

The Hertzian Herald



D Fritz Bitz:



Well, summer is on its way. Hopefully, we will be allowed to have all of our outdoor events and possibly get back to some of the indoor events soon. First up is the Fox hunt on May 15th. I would love to be involved in the foxhunt but I work on most Saturdays so I can't right now. Hopefully I can get involved before the last one.

The Monroe County Hamfest is the big club event of the year on June 20th. Since there haven't been many swap meet events in the past year, we expect it to be very busy. It's going to take a lot of work by a lot of members to pull this one off but I am confident we can get it done. I am looking forward to seeing the people, the radio gear and all the activity of the hamfest. I miss it.

The next big event is just 6 days later on June 26th. Field day 2021 is all set. It's an all day event in the great outdoors with lots of ham activities going on. I plan on spending some time doing several different things and learning a little more about ham radio. I have never been to field day so it will be a new experience for me. I am really looking forward to it for several reasons. First, getting out to interact with other people. Second, learning more about some of the digital modes and how they work. Mostly just getting out and playing with the radios. I missed last summer so I am looking forward to this one.

So, until next month, 73.

Don Fritz
N8BZN



<http://mcrca.org/>

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Don N8BZN.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by George KB8OSU, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Mike N8KUF, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Paul W8PI, A little bit of DX, Cocos Keeling Isl. – Pitcairn Isl. – CW DX Phone contest, March 27-28, work prefixes.

TESTING: Next session - Sat. April 17, 2021. **3 examinees only, Masks required.**

FUTURE PROGRAMS: See Old Business below

HAMFEST: Fred K8EBI – We decided to do the same as last year by emailing the vendors, having them register online, and asking them to hold payment until we were sure the HF was going to happen. I emailed all the vendors I had addresses for, and immediately the reservations started pouring in. I currently have 52 tables, 46 tickets, and 14 Trunk spaces spoken for, which is the earliest I think I've had this many reservations. Three people have already paid for their tables even though I had asked them to wait until we were absolutely sure. Everyone seems to be starving for a hamfest and all are commenting how they hope ours will happen. One big vendor, EAE Sales, (Bruce Sanders 12 tables) still says he feels it's unsafe and may not come this year, but I am working hard on him. I think if we cancel this year we may have a revolt on our hands.

ARPSC: Mike N8KUF, meetings are the first Thursday of the month. There is a Saturday training session at EMD on Go Kits. Skywarn will be March 20th via Zoom, get a link from Lance.

ARRL: Dale WA8EFK reported the ARRL treasurer is retiring and they changing to a new one.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, for the most part everything is up and running, a bug has been worked thru and IRLP is up and running.

OLD BUSINESS: Fox Hunts, Hamfest, Field Day, 80th Anniv/Christmas Party

NEW BUSINESS: Fill - Program Chairman, DX Net manager, and Class Manager.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Last Man Standing special event station KA6LMS March 24-30th. Wayne County Repeater Crawl,
<http://tinyurl.com/repeatercrawl>

PROGRAM: 15-minute video on RTL dongle.

ADJOURNED: 8:41 pm

ATTENDANCE: 18

WA8EFK Dale	W8IIE Dave	N8BZN Don	K8EBI Fred
KB8OSU George	KA8NCR Jeff	K9JP Jeff	K8UMF John
KE8OTG Larry	KE8HCD Larry	W8MCW Mark	N8KUF Mike
KE8QGU Madonna	KA8PQH Neil	W8PI Paul	KE8OSX Ron
N8NYP Terry	KE8KNZ Tom		

Committees

Club Station
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

DX Net
Soon

Field Day
Jeff Breitrner 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

River Raisin Repeater Association annual meeting

The River Raisin Repeater Association (RRRA) would like to invite you to attend the annual business meeting to find out where the association has been and to help determine where it is going. Elections for the Board of Directors will be held at that time, and current / planned business and projects for the association will be discussed (only current members may vote on association business).

This year's business meeting will take place on Saturday May 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m. Based on COVID-19 restrictions (existing and future), we will be conducting the meeting via ZOOM video conference. RRRA members have been notified of the particulars – anyone else who would like to attend should contact Mike n8kuf@arrl.net for a link to attend.

