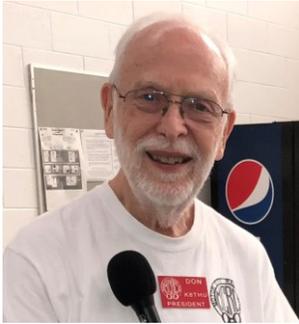




MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL Affiliated
Club in Michigan
April 2019
Volume 67 Issue 4



Don's Ditherings
Don K8THU
MCRC President

It is the 27th of March and Spring weather has not really shown up yet. I see no buds on trees and the ground is anything but green. But things are happening in ham radio. We are getting ready for another season of fox hunting. In fact, Stan Briggs, K8SB is presenting on the topic at our meeting on April 12th. On April 20th, Rick, KE8DPZ is again hosting members to operate his Trenton station for the Michigan QSO party. Last year a good time was had by everyone who showed up. This year I expect more of the same. Rick's station even has an amp to get more "fire in the wire" adding to the likelihood of loads of contacts. So, if you have an interest on being part of the fun come on down to his QTH and get on the air or just hang out with other members of the club. We will be operating on the HF bands but you won't need a general, advanced or extra ticket to get on the air. This will be just like Field Day in that regard, any ham with a tech license will have access to operate on any amateur frequency by virtue of Rick's presence as an Extra class control operator.

In May we are again supporting the Metro Grand Spring Bike Tour on the First Sunday of May, May 5th. Any member of the club who has a mobile 2 meter rig in their vehicle is welcome to participate. Usually breakfast is included, and t-shirts are given to hams who attend. This also a fun event and a good opportunity to field test your mobile set-up. This year will be interesting to see how we all will do with our temporary repeater. Some challenges await, I'm sure.

In September, the Motor City Radio Club is one of the clubs who have been asked to participate in the Belle Isle Bike Run extending up Jefferson from the island to Metro Parkway or 16 Mile near Mt. Clemens. We will probably use the GM repeater as that club is also involved along with the Tin Lizzy Club (Ford Amateur Radio League).

Finally, Field Day is coming up the end of June. Again, this year, it will be held at Centennial Farm on Grosse Ile. Rick, KE8BPZ and Bruce AC8KD are our co-chairs. Please give some of your time to Field Day this year so that we all can enjoy it with no one feeling like they were overwhelmed.

On a personal note, I have a Loop Skywire antenna up about 50+ feet in the air, fed by ladder line until just outside my shack where it morphs into coax through a 4:1 balun. It works well on all bands from 80 through 10 and my Kenwood easily tunes it on all the bands. Does anyone have any idea what the SWR is on the ham bands? I intend to take my antenna analyzer to it soon and find out. I will let you know next time.



It is with great sorrow to report, Bruno Walczak, WA8DHP, former President of the Motor City Radio Club, passed on March 6th, 2019.



Bruno was a current member of the Livonia Amateur Radio Club. He was past president of our club from 1967 - 1968. It was always a joy to hear Bruno check in on the MCRC 2 meter net. He will be truly missed.

It's Metro Grand Spring Tour Time May 5th



Once again the Motor City Radio Club has been asked by the Downriver Cycling Club to provide communications for the 36th 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, between Oak and Northline at 7pm.

(in Wyandotte, Northline is called Ford).

Meetings are the second Friday of each month, except there is no meetings in February and August. August is the Club Picnic, and in February, there is the Annual Banquet.



MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB VE EXAMS

Congratulations!

To the three applicants who either obtained a new license or an upgrade on Saturday, March 9th.

Our own member, Robert Cunningham W8RFC, upgraded from General to Extra.

Lucas Golematis KE8LHZ, upgraded from Tech to General and

James Caudill KE8LRT, obtained his new Technician license!

VE team members making this happen were Bill Loeber NU3D, Ralph Nagy KA8KGW, and myself. Many thanks for their help! Our next exam session will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 9 AM. Same location, First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St. Wyandotte.

