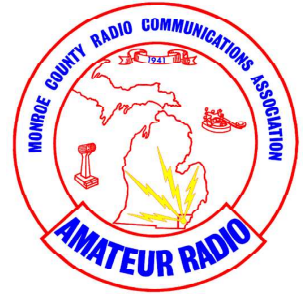


# The Hertzian Herald



March 2021 • Volume 45, Issue 3 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

## D Fritz Bitz:

As I said last month, I was not very active in ham radio for several years. It was difficult to work on radios all day and then come home and play with them at night. I got a little burned out on radios. I did just make my first CW contact in 40 years and it was very exciting. But I am a little old school.

I have been playing with some of the digital modes also and bought an SDR receiver that plugs into my computer. It's amazing that a thumb drive plugged into my computer can receive 500khz to 2.3Ghz in any mode you can think of. You can't find a picture of a ham shack today without a computer monitor with a waterfall on it.

I'm learning about FLDigi and have been trying to figure out FT-8 and started playing with packet again. When I started out, VHF and UHF were fairly young and most radios were old commercial equipment that had crystals for each channel (rock bound). You really had to know how to work on radios because there was very little instructions and no internet. When I first interfaced my radio to the packet TNC, I had a hand drawn (from the factory) TNC schematic and had to reverse engineer the microphone for the radio to figure out the wiring. Today you order an adapter.

That's the future of ham radio. Most younger people don't have time to invest in the technical side of the hobby today. And that's fine with me. I get it. Heck I don't have as much time as I'd like to do the tech stuff today either. But I do enjoy the smell of a burned resistor, I love it when I open a radio that has a cooked transistor or exploded electrolytic capacitor. Most people can't point out any of those components if they had to. I like doing things myself, but like I said, I'm old school.

The good thing is, I don't think everyone has to be old school. If you like playing with the radios but not working on them, there is plenty of room for you here. I look forward to working with other hams at Field day and Fox hunts and learning how to use some of my computer stuff from the young guns.

So, until next month, 73.

Don Fritz  
N8BZN



**Everyone get your 2m yagis and attenuators ready. Saturday May 15, 2021 at 9:00 am will be the MCRCA's first fox hunt of the season and is sure to be a lot of fun. If you have no equipment come out anyway and ride along with someone else and get some experience on how to find the fox. We meet at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. at 8:45 am**

<http://mcrca.org/>

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

### Club Officers

#### PRESIDENT

Don Fritz N8BZN  
donfritz56@gmail.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Karmol N8KUF  
mkarmol@bex.net

#### SECRETARY

Fred VanDaele K8EBI  
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

#### TREASURER

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC  
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

#### DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI  
ptrouten@bex.net

#### DIRECTOR

Rodney Haddix KD8ZNZ  
rodhaddix@hotmail.com

#### DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP  
busdiecw@netscape.net

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## MCRCA Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Don Fritz N8BZN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, no upgrades and or guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Mike N8KUF, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Larry KE8HCD, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, Togo 5V7DE, — Mozambique C9. Bruno, CS7AMN SSB, — Wake Island KH9/ NL7RR, and Cocos Keeling Dxpediton VK9CE March 6-23, 2021.

CONTESTS: Paul W8PI, ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW, Feb 20,21. — 27<sup>th</sup> SC QSOP, — 28<sup>th</sup> NC QSOP, —ARRL Inter. DX Contest SSB March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. OK QSOP, — ID QSOP — WI QSOP.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. February 20, 2021. **3 Appointment only, Masks required.**

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Working on them.

ARPSC: Mike N8KUF, Monthly meetings and Saturday Training sessions are on the ARPSC Website.— Monday 8pm weekly net reminder.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK, is cleaning up the hamfest list on ARRL site. 14 on the schedule, 3 in Michigan and some have changed dates. DX Engineering Hamfest & Great Lakes Division Convention Talmadge, OH. 08/07/2021.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, No big news, one session controller got stuck and has been reset. Welcoming memberships. Annual meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in May.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Saturday Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, discuss, Hamfest, PO Box, Scholarship, and April MI QSOParty

ANOUNCEMENTS: Wyandotte repeater is up and running on the Wyandotte Hospital – WY8DOT

