



# MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL  
Affiliated Club in Michigan  
**October 2020**  
Volume 68 Issue 10

## Inside this Spark Gap .....

VE Exam .....	2
Fox Hunting .....	3
GNU Radio .....	4
Jamboree on the Air .....	6
Broadband and FRS .....	7
Dues .....	9
November Sweepstakes .....	11

## 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 Wyandotte Repeater. 100 Hz tone. or use EchoLink WY8DOT-R.

### CW (QMN) Traffic Nets:

<u>Net Name</u>	<u>MHz</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>
Michigan Net	3563	Sun-Sat	18:30 hrs
Michigan Net	3563	Sun-Sat	22:00 hrs

### Digital Traffic Nets:

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

### Southeast Michigan Traffic Net:

2215 hours each night on the Spirit of 76 repeater. 146.76 with a 100 Hz pl.

## General Membership Meeting Via Google Meet October 9th



*Due to the governor's mandates, our October meeting will not be held face to face at the Copeland Center.*

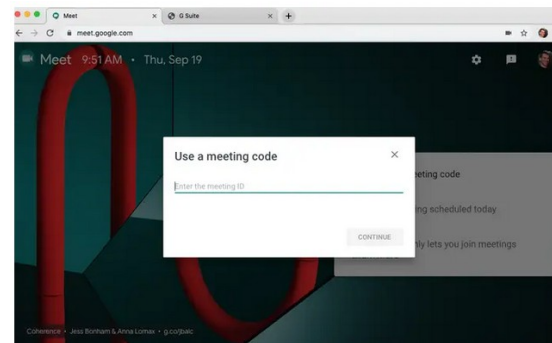
### What is Google Meet?

*Google Meet is a video-chatting service which lets folks chat using video and text. Anyone with a standard Google account can join and participate in Google Meet meetings at no cost.*



You join a Google Meet session by using a code that's created when the event organizer schedules the meeting. See link below.

On both the Meet mobile app and on a computer, simply [pull up Google Meet](#) and click or tap "Use a meeting code" (it may say "Enter a meeting code" on mobile). Once your code is in, provided the session has started, you'll enter the call and can join the meeting.



You'll be asked to enter a customized meeting code before you join. Steven John/Business Insider

*Just remember that you need to allow Google Meet to access your phone or your computer's camera and microphone when you set it up, or the program won't function properly.*

Here is the link to join the General Membership meeting in October:

<https://meet.google.com/hrr-zmqp-mqs>

The meeting starts at 1900 hours (7pm) but the Google meeting room will be open fifteen minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Topics for the meeting will be posted soon. If you have other questions on how to use Google Meet, please reach out to one of the Board members.

On Saturday, September 12th, our VE team held another very successful exam session. Four applicants arrived at the First United Methodist Church in Wyandotte. All four were successful in either obtaining their first license or an upgrade.

Charles Dionne, KE8PMI and Charles Carr, KE8PMK both earned their Technician license. William Cawthan, KE8PMJ passed both his Tech and General and Larry Turner, W8LBT upgraded from General to Extra! Congratulations to all!!!

VE's present were Bob Cunningham W8RFC, Bill Loeber NU3D, Michael Fluegemann KE8AQW, Ralph Nagy KA8KGW and myself.

Many thanks to all the VE's that took the time to make this possible.

Our next Ham Radio Test Session will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak Street Wyandotte on Saturday, November 14th at 9AM. Please visit our website at [W8MRM.net](http://W8MRM.net) to register. Due to the limit of 10 persons for indoor gatherings, no walk-ins will be allowed until the governor removes her restrictions.

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.

Credit Cards accepted online. Only cash will be accepted at the exam site.

Items to bring with you:

1. \$15.00 exam fee (Exact Amount Required, No change will be given.)
2. Number 2 Pencil and a Black Ink Pen
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 email receipt if you choose to pay online
7. Your FRN Number if you choose to pre-register

Please arrive at 9:00 am. Testing will begin after paperwork is completed and we should be finished by 11:00am.

