Monroe County Radio Communications Association

The Hertzian Herald

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ON the AIR with K8MLH

As I sit to put together my first newsletter article for the Hertzian Herald, I wonder what I should write about. I want first of all to thank Mike, N8KUF and the previous Club Officers for their service last year. I only hope to be able to make things as productive, educational, interesting, and fun as they did. I look forward to a great year with our Club. I am learning of all the activities we have done in years past and who pulled each of them together. It is fantastic that there are a number of you who are active in so many aspects of the Club. We have plenty to do and if we all pitch in, no one will be overloaded. If anyone has any suggestions on something that was done in the past that you would like to see done again or something completely new that you would like to see us do for the first time, let us know. We are making plans for future programs and events.

January brought the time to renew your membership in the MCRCA. If you have not done so yet, please see Fred to pay your dues. You can also pay him for your RRRA membership dues. If you are not a member of the RRRA, please consider joining to support the fine job they do in maintaining the Monroe 72 repeater and the many extensions of that system.

The beginning of the year also brought some pretty harsh weather – the blizzard that was followed by the light dusting that seemed to leave about 5 inches at my house. Some of the snow piles here are taller than I am. If the warm weather they are predicting for this weekend come true, there is gonna be water everywhere. Stay warm and stay dry.

We will see you at the meeting Thursday night.

Mike Hall – K8MLH

MCRCA 2011 President

Club Officers

PRESIDENT
Mike Hall K8MLH
mlhall54@chartermi.net

VICE PRESIDENT
Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

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ka8ebi@yahoo.com

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ka8ebi@yahoo.com

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Paul Trouten W8PI
ptrouten@aol.com

DIRECTOR
John Bills N8RWI
n8rwi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR
STATION TRUSTEE
Rita Baker WB8FBG
wb8fbg@chartermi.net

Inside This Issue

MCRCA Minutes:

January 20, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:39 pm, by Mike N8KUF
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions: no new members or upgrades one guest Patrick ?

PROGRAM: Elections and video
BREAK
DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Rob KD8NKA, Mike KD8OSK, Ernest KD8LQE
50/50: Ernest KD8LQE donated his winnings to Scholarship

MINUTES: Motion by Mike K8MLH, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Terry KC8RQI, supported by Wes KC8SKP, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: By Olimpio- showed a plaque, that he received in the mail, that belonged to his brother when he was president of the MCRCA in 1977-78. DX it's out there.

HERTZIAN HERALD: Send Fred your articles or recent ramblings so we can have some local input in the Herald

TESTING: Next session February 19th.

ARPSC: meeting first Thursday in February, training session at this meeting. Muskrat run will be very early in February listen to the Monday night net for more info.

RRRA: Dale announced everything is functioning OK except packet. Ottawa Lake will be down to set up Pl tone. RRRA needs your support, please join today.

OLD BUSINESS: Dale stated that the 2m/440 antenna should be mounted on the tower at the Red Cross and the 2m radio upgraded to a new matching FT-7900.

NEW BUSINESS: **Motion to purchase a new FT-7900, for the RC Com. Center, to replace the old 2m rig was made by Dale WA8EFK and supported by John N8RWI. Motion passed.**

ANOUNCEMENTS: Dale reported that a family has donated a lot of amateur equipment to the club, and the family specifies that it be given to people that will use it, not to sell. Dale will make a list of the equipment and present it later.

ELECTIONS: Mike K8MLH presented a slate to the membership:

President	Mike K8MLH
V-President	Wes KC8SKP
Secretary	Brenda KB8KQC
Treasurer	Fred KA8EBI
Director	Paul W8PI
Director	John N8RWI
Dir/ Station trustee	Rita WB8FBG

Nominations were accepted from the floor from Terry KC8RQI nominating Neil KA8PQH , and Mike KD8OSK for Director positions. Neil declined nomination.

Motion made by Dale WA8EFK to accept the nominees for President, V-Pres., Secretary, Treasurer and Dir/station trustee. Motion approved.
A vote was then held on the two remaining Director positions.
Winners were Paul W8PI, and John N8RWI.

