

# The Hertzian Herald



December 2020 • Volume 44, Issue 12 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

## Off The Kuf:

By Mike – N8KUF



How did it get to be mid-December already, and when did THAT happen??????? Seems in many ways like just last month that we were fretting over the Hamfest and whether attendance would be down due to recent covid threats. Then we were all getting used to dealing with video conferences rather than face to face meetings, The TMRA swap/ARRL Convention was called off at the last minute, the Monroe Hamfest never happened, 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade was cancelled, field day became an individual effort, the County Fair was 'postponed' until maybe next year, , the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was able to fire up although field activities were rare, the Findlay swap was cancelled, and what else have I missed????? Oh, and some of us are STILL working on being able to effectively run a ZOOM meeting 8-).

It is unfortunate that our next event to fall victim to virus protocol is the Christmas meeting / celebration. This family potluck event has become quite popular and well attended. The event is so successful thanks in part to the member participants who have all supplied some VERY tasty dishes to pass – and who have always managed to fill a sizable table with desserts to die for. In truth, the event has become so popular IN LARGE PART due to the efforts of Fred and Brenda who have done so much in support of this event and, for that matter, in support of the club in general. Many will never realize how much these 2 contribute to the overall success of the organization. Those of us who understand all that you do, cannot begin to adequately thank you.

Your MCRCA Board Members have been looking ahead toward 2021 activities, most specifically the Monroe Hamfest. Hope is that between now and then we will have been adequately vaccinated to allow covid protocols to be relaxed and for gathering restrictions to have been lifted. We want to make preparation for the fest in a cost/risk efficient manner so as not to spend large sums of money ahead of when it is absolutely needed while tracking the probabilities of the event being allowed to happen.

As many of you realize the fest does not happen on just one day. There are reservations to make, tickets and flyers to be printed and distributed, vendors to be contacted, advertisements to write and place, reservations to be taken, tables to be arranged and labeled, sound system to be installed, club table to be prepared, front gate and ticket sales must be manned. Lots happens behind the scenes and far in advance, again thanks largely to Fred and Brenda.

As a club we must be looking at succession planning in that we prepare for turnover, training the replacements by facilitating the knowledge transfer process while current resources are still available to support the replacements. At SOME point, like it or not, current talent will disappear. If you have the talents and desires to support newsletter / Hamfest / club treasury – generally some computer skills and perhaps some business acumen ..... PLEASE consider stepping forward in support of the future of MCRCA.

I hope to see many of you for the December MCRCA meeting (again 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: Observing good Social Distancing means masks will not be required (Fred, you can wear yours if you want)
- 3: Be sure to wash your hands again after leaving the meeting and frequently thereafter

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  
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#### SECRETARY

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### Inside This Issue

Minutes . . . . .	2
Awards - KG8P . . .	3
Dan KB6NU. . . .	4
ARPSC Report. . .	5
Renewal Form . . .	6
ARRL DX News . . .	7

## MCRCA Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:31 pm, by Mike Karmol N8KUF.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Larry KE8HCD, supported by Dale WA8EFK, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by John N8DXR, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P not a lot of DX out there. DXpeditions on hold because of COVID-19. Russians are in 7Q7RU Malawi. Paul W8PI ARRL Sweepstakes contest this weekend, they changed reports, see the web site. CQ WWDX contest coming up next weekend.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: The Christmas Party is canceled because of COVID-19

TESTING: Next session - Sat. December 19, 2020. **Appointment only, Masks or better to open. Limit 3**

ARPSC: Dale WA8EFK Spook Patrol stats were given. Will need 4 teams next year as the subdivision on Stowell Rd. has become a highly congregated area during Halloween.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK ARRL received 3000 comments about the plan to start charging fees for amateur licenses.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF reports all are working.

FOX HUNTS: An on-screen report of the three fox hunt scores was reported on by Mike. **Mike is asking for any questions, comments or ideas to be emailed to him. He would also like to know what you liked or disliked, about the hunts, and why you participated or didn't participate in this year's hunts. There will be some changes coming next in year's scoring process and timing to coincide with Motor City fox hunts.**

OLD BUSINESS: Christmas Party canceled.

NEW BUSINESS: Elections will be held in January. Contact Paul W8PI if you have an interest in being and officer in the club.