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

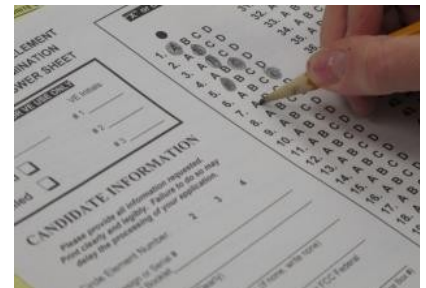
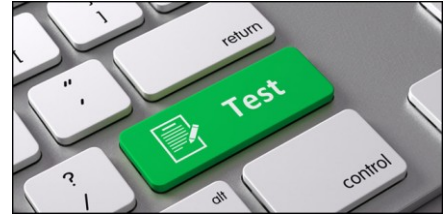
To find out how to obtain an official FCC license copy, click on the link below:

[Obtain License Copy 2015.pdf](#)

Contact: Woody Kirkman - VE Liaison

Cell: 734-818-0484

Email: [N8MWQ@arrl.net](mailto:N8MWQ@arrl.net)



**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, consider donating 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.

<b>Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association</b>	
<b>1885 Pinetree</b>	
<b>Trenton, Michigan 48183</b>	
Name _____	Call _____
Address _____	
_____	
Email _____	
Donation Amount _____	

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

Come and check out Foxhunting. Teams of "Hunters" using radio direction finding equipment try to sniff out the fox. Every team tries 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 Fox Hunts start at 1030 hours from the parking lot of the Riverview Leo's Coney Island at Fort and Sibley Road. The Fox Hunts run once a month until October. Once you do it, you will be hooked. Before the hunt at 1030 hours, most meet for breakfast at 0900 at the same restaurant.

**The 2020 season schedule, subject to change, is:**

May 30th, June 20th, July 18th, August 15th, September 19th and October 17th.

Congratulations to the May 30th hunters Bob K8HV and Larry KE8HCD for finding the first fox of the season.

Congratulations to Woody N8MWQ and Linda for finding the elusive foxes on June 20th.

Bruce AC8KD, Rena KE8NKC and John KE8NKD were the first to find the fox on July 18th.

Great job Bob K8HV and Larry KE8HCD for winning the August 15th fox hunt.

Congratulations to Woody N8MWQ and Linda and Amy for finding the elusive foxes on September 19th.

Please keep abreast of any changes by listening to the Tuesday night Net, and visit the club website at

[www.w8mrm.net](http://www.w8mrm.net)

## Hidden Transmitter "Fox" Hunt.



*Bob K8HV(left) and  
Larry KE8HCD are  
ready to find the  
last fox of the  
season*

## Motor City Radio Club Member Library

The MCRC has a library of valuable knowledge that is available for loan to all members. The library includes both books and audio tapes on various ham related subjects. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this valuable member benefit.

Below is a list of the resources currently in the library.

The ARRL- Operating Manual For Radio Amateurs	Troubleshooting Solid State Circuits - George Loveday, Arthur H. Seidman
The ARRL- RFI Book 2nd Edition...Practical Cures for Radio Frequency Interference	Getting started in Electronics -Forrest M. Mimms, III
The ARRL- Ham Radio License Manual 1st Edition Level #1 Technician	National Electrical Code 2005 -International Electrical Code
The ARRL- Handbook 2008...For Radio Communications.	Ham Antenna Construction Projects -J.A. Stanley
The comprehensive RF Engineering Reference 85th Edition	Beam Antenna Handbook -5th Edition Orr & Cowan
Simple, low cost Wire Antennas for Radio Amateurs	Amateur Radio Vertical Antenna Handbook -Capt. Paul H. Lee USN (ret) N6PL
The ARRL- Handbook 2001 78th Edition	Digital Interfacing with an Analog World 2nd ed -Joseph J. Carr
The ARRL- Spread Spectrum Source Book	
ARRL DVD Amateur Radio Today	Cassette Tapes for General Class License study - 6 Tapes
ARVN DVD Digital Voice for Amateur Radio HF: AOR, WinDRM, DRMDV, FDMDV 25 Minutes VHF/UHF: D-Star P-25 35 Minutes	Cassette Tapes for Morse Code Practice - 2 Tapes  CD's for Morse Code Practice - 2 CD's

Members are encouraged to contact the club librarian, Ray - KD8DPZ, to reserve any of the materials they wish to borrow. Donations of new materials to the club library is also appreciated.



