

The Hertzian Herald



May 2024 • Volume 48, Issue 5 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S.A.

Hello to everyone,

I hope everyone is well and looking forward to our hamfest!

Please come, if you can, to our meeting on Thursday May 16 at 7:30 pm. This will be our last meeting before the hamfest and I'm sure there will be information offered that you will need to know.



We are currently under a solar event and a radio blackout. I can report the HF bands are mostly closed since Friday afternoon. I'm hearing ft8 on 20 meters only with light signals one day later. Apparently several storms will hit us in succession. I hope you have an opportunity to see the aurora in your location. Clear skies would help too. Solar cycle 25 is set to peak within the next year or two, so there may be more chances (to see the aurora).

We had a nice crowd showing up for our meetings and I hope the trend continues. Thanks for taking the time in your busy life to contribute to the health of the club.

The club shirts look great and thanks again to Barb for the continuing effort. Barb is also planning a Technicians class at the place she works. We have had quite a few pass the test for licenses in the recent month so thanks to Don, Paul, and the rest of the guys who show up and get it done.

Remember Voyager 1? Launched in 1977 and still doing science, it first spiraled through our galaxy, and picked up speed from the slingshot gravitational effect of stealing energy from the planetary bodies it passed. I'm amazed it is still transmitting data 15.1 billion miles from the earth and has for over 46 years now. Made in the USA Voyager 1 transmits a maximum of 23 watts. Powered by radioactive decay it will eventually fail to provide enough energy to transmit any signals. Until then, no one DX's like NASA.

I hope to see you at our meeting,
Until then good health and 73

Keith, KJ8H



<http://mcrcra.org/>

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

Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Keith Hutchinson KJ8H
keithhutch999@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Don Fritz N8BZN
donfritz56@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Fred VanDaele K8EBI
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI
ptrouten@bex.net

DIRECTOR

Mike Karmol N8KUF
mikarmol@bex.net

DIRECTOR

STATION TRUSTEE
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

Inside This Issue

Minutes	2
RRRA Report	3
ARPSC Report	3 & 4
Fox Hunt Report	5
Hamfest & PCBR	6
PCBR	7

MCRCA Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Keith KJ8H.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: One new members, two upgrades and one guest.

MINUTES: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Ron KE8OSX, 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: DX, Niue Island, E6SP 10 & 15 meters SSB – FT-8 — Glorioso Islands, FT4GL SSB, FT8 — Austral Islands, TX7W — A52CI & A52P – Bhutan 2 ops, 40-6m SSB & Digital — 3G0YA – Easter Island, 160-6m.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, QSO Parties, NE, MI, ONT, ND. FL is a big one to work every county. Contest Corral.

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. June 15, 2024. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd - Be there by 8:45 am**

CLASSES: Sat. August 10, 2024 contact Don N8BZN – Technician class - **No class in June.** — April class, 4 total passed, one aced tech and General.

HAMFEST: Fred K8EBI, hamfest coming along slowly, less tables and trunk spaces being ordered.

FOX HUNT: Mike N8KUF, Fox Hunt will be Saturday May 11. Meet at EMD on Raisinville Rd. at 8:45 am for instructions and envelopes.

FIELD DAY: June 22 and 23rd. Vienna Park.

FUTURE PROGRAM: Dale WA8EFK, Next month will be grounding for lightening etc.

ARPS: James WD8NWF, Michigan S.E.T. will be Saturday, May 11 and will be incorporated in with the Fox Hunt.

RRRA: Rodney KD8ZNN, May 4th will be the next Annual RRRA Meeting at the Red Cross. If you haven't paid your dues you can do it then. Please help support the Repeaters.

OLD BUSINESS: Club T-shirts, Barb no show.

NEW BUSINESS: Terry N8NYP, as part of the membership committee and PIO, if you have any club press releases or news for the Monroe News please send it to him, he has a connection with the paper.

