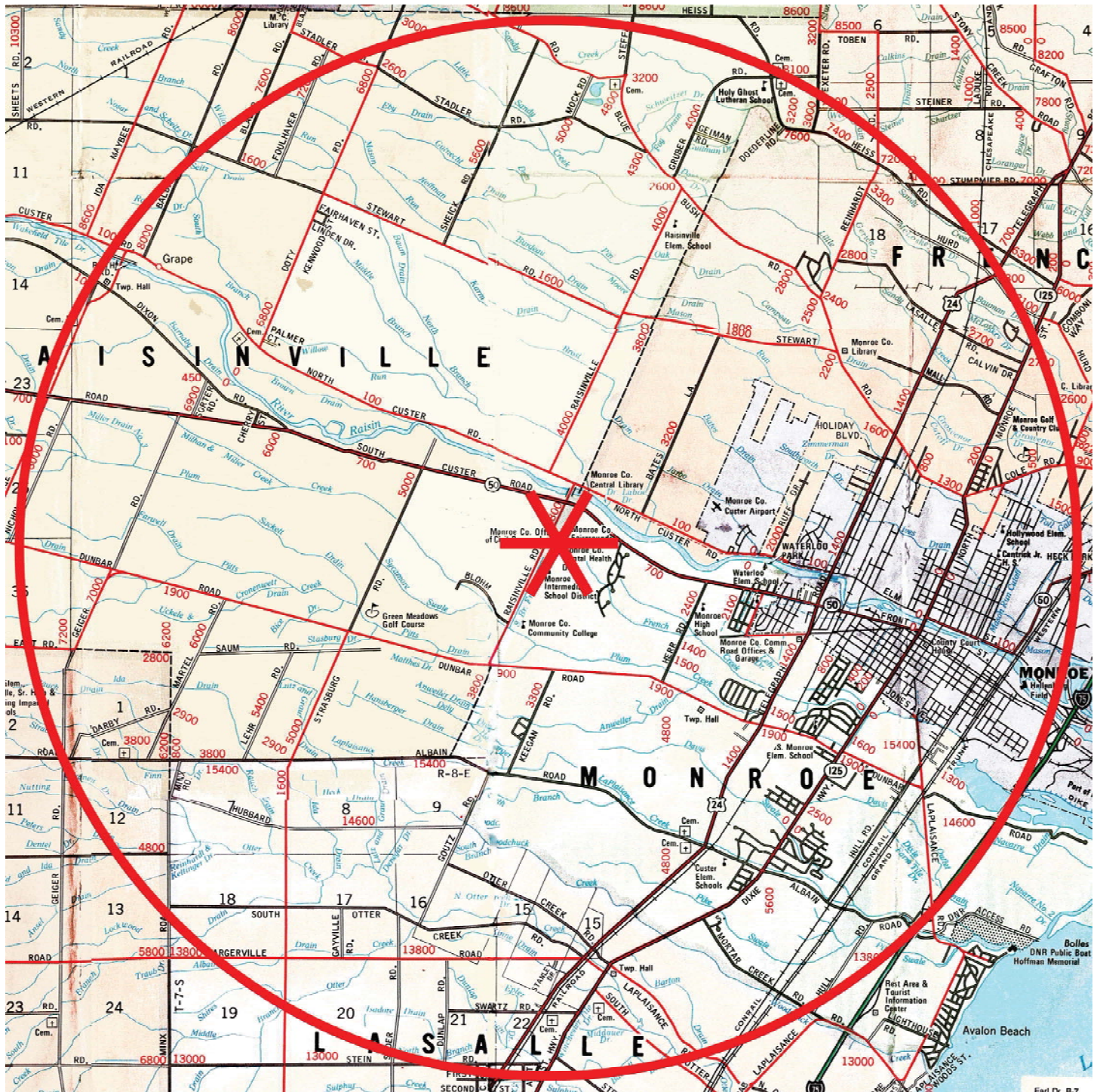
- We will meet in the parking lot at Emergency Management Offices at 08:45 where you will be given a pre-hunt brief (instructions and information specific to the hunt)
- Teams are identified and recorded by the hunt coordinator
- Each team will be given a SEALED envelope – MAKE SURE IT STAYS SEALED. (if you open the envelope you will receive same points as someone not finding the fox) On the outside of the envelope, write the names/ call signs of all team members. Also record starting mileage on your vehicle to the nearest 1/10 mile (use trip odometer if needed for 1/10 mile increments)
- At 09:00, the FOX will begin transmitting on the Hunt Frequency of 146.475 Mhz (transmissions will repeat on a cycle of 1 minute on / 1 minute off for the duration of the hunt)
- After taking initial readings to determine direction to the fox, teams will depart on their quest to find the fox's hiding spot. (remember scoring is determined by least distance traveled so strategy is an important factor – other than the 3-hour hunt limit, time is not a factor so **travel safely and legally**)
- When you find the fox, record your ending mileage on the envelope (the one that is hopefully still sealed. And leave the envelope with the fox operator)
- You will be given instructions for a place to go so that other hunters do not see you talking to the fox. We will meet for lunch immediately following the hunt for lunch and debrief. Lunch location will be Benny's in south Monroe unless otherwise indicated during pre-hunt brief.
- If you DON'T find the fox by the end time of the hunt (12:00), you may open the envelope and proceed directly to the fox if you are close or proceed directly to the lunch location where you will turn in your envelope. (note: the fox will be hungry and departing for lunch shortly after turning off the transmitter)
- Teams choosing to terminate early may open the envelope and proceed directly to the fox to turn in your envelope to the fox operator First place team is responsible for fox duties for the next hunt