GNU Radio is a free & open-source software development toolkit that provides signal processing blocks to implement software radios. It can be used with readily-available low-cost external RF hardware to create software-defined radios, or without hardware in a simulation-like environment. It is widely used in research, industry, academia, government, and hobbyist environments to support both wireless communications research and real-world radio systems.

GNU tutorials:

<https://wiki.gnuradio.org/index.php/Tutorials>



# Brazil proposes end of all amateur radio exams

*Courtesy of Southgate Amateur Radio News 9/7/2020*

ANATEL, the Brazilian National Telecommunications Agency, recently published a public consultation, CP65, which is available at [this link](#):

In their website, **LABRE**, the Brazilian Amateur Radio League, was surprised by the CP65 proposal that proposes, among other topics, the extinction of the COER (amateur radio certificate) exam for all classes and replacement by free access to initial class C, as is done today with the Citizen's Band, as well as access to subsequent classes B and A upon presentation of the Certificate of Technical Course and Graduation in Telecommunications, respectively, or minimum stay of 3 years in each class.



In addition, the aforementioned proposal suggests ending the rules of different prefixes for each of the States of the Federation, remaining only the prefix per class and there would no longer be any special callsigns.

The proposal, in addition to going against what is consensus in the international regulation related to the Amateur Radio Service, is absolutely contrary to the LABRE's thinking with regard to the minimum requirements to be a radio amateur and also does not match ANATEL's request for support from LABRE in the revision of amateur radio regulations in Brazil.

For further clarification on the subject, LABRE has already requested a meeting with ANATEL, which will be scheduled soon.

## MARINE COMMUNICATIONS SHIP TO SHORE VIA HF RADIO

RCA STATION	CALL ON SERIES	LISTEN
<b>WCC/CHATHAMRADIO</b> NBDP TFC lists at 0040 GMT and every 4 hours thereafter in FEC mode; morse ships' calls included.	3,5,6	0050 GMT: (500), 436, 4331, 6376, 8586, 8630, 12847, 12925.5, 16933.2, 16972 Khz.  0250 GMT: (500), 6376, 8630, 12847 Khz.  0450, 0850 GMT: (500), 436, 4331, 6376, 8586, 8630, 12847, 12925.5 Khz.  1050, 1450, 1850, 2250 GMT: (500), 6376, 8630, 12847, 16972 Khz.  1250, 1650, 2050 GMT: (500), 436, 6376, 8586, 8630, 12847, 12925.5, 13033.5, 16933.2, 16972, 22518 Khz.
<b>KPH/SANFRANCISCO RADIO</b> NBDP vessels' call signs are included on all lists	5,6,13	0100 GMT and every odd hour thereafter: (500), 426, 4247.5, 6477.5, 8618, 8642, 12808.5, 13002, 17016.5, 17088.8, 22477.5, 22557 Khz.
<b>WOE/LANTANARADIO</b>	3,5,6	0005 GMT and 5 minutes past every even hour thereafter: (500), 472, 6411.35, 8486, 12970.5, 17159.5 Khz.

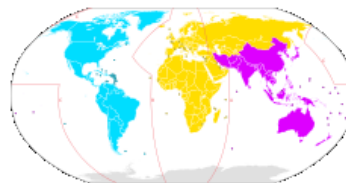


**IF YOU NEED TO WORK ON SOMETHING ELECTRICAL BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BREAKER PANEL IS**

**SIMPLY KINK THE WIRE LIKE A GARDEN HOSE TO STOP THE FLOW OF ELECTRICITY**

## ITU Regions

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*



**Region 1** comprises Europe, Africa, the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, and the Middle East west of the Persian Gulf, including Iraq.