Paul W8PI, the testing group is changing how things are done. Testing will be done on computers and you will register online. We will need 10 tablets to do this. **Motion made by Dale WA8EFK, seconded by Fred K8EBI to have the MCRCA purchase 10 tablets at a total cost of \$643.39. Motion Approved.**

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: James WD8NWF, Dan KB8AQJ, and Scott W8SMB

50/50: Ron KE8OSX, Donated his winnings to the Scholarship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: MI QSO Party April 20th. -- RRRA annual meeting May 4th. Red Cross 10:00 AM -- Fox Hunt May 11th. EMD 8:45 AM -- Dayton Hamfest May 17-19th

PROGRAM: Fox Hunting by Dale WA8EFK

ADJOURNED: 9:17 pm

ATTENDANCE: 21

Committees**Club Station**

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP

DX Net

Soon

Field Day

Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Finance

Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

Dale Williams WA8EFK

HamFest

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

Hertzian Herald

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

Historian

Paul Trouten W8PI

Public Relations

Terry Kolton N8NYP

Tom Imlach KE8KNZ

Scholarship

Fred VanDaele K8EBI

Program Chairman

Dale WA8EFK

dale.wms1@frontier.com

Membership

Terry Kolton N8NYP

n8nyp@arrl.net

Property Custodian

Paul Trouten W8PI

River Raisin Repeater Association, Inc.

May 9, 2024



The RRRA thanks all members very much for your participation in the River Raisin Repeater Association. **We need and appreciate your continued support!!!**

As many already know, the RRRA is an association of ham operators that initially gathered in 1971 and formed an association for the expressed purpose of promoting FM and repeater operation, offering a technical base on the subject, providing a useful communications facility for emergencies, and to develop friendships through a common goal. The same mission statement applies to this day as the association strives to accomplish the above stated goals.

On May 4th, 2024, at the Annual Meeting, RRRA officers were established as follows: Mike Karmol N8KUF (Pres), Don Fritz Jr N8BZN (VP), Rodney Haddix KD8ZNZ (Sec/Treas), Paul Trouten W8PI (Director), Dale Williams WA8EFK (Director/Trustee). Summary of Association business was reported, and updates were given regarding efforts completed as well as development projects currently underway.

During this past year, efforts were focused on resolving technical issues and implementation of some performance upgrades. In December, the exciter on the two-meter repeater transmitter failed at the Ida site. A backup transmitter was placed in service until the exciter can be repaired. An April storm caused a power failure at the Ida site, placing it on generator power. There were no interruptions and no damage occurred. The 144.93 digipeater was upgraded from AX25 to a full Winlink RF node. The 442.825 Dundee repeater was upgraded to an MSR2000 digital repeater. This offers DMR and analog capability, with analog having priority.

The River Raisin Repeater Association has adopted a policy regarding Personal Cross-Band Repeating. Please find time to review the new policy. It will be located on the MCRCA.org website under the RRRA tab. All RRRA members will receive a copy of the policy with their booklet and thank you letter.

Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement. Additional information can be found on <http://www.mcrca.org/RRRA/Index>

Rodney Haddix KD8ZNZ

RRRA Secretary / Treasurer

email: kd8znz@hotmail.com

ARPSC Report

The Michigan Spring Simulated Emergency Test was held Saturday May 11th from 8am-12pm. We participated from Nike Park in Newport. This was an opportunity for members to bring out their field stations, set them up, and operate from the park. The MCRCA also held a Fox Hunt Saturday that was incorporated into the SET. This was not as structured as the Fall SET but gave everyone a chance to practice and learn.

June 8th is the Erie Race 4 The Kids 5K, We could use 7-8 more folks to help out. You do not have to be an ARPSC member to participate. Briefing is at 8:30am, The race starts at 9am and we are usually done by 11am. If you can help for a few hours please contact my email and let me know. KE8BYC atsign yahoo dot com

We have many upcoming events upcoming that we have been invited to participate in due to our track record.