ANOUNCEMENTS: November 21-23 - Sweepstakes – Phone  
2020 Fort Wayne Nov. Hamfest Cancelled due to COVID-19  
2020 L'Anse Creuse Dec. Hamfest Cancelled due to COVID-19  
Livonia had about 100 people at their trunk hamfest.

PROGRAM: Program is on old ham radio publications. By Paul W8PI

ADJOURNED: 9:00 pm

ATTENDANCE: 15

K8EBI Fred	K8GO Glen
KA8NCR Jeff	KE8DDM Dalton
KE8HCD Larry	KE8KNZ Tom
KG8P Tom	N8BZN Don
N8DXR John	N8KUF Mike
W8PI Paul	WA8EFK Dale
WA8YZB John	W8MCW Mark
Madonna Burkit	

### Free ebook about 50 MHz ham radio band

The ebook Capture the MAGIC of Six Meters by Jim Wilson K5ND is available for free download. It really doesn't take much on six meters — your existing HF+6 meter rig along with a simple antenna, even a dipole, will work. In this book you'll find out how I know that dipoles work along with how to build one of your own.

<https://www.k5nd.net/2020/08/capture-the-magic-of-six-meters-ebook/>

## 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

## Awards

There are many, many ham radio awards that can be earned. You can chase states or counties. You can follow lighthouses, beaches, parks and even summits. Prefixes or special events like the 13 Colonies. Contests occur most weekends and may be CW or SSB or Mixed or Digital. It is all up to what interests you.

Propagation continues to improve as we come out the low end of the sunspot cycle. Obtaining awards will also get easier. You do not need a mega station, just the tools you have available; radio, antenna, skill, luck and more.

Although 6 meters has not been much this pre-winter season, the sunspot numbers have been promising, with bands like 10 meters up and running. And yes, Techs, you have some ssb privileges on 10....and yes, in a couple years you can work the world on 5 watts and a piece of wire...all true. But for now use the tools, clusters, and modes you like and have fun.

For dxer's, chasing DXCC is the award. The starting award is working and confirming 100 different entities. Entities are similar to countries and in most instances are countries. Rules allow separation from parent country by a certain distance (i.e. Alaska and Hawaii) as well as other considerations that today lists 340 entities that can be worked for credit in DXCC. In 1978 I applied for my first DXCC. It took 13 months from start to working and confirming. At that time there were no clusters and information came from QST monthly and some bi-weekly bulletins in the mail. QSL cards came in the mail and thru the buro system.

In the past, a few of us would challenge who can work 100 or more during a contest weekend. Some times it was not too hard but was work. Today we still are not at the best time and what I found out during CQWW the end of November is how much Covid had impacted trying to work 100 countries/entities. Most countries have imposed restrictions on travel to them and many groups who regularly operated from the Caribbean or Africa, could not. So a lot of what would be fairly easy contacts just were not there.

So, back to the tools, knowledge, propagation, use of bands open and good old luck. It took operating on and off over the weekend to make 108 contacts that included 100 different entities in the log. Four bands, 40, 20, 15, and 10 were used and you see in the picture how the log looked after day one with 82 different entities logged. W8PI had similar results and worked over 170 contacts.

Ham radio is supposed to be fun. This was fun de KG8P

The screenshot shows a ham radio contest log software interface. The top section displays 'Recent Contacts' with columns for Call, R, C, Snt, Country, Date, B, M, P. Below this is a 'Score Statistics' section showing: Total Contacts: 92, Total QSO Points: 259, Total Multipliers: 133, Total Score: 34,4, QSOs / Hr (Last 20): 0, and QSOs / Hr (Last 60): 2. The bottom section shows a list of countries/entities with columns for Call, Re, C, Sn, Cou, and a score. The list includes: Aruba, Aland I., Austria, Argentina, 0124, Australia, Alaska, Azores, Chile, 0222, Bahamas, Bales, Belize, Colombia, 0323, Brazil, Belarus, Bermuda, 0424, Canada, Belgium, Bohemia, Peru, 0525, Cayman I., Bosnia, Canada, South Afr, 0626, Costa R., Bulgaria, Canary Is, Uruguay, 0727, Czech R., Cape V., Cuba, 0828, Ecuador, Croatia, Ghana, 0929, Federal F., Denmark, Greece, 1030, French G., England, Grenada, 1131, Hawaii, Estonia, Ireland, 1232, Hungary, Europe, Israel, 1333, Italy, Finland, Liechten, 1434, Madeira I., France, Morocco, 1535, Puerto R., Georgia, New Cels, 1636, Serbia, Guinea, New Zeal, 1737, Slovakia, Iceland, Portugal, 1838, Slovenia, Japan, Romania, 1939, Spain, Kalining, Sardinia, 2040, US Virgin, Kenya, Latvia, Tanzania, 2141.