**Region 2** covers the Americas including Greenland, and some of the eastern Pacific islands.

**Region 3** contains most of non-FSU Asia east of and including Iran, and most of Oceania.

# Jamboree-on-the-Air



## JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

### OCTOBER 18-20, 2019

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. This jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby amateur radio operators ham shack. Many times you can find the hams will come to you by setting up a station at your Scout camporee, at the park down the block, or perhaps at a ham shack already set up at your council's camp.

#### **Tell Me More**

Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, including girls. Once at the ham radio station, the communication typically involves talking on a microphone and listening on the station speakers. However, many forms of specialized communication may also be taking place, such as video communication, digital communication (much like sending a message on your smartphone but transmitted by radio), or communication through a satellite relay or an earth-based relay (called a repeater). The exchanges include such information as name, location (called QTH in ham speak), Scout rank, age, and hobbies. The stations you'll be communicating with can be across town, across the country, or even around the world! The World Scout Bureau reported that the 2017 JOTA-JOTI had over 1.5 million Scout participants from more than 160 countries.

#### **When Is It?**

Jamboree-on-the-Air is held the third weekend in October. There are no official hours, so you have the whole weekend to make JOTA contacts. The event officially starts Friday evening during the JOTA Jump Start and runs through Sunday evening.

#### **How Can I Participate as an Amateur Radio Operator?**



Contact your local Scout council and see what may already be planned in your area. You can find your council using [the Council locator](#). If nothing is currently planned, or if current plans aren't reaching your area, you can work with the council or a local unit (pack, troop, crew) to set up a JOTA station or arrange for visits to your ham shack. You can also participate just by making QSOs with the many JOTA stations that will be on the air. A good resource to find a local Scout unit is the Be-A-Scout website at <https://beascout.scouting.org/>



## Internet: Old TV caused village broadband outages for 18 months

from BBC News 9/22/2020

The mystery of why an entire village lost its broadband every morning at 7am was solved when engineers discovered an old television was to blame.

An unnamed householder in Aberhosan, Powys, was unaware the old set would emit a signal which would interfere with the entire village's broadband. Engineers were baffled by the continuous problem and it wasn't until they used a spectrum analyzer that they found the fault. The householder would switch their TV set on at 7am every morning - and electrical interference emitted by their second-hand television was affecting the broadband signal.



*Aberhosan Village in Wales*

The owner, who does not want to be identified, was "mortified" to find out their old TV was causing the problem, according to Openreach. "They immediately agreed to switch it off and not use it again," said engineer Michael Jones. Mr. Jones said the problem has not returned since the fault was identified.

## Hams Help Find Kids by Monitoring FRS Radios

09/24/2020 ARRL News

Late on the afternoon of September 16, the police department in Post Falls, Idaho, received a 911 call that two juveniles — ages 9 and 11 — were missing from a Post Falls residence for about an hour. According to the report, the pair had left home intending to play in the neighborhood with some Family Radio Service (FRS) radios.

Several patrol cars were dispatched to the area to conduct a visual search, and detective Neil Uhrig, K7NJU, responded as officer in charge due to his training and experience with missing persons investigations. The initial search focused on a 2-mile radius from the missing kids' residence.

One officer received information from witnesses that the pair was probably using FRS Channel 1 (462.5625 MHz). An officer returned to police headquarters to retrieve some FRS radios for distribution to the patrol officers, in the event they might be able to hear the youngsters talking.

Uhrig, meanwhile, pulled out his VHF/UHF handheld with the thought of setting up FRS Channel 1 as an auxiliary frequency, but without the manual at hand, he wasn't able to execute the channel setup. But Uhrig did hear the Northwest Traffic Net (NWTN) that had begun at 6:30 PM on the local 2-meter repeater. Checking into the net at about 6:45 PM, Uhrig explained the missing persons situation to net control station Shannon Riley, KJ7MUA, and asked if net participants in the Post Falls area with FRS capability could listen for the youngsters talking.