The calendar for the spring and summer is filling quickly and we have a lot of events scheduled with more in the process being added. Watch the calendar at MCarPSC.org for events and sign up under the "Upcoming Public Service Events" by clicking on the Event Sign up link at the top of the page. Please read description of each event before you sign up as some events may require specific training or authorizations. You will receive an email with the events you sign up for, please save the included link in case you want to participate in additional events or need to withdraw.

June 6th ARPSC Meeting 7:30pm-Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP 101) Training—This training is required for anyone that wishes to participate in the Fermi Drills this year or the Cobalt Magnet Exercise in 2025.

June 8th Erie Race for the Kids 5k 8am St Joseph Church Erie—Need 13 Operators
June 11th Fermi RDCC Practice Drill Bedford High School—Need 2-3 Ops
Thursday July 4th- 9am Dundee Independence Parade-9am Dundee High School—Need 7-10 Operators
July Meeting July 11th **NOTE NEW DATE DUE TO JULY 4TH HOLIDAY** 7:30pm
July 23rd Tuesday, 8am-3pm Fermex Practice Exercise—Need 3-4 Ops MUST have REP101 Training
July 30th-Aug 3rd Monroe County Fair- Assist for IMT Operations- Must have county ID
August 1st ARPSC Meeting 7:30pm
Aug 9th-11th Dundee Bicentennial Event***New Event** Unsure on days/times needed—Stay Tuned
Aug 13th Tuesday, 8am-3pm Fermex Practice Exercise—Need 3-4 Ops MUST have REP101 Training
August 27th Tuesday, 8am-3pm Fermex Federal Evaluated Drill—Need 3-4 Ops MUST have REP101 Training and County ID

If you are interested in honing your skills or building new ones, please feel free to stop in to any of our meetings or training sessions, or participate on our nets. We are here to help every operator learn and perform better. It doesn't matter if your call sign was just posted on the FCC database or you have had your ticket for decades, we are always looking for additional operators.

ARPSC meetings are usually the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the EMD on Raisinville Rd. The next meeting is Thursday May 1st

As always Thanks to the club and the club webmaster for linking our FB and webpage, and to Fred for his time getting this newsletter out.

73, Lance Charter, KE8BYC

Emergency Coordinator, Monroe County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps



MCRCA Foxhunt #1 May 11, 2024

Fred K8EBI and Brenda KB8KQC fulfilled the Fox Duties

The FOX was located in a parking lot near the basketball court at Heck Park on N. Dixie Hwy.

Straight line distance from the start location to the park per Google Earth = approx. 5.1 Miles, and the shortest possible route per google maps = 6.6 miles.

