



# MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL Affiliated Club  
in Michigan

## April 2018

### Volume 66 Issue 4

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## Don's Ditherings

Don K8THU  
MCRC President

Easter is nearly here as I am writing this article. In another month the Metro Grand Bike Tour will be upon us. Be prepared to sign up to participate on the first Sunday in May, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

The recent QST issues have a new format which separates ads from the articles. I find it to be an easier read and the layout is, for me, more attractive. The last couple issues have had interesting antenna articles including an MFJ small loop receive antenna. It is apparently remarkable what a small loop antenna can do with a good low noise amplifier.

We are finalizing plans for Field Day and we now have co-chairs in place, Mike, W8MRA and Bruce, AC8KD. Again, this year we will be meeting at Centennial Farms on Grosse Ile.

Save the dates: June 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Our classes at Bacon Library apparently only attracted 1 person this time, but thanks to Bob, K8HV for again taking the lead on the instruction. It appears we will be hosting a table about Ham radio at the Wyandotte Art Fair this summer thanks to Mike W8MRA who is responsible for getting the table for us.

For anyone interested in going to the Dayton, now Xenia, Ohio Hamvention this year it is on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Arrow club is again hosting a bus trip there. For details go to: [www.W8RP.org](http://www.W8RP.org). We will be talking about all this at our meeting this month. See you on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### On-Air Activities:

##### MCRC 2 Meter Net:

Join us every Tuesday night at 9PM for the Motor City Radio Club 2 meter net on the 147.24 PL 100 Wyandotte Repeater, or use Echolink WY8DOT-R.

##### CW (QMN) Traffic Nets:

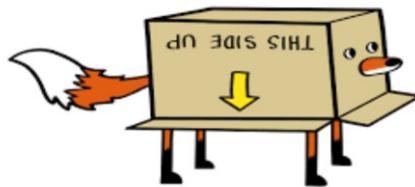
Net Name	MHz	Days	Time
Michigan Net	3563	Sn-F	18:30hrs
Michigan Net	3563	Sn-F	22:00hrs

##### Digital Traffic Nets:

Net Name	MHz	Days	Time-Mode
Michigan Digital Traffic Net (MIDTN)	3583	Tue, Thurs, Sat.	20:00hrs Olivia 8-500



## 2018 Fox Hunts start in May



Radio direction finding or RDF has been around since before World War One. From the time of the invention of radio, there has been a desire to know from what direction a radio signal was arriving at the listener's radio receiver.

Every year starting in May, members and friends of the Motor City Radio Club engage in a form of RDF called "fox hunting". Fox Hunting is a very exciting and fun aspect of Ham Radio. The "Fox" hides with a transmitter in an undisclosed location. The Fox hides well enough at the location they has chosen so they will not be accidentally spotted. The hunters should have to almost stumble over the Fox in order to find them.

Teams of "Hunters" using radio direction finding equipment try to sniff out the fox. Every one of the teams are trying to find the fox by figuring out where their radio signal is coming from. The winner is the team that finds the fox with least mileage.

It's a lot of great fun, and is a challenging contest. Transmitter hunting also has lots of practical uses. Amateur radio operators have been called on to use direction finding equipment to locate downed airplanes, boaters in distress, and sources of radio interference. It can also be used to find illegal and unlicensed radio transmitters. Hams use contests like fox hunting to test their equipment and practice their skills in preparation for more serious searches.

Motor City Radio Club's first fox hunt is May 26th, and run once a month until October. Once you do it, you will be hooked.

## Shack Pix



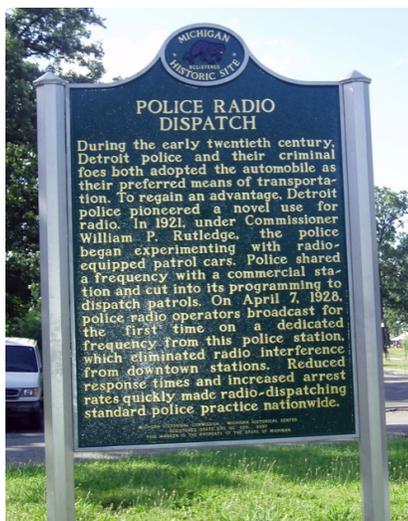
MCRC Vice President Rick KE8BPZ shares a photo and information on his ham shack.

