

The Hertzian Herald



October 2024 • Volume 48, Issue 10 • Monroe, Michigan, U.S..

Hello to all,

Fall is upon us again. Where did the summer go. Hopefully the seasonal change will give us some great band openings as expected. So far, the sun is so active we are hearing about aurora sightings locally. Just this week a couple of coronal mass ejections affected spacecraft, GPS, emergency communications, TV, and cell phones. HF users have had some incredible blackouts, noise, and weak signals to contend with. Often between these events propagation is good or even great for a while. We might be at the peak of cycle 25.



Rotuma Island near Fiji was activated by a pair of hams from Fiji 3D2V and 3D22. I never heard 3D22 but I was operating ft8 and ft4 only, so perhaps that is why. I contacted 3D2V on 4 different bands. A25AO in Botswana was also a contact this last week on 15 and 17 meters. Look for him in the future from other African countries. PX0FF expedition member was contacted on 20 meters in Fernando de Noronha Island off Brazils coast. ZD7CTO St Helena Island in the south pacific also.

These exotic places I'm learning the geography and location of, make me excited when I log them. I will never be able to visit them in any other way. Perhaps you will never get "The Bug" and want to communicate with far places like I did when I was a wee one. Don't you think it is a very good thing you all belong to a club that can help you get the license and skills to do just that. My thanks and admiration to those of you who have been contributing to MCRCA and amateur radio in a very selfless way for anyone who asks for help. At no charge! Name me anything else in life that is a better deal than that.

Natural disasters have again struck many places our fellow Americans live, and they are going through life changing times. Most of the stories I hear are of people like you making sacrifices to help others that are desperate and in need. If you can help in any way I'm sure it would be a blessing to you as well. Even giving blood would surely help someone. Seeing folks helping others makes me proud to be an American.

I'm proud to be a member and it's great to be in a club of such fine folks. You are the future of the club. Hope to see you at our next meeting.

73 and God bless,
Keith, KJ8H

PLEASE take the time to VOTE!

(More Cards Page 3)

<http://mcrc.org/>

www.facebook.com/groups/1643856795878368/

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MCRCA Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Keith KJ8H.
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Introductions: One new member, no upgrades and one guests.

MINUTES: Motion by Dale WA8EFK, supported by Paul W8PI, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: Tom KG8P, Coral Isl – wildlife makes it hard to get to use – Jarvis Isl long time since DXped. Palmyra Isl very easy to get. St Paul Isl cape Brenton Isl – Newfoundland. – Mt Athos now QRZ. Sept. 5th someone pirated on FT8.

CONTESTING: Paul W8PI, Lots of state QSO Parties. Big contest weekend – WA state Salmon Run. – Sept. 28th ME QSO Party – California QSO Party 2 day big one. – Oct. 12 AZ, PA biggies, NY IL. – Oct. 26, CQ WW DX SSB

TESTING: Paul - Next session - Sat. October 19, 2024. **Appointments Preferred - FRN and email req'd. Please be there 15 minutes early.**

CLASSES: Sat. October 12, 2024 contact Don N8BZN – Technician class, - No one signed up yet, may be canceled. – December class will be for General class

ARPSC: No report

RRRA: Dale WA8EFK, everything is working and 72 is back to full power.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Christmas hall is reserved for Thursday, December 19th regular meeting night.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: 3 door prizes donated by Jeff Peters K9JP, 2 drawn, won by Scott W8SMB, and Jill Miller

50/50: Don N8BZN and he donated his winnings to the scholarship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Anyone having articles for the Hertzian Herald please email them to Fred K8EBI

PROGRAM: Video — Club Log by Michael Wells, G7VJR the developer

ADJOURNED: 8:50 pm

ATTENDANCE: 13

NM8I Barb	WA8EFK Dale
N8BZN Don	K8EBI Fred
K8UMF John	KJ8H Keith
W8PI Paul	W8SMB Scott
KE8MFY Steve	KG8P Tom
KC8SKP Wes	KE8CQO Ron
Jill Miller	



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

ARPSC Report

Short Report this month as we are preparing and activating in the Annual Simulated Emergency Test. Stay tuned for pictures and scores!!

The next upcoming event is the Dundee Spook Patrol. This year it is Thursday OCTOBER 31st from 5:30 to 7:30pm, there will be a briefing at the Burger King on Tecumseh St. at 5:00pm to grab a bite to eat, get maps and assignments. *We are still verifying times as there are some fluid changes happening.*

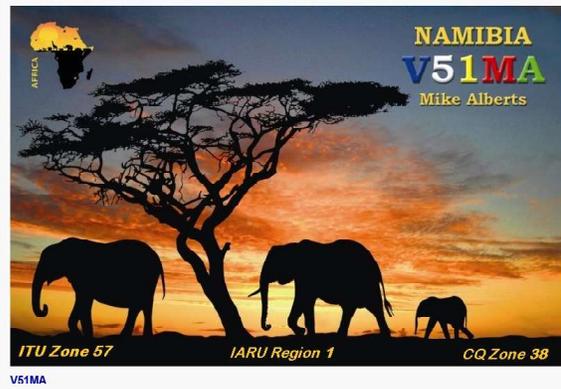
This is an easy and fun event but we need at LEAST 5 teams this year to cover the village as it grows. Dundee Village Police have already contacted us to make sure we are going to do this event. You can work by yourself, but it is easier to have 2 people per vehicle so one can drive and watch out for the tricksters and the other person can handle the radio and map. It can be another ham, or perhaps you can talk your significant other in joining you for an evening out and a luxury dinner at BK LOL.. If you can help out, contact me or Dale WA8EFK.

