

The Hertzian Herald



August 2024 • Volume 48, Issue 8 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S..

Hello to all,

It's August already and we are having some cooler days to enjoy after some scorchers. The sun has been very active, often with over 250 sun spots There have been some CME's (coronal mass ejections) with the brief loss of HF signals following. The solar index has been up to 360 at times but that comes with a lot of noise included. It's cool that we got to see totality during the eclipse this year with bright flares in the corona the moon couldn't cover up. Cycle 25 has been a first time thing for me and I have been chasing contacts, mostly ft8, for the last year to improve my logbook and take advantage of the solar peak. For those of you generals and extras who can, you should. It's possible I won't have another solar cycle so, if not now, when? For those of you who are tech's you can enjoy your 10 meter and up privileges too. It promises to get very good at summer's end.



If you only operate 2 meters, you might never hear of "special event stations." These unique call signs are created to bring attention to events, historical, scientific, or even silly. I'm always trying to get these special event call signs in my log. Most of these call signs are one time things but there are yearly special events like Rt 66 and 13 Colonies to challenge you. It keeps things fresh and interesting and there is no pressure like in a contest. It's kind of like getting a postcard.

Today (Sat 8/10) two out of four passed their tech test today. It was just too bad all four didn't. Technology and science can be tough to learn and even tougher to be proficient at. To anyone who has this problem, keep trying. Eventually things will click. Ask for help. Don't be afraid to stand up at a meeting and ask for help. Don't give up. If at first you don't succeed, well you know the rest. Most of the guys with general and extra can find time to help you with a phone call or email to point you in the right direction. Then do your homework.

It's not too early to think of becoming a club officer. Most of you have a better rapport with people than I do. You'd be surprised to find out how rewarding it can be. It has helped me grow past my own limits which is its own reward. It's been nice having the respect and friendship of you members and I hope you will want the same thing for yourself. January isn't that far away (when we vote), so meanwhile, think it over.

Hope to see you on the 15th.
Peace and 73
Keith KJ8H



<http://mcrc.org/>

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

Club Officers

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: No new members, no upgrade and 2 guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Mike N8KUF, supported by Dale WA8EFK, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: N/A

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, no report

CONTESTING: Mike N8KUF, July 20th may be helpful for those looking for 100 countries. A number of others – some could help with “All States”

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. August 17, 2024. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd**

CLASSES: Sat. August 10, 2024 contact Don N8BZN – Technician class. 3 people signed up. Planning on General class in December.

ARPSC: James WD8NWF, No meeting in August, busy with fair. Please see website for details of things happening.

RRRA: Mike N8KUF, looking for members. Dundee 442.825 tune-up complete – emergency battery for all at site. PL set-up for 2m link in Dundee has been fixed. 72 still has temporary transmitter – so reduced power out.

FIELD DAY: Score 1339 points => 2798 claimed score. Rank by points put us this year in lower 1/3 of our overall scores (years)

OLD BUSINESS: Club T-shirts, - coming – but not for this meeting – should be available by next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Don N8BZN

50/50: Steve KE8MFY

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Auburn Hamfest this Saturday

PROGRAM: How to wind a length of cable, and soldering a PL-259 onto coax. (Lessons learned from Field Day)

ADJOURNED: 8:29 pm

ATTENDANCE: 14

NM8I Barb	KF8AOL Bob	WA8EFK Dale	N8BZN Don
WD8NWF James	WA8YZB John	KJ8H Keith	N8KUF Mike
KA8PQH Neil	KE8OSX Ron	W8SMB Scott	KC8SKP Wes
KE8MFY Steve	Delmer Taylor		

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

August Club Program

Have you ever wondered about the many applications for an oscilloscope? It is a single bench instrument with many functions like a combination AC and DC voltmeter. It can read either or actually both at the same time. It can let you view distortion in your audio amplifier, it can determine your radio's frequency, and it can even find a fouled spark plug.

Thursday's program gives an excellent overview of "o'scopes" and the basics of how to apply this valuable tool to many, many uses in your shack and on your work bench.

We'll also have one available for demo and hands-on experiences.

TECH TRIVIA 4: Which Way Did It Go?

The surest way to start a fight among electronics types is to ask which way current flows. It all started when Ben Franklin was corresponding with experimenters in Europe about electric phenomenon. Everyone realized that there were positive and negative 'electric fluids,' which they called vitreous and resinous. They knew that these 'fluids' flowed from one to the other — although no one could say which way. Franklin proposed the 'convention' that they would speak of the fluids as flowing from positive to negative, and everyone agreed.