There are five RRRA systems in operation to serve the amateur radio operators of the Monroe County region. Our first repeater, 146.72 (previously 146.73) went on the air in 1971, from downtown Monroe. Today, we operate from our transmitter site near Ida for 146.72, 224.78, 442.65, and our 144.93 JNOS Digipeater. The 444.55 Repeater is located near Erie, and the 442.825 system is in Dundee. Additional details are available via the MCRCA Web Page.

All of these RRRA systems are open to use by all amateur radio operators. However, if you are more than a "once in a blue moon" user of the RRRA repeaters, we ask you to consider joining the association. Your participation will help to insure the ability to operate, maintain and improve these systems while ensuring readiness to support any emergency/ disaster communications needs that may arise.

The Association is an independent radio club and is supported solely by member dues and contributions. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Membership runs from May 1 to May 1 of each calendar year. When you decide to join, you fill out the form at www.mcrca.org/RRRA and mail the form along with a check to RRRA. Your membership and participation are critical to the successful maintenance of RRRA equipment and continued services.

Whether you are a current/ past member or, if you are curious and would like to learn more – please join us at the meeting (via video conference). Again – contact Mike at n8kuf@arrl.net for zoom link info.

Mike N8KUF RRRA Sec / Treas.

ARPSC Report

Tuesday Evening April 13th, Monroe will participate in a Skywarn training net on the 146.720 Monroe and 442.650 Ida repeater from around 7pm until approximately 8:30pm. We will be practicing Skywarn procedures, especially for Net Control. The repeaters will be dedicated for this drill and we ask that non drill communications be moved to another repeater during this time. During this same time our neighbors in Washtenaw and Wayne will be holding similar drills on their Skywarn repeaters to simulate the normal movement of storms through our area.

Saturday May 8th 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 at the EMD in Monroe.

If you are one of those folks that have recently received their license, Welcome to the hobby and if you are interested in the Public Service aspect, please contact me on email for more information on ARPSC.

As always, you can keep track of us via the ARPSC 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
Ke8byc –at- yahoo.com

The FOX is back – 2021 MCRCA Foxhunts

This year – MCRCA will be hosting a series of foxhunts. 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 7 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 least 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

2021 Foxhunt Schedule

Hunt #1	May 15, 2021
Hunt #2	July 10, 2021
Hunt #3	September 11, 2021



Additional Hunts may be scheduled depending on demand.

Basic Instructions

- We will meet in the parking lot at Emergency Management Offices 987 S. Raisinville at 08:30 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 (tenths of mile) 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 (15239 S. Dixie) 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 (or otherwise notify fox/hunt coordinator of termination)
- First place team is responsible for fox duties for the next hunt (second place if first not able to fulfill)

(Continued next page)

- Teams will be recognized for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place performance for each individual hunt, and The fox will be recognized/thanked for his/her service. All participating teams will be acknowledged.
- In the case of tied mileage for the top 3 teams, time found will be used as the tie breaker. 2nd tie breaker will be the foxhunt chairman's Kennedy half-dollar.

Responsibilities of the Hunt Teams

Hunt Teams MUST:

- Be at start location on time. You MUST be present for pre-hunt brief (08:45) to receive hunt package as required to participate.
- REMEMBER – scoring is based on distance travelled (per odometer) 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 (or otherwise notify fox or hunt coordinator of Did Not Find status)
- HAVE FUN and BE SAFE

