

The Hertzian Herald



Off the KUF:

By Mike - N8KUF

The December MCRCA meeting was certainly filled with good cheer, good food, good gifts, good music, and GOOD Friends. I'm personally very thankful for the ability to have joined many good friends on that evening of celebration. I hope everyone there enjoyed themselves. May this New Year bring good health, good fortune, and many more meetings with good friends. And may all of us keep those who are less fortunate present in our thoughts, prayers, and actions.

At the January meeting, new officers for the MCRCA board of directors will be elected. There is still time to contact the head of the nominating committee (Mike K8MLH) to solicit a nomination for any of the positions. If you are unable to reach him in advance remember that during the meeting the floor is always opened for additional nominations before the election is held. Fresh energy, and fresh ideas, are a vital part of what it takes to keep an organization alive and thriving.

While I can't say that I've accomplished everything I had hoped to accomplish when I took the President position 2 years ago .. I CAN say that together we've accomplished quite a bit during that time, and that together we've identified so much more still left to accomplish.

Please consider stepping forward, as an officer, as a mentor, as a program presenter, as an energetic volunteer, or at a minimum as an enthusiastic member always hoping to learn something new and always willing to have a good time. ALL are welcome, and ALL are needed to continue to grow the organization.

I'll see YOU at the meeting,

Mike Karmol - N8KUF

2010 President - MCRCA



Club Officers

PRESIDENT

Mike Karmol N8KUF
mkarmol@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Trouten W8PI
ptrouten@aol.com

SECRETARY

Fred VanDaele KA8EBI
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Brenda VanDaele KB8KQC
ka8ebi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP
busdiecw@netscape.net

DIRECTOR

John Bills N8RWI
n8rwi@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR STATION TRUSTEE

Rita Baker WB8FBG
wb8fbg@chartermi.net

Inside This Issue

Minutes.....	2
Misc. info.....	3
PSK31.....	4
PSK31.....	5
Renewal form.....	6
425 DX.....	7

MCRCA Minutes:

December 16, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm, by Mike N8KUF

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions: no new members, upgrades or guests

PROGRAM: Christmas Party and Pot luck

MINUTES: Motion by John N8RWI, supported by Tim KD8KHX, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Paul W8PI, supported by Tim KD8KHX, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

DX REPORT: By Olimpio, V73RRC: Ujelang Atoll till Dec 11. - VK4LDX/p: Magnetic Island till Dec 12. - VK9NN, Norfolk Isl till Dec. 19. - DU9/DK2PR: Mindanao Island, till Jan 3 2011. - E51AND: Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cook Islands, till Jan 1, 2011. - XWPA Laos till Jan 19th.

HERTZIAN HERALD: KA8EBI, Send me your articles so we can have some local input into the HH

CLASSES: One Day class in Ann Arbor Jan 8th more info at: mcrca.org

TESTING: Next session Dec 18th.

RRRA: Dale announced there was a short outage due to a power supply problem, now fixed.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Motion by Tim KD8KHX and supported by Rita WB8FBG to have the club purchase a desk microphone, for the 2m/440 radio in the com. Center at the Red Cross, for Olimpio's net on Tuesday nights. Limit \$100. Approved.

ANOUNCEMENTS: Please contact Mike K8MLH, Dale WA8EFK, or Fred KA8EBI if you have any nominations for next years officers.

ADJOURNED: 8:03 pm

ATTENDANCE: 17

AF8CS	Nick	K8MLH	Mike
KA8EBI	Fred	KA8PQH	Neil
KB8KQC	Brenda	KB8ZRX	Jeff
KC8IRB	Linda	KC8SKP	Wes
KD8KHX	Tim	KG8P	Tom
N8KUF	Mike	N8RWI	John
W8PI	Paul	WA8EFK	Dale
WB8FBG	Rita	WB8JAI	Bill
WB8SEZ	Olimpio		

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

Recycle Old Radio Mags

Instead of tossing out your year-old QSTs, CQs or other radio magazines, recycle them at your friendly dentist, doctor, hospital or other waiting rooms. The next time you print up some return address labels, print the following also to cover your address on the front of your used magazines:

Complimentary Copy:

Provided by Monroe County Radio Communications Assoc.