The telegraph was invented; Maxwell developed the electromagnetic theory; telephones, light bulbs, and electric railways came into use — all explained by the ideas of electric fluid and Franklin's convention. Then in 1898 Thompson (not Lord Kelvin; another Thompson) discovered the electron, and it soon became clear that the 'fluid' consisted of negative particles, and that (in a copper wire, at least) they flowed the opposite way from Franklin's convention. Before 1920 it was clear to everyone that explanations of the vacuum tube made no sense at all using conventional flow, and many books began teaching that current consisted of electrons going from negative to positive.

Still, the electrical engineering community stuck with the conventional (positive-to-negative) flow which had served them so well in the past. Patience paid off, because when the transistor appeared on the scene it had to be explained partly in terms of 'hole' flow from positive to negative — just like conventional current. (To visualize hole flow, think of a bubble floating up in a glass of beer. Gravity pulls the beer down, which makes the bubble go up.)

Today, we have such powerful groups as the U. S. Navy teaching electron flow, and the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) teaching conventional flow. Some of the most popular Community College Electronics books are actually available in two versions, so they can sell to instructors with either prejudice. So, which way do I teach? I always answer that question with a little story:

Three applicants were waiting for a job interview. One was a business graduate, and when he went in, the boss asked, 'How much is $2 + 2$?'

The business grad said, 'You have to consider the increased marginal tax rate when combining assets, so it is likely that . . .'. The boss interrupted and said, 'That's very astute. We'll call you.' The second applicant was a math major, and on being asked the same question, he replied, 'If you mean 2.000 plus 2.000, then the true sum lies between 1.999 and 2.001, but if you mean . . .'. But the boss cut him off and said, 'Very intelligent. We'll call you.'

The third applicant was a technician, and when he went in the boss asked, 'How much is $2 + 2$?' The technician replied, 'How much do YOU want it to be, Boss?' Of course, he got the job.

Now, which way does current flow? Better learn both ways, and then be ready to do it the boss's way!

Until next month - 73 de Dan, K8JWR

The Five Types of Operators You Don't Want to Be

Posted by Mark Haverstock, K8MSH on August 19, 2022 at 7:37 pm

Sometimes amateur radio demonstrates that our technical skills are a little sharper than our people skills, according to Riley Hollingsworth, former Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division. He noted that operators could be more courteous and less inclined to fly off the handle at some perceived on-the-air offense, or, in other words, "You need to lighten up."

Don't engage people like the ones listed below; it only encourages them. "Stupidity can't be regulated, no matter how good the rules are," says Hollingsworth. "Just turn the big knob. Every rig has one."

Mr. Know-It-All

A know-it-all is someone who thinks they have all the answers. They have strong opinions on almost everything and believe they're right all the time. Some people just want to prove how smart or knowledgeable they are, and we seem to cross paths with them at one time or another.

Know-it-alls may be intelligent, but it's important to remember that they are also arrogant. They believe they possess all the knowledge that others don't know, and they start forcing it into the conversation—constantly talking about facts, correcting others, and speaking just to show off their knowledge. Also, they are never wrong. Could you imagine? A know-it-all who says they're wrong? Not in a million years.

Know-it-alls are great at giving unsolicited advice. During a QSO several years ago, I encountered one. We both exchanged details about our radios and antennas. At the time, I had a G5RV. After sharing that information, I got a five-minute lecture on why my antenna wasn't any good, what was wrong with the design, and a suggestion to use something else—accompanied by more details. Interesting, since he gave me a 59 signal report.

Even worse are the pseudo know-it-alls. They have some limited knowledge and think that's all there is to know. As the saying goes, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Facts? Who needs them. If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with BS.

Motor Mouth

When I hear hams rag chewing to excess, I find myself thinking, "Please, just stop talking and remove your thumb from the mic switch." The same ones have a habit of appearing again and again. You often hear about what the XYL made for dinner, updates on everyone's arthritic conditions, and complaints about why everything's so expensive. I could overlook content like this if someone, somewhere would just unkey the mic occasionally, take a breath, and maybe let someone else talk for a while.

We have a local ham who takes great pleasure in timing out the repeater—he sees it as a challenge. I'm sure that anyone who has listened to conversations other than the exchange of signal reports and grid references has bumped into someone like this. The repeater is a soapbox, providing a venue for the Motor Mouth to promote his or her particular world view to the rest of us. In ham radio, as in real life, too many people are more interested in talking at you rather than talking with you.

Want a lesson? Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it daily. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.

