

# The Hertzian Herald



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## ON the AIR with **K8MLH**



Well, I did it. I was able to go to the Dayton Hamvention. WOW!!! Nothing anyone told me about this event could have prepared me for what was there. I really enjoyed myself. Got to listen to three forums - first one on Foxhunting where I learned some advanced techniques; 2<sup>nd</sup> was Doug Wheelock, the astronaut-ham that we showed the video at our February 2011 meeting about him talking from the International Space Station; last was on the Future of ARES. All 3 were very informative and well presented. I got to spend some time with the ARRL Ham Radio and Scouting representatives (and Scouts) learning about what it takes to get the Radio Merit Badge. See the article from last month's Herald repeated in this issue seeking a volunteer to work with our local Scouts. There were SO many vendors and exhibitors there - they just seemed to go on forever. Every time I turned a corner I found another exhibit hall (even the outdoors had full parking lots) that contained more exhibits. I did come back home a little poorer in the pocketbook, but richer in spirit for the adventure.

Now we turn our eyes toward our preparation for the MCRCA Hamfest on June 19<sup>th</sup>. It is hard to believe that it is just 2 weeks away. We will need plenty of support in getting the tables set up and ready for the sales. I am looking forward to Fred's report on our readiness next Thursday at the meeting.

By the time most of you have read this we will have completed another Fox Hunt scheduled this Saturday. If you are reading this before the Hunt, come out and join us at the American Red Cross on S. Dixie Highway and I-75 at 0900 hours local time. The Hunt will last until all hunters have found the Fox or 3 hours, whichever is shortest. If you don't have the necessary equipment to hunt yourself, come along and we will pair you up with someone who does. It will be a fun time for all and allow us to practice these techniques which have a practical application to our hobby.

We welcome Rita back from her assignment with the American Red Cross efforts to provide aid to those hit by the tornados and storms in the southern states. I won't steal her thunder here, but let her share her story with us in the near future.

As a general interest club, the MCRCA provides information on various aspects of amateur radio to ham operators and to create interest in amateur radio for those who might want to become a ham. To that end it is important that we reach out to our community - those recently licensed hams and those who are candidates for becoming a ham. Read the article (re-run from last month's Herald) inside regarding several opportunities we have for spreading our love for our hobby. I am still looking for volunteers for these activities.

We will see you at the meeting Thursday night.

73, Mike Hall - K8MLH, MCRCA 2011 President

### Club Officers

#### PRESIDENT

Mike Hall K8MLH  
mlhall54@chartermi.net

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Wes Busdiecker KC8SKP  
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#### SECRETARY

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#### DIRECTOR

Paul Trouten W8PI  
ptrouten@aol.com

#### DIRECTOR

John Bills N8RWI  
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#### DIRECTOR

**STATION TRUSTEE**  
Rita Baker WB8FBG  
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## MCRCA Minutes:

May, 19 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm, by Mike K8MLH  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions: No new members, upgrades or guests.

PROGRAM: Videos provided by Mike K8MLH

BREAK

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING: Dale WA8EFK, Neil KA8PQH, and Nick AF8CS

50/50: Fred KC8RQK donated winnings to scholarship.

MINUTES: Motion by Mike, N8KUF, supported by Wes, KC8SKP, to approve as written in the Herald. Approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Dale, WA8EFK, supported by Ed, KD8BFF, to approve the treasurer's report as passed out to the membership. Approved.

HAMFEST: Fred KA8EBI, reported that everything is going according to schedule. We have 15 tables reserved which is the same as last year at this time. We haven't heard from I-Tech or Chicago Surplus our two largest vendors at this time. Trinity Lutheran is selling their building at the fairgrounds and will not provide food service for our event. Fred will contact Warren to see who he can recommend. **Jobs to fill yet: Ticket sales, trunk sale guides, set up and tear down. Please email Fred [ka8ebi@yahoo.com](mailto:ka8ebi@yahoo.com) if you want to volunteer for one of these positions.** We will have one more meeting before the swap in June.

DX REPORT: By Olimpio, It's out there. He forgot his report.

