



MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL Affiliated Club
in Michigan

March 2017

Volume 65 Issue 3

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The Motor City Radio Club Two Meter Net is every Tuesday at 9pm on The Wyandotte Repeater.

147.240 with a 100 Hz PL.

If you are traveling you can still check into the net via Echolink. Look for us at the bottom of the 8 section at WY8DOT-R



You do not need to be a member of the Motor City Radio Club to check into the net. All licensed radio amateurs are welcome.



The Prez Says!

Bruce AC8KD

The days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer so that must mean spring is on its way. With the arrival of spring comes several Amateur radio events.

At the March Meeting we will once again be hosting SkyWarn training. The SkyWarn presentation will be held first, at 7PM, followed by a brief business meeting.

In April, on the 15th we will once again be putting W8MRM on the air for the Michigan QSO party. We will be operating from Community Bible Church, 3700 Benson St., Trenton. The main goal is to provide those without HF equipment a chance to operate and improve their skills. Also get familiar with the equipment we will be using for Field Day 2017. All are welcome, See John N8KAM for more information.

On May 7th we are helping with the Metro Grand Spring Bike Tour. Dale WA8FRD is planning this event. We need as many operators as possible, hopefully 20 or more, to cover all the routes. Please contact Dale WA8FRD to participate in this great event.

In June of course we have Field Day. Jim KD8HDX is planning this event. Let's show Jim our support and all step up and volunteer to help fill the various positions and put on a great Field Day. We also have a few open positions. We need a Club Secretary. It's an easy job, anyone who has held it before will vouch for that. If you are interested, please see me or one of the other board members.

Thanks to all who have stepped up to handle the many jobs with the club. I'm looking forward to a busy and fun year of Amateur radio activities.

73,
Bruce AC8KD

New Mexico Radio Amateur Marks 80 Years as a Licensee



Paul Elliott, W5DM, holds a QSL card from his first DX contact in September 1937 on 40-meter CW.

"*Made it!* 80 years a ham." That's how ARRL member Paul Elliott, W5DM, of Hobbs, New Mexico, recently posted his milestone on the Top Band reflector. Growing up during the Great Depression in Kingsville, Texas, Elliott got his ham ticket at age 14 as W5GGV. Now 94, Elliott eventually worked his way to the top rung -- Amateur Extra -- back in the day when that license offered no additional privileges, just prestige. It did later allow him to apply for a two-letter suffix call sign, though, and he became W5DM.

His first rig was homebrewed from Atwater Kent radio parts, with a wire to a tree for an antenna, but he remembers making his own galena crystal for a crystal set and experimenting with a Model T spark coil. He continued building his own transmitters and receivers for a couple of decades, operating CW until SSB came along. Elliott succeeded in working all states on 160 meters from a 120 × 120 foot electrically noisy city lot with "a long but low semi-inverted L," as he described it. He now has 189 DXCC entities confirmed on Top Band.

A Texas native and World War II veteran, Elliott is a graduate of the US Naval Academy and served in the Pacific. After the war, he farmed cotton and maize on 200 South Texas acres, before going back to school to earn a doctorate in physics from Texas A&M. "I'm basically a peasant with a lot of education," he quipped during a telephone chat with ARRL. Elliott spent more than 20 years in academia as a professor of physics at his alma mater.

"Basically, all I'm doing today is chasing the occasional DX," Elliott told ARRL. He said he has a transceiver and a couple of wire antennas that he makes work on all bands. Elliott has 325 DXCC entities confirmed on all bands -- plus a lot of memories from an earlier era of Amateur Radio.

"Age, not surprisingly, has taken its toll," Elliott said on the Top Band reflector, noting that his CW speed was now down to 20-25 WPM because of waning dexterity. "Thanks to all who have had the knowledge and the kindness to help me over the years."

ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License

An Entry Level License Committee was established by the ARRL Board of Directors and appointed in September 2016. As part of its ongoing work, the committee is gathering member input and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC.

The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The committee has created an online member survey, asking for comments no later than April 7, 2017. The link for the survey is <http://www.arrl.org/license-1>



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The next **Ham Radio License Exam** is Saturday, March 11th at the Glenwood United Methodist Church.