Then there's the opposite extreme—hams that sometimes really don't seem to have anything to talk about. Their conversations tend to be about the local weather and comparing it to weather patterns from the past 50 years, what they just ate and what they intend to eat later, and agreeing with any cliché you might throw into the exchange. Mobile conversations are full of "Well, I'm going to the store," eventually followed by "Well, I just left the store and here's what I bought." Every conversation can't be exciting and thought-provoking, but maybe sometimes these guys can mix it up a bit.

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Radio Cop

Ham radio is more or less a self-policing system. Due to lack of personnel and resources, the FCC generally doesn't get involved anymore unless there are continued and serious violations. However, there are those who police the bands like a mall security guard on Black Friday, discouraging new ops as well as more experienced ones. Arrogant, self-righteous, and condescending hams are bad for the hobby. If ham radio was left in their hands, it would eventually become extinct. Tact and courtesy are essential skills.

You can't blame a person for getting upset if they find someone transmitting without call signs or in portions of the band they are not authorized to use. But they should take a more instructive and positive approach by explaining the problem and encouraging the operator by example. In addition to self-policing, we are also a self-teaching/mentoring group.

Want to do something helpful and constructive? Participate in the ARRL Volunteer Monitoring program. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL monitor the amateur bands for possible instances of misconduct or to recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations or noncompliance will be directed to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines.

The Instigator

There's always someone who wants to antagonize, stir the pot, or poke the bear. There was one infamous California repeater that had only one rule—there were no rules. That left the door open for any kind of talk, including verbal abuse, politics, religion, and sexual topics. A ham who made the mistake of calling on the repeater to ask if his signal was clear was told, "It's fine, stupid. Now shut up and get the hell out of here."

During one five-minute period, various hams heard themselves labeled on the notorious repeater as a lying scumbag, pothead, and drunken fool. But that's a relatively mild example—racial and gender insults, the "F" word, and slang for body parts and functions were also part of the conversation. Heated debates on abortion, police brutality, and Supreme Court confirmation hearings were common topics.

Such comments and attitudes give ham radio a black eye. There are people listening on scanners, and when they hear such comments on the air they assume all hams are like this—and they're not. It's bad press for the ham radio community, and some tactful peer pressure needs to be applied.

The Lid

Many sources agree that the term "lid" originated during the early 1900s. It was used by telegraph operators to describe someone who was an inexperienced or poor operator. One early mention of the word related to radio appeared in the story "Gold Braid" published in *Boy's Life*, February 1932. "A lid is a radio operator who is either fresh from school or hasn't taken the trouble to learn to use his head and his fist at the same time."

So what things potentially make you a lid?

- Use really snazzy phonetic IDs—the more humorous, the better. "This is W3SOS, whisky three smelly old socks."
- Call DX stations operating split on the same frequency they're calling CQ. Ignore the "up 103 that others are screaming."
- Use excessive microphone gain to see just how loud you can make your audio.
- Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie up a repeater so you can entertain all the scanner listeners out there.
- Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. You will score maximum "lid points" if you are mobile and have the radio lying in the passenger seat, preferably covered with a coat or grocery bag.

Of course, this is just a small sampling of lid behaviors.

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Embrace Change and Growth

As their experience grows, many amateurs become more expert, courteous, and knowledgeable, which is how it should be. But the real troublemakers are rarely the newcomers to amateur radio. When I first got on the air in the 1960s, the old hams grumbled at the new, less experienced hams—who were all lids according to them. Now that I'm old, I listen to some of the newbies and grumble.

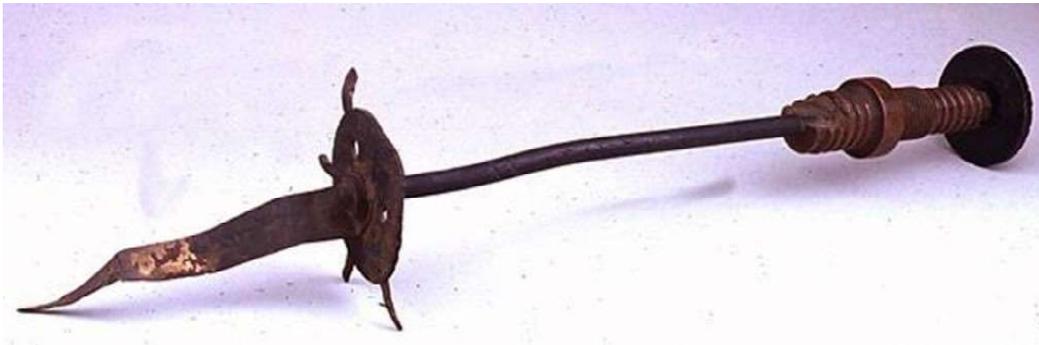
Return of the Wouff-Hong

It seems that poor and inconsiderate operators are creeping into the bands daily. Like a game of Whack-A-Mole, the offenders always seem to escape. If we look back into the history of ham radio, an ultimate weapon exists to maintain order and peace on the bands. Just speaking its name brought fear and respect to the hearts of ham radio operators everywhere.

