

# The Hertzian Herald



## Off The Kuf:



'Tis a new year, barely mid-way through the month of January, and I've seen many around me giving up on the 2021 New Year resolutions (obviously made in desperate haste during the proverbial 11<sup>th</sup> hour on New Year's Eve) ... deciding instead to focus on things they can resolve to do in 2022. After all, there are fully 11 months, some number of days, and 23 ½ hours to come up with a few life changing activities to follow through on NEXT year. Am I wrong???????????

2020 was a year unlike any other that I (and I suspect most of you) have seen.

While house fires, illness, deaths, layoffs, and other tragedies happen throughout the year, they seem particularly devastating during the holiday season and exponentially amplified this year by Covid. I hope that if you are able that you consider supporting relief agencies (food banks, churches, Red Cross disaster services, Salvation Army, Veterans Support, homeless shelters, etc.) so that others less fortunate might receive some support / relief during a time of need.

As I am writing what will be my last Off the KUF for this term – COVID vaccines have become available to a growing list of population and the hope is for life at some point to approach a level of normalcy that we have not seen in a while. Having said that – we have just received notice that the 2021 Dayton Hamvention and the 2021 TMRA Swap have both been cancelled for this year due to Covid concerns. We will hold the line on the Monroe Swap and hope that the situation improves rapidly enough to allow us to have the swap on Father's Day. As mentioned in a previous article there are numerous commitments necessary in advance (some with significant financial implications) that must be handled. While the swap is by far the largest source of funding for the club, it is also one of the largest financial liabilities. Your MCRCA Board of Directors will do their best to maintain the ability to hold the Monroe Swap while managing risks (financial) of forced cancellation.

My THANKS go out to the MCRCA Board of Directors for their dedicated support and to you the members for your participation during my 2020 term in office. While I cannot say that I've accomplished everything I had hoped to accomplish when I accepted the President position a year ago, I CAN say that with your input and participation there is so much more that we can accomplish in the future. Fresh energy, and fresh ideas, are a vital part of what it takes to keep an organization alive and thriving.

As we move ahead in 2021, please consider stepping forward, as an officer, as a mentor, as a program presenter, as an energetic volunteer, or at a minimum as an enthusiastic member participant eager to learn something new and willing to have a good time. ALL are welcome, and ALL are needed to continue to grow the organization. It is well within the reach of this organization to make MCRCA Meetings "the Ham place to be" on the third Thursday of every month.

In closing - May this New Year bring good health, good fortune, and many more good meetings with good friends. And, most importantly, may all of us keep those who may be less fortunate included in our thoughts, prayers, and actions.

Cheers!!!

I'll see YOU at the meeting,  
Mike Karmol – N8KUF - 2020 President – MCRCA

<http://mcrca.org/>  
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[www.facebook.com/  
groups/  
1643856795878368/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/)

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**Inside This Issue**

Minutes . . . . . 2  
 ARPSC Report . . . 3  
 History AR Lic chang. 4  
 History AR Lic chang 5  
 Member Renew form .6  
 ARRL DX News . . . . 7

**MCRCA Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Mike Karmol N8KUF.  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions: No new members, upgrade or guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Larry KE8HCD, supported by Paul W8PI, 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 – Some DX out there, JAN MAYEN, JX. Erik, JX2US — OGASAWARA, JD1. Harry, JG7PSJ — YI9HWS — Iraq — Fiji.

CONTESTS: Paul W8PI – Russian 160m contest, — 160 CW challenge, — ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW — NA QSO party phone, — **January:** VHF ARRL Contest 6m challenge, — North American QSO Party, SSB, — CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Elections in January. Contact Paul if interested in running for office.

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

ARPSC: Tom KE8KNZ, 19 check-ins last Monday's net. Participation has been good lately. Lance is busy making plans for the new year 2021. Public Information Officers are Tom KE8KNZ and Terry N8NYP.

ARRL: Dale W8EFK, the annual board meeting is coming up and will be held via Zoom. A change in the By-Laws will be a topic of discussion concerning advertising in QST from businesses other than radio business. Also updating the mission statement on what the foundation does. Make an appointment of a new Section Manager for Ohio, the previous one moved up the ladder.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, all is well. The 444.550 repeater is off the air and being reconfigured to high power and installed in a new cabinet.