Hunters

Team 2 – First Place

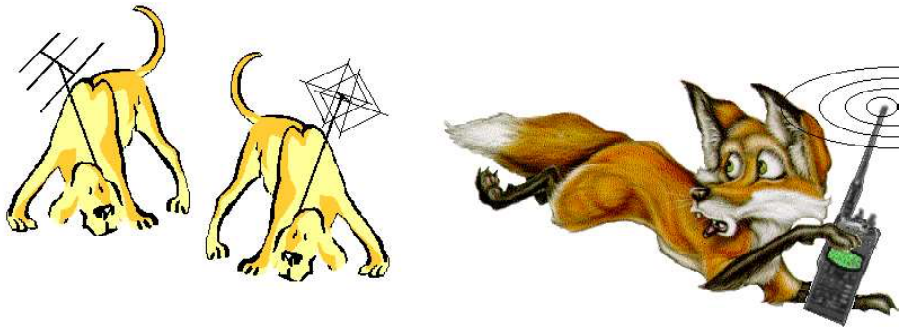
Mike N8KUF and Dale WA8EFK

Fox found at Approx.. 11:03 Miles = 12.0

Team 1 - Second Place

Paul W8PI, Vickie, Barb NM8I

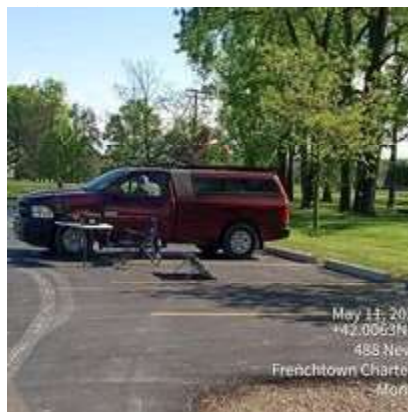
Fox found at Approx. 11:31 Miles = 16.4



The weather for this first hunt of the season was a bit less than perfect (cool, damp, and breezy), but tolerable. Thanks to those who were able to attend and participate. This was a relatively short hunt, but the fox's location was placed in a spot that required a few strategic decisions by the hunt teams (i.e., you can't get there directly from here) and as you can see by the scores, strategies mattered.

The hunt was conducted under the auspices of the Monroe County ARPSC during their Spring Simulated Emergency Test. The DF portion of the scenario involved locating a hiker who had become separated from his group and was lost "somewhere" within Monroe County, adding an interesting flavor to the activities.

Respectfully submitted – Mike N8KUF – 2024 Foxhunt Chair



Monroe Hamfest 2024

It's time for our annual Monroe Hamfest. As in years past, it will again be held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds at M-50 and Raisinville Road, on Father's Day, June 16, 2024.

Set up will begin on Saturday morning June 15th at 9 AM. The fair people are setting up and taking down the tables again this year which will greatly reduce the heavy labor of years past. We still need to label all of the tables with numbers and vendor names, align them properly and string up 4 electrical cords so the vendors in the center can have electricity. We will need to spread chairs out according to the diagram so that each vendor that wants one will get a chair or two. Dale WA8EFK, will also need help running wires and installing the PA system throughout the trunk sales area and inside the building.

The fair people usually put the handicap parking signs out in the parking lot and since we allow them to park inside we need to cover 14 signs in the parking area with brown bags. There are other miscellaneous jobs such as putting up banners and flags, and putting up signs. This usually is all accomplished by lunch time if we get enough help.

Sunday morning the early workers will enter through the Raisinville Road gate. It will be opened by 6:00 AM so that we can get in place in time to start letting trunk sales people in at 6:30 AM. Building captain, trunk sale guides and ticket sellers need to be in place by 6:30 AM. We will use **446.600 simplex** during the Hamfest but please don't announce this on the 72 repeater as the trunk sale people will harass us to no end.

After the Hamfest, about 1 PM we need people to go around and police up the area. We must clean up the fairgrounds and the building or they will charge us if they have to do it. If we get lots of help this won't take long.

Still Needed:

Ticket Sales. We need about 8 to 10 people to sign up for ticket sales Sunday Morning hourly from 6:30 to Noon, so people won't have to spend all day out standing in the sun. If you can help out selling tickets, please contact Rodney Haddix KD8ZNZ as soon as possible.

Saturday Trunk Registration, someone to ride around on a golf cart and help Saturday night trunk sales people find spaces, and collect for tickets, spaces, also if they are spending the night, collect for camping. You must lock the gates at 9 PM except for the front gate. Scott will come in before 9 PM to spend the night in case there is a problem.

We have last year's food vendor and Don N8BZN has taken care of this.

As of May 12th we have 35 tables reserved quite a bit lower than last year. We have sold 42 tickets, 6 trunk spaces and 0 camping spots. A lot less than last year.

If we get enough help and good weather, we should have a Hamfest again this year.

Fred K8EBI, Hamfest Chairman for 30 years.

Personal Cross-Band Repeater (PCBR) Policy

Personal cross-band repeaters (PCBR) have been prohibited on RRRA systems due to several regulatory and administrative issues. Historically, it has been a challenge to operate a PCBR in compliance with CFR 47 Part 97 rules. It has also been a burden on repeater control operators to troubleshoot technical issues or search for suspected malicious interference when they are caused by PCBRs.

