

The Hertzian Herald



ON the AIR with

K8MLH



The severe weather continued since my last article where I talked about Iowa. More recently, Alabama and the southeastern states were hit with large tornados. Much of the normal telephone and cell phone systems remain out of service. Ham operators continue to provide communications support in many communities across the south. Numerous relief agencies are continuing to provide feeding, cleanup and reconstruction efforts. We have to be prepared to implement our emergency support procedures whenever needed. Make sure your equipment is ready to go at all times. You'll never know when you will be called upon to go. You should have a go kit staged. Some say you should have a different go kit each designed to last for various lengths of time away from home - anything from several hours to several days to a week. In addition to your communication equipment, you might need to provide for your own food, snacks, water, medications, clothing, etc. for as long as you will be assigned. As the Boy Scouts say, "Be prepared."

Skywarn Spotter training was held at the Monroe High School on Wednesday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m. This was initial training for those who had not been trained in the past or refresher training for those who had. In order for us to help our community in severe weather disasters such as the tornado that ripped thru Iowa and in the southern states, consider joining Skywarn Spotters. We will form a weather net when severe weather hits our area to support the National Weather Service via MICON.

The 2011 Fox Hunting season will start Saturday, May 14. We will start at the American Red Cross parking lot at 0900 hours local time. I am looking forward to another fun year searching for the elusive fox (N8KUF and WA8EFK for the first hunt). If you have not participated in a hunt yet, come out and join the fun. If you don't have the needed equipment, we can pair you up with someone who does. If there is enough interest, we can plan a project day to build an antenna or a foxbox or an active attenuator. Talk with me if you would like additional information.

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 inside regarding several opportunities we have for spreading our love for our hobby.

We will see you at the meeting Thursday night.

Mike Hall - K8MLH MCRCA 2011 President

Club Officers

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MCRCA Minutes:

Minutes of meeting - 4/21/11

7:33 - Call to order

Pledge

G. Stone - silent key WB7RUM - reading of the obit.

Buy flowers from the club.

Guest - possible new member - Terry N8NYP

Standard Intros around the room.

7:38 - Program - Paul W8PI - Digital HF modes, info and demo.

8:58 - Resume business meeting

50/50 - Ernest KD8LQE - All Return to fund

Door prizes: Dale WA8EFK, Pres (Mike) K8MLH, Paul W8PI

Old: nothing

New: 70th anniversary - Started: May 1, 1941 - think about doing something special - board meeting to talk about.

Field Day - all set - all ready to go with what can be done at this point

Bus to Dayton - Toledo club running, see Rita for more info.

RRRA - meeting May 7th Sat 10:00AM at Red Cross

Dale - read letter from RRRA - about changes to operation due to power failure. Net operations other than emergency should stop until power is returned. Emergency operations exempt from this. Net operations should be limited to 1 hour. This was sent via e-mail.

SkyWarn class - Wed May 11th @ Monroe HS



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

William H. Penrod March 15, 1925-May 7, 2011

William H. Penrod, 86, of Monroe died at 5:02 a.m. Saturday at Mercy Memorial Hospital. He had been in poor health for one year. Friends may call from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Rupp Funeral Home, where funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday. Rev. Roy Southerland, pastor of Monroe Missionary Baptist Church will officiate. Burial will be at Roselawn Memorial Park, LaSalle, with military honors by VFW Post 1138 Monroe.

Born March 15, 1925 in South Bend, Indiana, he was the son of Lyle John and Helen H. (Case) Penrod. He married Doris J. Churchill on August 21, 1948 in Monroe.

William was employed by the Monroe County Drain Commission as a Foreman, retiring in 1989.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II from June 21, 1943 to April 8, 1946 and was a Staff Sergeant.

He played the bass trombone in several area bands, including the Monroe County Community College Band, Monroe Big Band and the Big Band Express. He was an amateur radio operator "WB8ULF" and a carpenter.