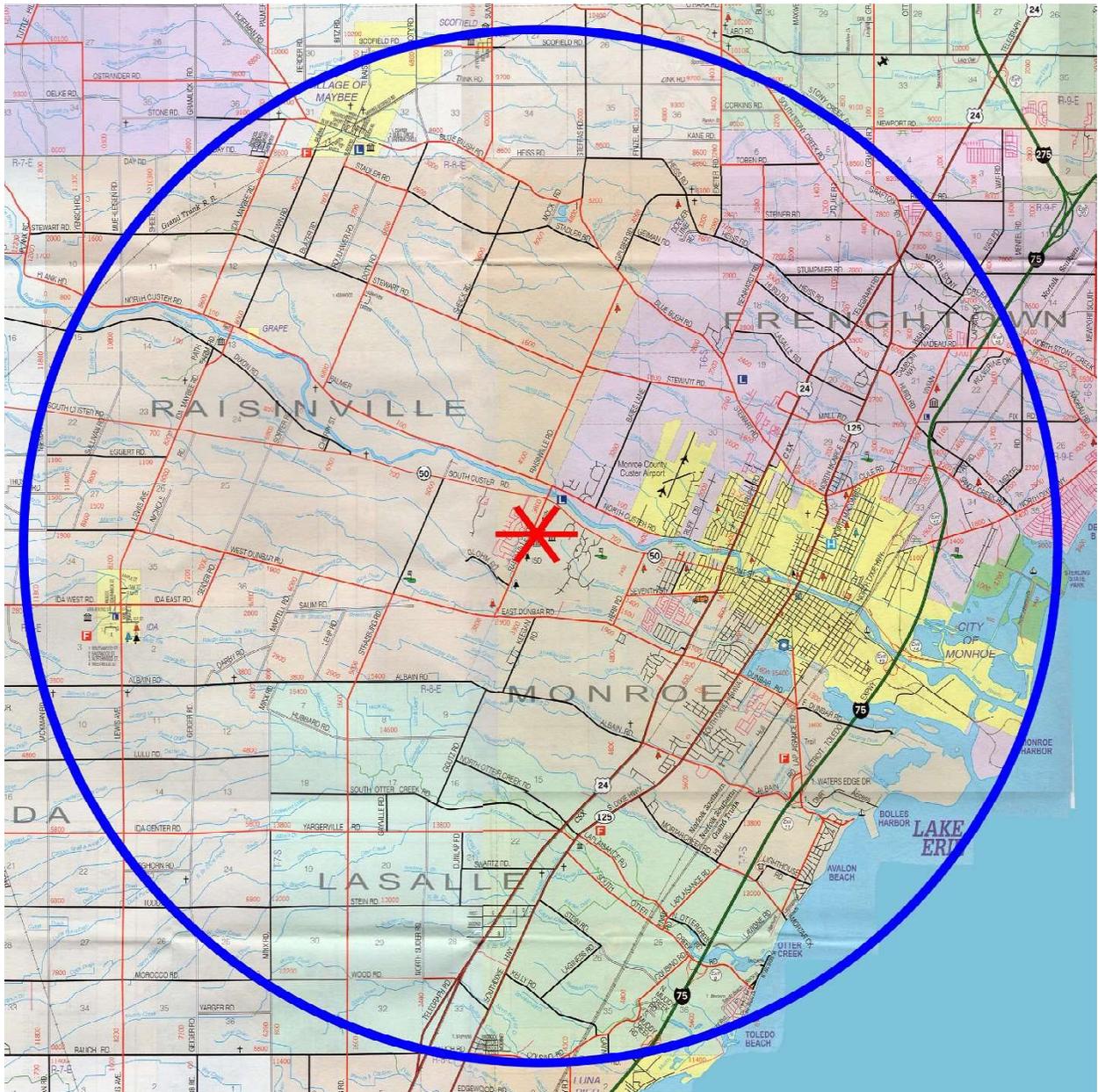
Responsibilities of the FOX

The FOX MUST:

- Be an MCRCA Member or must be accompanied by MCRCA member
- Use common sense when locating fox to avoid placing anyone at risk
- Locate fox within area indicated on below map.
 - o Intent is to be within 7-mile radius (as the crow flies) of Emergency Management Office – 987 South Raisinville Rd Monroe, MI 48161)
- Fox beacon MUST be able to be heard at the start location.
- Locate on public non-residential property in a place accessible to the general public during the hunt. Make sure teams can arrive at fox's hideout without violating any hunt rules
- Locate where no admission charge or payment of any kind is necessary in order to access the Fox's hideout
- The fox must be generally visible to hunters without having to enter any enclosure or densely brushed area.
- Once the hunt begins, the fox is to remain stationary, maintaining antenna orientation and transmit power, until such time as the hunt is terminated.
- Transmit on a frequency of 146.475.
- Transmit on a cycle of 1 minute on; 1 minute off for duration of the hunt
- Observe Hunt Time Limits; 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM E.D.T.
- Arrange for distribution at starting point of Hunt Envelopes containing:
 - o Map indicating fox's hideout, shortest possible route (per google maps) (Fox will provide sealed envelopes to Hunt Coordinator prior to Hunt)
- Record/ verify odometer mileage and arrival time for successful hunters at the fox's location.
- Send successful hunters to a prearranged location, away from the fox, so as not to give away the Fox's location