Items to bring with you when taking the exams:

\$15.00 exam fee (Exact Amount Preferred)

Number 2 Pencil

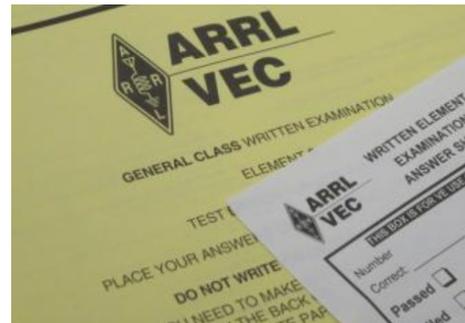
An original of your current FCC license (if you have one)

A copy of your current FCC license (if you have one)

Two pieces of Identification (at least one photo)

Your PayPal Receipt if you choose to pay online

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. 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

VE Liaison

MAKE PLANS FOR FIELD DAY 2019



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 2019, Field Day will be the weekend of June 22rd and 23th. Setup is Friday, June 21st.

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

Bruce AC8KD and Rick KE8BPZ enthusiastically volunteered to be co-chairs this year.

Make sure to mark your calendar now.

The Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council, W8ZHO is located in the Lake Michigan coastal community of Muskegon. We enjoy five acres and a clubhouse with towers and antennas on the shore of Lake Michigan. Our club dates to before WWII is affiliated with the ARRL, and is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 charity. In an effort to support our efforts to promote our hobby of amateur radio we are having a raffle, a HF/6-meter transceiver. The Icom 7300 SDR transceiver has only been out of its box a handful of times. The radio will be raffled at our club's Field Day site, June 22, '19. Raffle tickets are \$5. Raffle tickets available through PayPal for \$6 (the extra dollar helps cover PayPal expenses and postage) Please use PayPal for your ticket request using our email address, maarc@w8zho.com We will snail mail your ticket stub. Raffle tickets will also be available at the Cadillac and Hudsonville Hamfests in Western Michigan. The winner need not be present to win. We printed 500 raffle tickets. The State of Michigan license number is R51613.

ICOM 7300

SDR - HF/50 mHz Radio

Raffle benefits: Muskegon Area Amateur
Radio Council, W8ZHO

Nearly new

Icom 7300 HF/50 mHz Transceiver

500 Tickets Available at **\$5.00** per ticket

See any MAARC member

or

Tickets available for **\$6.00*** per ticket through PayPal (maarc@w8zho.com)

*to cover PayPal processing fees & postage

Lic. No. R51613

Drawing in Muskegon, MI, 2:00 pm,

Field Day, June 22, 2019

The **ARROW Communication Association** is once again proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the **2019 Hamvention** at its *improved location*: Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Started in 2002, this annual club activity has grown in size and reputation with hams across Michigan. We have been host to over 700 hams for this event.

Join us on **Saturday, May 18, 2019**, when we depart from the park-and-ride lot beside Ann Arbor Pioneer High School (601 W. Stadium Blvd) at 5:00 a.m., arriving in Xenia around 9:00 a.m. On board, you can stretch out, relax, take a nap, chat with other hams, and enjoy a continental breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the country's largest amateur radio event!

We arrive at Hamvention early enough so that you can enjoy a full day!

- Visit exhibits
- See what's new from major manufacturers
- Attend seminars
- Take license tests
- Shop the largest outdoor swap meet in the United States

When Hamvention closes at 5:00 p.m., return to the bus with your purchases for the 5:30 p.m. ride back home. No standing in lines waiting for a shuttle bus or fighting traffic!



Got stuff to sell? We can help!

We will have a booth in the flea market. If you buy a bus ticket, you can sell your stuff at our booth. All we ask is that you limit it to a reasonable amount and that you volunteer for one hour at the booth. The cost of a booth alone is \$70, more than the cost of our ticket, which makes the ARROW trip a GREAT value!

For our out-of-town guests!

If your QTH is too far away to drive to meet our bus which leaves at 5:00 a.m., and you need information about hotels in Ann Arbor, contact us at the information listed below for details.

This is no ordinary bus trip – it's an ADVENTURE!

Tickets are \$65. This does **NOT** include your admission to the Hamvention. We suggest that you purchase your 2019 Hamvention ticket(s) in advance to take advantage of the discount and enjoy the day without waiting in line for your tickets.