The radio on the bottom right is a Heathkit DX-60 phone and CW transmitter. It does 90 watts phone or CW on 80 through 10 meters. Transmitter has a neutralized 6146 final amplifier and built-in low pass filter.

The radio on the bottom left is a Heathkit HR-10B receiver. Amateur band coverage only (80 through 10 meters) for high stability & tuning accuracy. The receiver tunes SSB, AM, and CW, and weighs 21 lbs. The 7-tube superheterodyne circuit features an RF stage for added sensitivity and employs a half-lattice crystal filter for excellent selectivity characteristics.

Atop the transmitter is a Heathkit HG-10 VFO. Like the transmitter and receiver, it was sold as a kit. It uses a 6CH8 as a series-tuned Clapp oscillator and cathode follower and a 0B2 as voltage regulator. Output is 5 volts RMS open circuit. Mechanical construction of the VFO is excellent using a relatively heavy steel chassis and base plate for stability.

## Belle Isle Radio Day



*In 1928 the first radio broadcast to police car radios began at the police station on Belle Isle.*

*Time - 10:00 through 16:00*

*Location - Parking lot & grounds around the Belle Isle Police Station building*

*Michigan State Park pass on your vehicle license plate is needed to enter Belle Isle*

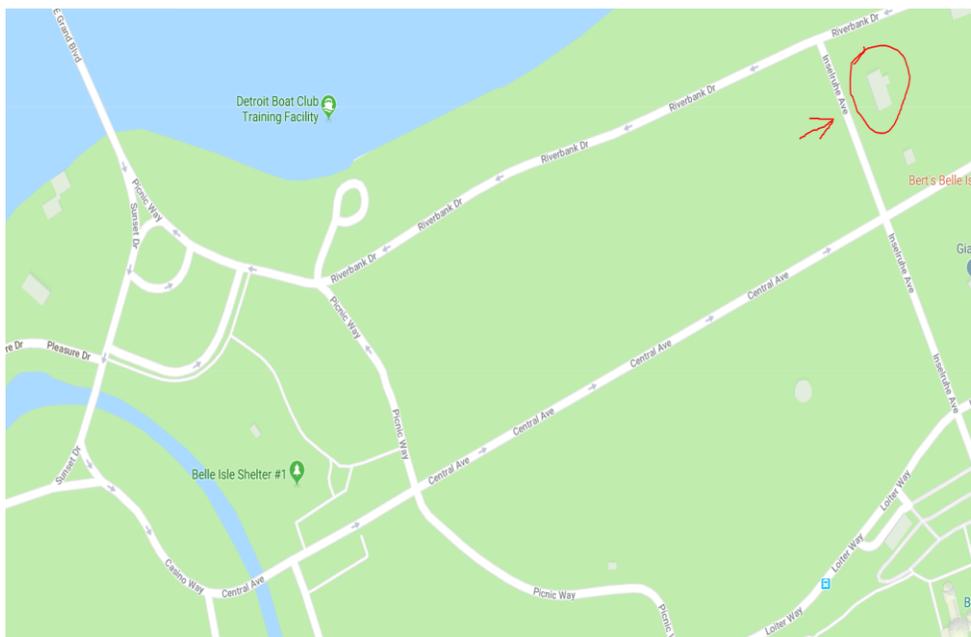
Michigan always seemed to be first in many things, here's another first "the first broadcast to police cars".

We invite local Amateur Radio enthusiasts to come to Belle Isle on April 7th between 10 AM and 4 PM, and bring their low power (QRP?) emergency communications gear and help us 'work' the Special Event station **K0P** and celebrate the 90th anniversary of the first Radio broadcasts to police patrol cars.

Come have fun, enjoy the day, the company and meet different folks.

This should be a good time to check out emergency communications gear with minimum preparation and quick and easy antenna setups. (I think too many of us treat Field Day more as a contest than an check of our preparedness and a chance to improve our emergency operating skills.)