For info email: ka8ebi@yahoo.com

or go to: www.mcrca.org

We can promote ham radio and delay some material from going to the landfills at the same time. Who knows, we might get some people interested in becoming hams, or at least read an article or two from a radio magazine.

Bill WB2SXY

Up coming Hamfests

Jan. 16, Hazel Park, <http://www.hparc.org>

Feb. 20, Livonia, <http://www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm>

Mar. 19, Marshall, <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest.html>

Mar. 20, TMRA, <http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

Apr. 16, Milford, <http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk>

Puzzles by WA2DUE (test your math)

(1) Paul and James each start working for different companies at the same time for \$2000 a month. Paul gets a 5% raise each month and James gets a \$120 raise each month. At the end of the year what was the monthly pay for each? Also what was the total yearly income for each?

(2) Truck license plate numbers in a certain state consist of five digits (00000 not permitted) followed by two letters. What is the number of license plates possible if the letters O and I are not allowed? (answers page 6 - no cheating)

Nice Utility

The **Dropbox Desktop Application** is software that watches a folder on your desktop computer and syncs any changes to the web and to your other computers.

The **Dropbox Website** allows you to access your files on any computer from a web browser. You can also use the Dropbox website to share your files or folders with others.

The **Dropbox mobile website** and **Dropbox for mobile devices** allow you to connect to your Dropbox from your pocket, so you can take your files with you wherever you go.

Dropbox is the simplest, most elegant file-synchronization tool I've ever used. Dropbox Basic provides 2GB of storage free, and Dropbox Pro gives you 50GB for \$9.95 per month or \$99.95 per year. The service stores files with strong encryption on multiple **servers** in Amazon's S3 service and works equally smoothly on Windows, Mac, and Linux PCs. If you prefer to synchronize folders you already have on your system, or if you want to keep several folders fully synchronized between multiple machines, Dropbox may not be for you. It synchronizes only files stored in a single dedicated folder. But its smooth and hassle-free operation make it our Editors' Choice. (from PC Magazine)

You start by signing up on Dropbox's Web site, then downloading and installing the client program. This creates a new folder called "My Dropbox" in your Documents folder (you can move it later) and a system tray icon that lets you open it with just a double click. From this same icon, you can also reach other preference settings, such as the folder's location and throttles on upload and download speeds. Another nice option on the pop-up menu is the "Forums" item, which opens a browser window on Dropbox's user support forum; you'll find the dialogue between users and developers livelier than on most competing services' sites.

<http://www.dropbox.com/>

Full Review:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2343861,00.asp>

My Rediscovery of the Joy of Ham Radio

Steve Eden, KØSRE

k0sre@arll.net

A ham finds more than a bit of fun using PSK31.

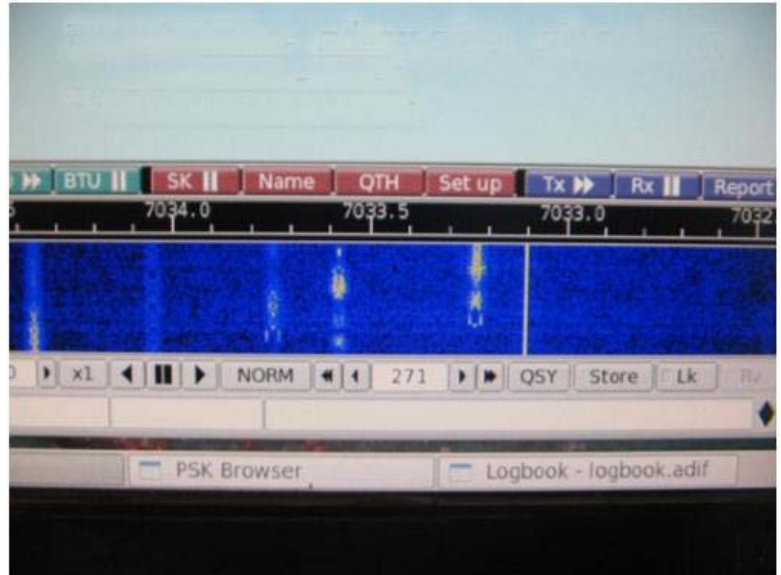
I obtained my Technician class license in 2003 receiving the call KCØPLS. I put up my first homebrew antenna and began playing on 6 meters, VHF and UHF. I used repeaters, satellites, simplex, SSB, EchoLink and packet. This was fun, but the fun was wearing off. I knew I wanted to advance so I could try out more things. I upgraded to General and thought I would be able to try more bands and modes, and make contacts all over the world.