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 November 7th.

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



Back Up Your Computers: A Critical Part of National Preparedness Month

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 ~ RADIOARTISAN

As amateur radio operators, we're always prepared for the unexpected—whether it's a natural disaster, a power outage, family pets getting eaten, or an emergency communication scenario. This September, as we observe National Preparedness Month, it's the perfect time to ensure that all aspects of our emergency readiness are covered. One often overlooked but vital aspect of preparedness is securing the data on our computers through regular backups.

Whether you're logging contacts, managing digital modes, or maintaining software-defined radios, your computer is a critical part of your station. Losing data due to hardware failure, ransomware, or a natural disaster can set you back significantly. Here's how you can make sure your valuable data is safe and sound.

Why Regular Backups Are Essential

- 1 Protect Your Logs and Records:** As radio enthusiasts, we accumulate a lot of data—contact logs, QSL card scans, configuration files for digital modes, software settings, and more. Losing these records can mean losing years of hard work.
- 2. Preserve Software and Settings:** Many of us use specialized software to run our radios and interfaces. Setting everything up again from scratch after a computer crash can be a time-consuming and frustrating experience.
- 3. Guard Against Ransomware and Malware:** Cyber threats are on the rise, and radio operators are not immune. Backing up your data can ensure you have a clean version to restore, even if you become a victim of ransomware or another attack.
- 4. Plan for Natural Disasters:** If your area is prone to flooding, hurricanes, or other disasters, having off-site or cloud backups can help ensure your data survives even if your equipment does not.

Types of Backups: Which One Is Right for You?

There are several types of backups you can consider, each with its own benefits:

- **Local Backups:** These involve copying data to an external hard drive or a network-attached storage (NAS) device. They are quick, reliable, and allow for rapid recovery, but they can be vulnerable to theft, damage, or the same disasters affecting your computer.
- **Cloud Backups:** Services like Google Drive, Dropbox, or dedicated backup services like Backblaze or Carbonite provide remote storage for your data. These backups are accessible from anywhere and are protected against local disasters, but they depend on a reliable internet connection and can come with ongoing subscription costs.
- **Hybrid Approach:** Combining local and cloud backups offers the best of both worlds. Local backups allow for quick recovery, while cloud backups provide an off-site option that ensures data safety even if your entire station is compromised.

How to Create a Backup Plan

- 1. Identify Critical Data:** Make a list of files and directories that are essential to your operations. This might include your logging software database, configuration files, QSL card images, and any custom scripts you've created.
- 2. Choose a Backup Method:** Decide whether a local, cloud, or hybrid approach works best for you. Consider your internet speed, the amount of data you need to back up, and your budget.
- 3. Set a Schedule:** Regularity is key to effective backups. Daily or weekly backups are ideal for most operators. Make sure you automate the process as much as possible to avoid human error or forgetfulness.

Continued next page

- 4. Test Your Backups:** A backup is only useful if it works! Periodically test your backups by restoring a file or directory to ensure everything is functioning as expected.
- 5. Keep an Off-Site Copy:** If you're relying on local backups, consider keeping a copy off-site, perhaps at a friend's house or in a safety deposit box, for added protection against physical damage or theft.

Practical Steps for Backing Up Your Data

- 1. Use Backup Software:** Windows and macOS both come with built-in backup tools (like Windows Backup and Time Machine). For Linux, tools like rsync can automate backups.
- 2. Automate the Process:** Set your backup software to run automatically at regular intervals. This ensures you always have a recent backup without needing to remember to do it manually.
- 3. Use Strong Encryption:** If you're storing sensitive data or using cloud storage, make sure your backups are encrypted to prevent unauthorized access.
- 4. Check Your Backup Integrity:** Regularly review your backup logs and run integrity checks to ensure your data is being backed up correctly.
- 5. Keep Multiple Versions:** If possible, keep multiple versions of your backups to protect against data corruption or accidental deletion. This can be particularly important if you need to restore a specific version of a file or recover from a mistake.

Conclusion

This National Preparedness Month, take the time to review your data backup strategy. Protecting your data is just as important as maintaining your radio equipment—especially in emergencies. By having a solid backup plan in place, you can ensure that no matter what happens, you'll be back on the airwaves with minimal disruption.

Remember, being prepared means being ready for anything—don't let a data loss incident catch you off guard!

William Carl "Bill" Hansen SK

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Hamlin & Hilbish Funeral Directors on Sep. 30, 2024.

William Carl "Bill" Hansen, aged 79, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Born in Tecumseh, MI, Bill dedicated his life to environmental engineering, working at the water plant until his retirement just before relocating to Florida.