ADJOURNED: 8:37 pm

Committees

Classes
Rita Baker WB8FBG

Club Station
Rita Baker WB8FBG

DX Net
Olimpio Varsogea WB8SEZ

Field Day
Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Finance
Paul Trouten W8PI (chair)
Fred VanDaele KA8EBI
Dale Williams WA8EFK

HamFest
Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Hertzian Herald
Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

Historian
Nick Peth AF8CS

Public Relations
Jeff Breitner KA8NCR

Scholarship
Fred VanDaele KA8EBI

School Liaison
Eric Worstell KC8QAH

Programs
open

Membership
open

Planning
open

Property Custodian
open

ARISSat-1 Deployment

Expedition 26 Flight Engineers **Dmitry Kondratyev** and **Oleg Skripochka, RN3FU**, will step outside the International Space Station (ISS) on Wednesday, February 16.
While in space, they will install and retrieve experiments on the Russian segment of the complex and deploy **ARISSat-1**, a small ham radio satellite.

NASA TV coverage will begin at 4:45 AM (PST), while the extra-vehicular activity — commonly called a spacewalk — will begin about 30 minutes later. The spacewalk will be the second for Kondratyev, who will wear the spacesuit marked with red stripes, and the third for Skripochka, who will wear the suit with blue stripes.

NASA TV: http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/index.html

During the nearly six hour spacewalk, Kondratyev and Skripochka will deploy an experiment called ARISSat-1, a boxy 57-pound nanosatellite that houses congratulatory messages commemorating the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's launch to become the first human in space.

The ham radio transmitter will enable communications with Amateur Radio operators around the world for three to six months. It is the first of a series of educational satellites being developed in a partnership with the Radio Amateur Satellite Corp, the NASA Office of Education International Space Station National Lab Project, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program and RSC-Energia.

The two cosmonauts will also install two experiments:
One will collect information useful in seismic forecasts and earthquake predictions, and the second will look at gamma splashes and optical radiation during terrestrial lightning and thunderstorms. The spacewalkers also will retrieve a pair of panels exposed to space as part of an experiment to identify the best materials for building long-duration spacecraft.

See the February, 2011 issue of QST Magazine for more background info. For a band plan of the satellite's many modes, go to ... http://www.work-sat.com

Clint, K6LCS - from NASA, AMSAT, ARRL

AMSAT-UK FUNcube

AMSAT-UK **FUNcube** is an educational single CubeSat project with the goal of enthusing and educating young people about radio, space, physics and electronics.

It will support the educational Science, Technology, Engineering
and Maths (STEM) initiatives and provide an additional resource for the GB4FUN Mobile Communications Centre.

The target audience consists of primary and secondary school pupils and FUNcube will feature a 145 MHz telemetry beacon that will provide a strong signal for the pupils to receive.

The FUNcube Dongle is the "ground segment", or a radio receiver designed to allow anyone to try their hand at reception of satellites like FUNcube anywhere on Earth as part of a global educational collaboration project collecting information from space.

All aspects of the project, and FUNcube dongle support can be
found at http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/funcube/
AMSAT-UK FUNcube SDR
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/december2010/funcube_sdr_video.htm
FUNcube SDR Dongle
http://www.funcubedongle.com/
FUNcube website
http://www.FUNcube.org.uk/
AMSAT-UK publishes a colour A4 newsletter, OSCAR News, which is full of Amateur Satellite information.
Join online at http://tinyurl.com/JoinAMSAT-UK

Humans may become 'wireless towers' in the future

Hello, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC with another from the *Weird 'N Wonderful* file.

Now here's a development that will send shivers right down the spines of those fearful of wireless radiation, make the blood of some reach boiling point or throw their arms up in the air in pure disbelief.

Researchers at Queen's University Belfast are looking to improve the reliability of modern wireless systems. They believe that humans could be turned into wireless towers to create what they call body-to-body networks.

A five year research project is investigating how small sensors carried by people could communicate with each other to create a ubiquitous wireless networking paradigm.

This would provide enhanced bandwidth needed when too many people use their phone in the same cell area, help the service to penetrate weak signal areas or black holes and counteract drop outs that result from interference.

In a rapidly developing science of body centric communications, new sensors carried by everyone with a mobile phone would interact with each other and wireless devices embedded in local surroundings to transmit data, providing anytime, anywhere mobile network connectivity.