I obtained an HF radio, put up an antenna, got some advice from some of the “more seasoned” hams I knew and I gave it a try. Since I live inside a city, I didn't have a large yard to put up long-wire antennas or a big tower with beam antennas. I read up on antennas and gave a G5RV a try. I tried and tried but nearly all my contacts were in the US with maybe a Mexican contact thrown in. I wasn't able to go up against all those “big guns” with their big towers and legal limit amplifiers that I heard talking all over the world. I changed my antenna to a Carolina Windom, but I quickly became discouraged. Then I got busy with the family duties and taking care of business at work. I didn't try working HF much for quite a while.

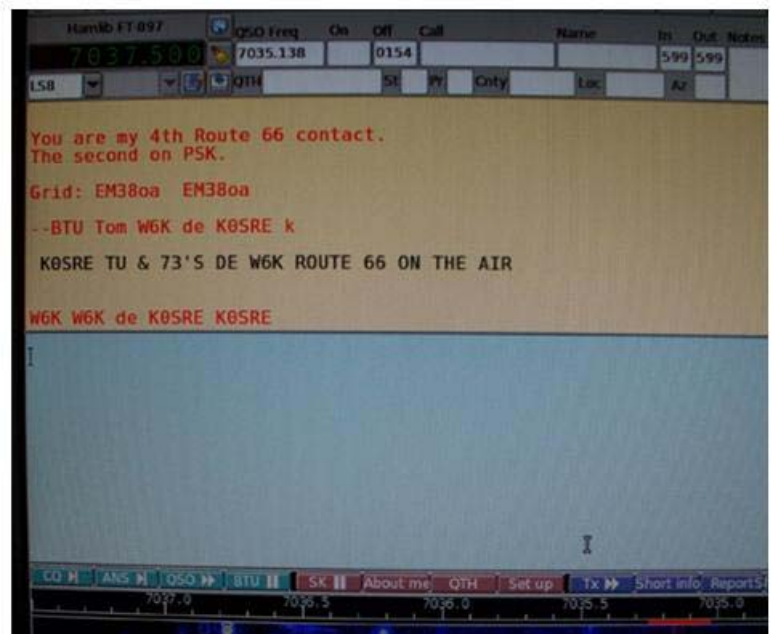
Lightning Strikes

Then in the summer of 2009, I started to get into an experimental frame of mind. I had the misfortune of having my home computer damaged by lightning and had to rebuild my system. I started looking and found that I had compiled enough spare parts over the years to build a second computer. It wouldn't be a computer to brag about but I thought I would give it a try. I put the parts together and decided to play with the operating system *Ubuntu (Linux)*. This would be the start of my new quest for personal discoveries through experimentation, which sounds perfect for ham radio, right?

As I was looking through a cabinet, my [SignalLink](#) USB sound card fell out and hit me on the foot. I had purchased the SignalLink a couple of years ago, but had put it away and forgotten about it. I had read an



The waterfall display showing several readable signals



This is how a contact looks on PSK31.

article online about the activities available while working with PSK31 and other digital modes, and how simple it was. This pain in my foot got me thinking that I might want to try the digital modes on my HF radio. It is sometimes amazing at how a pain in the foot gets your mind to whirling.