Surviving are his wife Doris; his children Patricia A. (Ronald) Hines of Kansas City, Kansas; Linda S. Penrod of Monroe; David W. (Linda) Penrod of Toledo; Charles S. (Sandra) Penrod of Monroe; Helen L. Lewis of Monroe; Sandra M. (Marvin) Hardy of Newberry, Michigan and Paula M. Ivey of Monroe; twenty-nine grandchildren; seventy-two great-grandchildren and fourteen great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, Ricky Lee Penrod, and two infant great-granddaughters, Lisha Barton and Marissa Penrod, and a sister, Mary Johnson.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences may be sent through www.ruppfuneralhomeinc.com.

MI QSO Party

Back on April 16th we participated in the Michigan QSO Party contest at the Red Cross Station. Paul W8PI, Mike K8MLH, Brenda KB8KQC and myself, although we couldn't get Brenda to operate the radio.

Forty meters held strong for the entire twelve hours and we kept the radio going the entire time. Paul provided some CW contacts and some Eighty meter contacts but as you can see most of the time was spent on forty. As you can see below we are far from being the top scorers but I think we did very well for only three operators. We could have used some more operators and especially some CW operators. More points for CW contacts.

Everyone had a great time and I for one am looking forward to next year. It was great experience for Field Day operation. I found out that sitting on one frequency and calling CQ was much easier than hunting and pecking for contacts. When you control the frequency you get to pick which station to make contact with and you can choose the best sounding one over the weak ones, which makes it a lot easier to copy info needed. Also I can say I was impressed with the new radio in the com center. It works great and the audio was very clear and easy to understand and the stations I was contacting seemed to have no problem getting my info.

So for those of you who didn't come out to participate you missed a lot of fun and some great practice experience.

Fred, KA8EBI

START-OF-LOG: 2.0
 CREATED-BY: N3FJP's MI State QSO Party Program 1.7
 CALLSIGN: W8DWL W8PI, K8MLH, KA8EBI
 ARRL-SECTION: GL
 CONTEST: State QSO Party - MI
 CATEGORY: CLUB ALL LOW MIXED
 CLUB: Monroe County Radio Comm Assoc
 CLAIMED-SCORE: 48,530
 SCORE-SUMMARY: BAND CW QSOs PHONE QSOs
 SCORE-SUMMARY: 80 0 14
 SCORE-SUMMARY: 40 18 371
 SCORE-SUMMARY: 20 0 1
 SCORE-SUMMARY: 15 0 0
 SCORE-SUMMARY: 10 0 0
 SCORE-SUMMARY: -----
 SCORE-SUMMARY: Tot QSOS 18 386
 SCORE-SUMMARY:
 SCORE-SUMMARY: QSO Pnts 36 386
 SCORE-SUMMARY:
 SCORE-SUMMARY: Total Points 422
 SCORE-SUMMARY: Multipliers 115
 SCORE-SUMMARY: Final Score 48530
 SCORE-SUMMARY:



2010 Michigan QSO Party Club Competition

In-State

Club Name	Score	Entries
Blossomland Amateur Radio Assn	373,810	14
Southeastern Michigan DX Assn	362,485	4
L'Anse Creuse ARC	174,345	3

Winnie the war winner

11 May 2011 | by [Stephen VK2RH](#)

The other day I noticed a very interesting photo on a fellow Australian ham blogger, [Peter Mark's site](#). The blog entry was titled a "[Radio nerd's tour of Canberra](#)". The first photo is described as 'a transceiver with a nifty antenna tuner'. But the instant I saw it I sensed there was slightly more to it.

Winnie the war-winner seen in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. It was named after British wartime Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

The fact that it was built on a beaten up old kerosene can prompted me to google "Winnie the war winner" and the results confirmed Peter's photo is of this most famous piece of Australian ham homebrew ingenuity. Max (Joe) Loveless' skill to be precise. The photo prompted me to find out the story of this iconic wireless set that's an inspiration to a generation of Australian radio hams proud of their traditions of 'making-do'.