OLD BUSINESS: MCRCA Christmas Party canceled due to COVID restrictions.

NEW BUSINESS: — Elections contact Paul if interested in running for office.

ANOUNCEMENTS: Bill Cunningham N8YQY passed away in mid-October. A memorial to St Jude's was sent in honor of Dave Buchko's father passing away.

PROGRAM: 3 short videos on electrical safety, step potential and touch potential. Also, one short video of some very talented people blowing on beer bottles. BTW they made some pretty good music.

ADJOURNED: 8:52 pm

ATTENDANCE: 21 - great turn out for Zoom meetings

- |                |              |             |               |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| KJ8P Keith     | K8EBI Fred   | K8GO Glen   | K8OF Doug     |
| K8UMF John     | KA8NCR Jeff  | KA8PQH Neil | KB8OSU George |
| KC8SKP Wes     | KE8HCD Larry | KE8KNZ Tom  | KE8OSK Ron    |
| KG8P Tom       | N8DXR John   | N8KUF Mike  | N8NYP Terry   |
| W8PI Paul      | WA8EFK Dale  | WA8YZP John | W8MCW Mark    |
| Madonna Burkit |              |             |               |

**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 Report

Welcome to 2021...A new year that will be....??????...than 2020,

We have lots of training scheduled for the upcoming year; hopefully things begin to return to the "proper" normal so we can resume hands on skills training.

We will be concentrating on learning to properly moving messages through the National Traffic System and between operators, which is the backbone of amateur radio.

Proper field operation skills and manning the various fixed emergency stations in the county.

The training schedule is posted on the MCarPSC webpage and Facebook page.

We would like to congratulate Terry N8NYP and Tom KE8KNZ as the newest county Public Information Officers. Their enthusiasm for spreading word of the hobby is well documented over the past few years and will benefit us all.

Unfortunately, it looks like it will still be awhile before we can spend too much money in person at hamfests with Dayton and Toledo announcing the cancellation of their events for 2021.

Hopefully by time June rolls around and it is time for the Monroe Hamfest, we can all return to eyeball QSO's.

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

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



## Mobile Telephone Service (MTS)

Long before modern cellular networks were available (or even technologically viable), people were working on wireless phone systems. The earliest wireless phone systems were essentially simple radio networks, the early ancestors of our modern and far-reaching cellular networks.

As early as the 1930s, deep-pocketed travelers could place phone calls from, and to, ocean liners in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean in order to reach their friends and business associates. The process was driven by Marine VHF Radio and cost \$7 a minute (around \$100 a minute, adjusted for inflation). By the 1940s, Motorola, working with the Bell System, created the first wireless phone service company in the country. The commercial service was called Mobile Telephone Service (MTS) and was wildly successful given its limited reach and expense. Like the pricey land-to-ocean-liner systems of the 1930s, the MTS system was based on VHF radio. The MTS system first went live in St. Louis on June 17, 1946.

Although people often joke about the weight and bulk of 1980s-era briefcase cellphones, those early cellphones had nothing on the original MTS gear. MTS equipment weighed 80 pounds (36 kilograms) and required installation in an automobile or physical structure—although given the long history of geeky exploits among scientists and engineers, we can imagine at least one person involved in the production and distribution of the MTS system attempted to build a backpack model. The original service only included 3 channels for the entire city (although it was later expanded to 32 channels after more licenses were added).

Placing a phone call using the MTS system was much like placing a traditional operator-driven call. Users would activate their handset which would, in turn, connect them to an operator. That operator would then direct their call to either a landline or to another mobile handset—given the expense and scarcity of the early MTS units, it's safe to say that the majority of calls were to landlines.

MTS systems are still in use in a handful of very rural areas of North America—long after the service completely died out in metropolitan areas. Operators for rural networks frequently cobble together homemade replacement parts and cannibalized parts from older machines to keep the system online. So the next time you pull your tiny cellphone out of your pocket and enjoy a crystal clear, private, and inexpensive phone call, give thanks that the days of 80-pound radio phones and duct-taped together towers are long behind us.