HERTZIAN HERALD: The Michigan Section Newsletter contest has asked all ARRL affiliated Michigan clubs to enter their newsletters into the contest. We will be sending two of this year's newsletters to them. They are judged on Style 15%, Content 35% Service to membership 35%, and Clarity 15%. So we need the members to send in articles filled with useful information that provide a service to the members.

TESTING: Next session April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Red Cross 9:00am..

FOX HUNT: The next fox hunt will be June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Red Cross 9:00 am.

FIELD DAY: Vienna park shelters B and C up front are reserved along with a porta john for the weekend.

ARPSC: The next meeting will be held Thursday June the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Red Cross. Come meet the new Emergency Manager for Monroe County.

RRRA: Dale announced all systems are operational at this time. The 72 machine has been upgraded with a new backup battery. A new free replacement voter was received from the supplier and will be installed as soon as it is programmed. A new power gate transfer switch was installed to protect then battery by tripping out when voltage drops too low. The phone service was switched to a cellular service to save money. There will be a fund raiser at the Hamfest this year to help support the RRRA. A date has been set for repeater site cleanup. May 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am and Rita will be cooking lunc

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Plans are being made for an anniversary party to be held late this summer. This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MCRCA, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RRRA, and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ARRL affiliation. Jeff Breitner KA8NCR will be chairman of this event. (per Dale WA8EFK)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

ADJOURNED: 8:45 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

# VOLUNTEER

As alluded to in my cover article, we need to reach out to our community to spread interest in amateur radio to expand the advancement of the radio art. We have several opportunities to so such available to us. I am looking for someone to head each of the following efforts:



1. I have been contacted by the Boy Scouts. On October 15, 2011 the Boy Scouts of America will be holding an event they call "Scouting 101 - A New Century". On that day the Cub Scouts will be working on their pins and belt loops, and the Boy Scouts (ages 10-18) will be working on their merit badges. The Boy Scout Jamboree on the air (JOTA) is taking place that same weekend. They are asking if the MCRCA would be interested in setting up radios downtown Monroe and instructing the Boy Scout age boys with the JOTA and possibly helping with their radio merit badge.
2. New licensed operator recruitment. Part of our job as MCRCA members is recruiting new members. This could be either someone who is already a licensed ham operator or someone who is interested in becoming licensed. We have access to lists of people who are already licensed and live in Monroe County. We could contact them and offer them the opportunity to join. Folks interested in becoming licensed are a little more difficult and would rely more on word-of-mouth (the above Scouting effort could contribute to that population).

Anyone interested in heading up either of the above efforts, please let me or any of the other Board members know. These two activities tie together in that they have potential to add to our membership and spread the interest in amateur radio.

Mike, K8MLH

## MCRCA Monthly Fox Hunt

With Mike K8MLH and Rita WB8FBG as the Fox, this year's second hunt began at 9:00 am at the Monroe County Red Cross building on N. Dixie Hwy. Present were four groups of hunters: Paul W8PI, Mike N8KUF and Dale WA8EFK, Fred KA8EBI and Brenda KB8KQC, and a group from Toledo, Jeanne KB8TAT, Tom KB8PAI, and John KD8NTR.

Shortest possible route to the fox was - 4.89 miles.  
Line of site distance was - 3.1 miles.

This hunt was a little different in that the Fox used the mobile radio at 50 Watts (versus the usual HT at 5 Watts).

Results of Saturday's Foxhunt:

<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Fourth</u>
W8PI	N8KUF / WA8EFK	KA8EBI / KB8KQC	KB8TAT / KB8PAI / KD8NTR
Time: 58 minutes	Time: 2 hrs 2 minutes	Time: 1 hr 24 minutes	Time in 3 hrs 5 min. (close enough)
Distance 6.0 miles	Distance 6.7 miles	Distance 7.1 miles	Distance 19.6 miles

Here is an example of the shortest (not the fastest) team wins... look at 2nd & 3rd place teams times and distances.

The next MCRCA Foxhunt will be July 23rd. Everyone is invited to come out and join the fun!!! If you don't have equipment, you can ride with one of the groups and learn the techniques used for hunting.