## Some good videos to watch - Thanks Tom KG8P

FrontRange6Meter Zoom 11 11 20 Solar Cycle 25 Dr Scott McIntosh

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRNJPkQP0\\_g&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRNJPkQP0_g&feature=youtu.be)

FT8 & FT4 Lecture video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtQXbVEqP0&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtQXbVEqP0&feature=emb_logo)

Radio Shack to be reborn as an online-first retailer - not a video.

<https://hackaday.com/2020/11/19/radioshack-to-be-reborn-as-online-first-retailer/>

## AMSAT 2020 Space Symposium video now online

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The 38th AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting was held online on October 17, 2020. I'm kinda bummed about this because I just joined AMSAT, but somehow, I managed to miss this event. Fortunately, the symposium was recorded and is now online, and I've been enjoying watching the video ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHDgrI\\_w8hY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHDgrI_w8hY)).

The video includes updates on AMSAT projects and presentations on amateur satellite technology. For details on presenter names and presentation titles, visit the AMSAT website. AMSAT members can access the Symposium Proceedings on the AMSAT website as well. (The proceedings for all the AMSAT Symposiums are available there as well, but you do have to be an AMSAT member.)

Here's a list of the different presentations on the video and the times at which they start:

0:00:00 Welcome

0:02:07 AMSAT GOLF-TEE System Overview and Development Status

0:43:02 GOLF IHU Coordination

1:19:10 GOLF Downlink Coordination

1:50:15 FUNcube Next

2:13:50 LunART – Luna Amateur Radio Transponder

2:45:35 CatSat HF Experiment Overview

3:13:30 Neutron-1 CubeSat

3:39:58 Progress and Development of Open Source Electric Propulsion for Nanosats and Picosats

4:15:00 AMSAT Education

5:14:00 ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) / AREx (Amateur Radio Exploration)

6:14:00 AMSAT Engineering

7:21:16 AMSAT Annual General Meeting

So far, I've only watched the GOLF-TEE System Overview and the AMSAT Education presentation. They were both interesting and I'm looking forward to watching the others.

I really hadn't been keeping up with AMSAT lately, so the presentation on the GOLF project was definitely news to me. GOLF is an ambitious project aimed at sending up high Earth orbit (HEO) satellites. GOLF is short for "Greater Orbits Larger (user communication) Footprints." This is really pretty exciting stuff.

Watching these presentations really gives one an appreciation for the work that goes into the design of these satellites and the technical skills and dedication of the hams working on these projects. These guys are not getting paid to do any of this work, and as Eric Skoog, K1TVV, the GOLF System Engineer said in his presentation, "Space is hard."

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog ([KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides ([KB6NU.Com/study-guides/](http://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/)), and often appears on the ICQPodcast ([icqpodcast.com](http://icqpodcast.com)). When he's not trying to work the satellites, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.



## ARPSC Report for December

The December ARPSC meeting was held on Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup> via Zoom.

An overview of the 2020 year was included. 28 Registered members from Monroe, Wayne and Washtenaw participated 712 times total for 1301 hours. This number does not include hours by folks not registered on ARES Connect or from Ohio.

Several folks were recognized for their commitment to operating as Net Control Station, whether for the Monday Net or SKYWARN activation. Thank you to **N8KUF-Mike**, **KE8KNZ-Tom**, **WA8EFK-Dale**, **KD8ZNZ-Rodney**, **N8NYP-Terry**, **KE8DDM-Dalton**, **N8DXR-John** and **W8BKT-Brian**. A Huge Thanks also goes out to all those who acted as Alternate NCS and those that checked in weekly!