PROGRAM: Two videos – Icom Radio News series, Tim Duffy K3LR

ADJOURNED: 8:23 pm

ATTENDANCE: 18

WA8EFK Dale  
N8BZN Don  
KA8NCR Jeff  
N8DXR John  
WA8YZB John  
KE8HCD Larry  
KA8PQH Neil  
KE8KNZ Tom  
KC8SKP Wes

W8IIE Dave  
K8EBI Fred  
K9JP Jeff  
K8UMF John  
KE8OTG Larry  
N8KUF Mike  
W8PI Paul  
KG8P Tom  
KE8PUN Aaron



## Committees

### Club Station

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

### DX Net

Soon

### 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 Trouten W8PI

### Public Relations

Terry Kolton N8NYP  
Tom Imlach KE8KNZ

### Scholarship

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

### Program Chairman

soon

### Membership

Terry Kolton N8NYP  
n8nyp@arrl.net

### Property Custodian

Paul Trouten W8PI

## March: Spring, Leprechauns, Antenna Checks and ....moving towards normal?

Even though we have had to continue meeting virtually, we have been working on National Traffic Service skills which include filling out and passing Radiograms. We also have been working on skill sets to best assist our served agencies.

On Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> 9 operators gathered on 72 Monroe to practice formatting and passing Radiograms. Each participant brought at least 1 radiogram to practice on air passing and they were then all collected to move them up the system via the 2 local VHF NTS nets Northwest Ohio ARES Traffic Net at 1830 each day and Southeast Michigan Traffic Net at 2215 each day. Additional training was also provided by **Jay** WB8TKL and OSSBN Traffic Liaison **Juan** KD8UOT, we Thank both these gentlemen for their time!

We have also been training on 2 of the Digital software packages being used in Emergency Communications to send data and forms. FLDigi is a suite of programs that can be used with any computer that has a sound card (either internal or external) and any radio to transmit data on most any band (HF or VHF/UHF). While an external soundcard device (Signalink or similar) connected via data cables to a radio works best, you can use any radio via audio coupling (holding the radio near the computer microphone) to send data. This is beneficial in Emergency situations as you can use your own HT and any computer you can find to pass messages without a complex setup.

Winlink is being used heavily nationwide to pass forms and messages among amateurs and served agencies because you can send forms to any email address even if they are not an amateur operator. This allows forms to be sent directly to an Emergency Manager or Incident Commander. National Red Cross also uses this program heavily during sheltering operations to allow amateurs to send resource requests and shelter reports to clearinghouses.

ARES and Red Cross will be doing a Spring Drill on May 8<sup>th</sup> using Winlink to help train operators. Locally we will be doing a hands-on field station setup and operation exercise and will integrate the Red Cross drill into our plans. Information on the Red Cross national drill can be found at: [www.arc-emcomm-training.org](http://www.arc-emcomm-training.org).

There is also a new weekly Winlink net in the Great Lakes region that anyone can participate in. Information for the GLAWN follows: GREAT LAKES AREA WINLINK NET;

### **Purpose:**

To help promote the use of Winlink and the various facets and functions of the program.

### **Eligibility:**

Open primarily to those states that border any of the Great Lakes. Those states being Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York and the Canadian province of Ontario. However, those wishing to check in from other states or provinces anywhere are welcomed to participate. Open to anyone with a valid ham radio license for the band you are sending your message out.

### **Net Check-In Process:**

Send either a basic plain text message or use any of the forms templates available of your choosing that will allow you to include the following line of text in the body of the message or in some spot on the form you choose to send:

FIRST NAME, CALLSIGN, CITY, COUNTY, STATE, COUNTRY

An example of my checkin might be:

RYAN, KB8RCR, REMUS, MECOSTA, MICHIGAN, USA.

Also, please put the letters GLAWN and the date of the net in the subject line. An example for the first net might be: GLAWN 3/10/2021



**When to check in?:**

Starting with Wednesday, March 10th, 2021, send your message any time during Wednesday of that week using Winlink in any mode you have available. (i.e., traditional RF or via Telnet for example. The net shall operate in the above described manner but subject to change as needed to keep the net operational and efficient. Also, special event dates such as Field Day may call for additional messages. Thanks for your participation. Feel free to send messages about any suggestions or comments. Ryan KB8RC

As mentioned, Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> ARPSC will have a hands-on training for field operations in which operators will be encouraged to bring along their portable station set-up and have the opportunity to set it up and operate outdoors. This will allow for the seldom used skill (Thankfully) of setting up and putting your "When all else fails" station on air. By hosting it in a smaller area, it will allow time for other operators to walk around and perhaps get ideas for their station or to pass along any tricks they have learned. We most likely will be setting up in the parking lot/grassy fields around the EMD. We encourage anyone to visit and see the stations set-up and on the air. More information will be upcoming next month and on FB page and the website.