Do the **Wouff-Hong** and Rettysnitch still hold their mystical power over us today?



The Wouff-Hong is used to enforce law and order in amateur radio operating work. (Photo: ARRL)



The Rettysnitch is used to enforce decency. (Photo: ARRL)

L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, answered this question well, when he asked, “Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams? Because those hams cared about amateur radio in their hearts. They desired that which they knew they could never have: A perfectly law-abiding, decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination to electronics, to become admirers of hams.”

Cebik continued, “Every minute of on-the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit amateur radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves.”

And that is where you will find the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch today—deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it's time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly. May you never deserve their sting.”

Author: Mark Haverstock, K8MSH

Two Kids, a Ham Radio, and the World at Their Fingertips: How the Madey Brothers Made History in Clark

By ROMAN CHIARELLO

December 17, 2020 at 6:13 PM

CLARK, NJ – A brown house with lots of glass panels, hidden in overgrowth for years, situated across from Manny's Diner on Raritan Road, was recently demolished and will soon be [replaced by apartments](#).



In the 1950s, the house was home to Jules and John Madey, two brothers who grew up spending hours in their basement using a ham radio that one day connected with a navy substation in the South Pole.

Councilman Brian Toal, who serves as a historian for the town, told the story of the Madey brothers at a [recent council meeting](#). Toal called the brothers “two Clark kids in the late 1950s who had dreams.”

“If you remember in America in the late 1950s you had the space program. You had outer space, Sputnik, all that was going on here in Clark also,” Toal said, noting that the Madey brothers were very interested in science. “These kids were science geeks, as we used to call them, or eggheads.”

As Toal explained, the two brothers’ interests in ham radios led them all the way to the South Pole – 9,442 miles from Clark – without ever leaving their basement.



“These two ‘Clarkites,’ along with their ham radio, made themselves and Clark famous, when the two kids and a U.S. Navy Antarctic substation at the South Pole connected with each other,” Toal said. The two brothers were able to pass messages from the navy officers at the substation to their families back home according to Toal.

In 1956, when the brothers began communicating with the substation, older brother Jules Madey attended Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School, and John Madey, three years younger, attended Brewer School, Toal said.

“They got rewarded for their efforts by getting a special trip from the U.S. Navy down to the South Pole, and spent some time down there,” he added.

The Antarctic Sun reported on the Madey brothers in 2009, noting the brothers’ “tireless efforts to keep the Navy men in Antarctica connected to loved ones back home.” The [report](#) highlights several prominent navy figures the brothers were able to talk to over the years.

According to the article the brothers spoke to Paul Siple, who was a member of Admiral Byrd’s 1928 expedition to Antarctica. They also spoke to Carl Eklund, a scientist connected with today’s Cray Lab.

Jules was also in contact with Captain Finn Ronne, for whom the Ronne Ice Shelf is named and Vivian Fuchs, who joined Edmund Hillary in the first trans-Antarctic trek.

Toal, as a historian, worked with the township and property developer to gain permission to take a photographer to the former Madey home before it was demolished. He said he was able to see the brothers’ ham radio antenna, which had previously been hidden by trees.

“Jules and John Madey’s ham radio antenna is out in the back. You never saw it because it was covered in trees,” Toal said. “Those trees are gone, and it’s now [visible] there.”



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Toal also went into the basement of the house, where the brothers' ham radio equipment is still located.

"The entire thing is still set up," Toal said. "It's like it's in a time-warp."

Both brothers "went on to great things" after their time in Clark, Toal said.

"John Madey became a prominent scientist and invented the free electron laser," Toal said. "John went to the University of Hawaii, became a professor, and he basically owned an island down in Hawaii because of all the money he made."