The RRRA has changed its stance due to advancements in technology and an acknowledgement of the utility of PCBRs. Use of personal PCBRs is permitted provided the users adhere strictly to Part 97 rules and the requirements of the RRRA. Please do not attempt to operate a PCBR with RRRA systems if these requirements cannot be met.

Part 97 Requirements

(Continued next page)

As with all amateur transmissions, the owner of the PCBR is required to identify with their callsign at the start and end of every contact and every 10 minutes in-between. Voice IDs may not fulfill the regulatory requirement, especially on half-duplex links. Both ends of the PCBR transmission need to be identified.

Cross-band linking frequencies must be chosen according to band plan and regional restrictions. Do not use the satellite sub-bands, and be aware that the RRRA repeaters are in regions subject to Line A restrictions prohibiting transmitting 420-430 MHz

FCC rules recognize two types of control for this type of amateur station: local and remote. Local control requires the owner of the PCBR to be in the same location as the PCBR.

Administrative Requirements

A PCBR is intended as an ad hoc link for personal use. It is not to remain in continuous operation. It is only to be used with the repeater input and output frequencies on the primary band.

A PCBR shall NOT be used to link any otherwise licensed transmission to or from RRRA repeaters. It must not be used to link any amateur talk groups or networks from the internet.

River Raisin Repeater Association, Inc.

The RRRA respectfully asks that **before you begin operation** you notify RRRA control operators of your intent with the following information provided:

- Your mobile phone number and email. We need to know how to contact you if there are problems.
- Location of the link and its intended hours of operation
- Radios used, power levels and antennas
- PL frequencies used
- Control plans. Local control is permitted as long as the owner is continuously monitoring the PCBR. If remote control methods, please specify in detail.
- Plans for identification of both sides of the PCBR link
- At the start and end of PCBR links, please identify with "This is <callsign>, cross-band repeat".

For ARPSC operations, the EC or the PCBR operator shall notify RRRA control operator following PCBR activation.

Why is this information required?

While PCBRs have great utility in expanding the use of low powered HTs around a home or for special events, there is great potential for them to cause problems. Should a PCBR become "stuck on transmit", it will likely interfere with the normal operation of the repeater. If it is configured without PL/DCS and a nearby high-powered transmitter on another service overloads the PCBR and causes it to key, it may rebroadcast another radio service on the repeater – a nasty regulatory problem. Not to mention, it will dispatch the technical crew to investigate the issue. By providing these details and letting the RRRA know you're using them, both guidance and safe (and legal) operation of PCBR can be achieved.

Control operator contact information:

Mike Karmol, N8KUF
President, RRRA
n8kuf@arri.net

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Trustee K8RPT
wa8efk@arri.net





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, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

RWANDA, 9X. Harald, DF2WO is QRV as 9X2AW from Kigali until May 17. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via M00XO.

BOTSWANA, A2. Remo, HB9SHD is QRV as A255HD until May 13. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and possibly FT8. QSL to home call.

BAHRAIN, A9. Special event station A91WTIS will be QRV from May 11 to 17 to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. QSL via EC6DX.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Bill, C91CCY has been active using SSB on 80 meters around 0400z, and 40 meters around 0430z. QSL via K3IRV.

MOROCCO, CN. Special call sign CN21HM is QRV until May 12 in celebration of the 21st birthday of Prince Moulay Hassan, the heir apparent to the Moroccan throne. QSL direct to CN8RAH.

BOLIVIA, CP. Members of the Yaguarete DX Group will be QRV as CP7DX from Tarija on May 11 to 19. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8 in DXpedition mode, as well as SSB and FM on various LEO satellites. QSL direct to LU1FM.

NORTHERN IRELAND, GI. Members of the North West Group ARC are QRV with special event station GB0AEL until May 31 to commemorate the anniversary of Amelia Earhart's transatlantic flight in May 1932. QSL via M10HOZ.