## A History of Amateur Radio License Changes

<https://ema.arrl.org/a-history-of-amateur-radio-license-changes/>

### 1912

The introduction of licensing. 5 wpm code required 1917 – Code requirement increased to 10 wpm

### 1917

Cessation of activity due to WWI (lasts till 1919)

### 1922

Amateur Radio call signs will now be government assigned. Previously, hams made up their own call signs (often a person's initials). The Amateur Radio service is created with two classes of licenses, First Grade and Second Grade. First Grade required a written essay examination and a code test of 5 words per minute. The test was administered before a "Radio Inspector" at a Commerce Department Field Office. The Second Grade license was for people who could not appear at a Commerce Dept. Field Office. An existing Amateur Radio First Grade licensee would administer the test.

### 1923

Amateur Extra First Grade license class added. Another new license class was created, the Amateur Extra First Grade. This license conveyed additional operating privileges, after passing a more difficult written examination and a code test of 20 words per minute.

### 1924

Spark gap transmitters banned on newly allocated 80, 40, 20, and 5 meter bands

### 1926

Spark gap transmitters made illegal on the ham bands

### 1927

The existing Amateur First Grade license is renamed the Amateur Class license. The Federal Radio Commission created.

### 1928

The Radio Commission starts testing for "Amateur First Grade" licenses.

### 1932

The Amateur Class license class is renamed the Amateur First Class license.

### 1934

Establishment of the FCC. License restructuring. Code requirement increased to 13 wpm. Accurate logging required. Mobile or portable operation required written notice to the FCC.

### 1939

FCC introduces multiple-choice tests.

### 1940

US amateurs prohibited from contacting other countries. All licensees required to supply fingerprints, photo, and proof of citizenship to FCC

### 1941

80m taken over by Army

### 1942

Cessation of activity due to WWII (1942-1945)

### 1945

Amateur license terms are extended from 3 to 5 years

### 1949

Citizen's Radio Service established (the 1.1 meter ham band is reassigned to models and Class D Citizens' Band radio in 1958)

### 1951

New license classes and names changed. FCC creates the Novice, Technician and Extra class licenses to join the Advanced (formerly class A), General (formally Class B) and Conditional (formerly class C) licenses. License terms were now 5 years except Novice which was 1 year, non-renewable. Novices were limited to 75 watts input with crystal frequency control of CW on portions of the HF bands. Novices also had CW and Phone privileges in the 145-147 MHz segment of 2 meters. Ah Novice call signs were 2x3 with the second letter being an "N". The Novice test was a 20 question written and 5 wpm CW test originally administered by FCC examiners. Also, a person could only hold a Novice license one time. The Technician license as created had an amateur privileges from 220 MHz and up (No 6 or 2 meters). The intent was to get a bunch of people experimenting on the then new (their first use was during WWII) "UHF" frequencies.

### 1952

FCC stopped issuing new Advanced class licenses December— FCC stopped issuing new Advanced class licenses and took away unique Advanced and Extra privileges, everyone General and up had the same privileges (after changing license classes and rules 1 year earlier).

### 1954

Novice license testing duty turned over to hams. Novice license testing was turned over to volunteer hams who would administer the code test, send paperwork to the FCC who would then return a written test which the volunteer would administer and then send to the FCC for final grading.

### 1955

Technician class licensees receive 6 meter privileges.

### 1959

Technician class licensees are given a portion of the 2 meter band (145-147MHz).

### 1967

Incentive Licensing takes effect "Incentive Licensing" takes effect, returning the Advanced class license and taking privileges away from Generals, effectively stopping growth of Amateur Radio and causing a lot of bad feelings among the amateur community for the ARRL who originally proposed the program.

**1972**

Technician licenses are granted access to the complete 2 meter band. Novices are allowed to use radios with a VFO, and logging requirements are relaxed.

**1974**

FCC begins issuing "WR" prefix callsigns as part of new repeater regulations.