The technology also promises to open up the use of wireless communications in a wider range of activities including law enforcement and first responder teams, sports applications through to medical monitoring of patients in their own homes.

Jim Linton VK3PC

Global Tuners reaches 55 receivers world-wide

You can now access 55 receivers world-wide on the **Global Tuners** website.

Receivers on-line operate a variety of modes including the AM and FM broadcast bands, the shortwave spectrum, HF and UHF bands in various modes.

Countries currently on-line include the USA, Australia, Finland, France, Germany , Greece , Italy , Hong Kong, the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic, Sweden and the United Kingdom to mention only a few.

So far there are 33,777 registered members and you will have to sign up for an account if you wish to control a receiver.

For more information go to:
www.globaltuners.com (From Southgate Amateur Radio Club)

The "Cheaper-Beeper" brings communication to life for a classroom of kids.

Mark Spencer, WA8SME

mspencer@arrl.org

Morse code is an attractive activity for kids. I think what they like about Morse code is the "secretiveness" of being able to send messages that their parents and teachers can't read. Summer school programs provide an excellent opportunity to introduce students to Amateur Radio through the use of Morse code. An added side benefit is that the instruction in how codes are used to transmit information is part of the "educational standards" or benchmarks that are required to be taught in our nation's classrooms. The Boy Scouts has also resurrected the Signaling Merit Badge that includes a requirement to send and receive Morse code. This presents some opportunities for local hams to get involved in their schools.

Ron Miles, N6PAA, and I introduced Morse code to some younger summer school students in a Sacramento suburb school. The opening activity (the hook) involved the students whispering their names and favorite colors in Ron's ear. Ron, in turn, did the magic of sending that information to me via Morse code and I wrote the message on the classroom board.

The instructional unit spanned 4 hours over 2 class days during which the students performed the following activities:

• constructed their own code practice oscillators (CPOs) from a partial kit

• constructed a Morse code translation sheet

• wrote out their names and other messages in Morse code using their translation sheets

• practiced sending their names and messages on their CPOs

• practiced sending their code to the *CWGet* computer program to refine their "fists"

• and finally, using different sized and color beads representing "dits" and "dahs," they constructed an arm bracelet with a Morse code message spelled out.

The "final exam" included sending their names with their CPOs to the instructor and the instructor reading the message beaded in their arm bands.

Preparing a Successful Lesson

If you think you might be interested in doing a similar activity in your local school, here are some things to consider:

• Prepare, prepare, prepare. Teaching is not a trivial activity and it doesn't take long to lose control of the class when you are not prepared.

• You are the teacher and it is important to dress and act like a teacher.

• Consider the age of your audience. The attention span of the students depends on their age and a million other things. (Younger doesn't necessarily mean less attention span. Many times the older students are more difficult to keep en-

gaged.) In this case, with the younger audience, soldering of the CPOs was out of the question so the units were presoldered and all that was required was to mount the circuit boards on the mounting board. This simple construction allowed the students to say: "look what I made in school today" when they went home. For a more mature student audience, or Scouts, you might consider a full blown "Solder 101" activity with the appropriate logistic planning for such a construction project. The ARRL will be offering a new CPO kit that is ideal for Scouts.

• Not all students learn the same way (called learning modalities); there are visual, auditory, tactile and combination learners. When you are preparing your lesson, try to approach the content from all the modality directions you can. That is why in our learning activity we had the students copy the code translation chart off the board (tactile and visual), we verbalized the chart using the words "dit" and "dah" (verbal), we had them construct their CPOs (tactile), used their CPOs to send code (visual, tactile, auditory) and translate the coded messages into beads for the arm bands (visual, tactile).

• We live in a society that is driven by the television media with commercial breaks at specific intervals. Unfortunately, this translates into how much time a student will stay attentive to one topic or presentation mode during a lesson period, which determines how long a lesson can last. A good instructor will be sensitive to this "cultural" fact and adjust the lesson accordingly by "changing up" during the lesson.