I put my *Ubuntu* powered computer next to my radios and started exploring. I found that there were software programs that would control my radio and let me have conversations on HF. The wonderful thing was that there were software programs written for *Linux*. I picked *Fldigi* as my program choice and built the cables I needed to connect my computer to the Signalink interface and my Yaesu FT-897. Then I started experimenting. I followed the directions in setting the volumes of the sound card and the transmit power of my radio. I watched the conversations going on to learn how folks passed information. I took a deep breath and typed my first transmission with PSK31, calling "CQ CQ CQ DE KØSRE PSE K."

The World Comes Back

Suddenly, the world of HF opened up and I began to experience the joy and excitement of ham radio like I had never experienced before. In the course of 2 days, I easily made contact with folks in age from their teens to their 80s. I met folks who could type 30 WPM or 10. I made contacts in the US, Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, Grenada and France, all on 30 W! I *didn't* have a big tower with a beam antenna. I *didn't* have a legal limit amplifier. I found that an amplifier could be a bad thing if you didn't know how to control your signal while using the digital modes.

During the course of my conversations, I found that many of the people I talked to hadn't been on PSK31 for a very long time. I was complimented at times on the quality of the signal so some of them asked me for help experimenting. I told them how their signal looked as they adjusted their stations. I was asked what happened on my screen when they typed something on their computer. I found a group of people who were experimenting and enjoying their discoveries. I sat in awe at all of the conversations I saw taking place as I looked up and down the waterfall display.

If you have gotten bored or discouraged with your inability to make worldwide contacts, then consider putting in a little time and give PSK31 a chance. It works with all kinds of computers and different operating systems. It works with homebrew interfaces or interfaces you can purchase. Like nearly everything in ham radio, it's what you want to put into it. It gives a small station just as much of a chance to make worldwide contacts as the big guns on SSB. If you decide to give it a try, I hope to have a chance to contact you.

Set up your station, make some contacts, get comfortable with the mode and perhaps enjoy a little contesting or you can just have fun.

They say you put a new wrinkle in the gray matter of your brain every time you learn something new. I just felt my head and I think there is a new bump showing that wasn't there before.

Taken from the ARRL website.

Steve Eden, KØSRE, an ARRL member, has lived in Camdenton, Missouri at the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks since 1986 where he works in emergency services. His interest in Amateur Radio was started by his good friend Glenn, WØGDF, and he has been in Amateur Radio since 2003 currently holding a General class license. Steve's spouse, Stacy, is also a licensed amateur with the call sign WØSRE. Steve is currently employed as a Sergeant with the Camden County Missouri Sheriff's Office in charge of the E 9-1-1/Communications Division. He is also the Fire Chief for the Camdenton Fire Department and serves on the State of Missouri Region F Tactical Interoperability Communications Planning Committee. Steve can be reached at PO Box 3603, Camdenton, MO 65020.

It's that time of year again...membership dues are due by January. Please check the web page (www.mcrca.org) or with the Treasurer to see if your dues are paid for 2010.

NAME: _____ CALL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

Programs I'd like to see:

Yes, I would like to join the MCRCA. Regular dues \$10.00 each.

Additional family members \$5.00 each. Amount paid: _____

I would also like to join the River Raisin Repeater Association

RRRA Dues \$20.00 each. Amount Paid to RRRA: _____

Send to: MCRCA, PO Box 237, Monroe, MI 48161

RRRA form will be forwarded to RRRA.

Puzzle answers:

(1) Paul and James each start working for different companies at the same time for \$2000 a month. Paul gets a 5% raise each month and James gets a \$120 raise each month. At the end of the year what was the monthly pay for each? Also what was the total yearly income for each?