Contact Kimball Williams, N8FNC (k.williams@ieee.org) or Bill Boyke, N8OZV (wboyke@ford.com) for more details.



Old Belle Isle Police Station  
On Inselruhe Avenue between  
Central and Riverbank



## April Program to feature Raspberry Pi.

*The Raspberry Pi is a series of small single-board computers developed in the United Kingdom by the Raspberry Pi Foundation to promote the teaching of basic computer science in schools and in developing countries.*

The Raspberry Pi is a very capable minicomputer that's small enough to fit in your pocket (even though you'd probably never keep it there). For about \$35-40, you get a case less computer with HDMI and analog composite video output. You can add up to two USB devices (which, in most cases, will be a mouse and keyboard) and connect it to the internet via wired Ethernet. The Raspberry Pi is powerful and inexpensive, allowing you to create a home media center, internet radio, or even your own VPN server on the cheap.

At the April General Membership meeting, Jim KD8HFX will show how to get a Raspberry Pi set up so you can start using it for a variety of purposes.

Don't miss this great presentation. The meeting is on Friday the 13th, starting at 7pm.

### Tennessee Middle School Students Will Send a CubeSat into Space

03/15/2018

NASA has informed **Robertsville Middle School** in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, that its "RamSat" 2U CubeSat proposal has been accepted for participation in NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative (**CSLI**) for a launch opportunity during 2019, 2020, or 2021. RamSat will be an educational mission to develop and implement a middle school STEM curriculum for building a CubeSat.

"This is such an exciting opportunity for the students!" said Peter Thornton, one of the RamSat team leaders from Oak Ridge National Laboratory. "They will now have the chance to design, build, carry out, and own a satellite mission. They'll be working as a team to identify and solve problems, and they will be working with NASA professionals to integrate RamSat into the launch and deployment missions."

The students' plan for RamSat is to send a small camera and radio encased in a 2U nanosatellite that will relay data and images from space back to Earth. This will let students study reforestation patterns of vegetation lost in forest fires. — *AMSAT News Service*

**The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP)** is an operating event held annually with Michigan as the center of attention.

Amateurs inside the target area (in this case Michigan) earn points towards their QSO party score for making contacts with other amateurs located anywhere, while amateurs outside of the target area get QSO party points only for contacting amateurs inside the target area.

Why might you want to participate in the MiQP? First of all, it's a great opportunity to hone your HF operating skills and get familiar with the radios and equipment that will be used at this year's Field Day. MiQP can provide concentrated dose of operating that will crack the rust off your CW ability or brush up on your phone operating techniques, skills that you can use in other on-the-air activities.

Plan now to join us for the 2018 MiQP April 21-22, 2018. More details on time and location will be at the April General Membership meeting. Friday the 13th at 7pm at the Copeland Center in Wyandotte.



At the 2010 banquet, incoming president Ken N8TDF presents outgoing president Linda KC8PKY with a Plaque of Appreciation for a job well done.



## 2018 November Dinner

Mark your calendar now, and save the date for this year's Banquet. As of right now, the menu and price are expected to be the same as last year's. Location has also not changed from the last two years.

**CW Sportsmen's Grill**  
 (formally the Sportsmen Den)  
 15001 Sibley Road, Riverview, MI 48193  
 November 10th, 2018  
 6pm to 8:30pm



## 2018 ARRL Field Day is June 23-24

**Field Day is ham radio's open house.** Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio. In 2018, Field Day will be the weekend of June 23rd and 24th.

Location will be the same as last year, Grosse Ile's Centennial Farm.

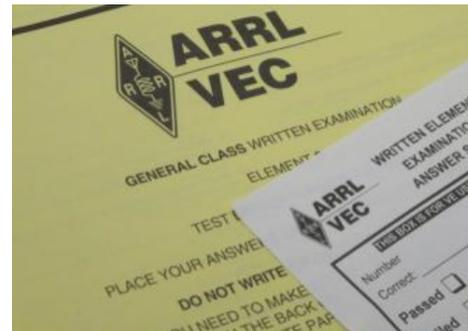
Don K8THU and Dale WA8FRD enthusiastically volunteered to be tent captains again this year.

Make plans now to be a part of this year's Field Day. Details coming soon.



## MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB VE EXAMS

March was another successful month for our VE Team. On Saturday, March 10th, The Motor City Radio Club conducted our regular bi-monthly VE test session. Six applicants arrived at the First United Methodist Church. Five were successful in either obtaining their new license or an upgrade.



Applicants Vinh Q. Vu, KE8JCK and George W. Overbeck, KE8JCL both received their new Technician License. Vernon M. Tharp, KE8GKT and Thomas J. Valerio, KE8IPX upgraded from Tech to General and Jonathan H. Pickard, KE8IQA upgraded from General to Extra with a perfect score! Congratulations to all!

VE's making this happen were Don Novak K8THU, Bill Loeber NU3D, Ralph Nagy KA8KGW, Bill Nemet KD8WTT, Dean McKinney KE8HVA, and Allan Skrocki KE8HRG. Thanks to all for their help.

Our next exam session will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St, Wyandotte at 9:00 AM. Another exam session is scheduled for June 23, 2018 at 10:00 AM at our Field Day Site, the Grosse Ile Centennial Farm, [25797 3rd Street, Grosse Ile](#) in the outdoor pavilion.

The above dates are the last two Technician exam sessions using the current question pool. The NEW Technician class question pool takes effect on July 1, 2018.

You can download the new Technician class question pool here: <http://ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>

Items to bring with you when taking the exams:

1. \$15.00 exam fee (Exact Amount Preferred)
2. Number 2 Pencil
3. An original of your current FCC license (if you have one)
4. A copy of your current FCC license (if you have one)
5. Two pieces of Identification (at least one photo)
6. Your PayPal Receipt if you choose to pay online
7. Your FRN number if you choose to pre-register



Although not mandatory, we strongly recommend you pre-register for your FRN number at: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls> to avoid using your Social Security number on the NCVEC QUICK-FORM 605.

Those interested can register for the exam ahead of time on the Motor City Radio Club's website. Go to [w8mrm.net](http://w8mrm.net). Click on the "Operating and Events" tab on the top, then click on the exam announcement date. On that page, you can register for the exam and also pay beforehand using PayPal.

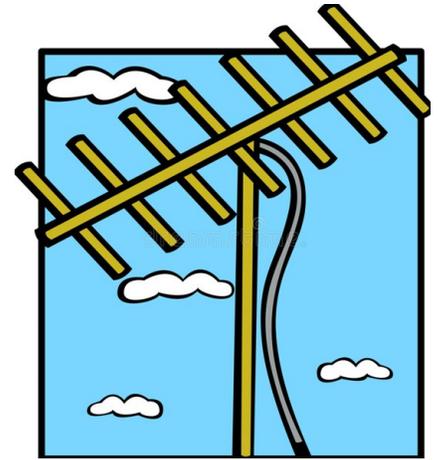
Woody N8MWQ  
V.E. Liaison

## Upcoming Hamfest:



Amateur  
Radio  
Club

1st Annual Technology Swap  
Sunday - April 29, 2018  
10:00 AM until 3:00 PM



\*\*\* HAM Radio, Computer & Robotic Maker's EXPO \*\*\*  
Madison Place Convention Ctr - 876 Horace Brown Dr - Madison Hts

WW8GM - Talk-in 443.075 MHz + 123 Hz PL  
*ARRL VE Testing Session - 11:00 AM*  
Tables \$15.00 (in Advance) • \$18.00 (at the Door)  
Tickets \$5.00 (in Advance) • \$6.00 (at the Door)  
Early Admission (9:30 AM) \$10.00 (in Advance only)

## It's Metro Grand Spring Tour Time May 6th



Once again the Motor City Radio Club has been asked by the Downriver Cycling Club to provide communications for the 35th Annual Metro Grand Spring Tour (MGST). MGST is one of Michigan's oldest, continually recurring rides and is generally acknowledged to be the start of the ride season in SE Michigan. Up to 1,200 riders from southeast Michigan and beyond participate in this day-long supported tour through Huron-Clinton Metroparks and rural roads in southern Wayne and Monroe counties. We need as many operators as possible, hopefully 20 or more, to cover all the routes. More details will be coming as plans are finalized. Please contact Dale WA8FRD for more information.