For instance, you might consider frontal instruction (lecture) for a few minutes, switch to seat work (copying off the board), then asking questions for a few minutes. Next, divide the students into small working groups to work on problems and report back their results to the class as a whole by writing on the board. Along these lines you can add other related activities as appropriate. For the youngest audience the changes should be approximately every 5 minutes, for the middle audience you might get away with 10-15 minutes. An adult audience will stay awake for 20-30 minutes. After that you'll start hearing snores.

Cheap Beeps

The CPO circuit used was the "Cheaper Beeper" designed by William Gardner, W8WG. It is one of the most affordable, simple and reliable CPO circuits I have seen. The CPOs were constructed on scrap circuit board material that was cut to include the key as well as an area to mount the components. The mounting base was made out of some scrap plastic. The major expense of the CPO is the speaker (the speaker impedance is critical for the CPO operation) and the 9 V battery. I have found a contemporary 8 ohm speaker that works well is the RadioShack part number 273-092. [Construction Information on the CPO can be found at this link. — *Ed.*]

So I hope that you will consider this method of supporting your school while also advancing the Amateur Radio Service. With the proper amount of planning on your part, you will have a rewarding experience watching the "light bulbs" illuminate in the young students the first time they "get it" and are able to send their names in Morse code.

If you want additional information, you can contact Mark Spencer, WA8SME, the ARRL Education & Technology Program Coordinator, at 530-495-9150 (Pacific Time Zone) or at 774 Eastside Rd, Coleville, CA 96107.

DX Net, Tues. 8:30pm
Olimpio Varsogea
WB8SEZ

The editors of 425 DX News Mauro and Valeria Pregliasco (I1JQJ and IK1ADH) are the first Italian inductees into the CQ DX Hall of Fame (May 07)