## River Raisin Repeater Association News

The River Raisin Repeater Association annual meeting was held at the Monroe Red Cross building on Saturday May 7, 2011. With 10 members in attendance, the Board of Directors for FY2011/2012 was elected, with Jeff KA8NCR as President, Rita WB8FBG as Vice President, Mike N8KUF as Secretary / Treasurer, Dale WA8EFK and Paul W8PI as Directors.

The members approved, among other things, a resolution to switch liability insurers consistent with the new ARRL agreement and to update telephone service to a newer technology. Both moves will provide significant savings relative to annual operating costs.

Also discussed was the need for additional members in order to support the recurring costs (liability insurance and phone bills) for continued operation of the repeater system. If you use any of the repeaters on a regular basis, please support the continued operation of this valuable resource by becoming an association member.

Membership information is available via link on the [www.mcrca.org](http://www.mcrca.org) web site, or by sending an email to [n8kuf@arrl.net](mailto:n8kuf@arrl.net)



## Field Day

Field Day will be the last weekend of June and once again be held at Vienna Park in Temperance MI. We will be using shelters B and C up front in the center of the park. Set up will begin Saturday at 9:00 am with operations beginning at 2:00 pm. There will be a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm and everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. The club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, pop to drink, paper plates and plastic ware. Everyone is invited to come out and operate the radios and get some experience during a contest.



## Local Ham Jumps From Plane

MCRCA member Irv Reaume, KB8TML went skydiving for his 85th birthday May 1st in Tecumseh, MI. Irv has been a pilot for many years but has never jumped out of a plane before. Irv lives in Newport, MI and has his own landing strip on his farm where he has been flying for close to 50 years. He claimed, "It was quite exhilarating" as he returned to his cheering family on the ground. It was the most unusual birthday gift he has ever received, falling at 120 mph from 14,000 feet up in the air.



## Practice Written Exam Site

I just saw the Monroe County Radio Comm Assn on the [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) web site and I noticed that you offer help for newcomers. I've written a set of free online FCC ham radio license exam practice tests at <http://copaseticflows.appspot.com/hamtest> that I'm hoping hams will find useful. There are randomly generated practice exams for all three license classes in the U.S. as well as for the Canadian and New Zealand ham radio exams.

Online help topics are provided for many of the exam questions. The list of help topics is constantly growing as I get time to add to it.

Users can track their test scores, as well as a count of how many of the question pool questions they've practiced over time. In addition to random practice exams, users can automatically practice exams with questions they haven't seen yet in each subelement group, or questions they haven't gotten correct in each subelement group. There are also embeddable versions of the practice exams that you can add to your clubs own web pages. These are available at:

<http://goo.gl/OC1b7>

Please let me know if you find it handy, or if you think of any ways to make it better. Also, if you think it's useful, please feel free to add a link to the practice exams at your site. Thanks!

73 de KDOFNR Hamilton Carter

<http://copaseticflows.appspot.com/examhelp/acf.html>

## Practice CW software

If you are interested in learning or improving your CW - this is the software tool that you need to be using.

<http://blog.g4ilo.com/2011/06/lost-treasure.html>

MorseGen download site:

<http://www.g4ilo.com/morsegen.html>

Developed by Julian G4ILO, this is perhaps the most useful and versatile tool out there for CW tutelage. It will allow you to burn code practice to a CD or to your iPod or other MP3 player.

In addition to random letters, you can have random words, Morse from a text file (Books in Code), random QSOs or whatever you choose. The options are very customizable (is that even a word?).

Personally, I find it very useful and convenient to just play Morse practice in the background, while I am driving, cleaning, or doing whatever chore I happen to be doing. Somehow it seems that just listening without even trying to seriously copy conditions my brain towards better reception of the characters when I DO start copying for real. Also, this is great practice for copying in your head and getting used to not writing things down on paper. **Hint:** Listen to code at about 5 WPM faster than you are able to copy. When you go back to your fastest speed - I guarantee that it will sound SLOW to you!

Learning Morse and getting better at it doesn't need to be a hated chore. If you just relax and stop putting pressure on yourself, you will see rapid increases in your ability. Tools like MorseGen make it all that much easier.



## Monroe Hamfest

Well its June again and along with that comes Father's Day and the annual Monroe Hamfest. As of Saturday evening we have only five tables available for vendors to rent in the Merchant building. This is a nice change from last year when we had a lot of empty tables when the hamfest started.