Motor City Radio Club General Membership meetings are held at the Copeland Center at 2306 4th Street in Wyandotte at 7pm. Meetings are the second Friday of each month, except there is no meetings in August and November. August is the Club Picnic, and in November, there is the 2018 Annual Banquet.



## Member Interview

### Bob Lawrence K8HV

First license 6-18-59 as KN8PUM. and I was 16. I still have the original license. Got my General class in 1960. Wow a lot of time has gone by since then Got my vanity call K8HV on 10-2-2001

First contact was 8-12-1959 CW - 40 meters 7.17 Mhz Station was KN8PUH, George, who lived a few miles away in the same city. I worked KN4KUH John in Daytona Beach Florida on 9-20-1959. I still have the QSL cards.



My first transmitter was a Knight Kit 50 watt CW transmitter using the 807 final and plug in crystals. First receiver was a Hallicrafters SX-99 with a Heath Kit Q multiplier on the 1st IF. My first antenna was a 40 meter dipole between trees in my parents back yard up about 25 feet.

I built the Knight CW transmitter, the Heathkit Q multiplier, the Heathkit SB 102 transceiver, Heathkit phone patch, Heathkit SWR meter and several pieces of test equipment.

Today I live in Lincoln Park, Michigan. I am retired. My station currently consists of a Icom-7700 transceiver, and the antenna is a Gap Titan Vertical up 15 about feet from the ground. You will find me hanging around the lower end of the 40 meter phone band or someplace on 20. I hope you have had a much enjoyment and have been challenged as much as I over the years.

Currently, my ham radio interest are fox hunting, teaching license classes, and club activities such as the Metro Grand Spring Tour.

Other interests outside of ham radio, I like to work on stuff. I am currently restoring an antique AM radio/phonograph combo that plays 78 rpm records. I like to work around the house. Keep the yard looking nice and plant a few flowers. I like to read, mostly electronic books, while sitting on my front porch. I also do a little cooking. Nothing too fancy, but I can outdoor grill with the best of them.

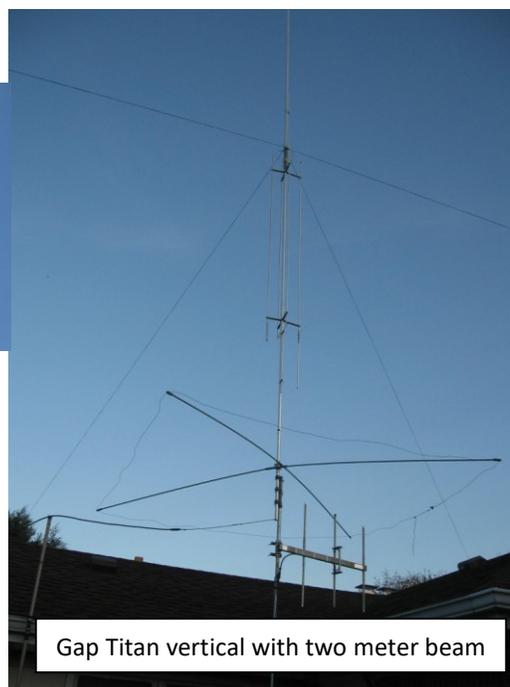
I have been looking for my original log book, but have not located it as yet. It's in a box around here.

God Bless and 73 to All

Bob K8HV



DX Engineering RF-PRO-1B  
Active Magnetic Loop





## Motor City Radio Club

P. O. Box 1337  
Southgate, MI 48195-0337  
Est. 1932



### March General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. Skywarn

25 Members 10 guests signed in – there were more.

President's Report: Field Day discussion will be later in the meeting.

The next General Meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Introduction of representatives from Skywarn.

Vice President's Report – the 86<sup>th</sup> Club Birthday will be celebrated  
at KE8BPZ's home QTH on September 15th from 10am to 5pm.

Admin Report – brief review of last month's report.

Minutes accepted and seconded.

Treasurer's Report - accepted subject to audit.

#### Committee Reports

Fox Hunts – Bruce AC8KD - will be discussed during the April meeting.