As restrictions begin to loosen and gatherings begin to happen, we will hopefully be able to get back to meeting in person at the EMD training room, I will attempt to have Zoom links available for a few months when possible for those who may still be uncomfortable meeting in person.

NWS SKYWARN training will be completely virtual this year, links to the available sessions can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/dtx/spotter2>. MCRPSC members, if you attend, please email me your certificate when finished so I can add it to your file. These are limited to 150 people and these cover the entire 17 county DTX warning area so they will fill quickly.

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

## Choosing a Power Supply for Your Station

Posted by Mark Haverstock, K8MSH on January 29, 2021 at 10:01 pm

Are you building your first station or returning to Ham radio from a long hiatus? Unlike gear from past decades, today's Ham radios operate on 13.8-volt power. Why 13.8V? It's the average voltage that an automobile electrical system produces, allowing your radio to be powered in your vehicle or at home. With a few exceptions—like amplifiers—you won't plug your gear directly into a 125V wall socket. Instead, you'll need a good power supply to operate your station.

### **Linear vs. Switching**

You'll find two types of Ham-grade power supplies for sale. The linear design uses a beefy transformer to take the AC input (typically 120VAC or 240VAC) and step down the voltage, then rectify and filter the input into a DC output of 13.8 VDC. These power supplies are often large, heavy, and more expensive than switching power supplies discussed below. Many old-timers believe they are better because they're less likely to generate RF noise.

With switching power supplies, the AC line voltage is converted directly to DC and filtered. This high-voltage DC is then fed to a power oscillator that "switches" it on and off at a rate of about 20 to 500 kHz. The result is pulsating DC that can be applied to a transformer for conversion to 13.8V. A switching power supply is also smaller, less expensive, and more efficient. Most modern versions are built to suppress possible RF noise.

Continued next page



## How Much Power?

Power supplies are often rated by their continuous and intermittent/peak (ICS) current capacities. The figure you want to look at is the continuous rating—the amount of current the power supply can provide. For example, the **Samlex SEC-1235P-M** switching power supply is rated 30A continuous output, 36A peak.

If you're running a VHF/UHF transceiver at home, especially a high-powered one, you're going to need a significant amount of current. Typically, you'll need a minimum of 15 amps for high-power transceivers (50-80W) and at least 10 amps for medium-power radios (25-40W). Check the recommendations in your radio's manual for specific requirements.

As you step up to HF radios with higher wattage, you'll need larger power supplies. A transceiver with a maximum output power of 100W requires about 25A of current at 13.8V when you are operating the radio at full throttle. Again, check your manual for specific power requirements.

## Making Choices

Power supplies come in a variety of configurations, from simple to full-featured. Basic models just change 125VAC to 13VDC. Typical add-on features include volt/amp meters, multiple power outputs, noise offset controls to minimize RFI, variable voltage output controls, and over-temperature protection. DC output options available on power supplies can include Anderson Powerpoles, binding posts, set screw terminals, and lighter plugs, or combinations of these. Choose the options most useful to you.

Don't worry about buying a power supply with a little extra current capacity. Your equipment will only draw the current it needs—no more, no less. In fact, it is probably safe to say that you can never have too much current capacity. However, if you think you'll be upgrading to a larger radio in the near future, you may want to get the big power supply today. A 25 to 30-amp continuous rated supply is a good balance between cost and the power you'll likely need.

Some good examples of switching supplies in the 25-30 amp range are the **Samlex SEC-1235**, **Alinco DM-430T**, and the **Astron SS-30M**. **Astron** has a good line of linear (transformer) power supplies that start at a slightly higher price point.

## Accessories

If you have one radio, hookup is fairly simple. Attach the positive and negative wires from the power cord to your power supply. But if you've got a few more items hanging around the shack such as tuners, meters, or another radio, distribution boxes/panels will help power them all from a single supply. **MFJ**, **SOTabeams**, **Paradan**, and **West Mountain Radio** sell a variety of these in kit or assembled form. Most use Anderson Powerpole connections.