**1975**

The Novice and Technician licenses get major changes. Among the changes are an increase in power for Novices from 75 to 250 watts. Technicians are also given full Novice privileges on the HF bands

**1976**

"WN" prefixes for Novice licenses were eliminated Effective July 1, 1976, any Extra class licensee who had been a licensed Amateur for 25 years or more could select one specific 1x2 call sign. Effective October 1, 1976, anyone who had held an Amateur Extra class license prior to November 22, 1967, could select one specific 1x2 call sign.

**1977**

FCC suspends all Amateur Radio license fees. Code sending test is waived. Effective January 1, 1977, anyone who had held an Amateur Extra class license prior to July 2, 1974, could select one specific 1x2 call sign. Effective April 1, 1977, anyone who held an Amateur Extra class license prior to July 1, 1976, could select one specific 1x2 call sign. Effective July 1, 1977, any Amateur Extra class licensee could select one specific 1x2 call sign.

**1978**

Call signs now assigned automatically in sequential order. As of March 24, the FCC will be assigning call signs automatically, in sequential order. This is the start of the "Group" call sign assignments. Also, the Novice license becomes a renewable license (following the example of all other license classes). The FCC stopped (February 23) the Extra-class only vanity call sign program due to internal mishandling and maybe some corruption. The ability of a person to hold multiple station licenses (having multiple callsigns), known as a secondary callsign, at different addresses is eliminated by the FCC. Instant upgrades (/AE) allowed. Moving to a new call district no longer required a change of callsign.

**1982**

VEC created President Regan signs into law a bill that allows the FCC to authorize licensed hams to create and administer amateur radio license tests.

**1984**

Amateur licenses go from a 5 year term to 10 years. Testing no longer required to take place at FCC field offices.

**1987**

Novice enhancement. Expansion of privileges for Novices; voice privileges; a chance to sample HF without a Morse key.

**1988**

Military and commercial use of Morse code ceases.

**1991**

No-code Tech license class created. FCC creates a new Technician license without a Morse code requirement. This was based on a proposal by QCWA.

**1995**

Vanity callsigns introduced.

**1999**

Three license classes now. The FCC proposes major changes to amateur rules, cutting license classes from six down to three with a single 5 wpm code test for the two highest classes – General and Extra (new Novice and Advanced class licenses are eliminated).

**2000**

Highest code test is 5 WPM April 15 — Code speed for General and Extra license reduced to 5 wpm. No new Novice, Technician Plus or Advanced class licenses will be issued. Novice and Advanced class licenses can continue to be renewed. All Technician Plus licenses became converted to Technician (on the license), but retained their HF (equivalent to Novice) privileges. In a few years when all code tests were eliminated, ALL Technician Licensees have HF (Novice) privileges.

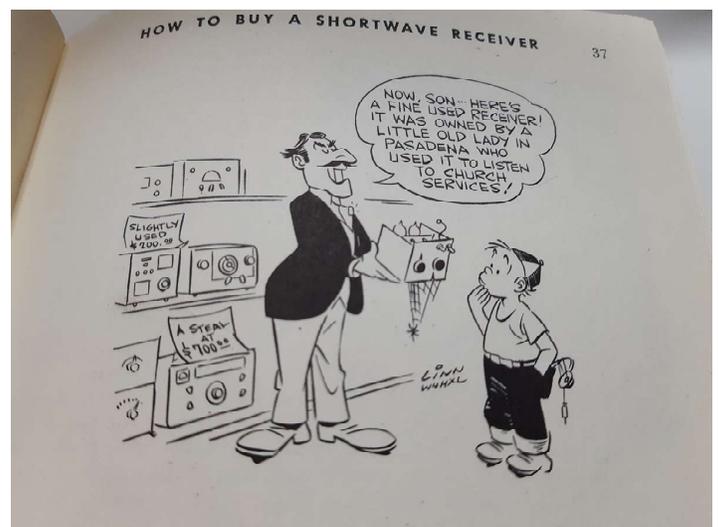
**2005**

No more code test FCC releases NPRM regarding the elimination of Morse Code tests for all licenses.

**2006**

December – Coming just before the end of the year (like the license restructuring of 1999/2000) FCC releases first a confusing press release and then a few days later the official Report and Order eliminating Morse Code testing requirements for all license classes. The FCC also opens the door for a possible reconsideration of some of the voice frequency allocations announced just 1 month previously.