Responsibilities of the Hunt Teams

Hunt Teams MUST:

- Timely arrival at start location. You MUST be present for pre-hunt brief in order to receive hunt package as required to participate
- REMEMBER – scoring is based on distance travelled to locate the fox.
- Other than the 3-hour hunt limit, time is not a factor. Hunters must travel safely and obey all speed limits, etc.
- SAFETY is a PRIMARY Concern. Use caution when traveling and when stopping and getting out of the vehicle to take readings. DO NOT create a hazard or place yourself or others in a hazardous situation.
- Respect private property. Do not trespass onto private property.
- Respect public property. Do not damage or otherwise trash public property.
- Remember, this is a FRIENDLY competition, everyone is here to have fun.
- Remember, skills learned and refined could be utilized some day (e.g. Locating emergency beacons, jammers. stuck transmitters, lost RFID tagged individuals)
- LEGIBLY record all requested info on the envelope
- Turn in the envelope to the fox or to the hunt coordinator prior to securing from your hunt efforts
- HAVE FUN and BE SAFE

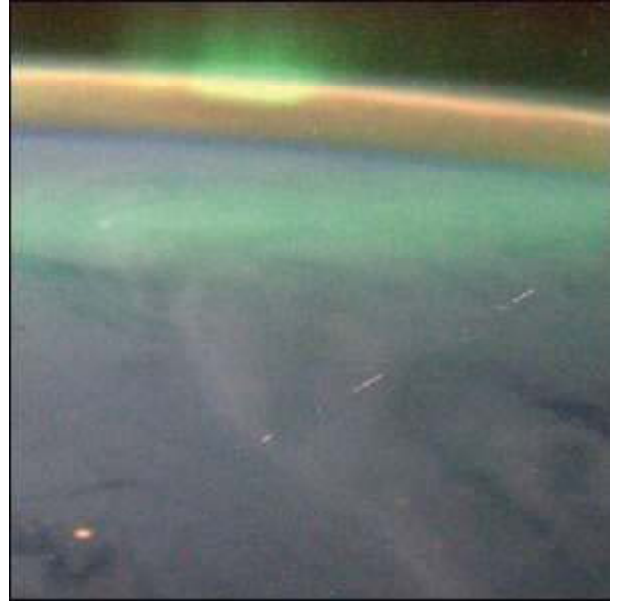
Fox Hunt Map 5 mile radius from the EMD



Cosmic Radiation

The first astronauts were veritable guinea pigs, exposed to all sorts of conditions that no human had ever been exposed to before, including microgravity, temperature extremes, and full exposure to radiation outside of the protective envelope of Earth's atmosphere. It was the last element, radiation, that produced a particularly curious set of circumstances for astronauts aboard the Apollo missions.