In years past, we have offered a variety of door prizes. The number and value varies from year to year as we depend on the generosity of donors.

For those of you who are not ARROW members, join up and support our goals, such as our newly-purchased 440 MHz DMR repeater.

When you add it all up, taking the bus with the ARROW is the most economical and relaxing way to attend Hamvention. For more information on the 2019 trip, go to our website, w8rp.org

Contact information:

John Wasciuk, WA8TON
(616) 560-3365
e-mail: jwasciuk@gmail.com

Yes! Sign me up!

Name/Call Sign

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

E-mail (correspondence via e-mail)

Will you need hotel information for the night of 5/18/19?

How did you hear about us?

of tickets

\$ amount enclosed

I would like to join the ARROW for \$20.00 a year.

Make check/money order payable to:
ARROW Communication Association

Send Order Form and payment to:
**ARROW Communication Association
2545 S. Lima Center Rd.
Chelsea, MI 48118**

PayPal is available through the website:
www.w8rp.org

Prices

Ticket price \$55 before April 1*

Ticket price \$65 as of April 1 or after

ARROW Yearly Membership \$20

*If received/postmarked by 4/1/2019.

The Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association maintains the repeater on 147.240. This group is all volunteer, and maintenance of the machine depends on contributions from users like you. If you use the machine, please donate to the repeater fund. It's easy to do, just fill out the form below, clip and mail this form and your donation to the address on the form. Or give this form and your donation to any MCRC board member.

Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association	
1885 Pinetree	
Trenton, Michigan 48183	
Name _____	Call _____
Address _____	

Email _____	
Donation Amount _____	

Checks and money orders can be made to the: **"WYANDOTTE AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION"**.



Wyandotte Special Event Station

Plans are underway to have a special event station this spring somewhere in, or near downtown Wyandotte. Look for further information as the details come together. A great way to get the word out about our club in our home town.

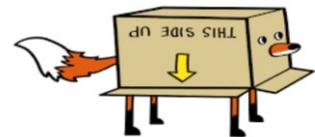
Also, in July the club will once again have a booth at the Wyandotte Street Fair. Everyone that participated in that had a great time laughing and talking with fellow fair attendees. And introducing our club to people. There was a lot of interest in ham radio expressed by those who stopped by the booth.



The April 2019 Club Meeting Program will be Fox Hunting presented by Stan K8SB.



2018 Fox Hunts Start in May



Come and check out Foxhunting. 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. Motor City Radio Club's first Fox Hunt will be in May. The Fox Hunts run once a month until October. Try it out. Once you do it, you will be hooked.

Want to get a taste of Fox Hunting? There will be a "mini" foxhunt in the parking lot of the Copeland Center at 6pm, one hour before the start of the April General Membership Meeting on April 12th.



MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB GENERAL MINUTES
MARCH 2019



Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.
Skywarn Presentation began at 7:01 pm.
Skywarn Presentation ended at 8:20 pm.
General Meeting called to order at 8:32 pm.
Club Roll Call.

Announcements:

Bruno WA8DHP is a silent key.

Vice President Report.

Club Secretary: No minutes because of February Banquet.

Treasurer: Refreshment fund is in good shape. Report accepted as written.

Committee Reports

Education – Code practice net. First Tech class is March 9th.

Fox Hunts - First hunt will be in May. Date yet to be determined.

Mini Fox Hunt in Copeland Park lot planned one hour prior to April meeting.

Project building classes planned in future.

Net Manager - Nothing to report.

Special Events/Publicity - Nothing to report. Contating Malcolm for materials.

VE – VE Session on March 9th, May 11th, and at Field Day in June.

Spark Gap - Everyone welcome to send information.

Webmaster – Like and share Facebook articles.

Field Day- Chairman Rick KE8BPZ looking for volunteers.

Librarian - No report.

New Business - Discussion about participating in a bike run on Belle Isle in September.

Metro Grand Spring Tour May 5th - Volunteer sheet passed around.