2130 Northline (Biddle) in Wyandotte.

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

Items to bring with you:

1. \$15.00 exam fee (Exact Amount Preferred)
2. Number 2 Pencil
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 Pay Pal Receipt if you choose to pay online beforehand.

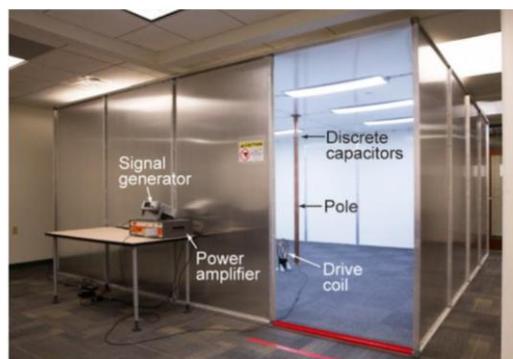


Those interested can register for the exam ahead of time on the Motor City Radio Club's website. Go to w8mrm.net. Click on the Event tab on the left, then click on the exam announcement. On that page, you can register for the exam and also pay beforehand using Paypal.

Disney Research demonstrates open-air wireless charging

Disney could someday deploy the far-field wireless charging tech in its amusement parks

Disney Research has invented a new method of wirelessly charging mobile devices that could someday allow amusement park patrons to walk about freely while also getting their mobile devices charged.

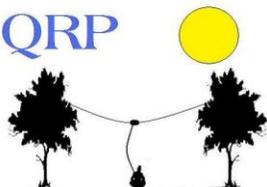


The technology, which Disney has dubbed "quasistatic cavity

resonance" (QSCR), enables purpose-built structures such as cabinets, rooms and warehouses to generate quasistatic magnetic fields that "safely deliver kilowatts of power to mobile receivers contained nearly anywhere within."

Disney's wireless charging technology research was published in the peer-reviewed journal *PLOS ONE*.

QRP



When you care to send the very least!

Michigan QSO Party



Sponsored by the

Mad River Radio Club

An ARRL-affiliated Club



The Motor City Radio Club will put W8MRM on the air for the Michigan QSO Party.

John N8KAM has kindly offered the use of his church the Community Bible Church, at 3700 Benson Street in Trenton 48183. This will be taking place on Saturday, April 15th. The QSO party goes on the air at noon. We will be gathering at the church about 11-11:30am, before the on-air begins. All club members are welcome and we will have a signup sheet available at the March and April meetings if people want to reserve an operating timeslot.

The purpose of this activity is twofold:

First we want to get the club name and call out there.

Second, we will be using the club radios to give people a chance to learn how they operate, and give us a chance to make sure they are ready for Field Day.

So come on out and join the party.



It's Metro Grand Spring Tour Time May 7th

Once again the Motor City Radio Club has been asked by the Downriver Cycling Club to provide communications for the 34th Annual Metro Grand Spring Tour (MGST). MGST is one of Michigan's oldest, continually recurring rides and is generally acknowledged to be the start of the ride season in SE Michigan. We need as many operators as possible, hopefully 20 or more, to cover all the routes. More details will be coming as plans are finalized. Please contact Dale WA8FRD for more information.

Upcoming Hamfests:

The **Toledo Swap** is March 19th at Owens Community College. This one runs from 8am to 2pm. 30335 Oregon Road in Perrysburg Ohio. Talk in is on 145.270, with a 103.5 hz pl.

Dayton has a new location this year. Hamvention will be held May 19, 20 and 21, 2017 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. 210 Fairground Rd, Xenia, OH 45385.

2017 Great Lakes HamCon is coming. The most exciting ham radio event to ever hit Michigan has been scheduled for October 7 & 8, 2017 at Michigan International Speedway (MIS) near Brooklyn, Michigan. The entire event will be held in the infield of the 2 mile track with lots of asphalt surfaces in the pit area. There will be 22,500 square feet of indoor vendors and a huge paved flea market area. All types of camping on site are available (tents to pop up campers to fifth wheels to full blown motor homes) with 24 hour security services. Medical personnel will be on site during the entire event for your safety. There will be a ham in a day class taught by Dan, KB6NU. This class will be followed by a VE session for anyone interested in upgrading or getting their first ticket.



Field Day 2017

It is time to start taking signups for times to log and operate the W8GTZ station for Field Day 2017.