Both Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, Apollo 11 Commander and Lunar Module Pilot respectively, reported seeing bright flashes of light inside the cabin of the spacecraft. They saw these flashes even with their eyes closed. In subsequent Apollo missions, more astronauts reported the flashes, which were visible even when they were blindfolded. The flashes were frequent, occurring roughly 20 times an hour, and continued for as long as the astronauts were in space.



But what caused the persistent phantom lights in their vision? Cosmic radiation. We are well shielded from it here on Earth, but in space, both the spacecraft and the astronauts inside were constantly bombarded by it. Cosmic radiation is a high energy form of radiation that passes through most materials, but when a particle strikes some substances—such as the water-filled eyeball of an astronaut—some of that energy can be converted into light. The flashes experienced by astronauts, then, were tiny bits of cosmic background radiation putting on a tiny light show inside their very eyeballs.

Smartphone app helps identify unknown data modes

There's an incredible amount of radio signals.

It's impossible to know them all, let alone recognize them. So why not get help from **SignalID**?

At the moment, it recognizes about twenty signals (the exhaustive list is below) With only 5 seconds of recording time, it tries to recognize the signal.

To use it:

Set the frequency and bandwidth properly.

Selecting the frequency range. (0-30 MHz / Other) Place the microphone of the telephone near the loudspeaker. (The quieter the environment is around, the fewer errors will occur) Press the big button that dances.

Wait 5 seconds. (Time required for record)

Tips :

The algorithm is based on frequency, a wrong tuning of your radio/SDR will result in an erroneous detection.

The recording is limited to 5 seconds, for practical reasons. Recognition of a signal may require several attempts.

If you notice bugs, have remarks or suggestions, please leave a comment.

Here is the non-exhaustive list of recognized signals :

- | | |
|--|--|
| - RTTY (Commercial 85Hz, 170Hz, 450Hz, 850Hz, Amateur 170Hz) | - PactorI (Standard, FSP, FEC, SELCALL) |
| - ASCII (170Hz) - ALIS - Codan8580 (200Hz, 250Hz) | - CIS36_50 - CIS40_5 - CIS50_50- |
| STANAG 4285 (GEN, SYS3000 FEC, 8PSK, TFC, IDLE, SYS3000) | - FT4 - FT8 - WEFAX (120, 240) |
| - 2G ALE - 3G ALE - CHIP64 - APRS (Burst) | And more ! Complete list in the application. |

The app is open source ! <https://github.com/Neosama/SignalID>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-y1Ts1q2RU&feature=youtu.be>
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tortillum.signalid>

Stephen Walters G7VFX



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.

MEXICO, 6E. Ramon, XE1KK will be using special call sign 6E6E until December 31. He plans to use it in the CQWW DX SSB Contest in October and possibly in other contests. Most of his activity outside of the contests will be on FT8/FT4 on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via LoTW only.

GHANA, 9G. Matteo, IZ4YGS will be active as 9G5GS from Sanzule, until September 15. Activity will be limited to his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 (F/H) and SSB. He will also be active through the QO-100 geostationary satellite, USB mode. He will update daily to ClubLog. QSL via LoTW, IZ4YGS direct or eQSL.

CHILE, CB33. Members of the Radio Club Eternautas (CE3ETR) are now active as CB33M until October 13. Activity is to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the August 2010 landslide in a mine in the north part of Chile where 33 miners were trapped for 3 months until their rescue was carried out. Operations will be on 80 meters through 70 cm using CW, SSB and digital modes FT8/FT4, JS8, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via PO BOX 12096, Santiago, Chile.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Makoto, JI5RPT will be active as JD1BLY from Chichijima Island (AS-031) from October 3 to 6. The schedule may change depending on the status of COVID-19. Activity will be on 630 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and the digital modes (No 6 meter EME). He will focus on the 630 meter band, 160 meter SSB, the RS-44 satellite and FT8 on the HF bands. 630 meter activity will be mainly on JT9. QSL via his home call sign.