3 members were also recognized for their top hour contribution to the team. N8KUF-Mike had 112.47 hrs, WA8EFK-Dale had 91.91 hrs, and W8MCW-Mark logged 89.91 hrs. Thank you to them and EVERYONE who participated this year!

We also discussed training ideas for 2021. There is a lot of exciting topics upcoming, keep your eye out on the calendar and the newsletter!

Don't forget there will be a special close to the December 21<sup>st</sup> Weekly ARPSC Net, we invite you all to check-in.

The next meeting of the MCARPSC is Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm-method/Location TBA

Hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

73

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



## Here is what I do for fun and to see if the radio works.....

The trip to Malan Waterfowl Production Area was good and roads only had a little snow earlier. Malan is KFF-5194 and new park number in Jackson County, Michigan. It is near the northern part of the Waterloo State Recreation Area and there were 4 parking lots for that area nearby.

A total of 72 contacts were made (37/20meters, 28/40meters, 7/30meters) with most on cw. Of the total, 18 were from 10 European countries. Other notes were an almost sweep of Canada; VE1, VE2, VE3(3), VE5, VE6, VE9. Alaska and 24 states are in the mix as well as 10 Park to Park contacts. A snafu while going onto 30 with the laptop and posting caused low numbers on that band.

The parking lot for Malan is small holding maybe 3-4 vehicles and is off a dirt road. There is good signage which is in the photos. Cell service was not an issue but did have some noise on 20ssb. Log uploaded to LoTW and park programs. De KG8P



**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.

**ROTUMA, 3D2.** Tony, 3D2AG is QRV as 3D2AG/p until mid-January 2021. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

**MAURITANIA, 5T.** Tom, DL7BO is QRV as 5T7OO from Nouakchott and is here for the next few days. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 and 80 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL direct to DJ6TF.

**SENEGAL, 6W.** Look for a group of operators to be QRV as 6V1A from Goree Island, IOTA AF-045, from December 18 to 20. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW.

**ZAMBIA, 9J.** Rob, IK2LON is QRV as 9J2RD while living in Ndola. Activity is on the HF, VHF and UHF bands using SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via IZ8CCW.

**SPAIN, EA.** Special event station AO50UPC will be QRV from December 15 to 30 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via operators' instructions.

**ETHIOPIA, ET.** Operators Ken, K4ZW and Bob, W9XY are QRV as ET3AA from the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society club station until December 12. Activity is in their spare time as they perform maintenance on the club station. QSL via N2OO.

**ITALY, I.** Members of the ARI Club of Grosseto are QRV with special event station IO5CNPP until December 20 in remembrance of the Heroes of Chernobyl. QSL via IZ5RHU.

**OGASAWARA, JD1.** Harry, JG7PSJ will be QRV as JD1BMH from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, from December 14 to January 9, 2021. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

**JAN MAYEN, JX.** Erik, JX2US has been active on 20 meters CW between 1300 and 1500z. QSL via LA2US.

**LITHUANIA, LY.** Valerijus, LY2QT is QRV as LY20XMAS during December for the Christmas holiday. QSL to home call.

**PERU, OA.** Members of the Radio Club Peruano are QRV with special event call OA90O until the end of 2020 to celebrate the club's 90th anniversary. QSL via OA4O.

**FINLAND, OH.** Special event station OH9SCL is QRV from Lapland during the month of December. QSL via LoTW.

**GREECE, SV.** Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Greece are QRV with special event call SX2500S during December to commemorate the Battle of Salamis. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via bureau.

**AFGHANISTAN, T6.** Robert, S53R is QRV as T6AA from Kabul until December 15. Activity is in his spare time. QSL to home call.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7.** Neil, WD8CRT is QRV as V73NS from Kwajalein Atoll, IOTA OC-028. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 meters using CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via W3HNK.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The ARRL 10-Meter Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, TRC Digi Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, ARI 40/80 Contest, International Naval Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint, CQC Great Colorado 20-Meter CW Snowshoe Run,

The OK1WC Memorial, MWC, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are scheduled for December 14.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for December 15.

The NAQCC CW Sprint, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for December 16.

Please see December QST, page 63, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web



## 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

Testing by appointment only.  
Call for information.  
Masks or better to open.

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

December 17th at 7:30 pm

Meeting 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