## The story of the transistor

### AN INVENTION THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

LIFE WOULD NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT THE TRANSISTOR, WHICH WAS INVENTED JUST OVER SEVEN DECADES AGO. IT IS CONSIDERED BY RESEARCHERS AND HISTORIANS TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT INVENTION OF THE 20TH CENTURY, LEADING TO GROUNDBREAKING ADVANCES IN COMPUTING, COMMUNICATIONS, MEDICINE, AND PRACTICALLY EVERY TECHNICALLY RELATED FIELD. WITHOUT IT, DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE PERSONAL COMPUTER, CELLPHONES, THE GPS SYSTEM, PACEMAKERS, HEARING AIDS, AND THE INTERNET WOULD NOT EXIST.

<https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/the-story-of-the-transistor>

## How to send and receive QSL cards

<https://rsgb.org/main/get-started-in-amateur-radio/operating-your-new-station/how-to-send-and-receive-qsl-cards/>

**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.

**ZAMBIA, 9J.** Bodo, HB9EWU plans to be QRV as 9J2BG while spending one year on a humanitarian mission at the St. Paul's Mission General Hospital in Kashikishi. Activity will be in his spare time on 20 meters. QSL to home call.

**BOTSWANA, A2.** Operators Vasily, R7AL, Leo, UI8J, Vlad, R9LR and Mike, RU3UR will be QRV as A25RU from Gaborone from March 15 to 26. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, using CW, SSB, and FT8 in DXpedition mode, with four stations active. This also includes activity on Satellite QO-100. QSL via ClubLog.

**GUADELOUPE, FG.** Philippe, F1DUZ will be QRV as FG4KH from March 16 to April 1. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL direct to home call.

**ECUADOR, HC.** Rick, NE8Z is QRV as HC1MD/2 from the Santa Elena province until May 15. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4. QSL via K8LJG.

**MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1.** Take, JG8NQJ will be QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 while on work assignment at the weather station here. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW. He is here for about three months. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

**LITHUANIA, LY.** Special event stations LY31A and LY11LY are QRV until March 31 to celebrate the 31st anniversary of the Act of the Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania. QSL via operators' instructions.

**AUSTRIA, OE.** Members of the VIC Amateur Radio Contest DX Club are QRV as C7A during March. QSL via UA3DX.

**FINLAND, OH.** Members of the SSAB Raahe ARC are QRV as special event station OF60RR from Pattijoki until March 1, 2022 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the start of the construction of the steel mill Rautaruukki in May 1961. QSL direct to OH8DR.

**ST. MAARTEN, PJ7.** Tom, AA9A is QRV as PJ7AA until March 27. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**SEYCHELLES, S7.** Ravi, S79VU has been active on 20 meters using FT8 around 0200z. QSL direct to N4GNNR.

**EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA.** Special event stations R1934G, R108M, RG61PP and R1961G are QRV until April 30 from the Smolensk Oblast to commemorate the 87th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's birth and the 60th anniversary of his historic 108-minute first flight. QSL via operators' instructions.

**ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0.** Look for RI0Q to be QRV from Bol'shoy Begichev Island, IOTA AS-152, beginning possibly March 17. The start date may depend on weather conditions. QSL via ClubLog.

**UZBEKISTAN, UJ.** Bazarov, UK8FAV has been active using FT4 on 20 meters around 0200z. QSL direct to home call.

**COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS, VK9C.** Look for VK9CE to be QRV from March 16 to 23. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. They may also be active on 6 meters depending on conditions. QSL via EB7DX.

**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.** The Stew Perry Topband Challenge, North American RTTY Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, YB DX RTTY Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest, SARL Field Day Contest, RSGB Commonwealth Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, F9AA SSB Cup, South America 10 Meter Contest, The DIG QSO SSB Party, AGCW QRP CW Contest, Oklahoma QSO Party, EA PSK63 Contest, QCWA QSO Party, TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest, Idaho QSO Party, UBA Spring 2-Meter Contest, FIRAC HF Contest, Classic Phone Exchange, and Wisconsin QSO Party will certainly keep testers busy this upcoming weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, Bucharest Digital Contest, RSGB FT4 Contest Series, 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and K1USN Slow Speed CW Test are scheduled for March 15.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, CLARA Chatter Party and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for March 16.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 17.

Please see March QST, page 72, 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

March 20th 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