(Courtesy Tom Hashem, KA1F)



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 \_\_\_\_\_ RRRR 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 LU5AG, 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.

**MALDIVES, 8Q.** Massimo, IZ5KID is QRV as 8Q7MM from Male and is here until around January 23 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40, 30, 20 and 15 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

**ZAMBIA, 9J.** Brian, 9J2BO is usually active on 40 meters using CW from 0330 to 0500z. QSL via EA5GL.

**ANDORRA, C3.** Joan, C31US is usually QRV on 40 meters using CW between 0700 and 0800z. QSL to home call.

**BOLIVIA, CP.** Antonio, EA5RM is QRV as CP1XRM from San Ignacio de Moxos until January 26. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

**ANTARCTICA.** Operators Taka, JA1AGS and Hiro, JH7JCX are QRV as 8J1RL from Syowa Station, IOTA AN-015, until the end of January. Activity is on 40 to 15 meters using mainly FT8. QSL via bureau.

**SVALBARD, JW.** Erling, LB2PG is QRV as JW/LB2PG from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until June 1. Activity is on 80 to 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

**ALASKA, KL7.** As part of the Alaska RST QSO Party 2021, stations K7ICE, KL7CCN, KL7JR, KL7RST, KL7RST/KL7, VE8RST/KL7, VY0RST/KL7, and VY1RST/KL7 are QRV until February 15 from various regions here. QSL via operators' instructions.

**ARGENTINA, LU.** Members of AMSAT Argentina will be QRV as LU7AA from January 16 to 24 to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the launch of Satellite LO-19. Activity will be on the HF bands and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, various digital modes, SSTV, and FM on various satellites. QSL direct to LU7AA.

**BULGARIA, LZ.** Special event station LZ1340B is QRV to celebrate the 1340th anniversary of the First Bulgarian Empire. QSL via LZ3SM.

**NETHERLANDS, PA.** Special event station PC19HOPE is QRV until March 10 to support efforts in containing the COVID-19 pandemic. QSL via PA7HPH.

**SEYCHELLES, S7.** Ravi, S79VU has been QRV on 40 meters using FT8 around 0145z. QSL via N4NGR.

**POLAND, SP.** Members of the SEDINA Contest Club are QRV with special event call sign SQ0MORSE from Szczecin until April 30 to celebrate the 230th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse. Activity is on various HF bands. QSL via SP1EG.

**WESTERN KIRIBATI, T30.** Jack, T30TM has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB around 0530z. QSL via VK1TX.

**GABON, TR.** Alain, TR8CA has been QRV using CW and RTTY on 20 meters between 1600 and 1730z. QSL via F6CBC.

**MALI, TZ.** Jeff, TZ4AM has been QRV on 30 and 17 meters using CW between 1745 and 2000z. QSL via W0SA.

**EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA.** Special event station R170SG is QRV until the end of January to celebrate the founding 170 years ago of the province Samara. QSL via operators' instructions.

**INDIA, VU.** Members of the West Bengal Radio Club are QRV as AT2GSI from Sagar Island, IOTA AS-153, until January 16 recognizing a Hindu pilgrimage to the confluence of the river Ganges and the Bay of Bengal. QSL via operators' instructions.

**UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4.** Garry, 2M1DHG is QRV as ZC4GR for the next few years. Activity is mainly on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8, and possibly SSTV, PSK31 and WSPR in his spare time. QSL via EB7DX.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.** Pete, K8PGJ is QRV as ZF2PG until January 17. He is active using SSB and plans to be an entry in the North American SSB QSO Party. QSL to home call.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The ARRL January VHF Contest, North American SSB QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint Ladder, Hungarian DX Contest, PRO Digi Contest, RSGB AFS SSB Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, North America Collegiate SSB Championship, WAB 1.8 MHz Phone and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and OK1WC CW Memorial are scheduled for January 18.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for January 19.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, 40-Meter QRP CW Fox Hunt and Phone Weekly Test Fray are scheduled for January 20.

Please see January 2021 QST, page 75, 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

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

**2021 Schedule:**  
February 20    April 17  
June 19        August 21  
October 16    December 18

### 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

January 21st 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