Solution: Using the formula $P = R \times ((1+i)^m - 1)/i$ where $R = 2000$ $i = .05$ and $m = \text{Months}$

With $m = 12$ we get \$31834.25 which is the sum of the twelve months salary for Paul. With $m = 11$ we get \$28413.57 which is the sum for 11 months. Subtracting the second from the first we get the salary for the twelfth month for Paul which is \$3420.68. Now for James we use the formula $P = 12 \times R + (1 + 2 + \dots + 11) \times 120$ where R is again 2000. The sum of the first 11 numbers can be found by $S = (n \times (n+1))/2$ which for 11 equals 66. Therefore $12 \times 2000 + 66 \times 120 = \31920 for the year. The last months payment is simply $11 \times 120 + 2000 = \$3320$.

(2) Truck license plate numbers in a certain state consist of five digits (00000 not permitted) followed by two letters. What is the number of license plates possible if the letters O and I are not allowed?

The possible number of license plates is $99999 \times 24 \times 24 = 57,599,424$.

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 04/12	HC2/SM6MCW and HC2/SMOCOP: Ecuador	till May 2011	ZS8M: Marion Island (AF-021)	993
till 04/12	HC2/SM7BUA, HC2/SM6FKF, HC2/SM6LJU: Ecuador	till Aug 2011	RI1FJ: Franz Josef Land (EU-019)	1008
till 05/12	5X1NH: Uganda	till Sep 2011	ZD9GI: Gough Island (AF-030)	1011
till 05/12	AU2JCB: special callsign 1019	till 25/10/11	5B50J: special callsign (Cyprus)	1001
till 05/12	LU/F5AHO: Tierra del Fuego (SA-008)	till Nov 2011	9Q6CC: Democratic Republic of the Congo	
till 05/12	VP2MVX, VP2MSC, VP2MFO, VP2MNR: Montserrat (NA-103) 1019	till 31/12/11	BP100: special callsign	1001
till 05/12	VP9/SM3TLG: Bermuda (NA-005)	till 31/12/11	BV100: special callsign	1001
till 05/12	ZL8X: Kermadec Islands (OC-039)	till 31/12/11	RI1ANC: Vostok station, Antarctica	1019
till 06/12	C6AQQ: Bahamas (NA-001)	04/12-04/01/11	K8LJG/4: Amelia Island (NA-138)	
till 06/12	CW3TD: Timoteo Dominguez Island (SA-057)	04/12-05/12	LU/F5AHO: Redonda Island (SA-049)	
till 06/12	WH0/WH7C: Mariana Islands	04/12-05/12	TC2LSV: special event station	1022
till 06/12	XV4SP: Phu Quoc Island (AS-128) 1020	05/12-03/01/11	DU9/DK2PR: Mindanao Island (OC-130)	
till 06/12	ZD9AH: Tristan da Cunha (AF-029) 1014	05/12-13/12	J6/K4MK, J6/K8EAB, J6/N4LA, J6/N7UN: St Lucia (NA-108)1005	
till 07/12	C6AKQ, C6ARU, C6AUM: Grand Bahama (NA-080)	05/12-13/12	J6/NX8L, J6/W3FF, J6/W4OKW, J6/W7ZT: St Lucia (NA-108)1005	
till 08/12	TP6OCE: special callsign (France) 1021	05/12-07/12	V73TM and V73QQ: Enewetak (OC-087)	
till 08/12	ZD9T: Tristan da Cunha (AF-029) * by DJ2EH	05/12-19/12	VK9NN: Norfolk Island (OC-005)	
till 09/12	ZL7/W1SY and ZL7A: Chatham Islands (OC-038)	06/12-13/12	AA4VK/CY0, NOTG/CY0, WA4DAN/CY0: Sable Isl (NA-063) 1020	
till 10/12	C6APT: Bahamas (NA-080) 1020	06/12-17/12	Z21DXI: Zimbabwe 1021	
till 13/12	9Q50ON: Democratic Republic of the Congo	07/12-08/12	II2IGTO and II7IGPR: special stations	
till 14/12	VP5/W5CW and VP5CW: Caicos Isls (NA-002)	08/12	5K3B: special event station (Colombia) 1022	