Bill was a cherished member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Adrian, MI, and found joy in the camaraderie at the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Monroe. His commitment to community service was evident through his volunteer work as a fireman in Portland, MI. Additionally, Bill was an avid Hamm radio operator, connecting with people near and far.

Ten years ago, Bill moved to Florida from Erie, MI, where he continued to enjoy his hobbies and spend time with loved ones. He was preceded in death by his beloved son, Jeffrey Carl Hansen, in 1990.

Bill is survived by his devoted wife of 50 years, Carla; his daughter, Lisa (Dennis) Byers of Cedar Park, Texas; his stepson, Robert Birman of Monroe, MI; his grandchildren, Madison, Ayden, Richard (Samantha) Birman of Mason, MI, and Reigne Birman of Monroe, MI; his great-grandchildren, Holly and Malcolm; and his sister, Mary (Jack) Fetkenhier of Tecumseh.

Bill's legacy of service, love, and dedication to his family and community will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Condolences, memories and photos may be shared on the tribute wall.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/william-hansen-obituary?id=56423298>



TECH TRIVIA 5: 'THAT'S UNREAL'

Last month I noted that the world of electronics is divided into two armed camps — electron flow adherents versus conventional flow (positive-to-negative) partisans — and I attempted to steer a neutral course between the two. Such fence-sitting seems to anger some folks, who feel that electron flow is 'the truth' and that common sense should move all but the perversely stubborn to dis-card conventional flow as a manifest error.

Ah, If only sub-atomic phenomenon were simple matters of black and white. As a common-sense example, do you see the letters on the page in front of you? It is conventional and convenient to say that we see them but, of course, the letters are black and reflect no light. We see the white paper, and don't see the black areas which comprise the letters. Shall we condemn all those who refuse to acknowledge their error and continue to speak of seeing the letters, 'black on white?'

Another example of mistakenly applying common sense to sub-atomic phenomenon is the assertion that ac doesn't 'really' flow through a capacitor, because the insulating dielectric prevents the electrons on one plate from passing through to the other plate. A zillion electrons may flow into the negative plate, but it is different zillion electrons that flow out of the positive plate. If we could paint the electrons on one side blue, we would see no blue electrons coming out the other side.

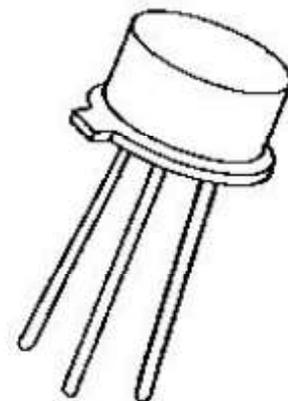
The error in this argument is that you can't paint an electron blue, or carve your initials on it, or distinguish it in any way. Every electron is exactly identical with every other electron, so arguments based on supposed distinctions are nonsense — and ac 'really' does flow through a capacitor.

I often hear a similar argument from beginning physics students when they learn that time slows down at relative velocities approaching the speed of light. They ask, 'If we could go faster than light, would time run backwards?' I reply that you can't go faster than light, because mass approaches infinity and acceleration under any force goes to zero. They come back with, 'But if you could go faster than light...' Whereupon I am forced to answer, 'Well, you can't, so let's stop talking nonsense.'

Additional absurdities crop up in discussing what an atom looks' like — the color, shape, and surface texture of an electron, for example. To look at a single electron, you have to throw a photon of light at it, which will knock it silly. A single electron doesn't 'look' like anything, nor does it have a surface texture or a color, both of which imply an arrangement of many atoms together.

We use mathematical models to describe how electrons behave in response to various forces, but human experiences of time, size, and weight have nothing in common with an electron. When we attempt to apply 'common sense' to phenomenon that are completely outside the realm of the common experiences of our five senses, the result is likely to be nonsense.

Until next month - 73 de Dan, K8JWR



Reminder:

The Dundee Spook Patrol is **Thursday OCTOBER 31st from 5:30 to 7:30pm**, there will be a briefing at the Burger King on Tecumseh St. at **5:00pm** to grab a bite to eat, get maps and assignments. Please contact Lance or Dale if you can come out and help. Come join the fun.

Meeting Program:

Soldering 101 for Makers and Radio Hams

VSWR - SWR Demystified



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, 4 Carl Dr, Monroe, MI 48162.

Your membership and support will help with the continued success of our club. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Regular – \$10 — Add'l Family – \$5 each

DATE _____ ARRL MEMBER? Y _____ N _____ RRRR Member? Y _____ N _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CALL _____ CLASS _____ E-MAIL: _____

ADDITIONAL Family Members: _____

Please Circle All That Apply:

Active Bands: 160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 220 440 higher

Modes: CW - SSB – DIGITAL - PACKET - RTTY - FM - DX - MOBILE - EME - SAT - ATV - SSTV

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 _____

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

October 17th 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 December 14, 2024

The Monroe County Radio Communications Association (MCRCA) is offering a one-day Amateur Radio course for the **GENERAL** 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.

Russ DeCrease W000 and Ronald Hills KE8CQO