Not long after 7 PM, Jim Hager, KJ7OTD, reported hearing children talking on FRS Channel 1. Uhrig went to Hager's home to confirm his observation, and the patrol units were redirected to the new search vicinity. A short time later, the missing pair was found safe and returned home. Uhrig said the most remarkable thing about the incident was that the missing youngsters were some distance from the original search area, and in the opposite direction from where it was expected they might have been headed.



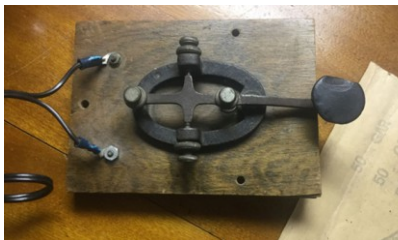
— Thanks to ARRL Assistant Idaho Section Manager Ed Stuckey, AI7H

## Here is a list of the some of the VHF/UHF nets here in the Southeastern Michigan area

*courtesy of kb6nu.com:*

Southeastern Michigan Traffic Net (Detroit): Daily at 10:15pm on 146.760- PL 100.0  
 Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association Information Net: Sundays at 1pm on 147.180+ PL 100.0  
 University of Michigan Amateur Radio Club Net (Ann Arbor): Sundays at 8pm on 145.230- PL 100.0  
 South Lyon Area Amateur Radio Club Net: Sundays at 8pm on 147.040+ PL 110.9  
 Tin Lizzy Net (Dearborn): Sundays at 8pm on 145.270- PL 100.0  
 Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association Traders Net: Sundays at 8pm on 147.180+ PL 100.0  
 Washtenaw County ARPSC Net (Ann Arbor): Sundays at 8:30pm on 145.150- PL 100.0  
 Toledo Mobile Radio Association Information Net: Sundays at 8:30pm on 147.270+ PL 103.5 and 442.850+ PL 103.5  
 Livingston Amateur Radio Klub Net (Howell): Sundays at 9pm on 146.680- PL 162.2  
 Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club Net (Oak Park): Sundays at 9pm on 146.640- PL 100.0  
 ARROW Communications Association Net (Ann Arbor): Mondays at 8pm on 146.960-  
 Clarkston Repeater Association Net: Mondays at 8pm on 146.840- PL 100.0  
 Monroe County ARPSC Net: Mondays at 8pm on 146.720- PL 100.0  
 Chelsea Amateur Radio Club Net: Tuesdays at 8pm on 145.450- PL 100.0  
**Motor City Radio Club Two Meter Net (Trenton): Tuesdays at 9pm on 147.240+ PL 100.0**  
 Livonia Amateur Radio Club Net: Thursdays at 8pm on 145.350- PL 100.0  
 Oakland County ARPSC Net (Pontiac): Thursdays at 8pm on 146.900- PL 100.0  
 Macomb County ARPSC Net (Mt. Clemens): Thursdays at 8pm on 147.200+ PL 100.0  
 L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club Net (Sterling Heights): Thursdays at 8:30pm on 147.080+ PL 100.0  
 Novi Amateur Radio Club Net: Thursdays at 9pm on 444.800+ PL 110.9  
 Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association Hoot Owl Net: Saturdays at 11pm on 147.180+ PL 100.0

*For a list of all repeaters in the southeastern Michigan area, check out the [W8SRC Repeater Guide](#).*



## Tuesday Night Code Practice

Tune into the Wyandotte Repeater at 2045 hours to learn Morse Code. Every Tuesday night, 15 minutes before the Motor City Radio Club Two Meter net, Bob K8HV runs code practice. Many folks are saying this has been a great way to learn the code.