The wikipedia entry on the [Battle of Timor](#) gives detailed historical and military background to this little radio's moment of fame in April 1942. As a result of [British intrigue](#) Australian troops were sent to Portuguese East Timor to disrupt any Japanese invasion on Australia's northern doorstep. By April the 2/2nd Independent Company had been fighting a guerilla campaign for four months. Many were ill and they were low on supplies, and had had no contact with Australia since February.

For weeks a team had been trying to build a transmitter from salvaged parts from damaged radio gear. Before the war Max Loveless was a radio amateur in Hobart with the call 7ML. He became a Signaller with "Sparrowforce" on the Dutch part of Timor with the Australian Infantry Forces (AIF).

Bill Marien reported the story in the Melbourne Argus of 1st January 1943:

"Force Intact. Still Fighting. Badly Need Boots, Money, Quinine, Tommygun, Ammunition."

This was the first official message received in Australia from the lost AIF commandos of Portuguese Timor who, for 59 days after the Japanese landing on the island, had been written off as missing or dead.

The signal came to Darwin on the night of April 19. It was transmitted by "Winnie the War Winner," a crazy contraption built from scraps of wire and tin, and pieces of long discarded radio sets.

When the commandos showed me the incredible Winnie recently, it was easy to recapture the scene of that night of April 19.

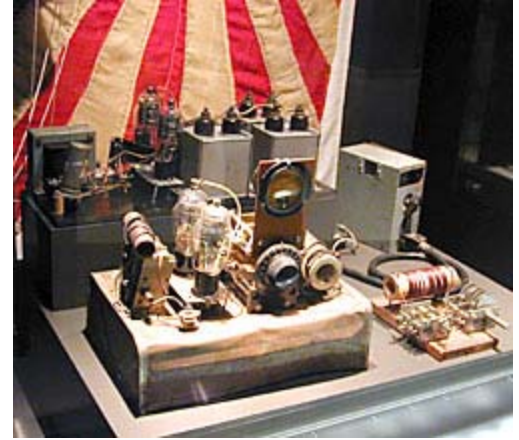
In the thin air of a Timor mountain hideout, 4 bearded, haggard Australians were working by the smoking, stinking light of a pig-fat flare. Three of them watched anxiously as the fourth thumbed a Morse key. Weak batteries sent the dots and dashes of the morse dimly across the Arafura Sea to the Northern Territory of Australia. The tension was something physical as the operator strained his ears for a reply. At last a reply came."

The AIF commando force which had been in Portuguese Timor were joined by other Australians from Dutch Timor including two signalmen, Cpl John Sargeant, of Bonshaw, NSW, and Lance-Cpl John Donovan, of Lindfield, NSW. Under leadership of Capt George Parker, of Earlwood, NSW, they joined Sigs Max (Joe) Loveless, of Hobart, and K. Richards, of Victoria, both of the original commando force.

"On March 8 the 4 men got to work — Loveless just out of sick bed and Sargeant just recovered from malaria. Three days later a Dutch sergeant, exhausted, stumbled in. He had carried what he thought to be a transmitter-receiver 40 miles through some of the roughest country in the world. It was an ordinary commercial medium-wave receiving set - and out of order.

CORPORAL WENT SCROUNGING

Loveless, whose knowledge made him No 1 man of the team, thought he could build a one-valve transmitter from parts of this set and of another small and weak set. He planned a circuit, and all the commandos were



asked to be on the lookout for anything that might serve as a radio part.

Cpl Donovan went scrounging at Attambooa, on the north coast, to see what he could salvage, while his companions recovered an abandoned army set. The parts of the 3 sets were unsoldered, and a bamboo used to catch all the melted solder for re-use. Loveless had carefully preserved 2 small batteries, but they needed recharging. A generator was taken from an abandoned 10-year old car and rigged to a series of wooden wheels, which a native was persuaded to turn. The set was complete on March 26.