As in previous years we will begin setting up at 9:00 am Saturday in the Merchant building at the Fairgrounds. The tables will be delivered by American Rent All hopefully at 9:00 am but can arrive as early as 8:30 am. We will need plenty of help setting up tables and chairs and labeling them for the vendors. The more people that help with this the easier it is on everyone. Other jobs include setting up the PA system, putting out directional signs, and moving handicap parking signs to the correct positions.



On Sunday morning workers will enter the fairgrounds through the Raisinville Road gate beginning at 6:15 am. I still need someone to watch this gate, for about one hour, so trunk sales people don't enter this way. This gate will be locked about 7:30 am and any workers arriving after this time will have to enter through the main gate in the parking lot.

I need two people to watch and direct trunk sales people to the proper places so we have a nice uniform walk way down each side of the lawn area and so that people only take the spaces they paid for. This job should run between 6:30 am and approximately 9:30 or 10:00 am.

Next we need plenty of ticket sellers. I would like four people between the hours of 6:30 am and 8:00 am, and then two or three should be enough for the rest of the morning. I would like to get enough volunteers so that each person would only need to work one hour. This is the hardest job to get help for and this year two of my best helpers may not be there. My son Brian has to work and Bill WB8JAI may not be available, so I will need to replace them.

Finally after the swap we need help tearing down tables and chairs and cleaning up the fairgrounds. If we don't clean up, the fairgrounds will charge us to have someone do it.

Everything can be accomplished with ease if we get enough volunteers. Please volunteer for one hour at least. Many club members put a lot more hours into the swap without complaining.