till 15/12	AT10BP: Maitri Base, Antarctica 967	08/12-13/12	CW5R: Lobos Island (SA-039)	
till 17/12	3B8/F1BCS: Mauritius Island (AF-049)	08/12-11/12	V73RRC: Ujelang Atoll (OC-278)	
till 18/12	5R8IC: Sainte-Marie Island (AF-090) 1019	10/12-12/12	VK4LDX/p: Magnetic Island (OC-171)	
till 29/12	CY0/VE1AWW: Sable Island (NA-063)	12/12-16/12	V73TM and V73QQ: Enewetak (OC-087)	
till 31/12	3ZORADIO: special event callsign 974	15/12-31/12	OE40ADXB: special event station	
till 31/12	4A1B: special callsign (Mexico) 973	16/12-21/12	S21FGC: Bangladesh 1022	
till 31/12	4B: special prefix (Mexico) 987	18/12-23/12	PJ7/KCOVKN: Sint Maarten (NA-105)	
till 31/12	4M200AJ, YV200D, YW200A: special callsigns	21/12-03/01	H40FK and H40FN: Nendo Island (OC-100), Temotu 1015	
till 31/12	9A10P: special event station 1002	24/12-03/01/11	JD1BLY: Ogasawara (AS-031)	
till 31/12	9A500AA: special callsign 973	26/12-31/03/11	CE2/CX1EK: Chile 1020	
till 31/12	9Q50AR: Democratic Republic of The Congo	30/12-08/01/11	JD1BMH: Ogasawara (AS-031)	
till 31/12	DR2010L, DR2010O, DR2010N: special callsigns	December	OJ1ABOA: Aboa Station (Antarctica)	
till 31/12	HA2010S: special callsign 976	December	PJ4/PE1MAE: Bonaire (SA-006)	
till 31/12	HG30FHA: special event station 994	December	XR33M: special station (Chile) 1019	
till 31/12	II7IASM and II7IADU: special event callsigns	01/01-31/12/11	II1ITA, II5ITA, II0ITA: special callsigns	
till 31/12	IR1C: special callsign 984	06/01-01/02/11	DX0DX: Spratly Islands (AS-051)	
till 31/12	IR7WFF: Italian national parks 1014	07/01-22/01/11	CE9/VE3LYC & CE9/PA3EXX: Diego Ramirez Isls (SA-097) 1022	
till 31/12	LM50NRK: special event station 976	07/01-22/01/11	CE9/VE3LYC & CE9/PA3EXX: Wollaston Isls (SA-031) 1022	
till 31/12	OE50AMRS, OE50XAM, OE50XCL: special callsigns	27/01-08/02/11	VP8: South Orkney Islands (AN-008)	
till 31/12	OE50XCW, OE50XLC, OE50XMA, OE50XRM: special callsigns 991	January 2011	OJ1ABOA: Aboa Station (Antarctica)	
till 31/12	XR200R: special event station 995	January 2011	PJ4/PE1MAE: Bonaire (SA-006)	
till 31/12	YW200ER, YW200L, YW200T: special callsigns	01/02-05/02/11	CN: Herne Island (AF-068) 1019	
till 01/01/11	E51AND: Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cook Islands	04/02-17/02/11	S9DX: Sao Tome (AF-023)	
till 15/01/11	CT7/ON4LO/p: Portuguese lighthouses	22/02-05/03/11	VK9C/G6AY: Cocos (Keeling) Islands (OC-003)	
till 31/01/11	DT8A: King Sejong Base, South Shetlands (AN-010)	February 2011	PJ4/PE1MAE: Bonaire (SA-006)	
till 23/02/11	EA8/ON5JV and EA8/ON6AK: Canary Islands (AF-004) 1013	01/03-17/03/11	T30AQ and T30RH: Tarawa (OC-017), West Kiribati 1013	
till 24/02/11	OR4TN: Princess Elisabeth station, Antarctica	March 2011	9L5MS: Sierra Leone 1005	
till Apr 2011	9M2MRS: Penang Island (AS-015)			
till Mar 2011	D2SG: Angola 1009			
till 22/04/11	D2QR: Angola 993			
till May 2011	D2AK: Angola 993			

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

January 20th 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.