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Starting point is EMD parking lot on S. Raisinville Rd. Radius is 7 miles from that point. Meet at 08:45 for pre-hunt briefing and envelope. Start at 09:00, Freq. 146.475 Mhz.





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.

FIJI, 3D2. Dom, 3Z9DX is QRV as 3D2DOM and has been active mainly on 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

SRI LANKA, 4S. Nadika, 4S6NCH has been active on 17 meters using FT8 around 1800z. QSL direct.

CROATIA, 9A. Members of the radio club Libertas are QRV with special event callsign 9A25RBM during April to commemorate the US Secretary of Commerce Ronald Harmon Brown and 34 other victims of a fatal plane crash in 1996 here. QSL direct.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. A group of operators are QRV as C92RU until April 12. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8 in DXpedition mode, with four stations active. This includes activity on Satellite QO-100. QSL via OQRS.

PORTUGAL, CT. Markus, DJ4EL is QRV as CT7/DJ4EL from Culatra Island, IOTA EU-145, until April 10. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via LoTW.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Lee, DS4NMJ is QRV as DT8A until December 31 while on work assignment from the King Se-Jong Korean Antarctic Base on King George Island, IOTA AN-010. Activity is on various HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL via DS5TOS.

SPAIN, EA. Special event station EH4WRD will be QRV from April 12 to 18 while taking part in World Amateur Radio Day 2021 activities. QSL via EA4RCH.

IRAN, EP. Saeed, EP2LSH has been QRV using FT8 in DXpedition mode on 20 meters between 1645 and 2015z. QSL via EA5GL.

FRANCE, F. Special event station TM1PSL will be QRV on April 10 and 11 from the town of Port Saint Louis du Rhone during the European FT8 DX Contest. QSL direct.

THAILAND, HS. Jorge, AB6WP is QRV as HS0ZOK from Phuket Island, IOTA AS-053. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using mostly SSB with some CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via LoTW.

JAPAN, JA. Special event station 8J100CB is QRV until the end of March 2022 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Chiba-City. QSL via bureau.

GREENLAND, OX. Bo, OZ1DJJ is QRV as OX3LX from Kangerlussuaq, IOTA NA-018, until May 1. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Ruud, PG1R is QRV as PG96WARD from Leersum until April 30 to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via PG1R.

CURACAO, PJ2. Jeff, K8ND will be QRV as PJ2ND from the Signal Point contest station from April 15 to May 3. QSL to home call.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Leonid, RA1WU is QRV as R800ANP until April 10 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Nevsky, who was commonly regarded as a key figure of medieval Russia and is best known for the victory over the Teutonic Knights in the Battle on the Ice. QSL via RA1WU.

CANADA, VE. Bill, VE3ES is QRV with special callsign VC3VACCINE during April to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Japan International DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, QRP ARCI Spring CW QSO Party, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, OK/OM DX SSB Contest, European FT8 DX Contest, IG-RY World Wide RTTY Contest, DIG

CW QSO Party, Nebraska QSO Party, New Mexico QSO Party, Georgia QSO Party, North Dakota QSO Party, Yuri Gagarin International DX CW Contest, International Vintage HF Contest, WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes, Hungarian Straight Key CW Contest and RSGB RoLo 80-Meter SSB Contest are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The RSGB 80-Meter Club CW Championship, OK1WC Memorial, 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for April 12.

The 222 MHz Spring Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for April 13.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for April 14.

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

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

April 15th 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