UNITED STATES, N7. Look for special event station N7C to be active until August 15 for the 16th annual celebration of the Navajo Code Talkers. QSL to Herb, N7HG or N7C, at the QRZ.com address.

TURKEY, TC3. Look for special event stations TC3GP and TC3GS to be active until August 23, to commemorate the 105th anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli. QSL via YM3KCN.

FRANCE, TM. Operators Christian, F5OHH and Didier, F4ELJ will be active as TM2LW from the Kerprigent Lighthouse (ILLW FR-031, ARLHS FRA-769, DFCF 22-036, DMF 22-011, WW Locator IN88GS) near Lannion during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW), August 22 and 23. Activity will be on various HF and VHF bands using CW, SSB and the digital modes. QSL via F4ELJ.

FRANCE, TM76. Members of the Radio Club du Val d'issole (F8KGH) will use the special call sign TM76DP until August 22 to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Provence Beach Landings (DRAGOON operation) in August 1944. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and the digital modes. QSL via F4GPB.

HONG KONG, VR. Members of Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (HARTS) will be active with special call sign VR2HK90 in celebration of the 90th anniversary of their Society. Operations have been on 20 meter SSB. QSL via VR2HK direct or by the Bureau.

CAMBODIA, XU7. Tad, JA1DFK will be active as XU7AKU and XU7AKV from Phnom Penh. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using mostly CW and SSB. QSL via JA1DXA or ClubLog's OQRS.

DENMARK, OZ. OZ200EM is on the air until the end of the year, honoring the memory of Hans Christian Orsted, who discovered the principle of electromagnetism 200 years ago. QSL via OZ1ACB.

CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7. Stuart, ZL3STU has moved to Canterbury on the Chatham Islands (OC-038) and now uses the call sign ZL7STU on 80 to 6 meter using SSB and FT8. QSL for both calls via M00XO.

SARDINIA, IS0. Gil, IZ2DLV will be active holiday style until August 28 signing IS0/IZ2DLV on 60 to 15 meters using SSB, CW and FT8. QSL via IZ2DLV (d/B), ClubLog, LoTW.

FINLAND, OH. Operators Vesa, OH5MNH, Orvo, OH5NE and SWL Aki plan to operate OH5B during the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW), August 22 and 23 from the Luovukkaluoto lighthouse in Southern Carelia. QSL via OH5AB.

INDIA, VU. In celebration of the 74th anniversary of India's Independence Day, August 15th, special event station AT5AUG will be QRV by members of the West Bengal Radio Club from August 14 to 16. QSL via eQSL to VU2NRO.

BALEARIC ISLANDS, EA6. Rolf, DL8AZ will be operating holiday style as EA6/DL8AZ until August 17. He will use SSB on 40 through 10 meters. QSL via DL8AZ either direct or to the DARC QSL bureau.

BONAIRE, PJ4. PJ4TEN is a special event station during October for the 10th anniversary of 10-10-10, the date the Netherlands Antilles was dissolved and Bonaire became a special municipality of the Netherlands and a new DXCC entity. QSL via M0URX direct, OQRS, or LoTW.

GREECE, SV. SV1AHH and SV1GGF will be QRV as SX1AFM from September 1 to 30, celebrating the 70 years of the Hellenic Air Force History Museum. They will be on 80 to 6 using all modes. QSL via qrz.com information.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, Russian District Award Contest, Keyman's Club of Japan Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, North American QSO Party, CVA DX Contest, SARL HF Digital Contest, NJQRP Skeeter Hunt, ARRL Rookie Roundup and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest are all on tap for this weekend.

Please see August 2020 QST, page 69, and the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) 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.

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

August 20th 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