History – Bruce AC8KD working on it.

VE Program – Woody N8MWQ – check the Spark Gap for future exams.

Webmaster – Jim KD8HFX – we will not be changing the website  
but it is being redesigned.

Field Day – Mike W8MRA volunteered to be co-chair.

New Members – the Club welcomed Al Skrocki.

### Laughter is the Best Medicine!

You Know You're a Ham if :

- you buy electrical black tape in ten packs.
- you've stripped wire with your teeth.
- you've told your son that, "One day, all this will be yours", and he doesn't respond.
- you'd rather help a buddy put up a new tower than mow the lawn.
- you've grabbed the wrong end of a soldering iron.
- you start giving out RST reports when you are on the telephone.
- the propagation forecast means far more to you than the local weather forecast.
- the microphone or visual aids at a meeting don't work and you rush up to the front to fix it.
- you tell the XYL, when she notices a new rig in the shack, why that has been there for years.
- your watch is set only to UTC.
- at night, when you pray, it starts off something like: CQ CQ CQ GOD DE (your callsign).
- you ever had to patch your roof after an antenna project.
- Ham radio magazines comprise more than 50% of your bathroom library.
- you ever put a GPS tracker in the XYL's car, just so you could watch her on APRS.
- you and the XYL took a cruise so you could visit the radio room.
- you ever tapped out HI in Morse on your car horn to another ham.
- you ever had an antenna fall down.
- your teenager refuses to ride in your car because it looks like a porcupine.
- you know the Latitude and Longitude of your home QTH.
- you go into the local Radio Shack store and the clerk asks you where something is.



## MCRC Officers

### President

Don K8THU  
[president@w8mrm.net](mailto:president@w8mrm.net)

### Vice President

Rick KE8BPZ  
[vicepresident@w8mrm.net](mailto:vicepresident@w8mrm.net)

### Secretary

Denise Keeler KC8HDX  
[secretary@w8mrm.net](mailto:secretary@w8mrm.net)

### Treasurer

Dale Poblenz WA8FRD  
[treasurer@w8mrm.net](mailto:treasurer@w8mrm.net)

### Custodian

John Roberts N8KAM

### Trustee(s)

Jim Baksa KD8HFX for W8MRM  
John Roberts N8KAM for W8GTZ

### Parliamentarian

Bill Loeber NU3D  
[nu3d@arrl.net](mailto:nu3d@arrl.net)

## Committee Chairs

### V.E. Liaison

'Woody' Kirkman N8MWQ  
[N8MWQ@arrl.net](mailto:N8MWQ@arrl.net)

### Net Manager

John Roberts N8KAM  
[netcontrol@w8mrm.net](mailto:netcontrol@w8mrm.net)

### Education

Kimball Williams N8FNC  
[k.williams@ieee.org](mailto:k.williams@ieee.org)

### QSL Manager

Jim Baksa KD8HFX  
[k8sak@arrl.net](mailto:k8sak@arrl.net)

### Webmaster

Jim Baksa KD8HFX  
[webmaster@w8mrm.net](mailto:webmaster@w8mrm.net)

### Associate Webmaster

'Woody' Kirkman N8MWQ  
[N8MWQ@arrl.net](mailto:N8MWQ@arrl.net)

### Spark Gap Editor

Mike Antio W8MRA  
[w8mra1@gmail.com](mailto:w8mra1@gmail.com)

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED  
Southgate , Michigan 48195  
P.O. BOX 1337  
MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB, INC.



## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### Coming Events

**April 13th. General Membership meeting.** 7pm.

Topic: Raspberry Pi.

Copeland Center 2306 4th. St, Wyandotte.

**April 19th Board Meeting** at 7:30pm. Leo's Coney Island, 19230 Fort St., Riverview, MI 48193

Everyone is welcome at all Board Meetings

**April 21st Club Breakfast** 9am. Leo's Coney Island, 9845 Telegraph Road, Taylor, MI.

**April 21st Michigan QSO Party**

**May 6th. Metro Grand Spring Tour**

**May 11th General Membership Meeting.** 7pm. Copeland Center. 2306 4th Street Wyandotte 48192.

**May 12th** Ham Radio Exam