Fred, KA8EBI



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 04/06	F/ON4LO/p: French lighthouses	04/06-19/06	PJ4E: Bonaire (SA-006)
till 05/06	E711AMRS: Bosnia-Herzegovina	04/06-05/06	TM50JPL: special station
till 05/06	HB0/I2VGW, HB0/I22LSC, HB0/I23EZV: Liechtenstein	04/06-05/06	TM90LH: special callsign
	1045	(France)	1044
till 05/06	K6VVA/VE7: Quadra Island (NA-091)	06/06-10/06	4JA3USA: Azerbaijan
	1045	06/06-24/06	9A/PA4JJ: Croatia
till 05/06	SV8/HA0HW and J48HW: Thassos Island (EU-174)	06/06-20/06	PA/DL1KD: Texel Island (EU-038)
	1045	07/06-19/06	FS/K9EL: Saint Martin (NA-105)
till 06/06	5R8KS: Nosy Be (AF-057)	08/06-13/06	SO5UM/1, SP5BUJ/1, SP5VYI/1:
till 06/06	TC100HKK: special event station	Wolin Island (EU-132)	1048
till 07/06	VE7/DK6AO: Quadra Island (NA-091)	08/06-13/06	SP5X/1, SQ5AWR/1, SQ5Q/1: Wolin Island (EU-132)
	1047till 07/06	08/06-18/06	1048
VK9CI: Cocos (Keeling) Islands (OC-003)		09/06-12/06	VP2MRT: Montserrat (NA-103)
till 08/06	3W2N: Vietnam	09/06-12/06	EM0UBC: Oleksandriia
till 12/06	DL/HB9SVT: Fehmarn Island (EU-128)	Dendrological Park	1048
	1043	09/06-13/06	MC0SHL: Ramsey Island (EU-124)
till 12/06	TM24H: special event station	09/06-13/06	YN2MJ and YN2PR: Nicaragua
(France)	1046	10/06	DL/RU5A and DL/SP5VYI: Usedom
till 13/06	9A16PB: special callsign	Island (EU-129)	1048
till 14/06	VP5/W5CW and VP5CW: Turks & Caicos Islands	10/06-15/06	JW1EOA: Longyearbyen (EU-026)
	1047	10/06-14/06	OZ1RDP: Romo Island (EU-125)
till 15/06	TM6JUN: special station	10/06-17/06	KF4VTT/VP9: Bermuda (NA-005)
till 15/06	TT8PK: Chad	11/06	I1UWF/p: Capo dell'Arma
till 18/06	OZ/DL4VM: Fyn Island (EU-172)	lighthouse	1048
till 20/06	CN2RN: Morocco	11/06-13/06	MM/F4BKV: EU-012, EU-009, EU-123
till 29/06	PP0T: Trindade Island (SA-010)	11/06-12/06	SN0WFF: Wolin Island (EU-132)
till 30/06	HG2011: special event stations	12/06-22/06	9A/DH7KU: Pag Island (EU-170)
till 04/07	9N7AK: Nepal	14/06	MM/F4BKV & MM0NDX/p: Berneray
till 31/07	DL0YLWM: special event callsign	(EU-010)	1045
till 31/07	SQ100MSC: special station	14/06	MM/F4BKV & MM0NDX/p: South Uist
till August	RI1FJ: Franz Josef Land (EU-019)	(EU-010)	1045
till 30/09	IO4UI: special callsign	14/06-28/06	V25DD, V25DR, V25TP: Antigua
till September	P29CW: Papua New Guinea (OC-034)	(NA-100)	1031
till September	ZD9GI: Gough Island (AF-030)	15/06	MM/EA3NT & MM0NDX/p: Baleshare
	5B50J: special callsign (Cyprus)	(EU-010)	1045
till 25/10	8J1MORSE: special callsign	15/06	MM/EA5KA & MM/EA3OR: North Uist
till 30/11	9Q6CC: Democratic Republic of the Congo	(EU-010)	1045
	1017	15/06	MM/F4BKV & MM/EI6DX: Grimsay
till 31/12	BP100: special callsign	(EU-010)	1045
till 31/12	BV100: special callsign	15/06	MM/F4BKV & MM0NDX/p: Benbecula
till 31/12	CW5RV: special callsign	(EU-010)	1045
till 31/12	GB65ISWL: special callsign	15/06	MM/IZ7ATN: Berneray (EU-010)
till 31/12	HB60LU: special event callsign	16/06-17/06	MS0INT/p: Monach Isles (EU-111)
(Switzerland)	1029	16/06-19/06	XK1T: Tent Island (NA-193)
till 31/12	HG15IPA: special callsign	17/06-25/06	J480: Othonoi Island (EU-052)
till 31/12	HG200LST: special event callsign	17/06-20/06	MS0INT: St Kilda Archipelago
till 31/12	IA7MM: special event station	(EU-059)	1045
till 31/12	II1ITA, II5ITA, II0ITA: special callsigns	18/06-22/06	FO/F6CTL: Ua Pou, Marquesas Isls
	1022	(OC-027)	1039
till 31/12	II1TO: special callsign	22/06-26/06	FO/F6CTL: Ua Huka, Marquesas
till 31/12	PD04ISLE: Tiengemeten Island	Isls (OC-027)	1039
(EU-146)	1043	22/06-06/07	PJ6: Saba (NA-145) * by K5AND,
till 31/12	PI30ETL: special event callsign	W5OZI, K5TR	1019
till 31/12	RI1ANC: Vostok Station, Antarctica	24/06-10/07	9M2/RA9LR: Langkawi Island (AS-1046)
	1019	058)	
04/06-07/06	6M0W/5: Kadok Island (AS-081)	24/06-27/06	T88ZA, T80T, T8YN: Palau (OC-1047)
04/06-06/06	D9K, DS1OYR/3, DS4NYE/3, HL1OYF/3, HL1VAU/3: AS-080	27/06-29/06	FO/F6CTL: Raitea (OC-067),
04/06-05/06	II2IGTO and II2EBE: Museum Ships Weekend	French Polynesia	1039
	1048	27/06-02/07	IA5/IK2MLS: Elba Island (EU-028)
04/06-05/06	LU1EEZ/D, LU2JFC/D, LU7CAW/D, LU9ACJ/D: SA-055	30/06-03/07	FO/F6CTL: Bora Bora (OC-067),
	1048	French Polynesia	1039
04/06-11/06	MS0RSD: Isle of Skye (EU-008)	June	7Z1IR/p and 7Z1TT/p: AS-191

## Amateur Radio Examinations Monroe, MI

Monroe County Radio Communications Association Amateur Radio examinations are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

June 16th 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.