It would not work!

Three of the team who helped Max Loveless build Winnie the war winner re-enact transmissions from a hill in East Timor - Signaller Keith Richards, Corporal John Donovan and Lieutenant Jack Sergeant. Photo by Damien Parer

The only tools available were a tomahawk, pliers, and screw-driver. They had no test equipment to determine the set's frequency. The coils were wound on pieces of bamboo.

On March 28 Donovan returned from Attambooa - laden like a treasure ship. He had the power pack from a Dutch transmitter, 2 aerial tuning condensers, 60ft of aerial wire in short lengths, and a receiving set. Next day the men had to move all their precious gear, for the Japanese were getting too close.



Loveless got to work on a second transmitter twice as big as the first, and built it into a 4-gallon kerosene tin. A battery charger was recovered from enemy-held territory. To get it 14 commandos went through the Japanese lines to the old Australian headquarters at Villa Maria. There, within 100 yards of Japanese sentries, protected only by the dark, they dug up the charger which had been buried when the headquarters were evacuated.

HEARD DARWIN WAS SAFE

On April 10 the signallers heard Darwin on the receiver, and knew then that Darwin was still in Australian hands. But their second transmitter was also a failure.

Loveless had another idea, but he needed more batteries. Four were found. Then the petrol ran out and the charger could not be kept running. So they raided the Japanese lines and carried off tins of kerosene. Finally the charger was started oil kerosene and run on diesel oil.

With batteries at full strength they signalled Darwin on April 18, but got no reply. They did not know that their message had been picked up on the Australian mainland and passed on to Darwin, that all transmitting stations had been warned to keep off the air and listen to Timor the following night.

On the 19th April they heard Darwin but their batteries failed again.

On the night of April 20 they again got Darwin. But Darwin was suspicious; demanded proof of their identity. So questions and answers like these were rushed across the Arafura Sea:

"Do you know Bill Jones?"— "Yes, he's with us."

"What rank, and answer immediately?"— "Captain."

"Is he there? Bring him to the transmitter. . . . What's your wife's name, Bill?"— "Joan."

"What's the street number of your home?"

Once they provided the correct answers, help was on its way.

I found the newspaper report on the National Library of Australia's brilliant [Trove](#), where digital versions of many Australian newspapers have been put online courtesy of crowd-sourced editors across the global internet. Truly astounding!