## Eisenhower Birthday Special Event Station

**Oct 10-Oct 18, 0000Z-2359Z, W5I/W5K/W5E, Sherman, TX.** Grayson County ARC. 14.250 7.250 14.040 7.040. QSL. Grayson County ARC, PO Box 642, Sherman, TX 75091. Help us celebrate the birthday of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th president of the United States by contacting each of the call signs we'll be using...W5I, W5K & W5E. Contact all 3 and you'll spell IKE. IKE was born on October 14, 1890 in Denison, Texas. Please visit [qrz.com/db/w5i](https://graysoncountyarcc.org) for additional information about Ike and QSL information.  
<https://graysoncountyarcc.org>



Dues for the Motor City Radio Club are due every October 1st.

There are three ways to renew:

If we do have an October meeting, you can bring your dues and give them to the Club Treasurer Dale WA8FRD.

You can mail your dues to the club at the P.O. Box 1337 Southgate 48195.

Or you can renew with PayPal or a credit card on the club's website

at [www.w8mrm.net](http://www.w8mrm.net).



To renew via the website, log in. After you log in, you'll see your name on the upper left hand corner of the page. Click on your name to bring up your profile.

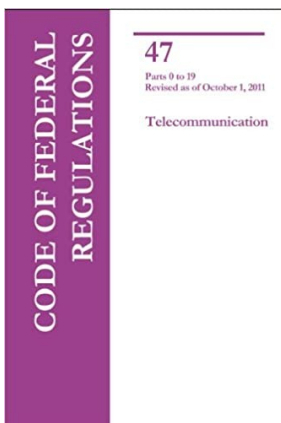
Scroll down and click on the "Renew to "10/01/20" box.

Peruse the current info about yourself, make any changes you desire.

Click on the box that says "Update and Next" in the lower right hand corner.

Click "Invoice" to pay at the meeting or mail your payment in. Or click "Pay Online" to pay with PayPal.

## Archive of USA Amateur Radio Regs



Annual editions of the US Code of Federal Regulations dating back to 1996 are available for free download. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) annual edition is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

The online CFR is a joint project authorized by the publisher, the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Office of the Federal Register (OFR), and the Government Publishing Office (GPO) to provide the public with enhanced access to Government information.

The Title 47 documents cover Telecommunications which includes the Amateur Radio Part 97 regs.

Download the Code of Federal Regulations collection from

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/cfr>

## Here's a few interesting links courtesy of DX Engineering

Easy Building Projects for New Hams:

<https://www.onallbands.com/easy-building-projects-for-new-hams%ef%bb%bf/>

Antennas for HOA restricted residences:

<https://www.onallbands.com/antennas-for-hoa-restricted-residences/>

Lesser Known Ham Radio Contests:

<https://www.onallbands.com/lesser-known-ham-radio-contests-walking-the-contest-road-less-traveled/>

Which is better. A dipole or a vertical:

<https://www.onallbands.com/dipole-vs-vertical%ef%bb%bf-which-antenna-is-better/>





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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

## MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB TWO METER NET

Every Tuesday night at 2100 hours is the Motor City Radio Club Two Meter Net. Mark your calendar to check in each week.

Net control is John N8KAM.

The net starts with announcements, then check in's are taken. Everyone has a good time, and the net is a great place to hear of any cancellations or postponements of club events due to the governor's mandates.

Listen on the Wyandotte Repeater. 147.240 with a 100 Hz pl tone.

## Mark your calendar for the February 2021 Dinner

It may seem a little early to be even thinking about it. But things do sneak up on us. The date for the Banquet will be February 13th, 2021. So mark your calendar, put a sticky note on your power supply, or put a reminder in your phone. As of right now, the menu will still be the same.



## 5-MHz Interoperability Channels Designated for Wildfires and Hurricane Sally Response

09/15/2020 ARRL News

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that two 60-meter channels have been made available, as necessary, for interoperability between US Government stations and US amateur radio stations involved in emergency communications related to the wildland firefighting response in California, Oregon, and Washington, and to Hurricane Sally. These interoperability channels will remain active until the need for these channels no longer exists:

- Channel 1 — primary voice traffic 5332 kHz channel center, 5330.5 kHz USB voice
- Channel 2 — digital traffic 5348 kHz channel center, 5346.5 kHz USB with 1.5-kHz offset to center of digital waveform.