On the club website are two links, one for operating and a second for logging. Please select the times you wish to operate or log for the station.

Motor City Radio club website <http://www.w8mrm.net/>

Please keep in mind that because W8GTZ is the casual station, you may be asked to surrender your some of your time to a member of the public who wants to try amateur radio. This is an opportunity for you to share your knowledge and help the person make some contacts of their own. This station is here to have FUN and get people excited about the hobby we love.

Over the next few weeks Dale, WA8FRD, will be reaching out to select club members to ask them to commit times to operating out contesting station W8MRM.

The next field day committee meeting is March 23rd at 1900 hours. Joe's Hamburgers in Downtown Wyandotte. 3041 Biddle (West Jefferson) between Elm and Maple.

73 KD8HFX
2017 Field Chair

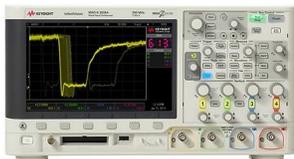


The FCC has invited comments on the ARRL's January 12 Petition for Rule Making to allocate **a new, contiguous secondary band at 5 MHz** to the Amateur Service. The League also asked the Commission to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels – one would be within the new band – as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The FCC has designated the League's Petition as RM-11785 and put it on public notice. Comments are due Monday, March 20. ARRL plans to file comments in support of its petition.

The proposed ARRL action would implement a portion of WRC-15 that provided for a secondary international allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service; that band includes 5,358.5 KHz, one of the existing 5 MHz channels in the US. The FCC has not yet acted to implement other portions of the WRC-15 Final Acts.



Keysight Technologies giving away scopes in March.



Scope Month is an entire month dedicated to oscilloscopes and the engineers who use them. To celebrate, Keysight is giving away over 125 oscilloscopes between March 1 – March 31, 2017, including their newest oscilloscope, which will be announced on March 1st. Enter during the month of March into the drawing for free oscilloscopes. The website link is:

<http://www.keysight.com/main/editorial.jsp?cc=US&lc=eng&ckey=2674667>

The Motor City Radio Club's March Meeting will be annual Skywarn training.

SKYWARN is a program of the United States National Weather Service (NWS). Its mission is to collect reports of localized severe weather. These reports are used to aid forecasters in issuing and verifying severe weather watches and warnings and to improve the forecasting and warning processes and the tools used to collect meteorological data. It consists of a network of severe storm spotters who observe weather conditions and make reports of severe weather to their local NWS offices. These spotters are regularly trained by personnel from the local NWS offices. Storm spotter training starts at 7pm on March 10th at the Copeland Center in Wyandotte.



Texas space program post says student was never in danger while climbing tower

A representative of the Eldorado Space Program said on its Facebook page Saturday that a cover story photograph in the March edition of *QST* represented an inaccurate, unsafe depiction of a student climbing a 300-foot tower, and they were “sorry for the confusion and worry the original post generated.”

The statement said the student was only four feet off of the ground when the photo was taken, and “the rope on her back is not suspending her. It is used to pull something up from ground if needed. It was not part of safety or this climb.” The group said a previous post that stated she was being taught “how to safely scale a 300-foot tower,” was not meant to imply that she climbed to the top of the tower.

The cover was a topic of conversation by many attendees at the National Association of Tower Erectors conference held recently in Fort Worth. Many commented in trade magazines and blogs critiquing the cover. In the picture, it appeared the climber was attached to her dorsal assembly system with an unacceptable knot that has its trailing end tied off with cable ties.

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Southgate, Michigan 48195

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MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB, INC.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Coming Events

The **March 10th** General Membership meeting is the yearly Skywarn Training.

Skywarn Training will start at 7pm, followed by a short Business Meeting afterwards..

Copeland Center. 2306 4th Street in Wyandotte. Meeting starts at 7pm.

March 11th. Next VE Exam. More detail on Page 3 of this issue of the Spark Gap.

March 16th. Board Meeting. 7:30pm. Leo's Coney Island.

9845 Telegraph Road between Wick and Goddard in Taylor.

March 18th. Club Breakfast. Also at the Leo's Coney Island in Taylor.

April 14th. General Membership meeting at the Copeland Center.

April 15th. Michigan QSO Party. See page 5 of this issue of the Spark Gap.