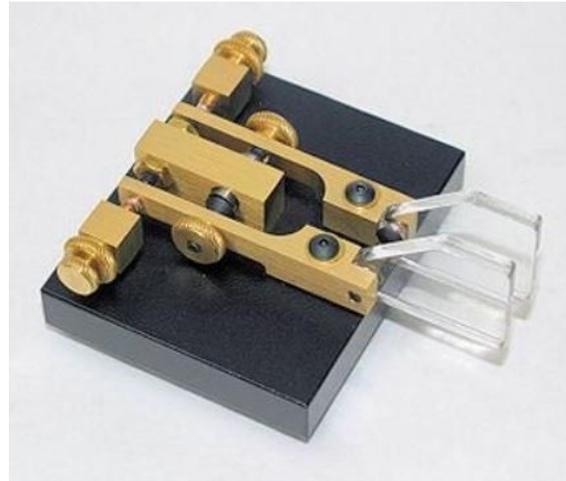
Dates for next Board Meeting, Club Breakfast and General Membership meeting announced.

Roundtable for the good of the club.

Motion to adjourn at 9:04 pm.

Code Practice on the Wyandotte Repeater

Every Tuesday night, 15 minutes before the Motor City Radio Club Two Meter Net, Bob K8HV provides CW Code Practice sessions. So many in the club are saying this has been a great way to learn the code. Others who already know it, but don't use it as frequently as they would like, are also saying how nice it is to refresh their skills in remembering code. So tune in every Tuesday night at 2045 hours and give it a listen. Special thanks from the club to Bob for doing this.



Kimball N8FNC has been kind enough to provide a list of HF slow speed nets and training nets. Thanks to Kimball for doing this. Here's another great resource to learn the code, and keep your skill up at it.

NET	PURPOSE	FREQ.	TIME	UTC	DAYS	NCS
NARL CW Slow Net	Traffic/Training	28.180.00	730	1230Z	Daily	AA1GW
*Oregon Section Net	Practice/Chat	7.085.00	900	0200Z	Daily	KC7SRL
Oklahoma CW Training Net	Traffic/Training	7.120.60	1720	2320Z	Daily	WB5KND
Empire Slow Speed (ESS)	Traffic/Training	3.576.00	1800	2300Z	Daily	WI2G
*Maine Slow Speed Net	Training	3.585.00	1800	2300Z	Daily	W1QU
Midsouth CW Training Net	Training	3.593.00	1800	1100Z	Daily	WD4PTJ
* Ohio CW Slow Net	Traffic/Training	3.705.00	1810	2310Z	Daily	WD8Q
PA CW Training Net	Code Practice	3.537.00	1830	2330Z	Daily	N3SW
NJ CW Slow Net	Traffic/Training	3.547.00	1830	2330Z	Daily	K2PB
Florida Med. Speed Net	Traffic/Training	3.552.00	1830	1130Z	Daily	AG4RJ
*Oregon Section Net	Traffic/Training	3.587.00	1830	2330Z	Daily	W7IZ
Hoodview CW Net	CW Practice	28.130.00	1900	1300Z	Daily	AB7BI
*West Coast Slow Net	Traffic/Training	3.540.00	1900	0200Z	Daily	K7WCN
* Idaho Montana CW Net	Traffic/Training	3.647.00	1900	1300Z	Daily	N7MPS
* British Columbia Net	Emergency Traffic	3.652.00	1900	1200Z	Daily	VE7XLH
* K9YA Slow Net	Practice/Fun	7.137.00	1900	1300Z	Daily	N9BOR
* Maryland CW Slow Net	Traffic/Training	3.563.00	1930	0230Z	Daily	W8CPG
*Utah CW Net	Traffic/Training	3.570.00	1930	0230Z	Daily	NA7G
Hit And Bounce Slow Net	Traffic/Training	3.576.00	1930	01330Z	Daily	N7MPS
* Texas Slow Net (TSN)	Traffic/Training	3.552.00	1945	0245Z	Daily	W5ESE
* Carolina Slow Net (CSN)	Traffic/Practice	3.571.00	2000	0100Z	Daily	W4EAT
* VE2UMS CW Traffic Net	Traffic	3.578.00	2000	0300Z	Daily	VE2CBW
* Georgia CW Training Net	Traffic/Training	3.549.00	2100	0200Z	Daily	WE4GA
*Northern CA Slow Net	Traffic/Training	3.705.00	2100	0100Z	Daily	WB6UZX
Sandia Valley Slow Net	Code Practice	7.063.00	2100	0200Z	Wed	WB7RHT
*Oregon Section Net	Traffic/Training	3.587.00	2200	0300Z	Daily	KC7SRL