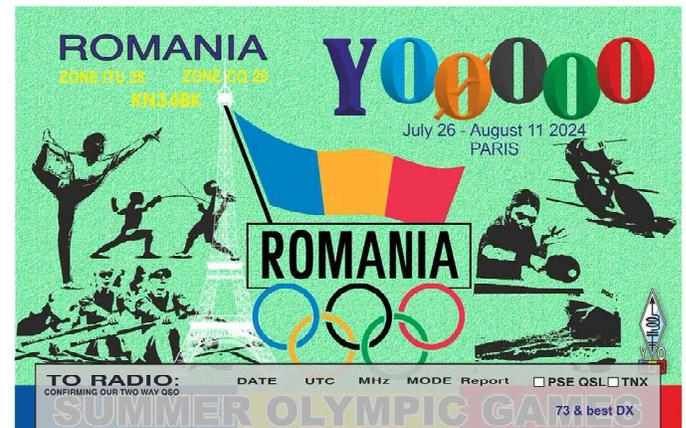
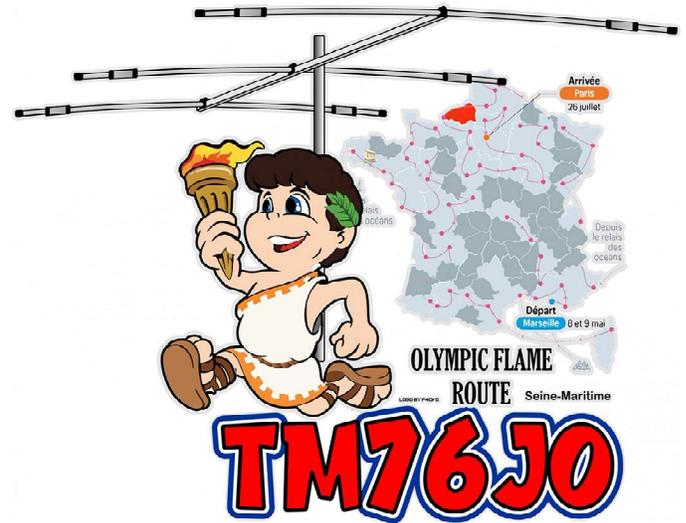
John Madey [died in July 2016](#).

Meanwhile, Jules Madey, who lives in upstate New York, went on to invent a system every highway traveler is familiar with.

"Jules would go on and create, besides ham radios and model airplanes, he'd create E-ZPass. The E-ZPass that every highway in the entire United States uses," Toal said.

And it all started with two kids, a ham radio, and a world of possibilities at their fingertips.

"During the height of the space race and world exploration, this home and these kids were at the forefront," Toal said. "They went on and made Clark a very famous place."



ARPSC Report

August might be relatively new, but ARPSC has already been busy the past 2 weeks.

We were asked to help staff the Fair Command post during fair week at the EOC. Each night we had at least 2 operators there watching the weather maps, monitoring the Fair Board radio channel to get fire or Law Enforcement dispatched to any issues on the grounds, assisting monitoring social media and helping wherever needed.

A huge Thanks to the following operators for covering all 7 evenings.

Mark Wheeler W8MCW Ed Keller WS8Y Jim Toomey WD8NWF Roy Watts W8ROY - AEC from Wayne County

Saturday August 10th we were asked to perform the lineup for the Dundee Bicentennial Parade. We ended up with over 60 units in the parade and were kept busy getting everyone into place. Everything went well even with the large lineup and the operators that participated were the entire reason for that accomplishment.

Thanks to the hard work, organization and time of

Mike Karmol N8KUF Dale Williams WA8EFK Terry Kolton N8NYP Jim Toomey WD8NWF

Coming up are the next 2 drills for the Biennial Fermi II exercise cycle, there will be nets each day and any operator that is by a radio is welcome to check in and advise if you are "available" for a simulated assignment. These assignments do not exist and there will be no physical response needed. See below for dates and times

The calendar for the summer and fall 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.

Tuesday Aug 13th 8am-3pm Fermex Practice Exercise
 Tuesday August 27th 8am-3pm Fermex Federal Evaluated Drill
 Thursday Sept 5th ARPSC Meeting 7:30pm
 Saturday Sept 7th Saturday Session 9am-Go Kits w/ Show & Tell
 Thursday September 26th 6pm-7pm EVENT FERMI Emergency Worker Decon Drill-MUST have REP101 Training
 Thursday October 3rd 7:30pm ARPSC Meeting—SET Information
 Thursday October 10th 6pm-7pm NEW EVENT FERMI Emergency Worker Decon Exercise-MUST have REP101 Training and County ID
 Saturday October 12th 8am-12pm Fall Simulated Emergency Test

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 Sept 5th

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

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

August 15th 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 October 12, 2024

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.

Steve Orlowski KE8MFY and Delmer Taylor no call yet