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 16/04	5X1NH: Uganda	till 31/12	PI30ETL: special event callsign
till 16/04	LG5LG and SJ9WL: Morokulien	till 31/12	RI1ANC: Vostok Station,
till 16/04	P4/WIHEO: Aruba (SA-036)	Antarctica	1019
till 18/04	9A/HA5AUC, 9A/HA5BWW, 9A/HA7PC:	16/04-22/04	A6/UA9B: United Arab Emirates
Rab Island (EU-136)	1040	16/04-23/04	SM7DAY/p: Senoren Island (EU-
till 18/04	9L5MS: Sierra Leone	138)	1040
till 18/04	A25FC: Botswana	17/04-18/04	AO5WARD: special event station
till 18/04	DF0TM: Sylt Island (EU-042)	17/04-19/04	AH0CD: Saipan (OC-086)
till 18/04	OX/G4MFX: Greenland (NA-018 and	17/04	CR6A: the "Submerged Fortress"
NA-134)	1038	17/04-20/04	VK4LDX/p: Magnetic Island (OC-
till 18/04	P29VLR: Green Islands (OC-231)	171)	1037
till 20/04	VP5/W5CW and VQ51V: Caicos	18/04-24/04	4A0IARU: special callsign
Islands (NA-002)	1037	18/04-25/04	TO2FH: Mayotte (AF-027)
till 21/04	FM/F6ARC: Martinique (NA-107)	18/04-28/04	XV4YY: Phu Quoc (AS-128)
till 21/04	FS/F5JSD: Saint Martin (NA-105)	20/04-22/04	AH0CD/KH2: Guam (OC-026)
till 22/04	D2QR: Angola	20/04-25/04	XV4LC: Vietnam
till 22/04	PJ2/PA7JWC and PJ2/PD7DB:	21/04-28/04	T31A: Central Kiribati (OC-043)
Curacao (SA-099)	1037	21/04-25/04	TC57A: special event station
till 22/04	TO2Z: Reunion Island (AF-016)	21/04-24/04	TK4DS: Corsica (EU-014)
till 24/04	TM26UFT: special callsign	22/04-04/06	F/ON4LO/p: French lighthouses
(France)	1040	22/04-30/04	OZ/DO1BEN and OZ/DO1IQ: Lolland
till 27/04	FJ/OH2YL: Saint Barthelemy (NA-	Island (EU-029)	1041
146)	1040	22/04-25/04	P29VCX: Misima Island (OC-117)
till 28/04	5V7CC: Togo	22/04-29/04	R25CH: special callsign
till 30/04	4X20HC and 4Z20HC: special	23/04-25/04	T88VU: Palau (OC-009)
callsigns	1030	25/04-30/04	9M8DX/2: West Malaysia
till 30/04	9N7DX and 9N7YL: Nepal	26/04-27/04	P29VCX: Loloata Island (OC-240)
till April	9M2MRS: Penang Island (AS-015)	28/04-01/05	GB5TI: Treshnish Isles (EU-108)
till 01/05	CN2PV: Morocco	29/04-29/06	PP0T: Trindade Island (SA-010)
till 15/05	CE2/CX1EK: Chile	29/04-01/05	XF2P: Isla de Lobos (NA-221)
till 15/05	HR5/F2JD: Honduras	30/04-13/05	HI7/IK8DNJ: Dominican Republic
till 15/05	II1ECO: special event station	(NA-096)	1039
till 30/06	HG2011: special event stations	30/04	IY0ORP: International Marconi
till May	D2AK: Angola	Day	1041
till 15/06	TT8PK: Chad	30/04-04/05	JD1BMT: Chichijima (AS-031),
till August	RI1FJ: Franz Josef Land (EU-019)	Ogasawara	1039
till 30/09	I04UI: special callsign	30/04-07/05	JD1BLY: Chichijima (AS-031),
till September	P29CW: Papua New Guinea (OC-034)	Ogasawara	1039
till September	ZD9GI: Gough Island (AF-030)	April	7Q7HB: Malawi
till 25/10	5B50J: special callsign (Cyprus)	April	XK1T: Tent Island (NA-193)
till November	9Q6CC: Democratic Republic of	01/05-06/05	OZ/OO4O: Fyn Island (EU-172)
the Congo	1017	04/05-13/05	JD1BMH: Chichijima (AS-031),
till 31/12	BP100: special callsign	Ogasawara	1039
till 31/12	BV100: special callsign	07/05-15/05	9A8AMS, 9A/IK4RQJ, 9A/IZ4BBF,
till 31/12	CW5RV: special callsign	9A/IK3AES: EU-110	1039
till 31/12	GB65ISWL: special callsign	May	T6PSE: Afghanistan
till 31/12	HB60LU: special event callsign	01/06-31/07	DL0YLWM: special event callsign
(Switzerland)	1029	14/06-28/06	V25DD, V25DR, V25TP: Antigua
till 31/12	HG15IPA: special callsign	(NA-100)	1031
till 31/12	HG200LST: special event callsign	15/06-22/06	MS0INT: EU-010, EU-059, EU-111
till 31/12	IA7MM: special event station	18/06-22/06	FO/F6CTL: Ua Pou, Marquesas Isls
till 31/12	II1ITA, II5ITA, II0ITA: special	(OC-027)	1039
callsigns	1022	22/06-26/06	FO/F6CTL: Ua Huka, Marquesas
till 31/12	II1TO: special callsign	Isls (OC-027)	1039

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

May 19th 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.