SAUDI ARABIA, HZ. Members of the Saudi Radio Amateurs Society will be QRV with special event station HZ1WTIS from May 10 to 17 in celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. QSL via bureau.

ITALY, I. Members of the United Nations Global Service Centre ARC in Brindisi are QRV as 4U29MAY until May 31 to promote the International Day of UN Peacekeepers. QSL via 9A2AA.

SARDINIA, IS0. Tomi, OH2TJS is QRV as IS0/OH2TJS until May 18. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL to home call.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Tom, NL7RR is QRV as KH9/NL7RR until May 15. Activity is generally on 20 meters SSB around 0700z. QSL direct to home call.

AUSTRIA, OE. Rene, DL2JRM is QRV as OE7/DL2JRM until May 12. This includes being an entry in the CQ-M International DX contest. QSL to home call.

CZECH REPUBLIC, OK. A number of operators are QRV using the OL87 prefix until May 26 to showcase the 87th Ice Hockey World Championship. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, FT8, and FT4. QSL via operators' instructions.

SOMALIA, T5. Alex, IT9HRK is QRV as T5/IT9HRK from Mogadishu. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using mainly SSB, with some CW, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. He is here for several months. QSL via IU5RPJ.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. Lal, VU3OQK is QRV as VU7LAL from Agatti and Kavarathi until May 31. Activity is on 40, 20, and 10 meters. QSL direct.

CAMBODIA, XU. Jarrad, VK3BL is QRV as XU7AGA from Kampot. Activity is in his spare time on 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters using mostly FT8. QSL via Club Log.

NEW ZEALAND, ZL. Members of the Gisborne Branch of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters are QRV with special event call ZL100AC during May to commemorate the first trans-Pacific contact with Carlos Braggio, CB8, near Buenos Aires, Argentina. QSL via operators' instructions.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The VOLTA World Wide RTTY Contest, CQ-M International DX Contest, NCCC FT4 Sprint, Weekly RTTY Test, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, FISTS Saturday CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Canadian Prairies QSO Party and the 50 MHz Spring Sprint are all scheduled for this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, RSGB 80-Meter Club SSB Championship, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, DARC FT4 Contest, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW and the Mini-Test 80 CW are on tap for May 13 to 15.

Please see May QST, page 77, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.



Amateur Radio Examinations Monroe, MI

Monroe County Radio Communications Association Amateur Radio examinations are held the 3rd Saturday of every even numbered month at:

American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48161

Registrations preferred
Call for information.
email address and FRN required

2024 Schedule:
February 17 April 20
June 15 August 17
October 19 December 21

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

May 16th 7:30 pm
American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48162

Local Net

ARPSC Net - Every Monday evening on '72-Monroe (146.72 Mhz) starting at 8:00pm.

ARPSC Meeting first Thursday of every month at the EMD office on Raisinville Rd.. 7:00 PM

One Day Bi-Monthly Technician classes

Next class will be August 10, 2024 -- NO CLASSES IN JUNE

The Monroe County Radio Communications Association (MCRCA) is offering a one-day Amateur Radio course for the entry level Technician class license. The class will run from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM on the **second Saturday of every even numbered month**. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch, snacks and beverages. The test will be conducted immediately following the class and has a separate fee of \$14. These classes will be held at the Red Cross building, 1645 N Dixie Hwy, Monroe, MI 48162.

There is a maximum class size of 10 people on a first come first served basis and you should sign up no later than 1 week before the class. All study material and testing paperwork will be provided at the time you sign up and you should plan on doing some pre-class studying to make things easier in the class.

If you are interested in becoming a Ham Radio Operator, please call or email me to get signed up for the next class.

N8BZN Don Fritz / (419) 345-4495 after 6PM / Donfritz56@gmail.com

New MCRCA Members

Please welcome recent new members to the club.