till 29/01 3B8/EA3BT and 3B8/EA3WL: Mauritius Island (AF-049) 1027
till 29/01 3D2AD: Fiji
till 30/01 1A0KM: Sovereign Military Order of Malta 1030
till 30/01 FM/F5LGE: Martinique (NA-107)
till 30/01 PR2R: Comprida Island (SA-024)
till 30/01 PS150PLM: special event station
till 31/01 DT8A: King Sejong Base, South Shetlands (AN-010) 977
till 31/01 SI9AM: Sweden
till 01/02 5R8HL: Nosy Be (AS-057)
till 01/02 IT9/LY5W: Sicily (EU-025)
till 02/02 8P9UR: Barbados (NA-021)
till 02/02 JT1ZW: Mongolia
till 02/02 YJ: Vanuatu * by DL2NUD and DL9GRE 1028
till 04/02 4S7LRG: Sri Lanka (AS-003)
till 05/02 FS/K4UP: St. Martin (NA-105)
till 06/02 TC2011EWU: special callsign (Turkey) 1029
till 08/02 VP8ORK: South Orkney Islands (AN-008) 1029
till 09/02 A6/VE6LB: Dubai
till 14/02 8P9ME: Barbados (NA-021)
till 20/02 HS0ZJF/8: AS-101
till 21/02 3B8/F6HMJ: Mauritius (AF-049)
till 23/02 EA8/ON5JV and EA8/ON6AK: Canary Islands (AF-004) 1013
till 24/02 OR4TN: Princess Elisabeth Station, Antarctica 1018
till 27/02 HI#RCD: special event stations
till 27/02 V31YN and V31GW: Belize
till 28/02 9K50: special prefix (Kuwait)
till 03/03 PJ6/G4IUF: Saba (NA-145)
till 13/03 4S7KKG: Sri Lanka
till 15/03 LU1ZS: Teniente Camara Base, South Shetlands (AN-010) 1026
till 17/03 D2AM: Angola
till 31/03 CE2/CX1EK: Chile
till 31/03 IO7DAI: special callsign
till 31/03 ZL50VK: special event callsign
till March D2SG: Angola
till 12/04 H44MS: Guadalcanal (OC-047), Solomon Islands 1027
till 22/04 D2QR: Angola
till April 9M2MRS: Penang Island (AS-015)
till 05/05 ZS8M: Marion Island (AF-021)
till 30/06 HG2011: special event stations
till May D2AK: Angola
till August RI1FJ: Franz Josef Land (EU-019)
till September ZD9GI: Gough Island (AF-030)
till 25/10 5B50J: special callsign (Cyprus)
till November 9Q6CC: Democratic Republic of the Congo 1017
till 31/12 BP100: special callsign
till 31/12 BV100: special callsign
till 31/12 CW5RV: special callsign
till 31/12 GB65ISWL: special callsign
till 31/12 HB60LU: special event callsign (Switzerland) 1029
till 31/12 HG200LST: special event callsign
till 31/12 IA7MM: special event station
till 31/12 II1ITA, II5ITA, II0ITA: special callsigns 1022
till 31/12 II1TO: special callsign
till 31/12 PI30ETL: special event callsign
till 31/12 RI1ANC: Vostok Station, Antarctica 1019
29/01-31/02 VE7/F5IDM: Quadra Island (NA-091) 1029
30/01-11/02 PJ2/OE3JAG: Curacao (SA-099)
30/01-06/02 UP2011xx: special event callsigns (Kazakhstan) 1027
31/01-06/02 VP5/G0UNU: Grand Turk (NA-003)
January HS0ZJF: Thailand
January OJ1ABOA: Aboa Station, Antarctica 1021
January XT2RJA: Burkina Faso
01/02-30/04 4X20HC and 4Z20HC: special callsigns 1030
01/02-04/02 5R8HL: Madagascar (AF-013)
01/02-31/03 6W2SC: Senegal
01/02-05/02 CN8QY, 5C2L, 5C2P, 5C2J: Herne Island (AF-068) 1029
01/02-28/02 CJ1 and CK1: special prefixes (Canada) 1030
01/02-31/03 J5UAP: Guinea-Bissau
01/02-09/02 J79AT, J79AVO, J79EA, J79FF: Dominica (NA-101) 1030
01/02-09/02 J79HFP, J79UN, J79VG, J79ZP: Dominica (NA-101) 1030
01/02-31/03 LM11SKI: special callsign
02/02-08/03 5H: Tanzania * by IK2GZU
02/02-09/02 D44TBE: Sal Island (AF-086)
02/02-08/02 T88ZM: Palau (OC-009)
02/02-08/02 V31YN/p: Southwater Caye(NA-180)
03/02-09/02 C6AWS: Grand Bahama (NA-001)
03/02-15/02 FK/DL2NUD and FK/DL9GRE: New Caledonia 1028
03/02-03/03 WA2USA/4: St. George Island (NA-085) 1030
04/02-24/02 3B8/SP2JMB and 3B8/SP2FUD: Mauritius Island (AF-049) 1029
04/02-09/02 A35AY: Fafa Island (OC-049)
04/02-08/02 JW8HGA and JW8AJA: Svalbard (EU-026) 1030
04/02-17/02 S9DX: Sao Tome (AF-023)
04/02-07/02 W6R: special event station
05/02-26/02 6W/HA0NAR and 6W/HA0NAR/p (AF-078): Senegal 1030
05/02-18/02 8Q7AK: Maldives (AS-013)
05/02-26/02 J5NAR and J5NAR/p (AF-093): Guinea-Bissau 1030
05/02-08/02 N6R: special event station
05/02-10/02 PJ4: Bonaire (SA-006) * by EA1PP, EB1HF, EC1DPM 1029
05/02-12/02 V55DLH: Namibia
06/02-18/02 HI7/HB9OAU (NA-096) and HI2/HB9OAU (NA-122) 1029
07/02-17/02 C6ABB: Bahamas (NA-001)
08/02-22/02 T30: Tarawa (OC-017), West Kiribati * by N7OU & W7YAQ 1027
09/02-16/02 KH0/G3ZEM: Saipan (OC-086)
10/02-15/02 W3STX/KH2 and KH2/JS6RRR: Guam (OC-026) 1029

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

Walk-ins are always welcome.

2011 Schedule:
February 19 April 16
June 18 August 20
October 15 December 17

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

February 17th at 7:30 pm
American Red Cross Chapter Bldg.
1645 North Dixie Highway
Monroe, MI 48162

Local Nets

ARPSC Net - Every Monday evening on '72-Monroe (146.72 Mhz) starting at 9:00pm.

DX Net - Every Tuesday evening on '72-Monroe starting at 8:30pm.

Monroe County Radio
Communications Association
P.O. Box 237
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