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Motor City Radio Club every time you shop, at no cost to you. And Amazon Smile works with Prime just the same as it does on regular Amazon. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Motor City Radio Club

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you can select the MCRC to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to the club.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Motor City Radio Club. The club is happy to report that we have already had money donated to the club due to purchases made on Amazon.

So Now What?

03/21/2019

“The New Ham Radio Starter Pack” was the focus of the new (March 21) episode of the “[So Now What?](#)” podcast for Amateur Radio newcomers. If you’re a newly licensed Amateur Radio operator, chances are you have lots of questions. This biweekly podcast has answers! “So Now What?” offers insights from those who’ve been just where you are now. New episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the “[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)” podcast. “So Now What?” is sponsored by [LDG Electronics](#), a family owned and operated business with laboratories in southern Maryland that offers a wide array of antenna tuners and other Amateur Radio products. ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, co-host the podcast. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.

Listeners can find “So Now What?” on [Apple iTunes](#), [Blubrry](#), [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices. Episodes will be archived on the ARRL website.

MCRC Officers

President

Don K8THU

president@w8mrm.net

Vice President

Rick KE8BPZ

vicepresident@w8mrm.net

Secretary

Currently a vacant position

Treasurer

Dale Poblenz WA8FRD

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

Committee Chairs

V.E. Liaison

‘Woody’ Kirkman N8MWQ

N8MWQ@arrl.net

Net Manager

John Roberts N8KAM

netcontrol@w8mrm.net

Education

Bob Lawrence K8HV

rbtlaw@att.net

QSL Manager

Jim Baksa KD8HFX

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Webmaster

Jim Baksa KD8HFX

webmaster@w8mrm.net

Associate Webmaster

‘Woody’ Kirkman N8MWQ

N8MWQ@arrl.net

Spark Gap Editor

Mike Antio W8MRA

w8mra1@gmail.com

The March General Membership Meeting was all about SkyWarn.

If you didn't have an opportunity to make the class, there will be a class in Canton on April 10th.

April 10, 2019 Wednesday 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Sponsors: Canton Public Safety Department and Wayne County ARPSC
Canton Public Safety Emergency Operation Center
1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188

Located ½ mile south of Cherry Hill Road, on the west side of S. Canton Center Road

Web site: <https://www.canton-mi.org/254/Emergency-Management>

National Weather Service - White Lake Office: <https://www.weather.gov/dtx/>

SKYWARN Spotters page: <https://www.weather.gov/dtx/skywarn>

SKYWARN Recognition Day web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>



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 20th. Our Club Vice President Rick KE8BPZ is hosting the party in his shack. This will be the second year Rick and his XYL Renee has been so nice to have us over. There is a signup sheet on the club's

2018 MiQP Pictures



Top Kimball N8FNC

Above Bruce AC8KD

Left Tony KE8CDD and Bob K8HV

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED
Southgate, Michigan 48196
P.O. BOX 1337
MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB, INC.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Coming Events

April 12th General Membership Meeting. 7pm. Copeland Center. 2306 4th Street Wyandotte 48192.

Topic: Fox Hunt Demo - Stan K8SB.

April 18th Board Meeting at 7:30pm. Coney Island 19230 Fort Street in Riverview.

Everyone welcome to all board meetings.

April 20th Club Breakfast at 9am. Leo's Coney Island 19230 Fort Street in Riverview.

May 10th General Membership Meeting. 7pm. Copeland Center. 2306 4th Street Wyandotte 48192.

Topic: Field Day Prep. Rick, KE8BPZ and Bruce, AC8KO

May 11th VE Exam at 9am. First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St, Wyandotte 48192.

May 17-19 Dayton Hamvention at the Greene County Ohio Fairground and Expo Center.