Frequencies may be modified or added to by FEMA Region 10 for their area or operations due to existing 5-MHz/60-meter interoperability plans for their region.

Amateur radio is secondary on the 5-MHz band and should yield to operational traffic related to wildland firefighting and hurricane response. Although the intended use for these channels is interoperability between federal government stations and licensed US amateur radio stations, federal government stations are primary users and amateurs are secondary.



November Sweepstakes is an opportunity for ham radio operators in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

### **Dates:**

**CW:** First full weekend in November (November 7-9, 2020).

**Phone:** Third full weekend in November (November 21-23, 2020).

**Contest Period:** Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

For complete contest rules, visit <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

This year, the club will award a prize to the station with the most points. You may submit your points for code **or** phone, whichever is higher. Prize will **not** be awarded for combined total points for both code and phone. Monitor the Tuesday Night Two meter net for more info on the MCRC Sweepstakes award.

## Basics of Radio Wave Propagation

<http://www.ecjones.org/propag.html>



## Membership Biographies

A suggestion was made during a recent board meeting to have member biographies in the Spark Gap.

Anyone interested in telling others in the club a little bit about yourself, and your interests in ham and other hobbies? Send the info via email to the Spark Gap editor at [w8mra1@gmail.com](mailto:w8mra1@gmail.com).

Some of the things you could tell us about:

Where you grew up?

How did you get interested in ham radio?

What was your first radio and antenna  
and contact?

Anything at all you want to say.

Include some pictures of your radios, your shack, your antennas, whatever you would like to share.



# MCRC Officers

### President

John Russman W8BJZ

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

### Vice President

Bruce Menning AC8KD

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

### Secretary

Claudia Mayer-Smith KE8MIE

734-720-9890

### Treasurer

Dale Poblentz 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

Bob Cunningham W8RFC

[rcl1101@aol.com](mailto:rcl1101@aol.com)

### Committee Chairs

#### V.E. Liaison

'Woody' Kirkman N8MWQ

[N8MWQ@arrrl.net](mailto:N8MWQ@arrrl.net)

#### Net Manager

John Roberts N8KAM

[netcontrol@w8mrm.net](mailto:netcontrol@w8mrm.net)

#### Education

Bob Lawrence K8HV

[rblaw@att.net](mailto:rblaw@att.net)

#### QSL Manager

Jim Baksa KD8HFX

[k8sak@arrrl.net](mailto:k8sak@arrrl.net)

#### Webmaster

Jim Baksa KD8HFX

[webmaster@w8mrm.net](mailto:webmaster@w8mrm.net)

#### Associate Webmaster

'Woody' Kirkman N8MWQ

[N8MWQ@arrrl.net](mailto:N8MWQ@arrrl.net)

#### Spark Gap Editor

Mike Antio W8MRA

[w8mra1@gmail.com](mailto:w8mra1@gmail.com)



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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

## **Coming Events**

**October 1st. Online Board Meeting** at 1930 hours. All are welcome to any board meetings.

**October 9th. Online General Membership meeting** at 1900 hours. This will be a **Google Chat** meeting, not a Zoom meeting. See Page One of this Spark Gap for more details.

**October 15th Board Meeting** at 1930 hours. The board meeting may be in person at Leo's Coney Island at 19230 Fort Street in Riverview. Or it may be an online meeting. Monitor the net or check the website to keep abreast of any changes.

**October 17th Club Breakfast** at 0900 hours. Leo's Coney Island 19230 Fort Street in Riverview. Of course this may not happen because of the governor's mandates. Check for updates on the net or on the website.

**October 17th Last Fox Hunt** of the Season 1030 hours. From the parking lot of Leo's Coney Island. 19230 Fort Street in Riverview.

Please listen to the Tuesday night net (see page 6 for more details on the net), and visit the club website <http://www.w8mrm.net/> to keep updated on where and when (and if) events will be held.