



MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL Affiliated
Club in Michigan
October 2018
Volume 66 Issue 9

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On-Air Activities:

MCRC 2 Meter Net:

Join us every Tuesday night at 9PM for the Motor City Radio Club 2 meter net on the 147.24 PL 100 Wyandotte Repeater, or use Echolink WY8DOT-R.

CW (QMN) Traffic Nets:

Net Name	MHz	Days	Time
Michigan Net	3563	Sn-F	18:30hrs
Michigan Net	3563	Sn-F	22:00hrs

Digital Traffic Nets:

Net Name	MHz	Days	Time-Mode
Michigan Digital Traffic Net (MIDTN)	3583	Tue, Thurs, Sat.	20:00hrs Olivia 8-500



Don's Ditherings

Don K8THU

MCRC President

Fall is a good time to check your antennas before winter sets in. I recently had my loop skywire fail after many years in the air. It was supported by four trees and often swayed violently in the wind. I am replacing the 14-gauge wire with 12 and will try to find ways to dampen the blows from the wind. In addition, I am changing out the ropes holding the antenna with new rope. I discovered Marstrand rope as a strong capable replacement for this purpose.

On Saturday, September 29th MCRC attended an emergency readiness exercise in Detroit, Specifically Kimball, N8FNC represented us. We will get a report from him at our October meeting.

Of course, our October meeting is the date for our annual election of officers. If you can't attend, please fill out a proxy ballot and see that someone takes it to the meeting for you.

We will shortly be announcing a new raffle for the club. Only 50 tickets will be sold so your chances of winning are 1 in 50 or even better if you buy more than one ticket.

Please be sure to pay your dues and sign up for our November dinner at the next meeting.

See you there,

Don, K8THU



The 2019 edition of [*The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications*](#) now is available as a six-volume boxed set in a handsome hard slipcase. "For many years, users have suggested that the *Handbook* would be easier to read and browse if it were divided into more manageable volumes," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen,

2018 Fox Hunts

Come and check out Foxhunting. Teams of "Hunters" using radio direction finding equipment try to sniff out the fox. Every one of the teams are trying to find the fox by figuring out where their radio signal is coming from. The winner is the team that finds the fox with least mileage.

Foxhunting is great fun, and is a challenging contest. Transmitter hunting also has lots of practical uses. Amateur radio operators have been called on to use direction finding equipment to locate downed airplanes, boaters in distress, and sources of radio interference. It can also be used to find illegal and unlicensed radio transmitters. Hams use contests like fox hunting to test their equipment and practice their skills in preparation for more serious searches. Motor City Radio Club's first Fox Hunt was May 26th. The Fox Hunts run once a month until October. Here's a list of the Fox Hunt dates for 2018:

- May 26th Congratulations to Bruce AC8KD for winning the first Fox Hunt of 2018.
- June 16th Congratulations to Woody N8MWQ and Tony KE8CDD for finding the elusive fox.
- July 21st Congratulations to Bob K8HV and Larry KE8HCD for finding the fox in July.
- August 18th Bruce AC8KD and Mike KE8AQW found the fox in August
- September 15th
- Season Finale October 20th.

November Banquet



CW Sportsmen's Grill
(formally the Sportsmen Den)
15001 Sibley Road, Riverview, MI 48193
November 10th, 2018
6pm to 8:30pm
Dinner choices include:
New York Strip Steak
Las Vegas Chicken (Chicken breast with a covering)
Perch & Shrimp Combo
Shrimp Scampi

Registration for November Dinner

1st Name: _____ CALL _____

2nd Name: _____ CALL _____

Please circle each item and place a #1 or #2 by it

- New York Strip Steak
- Las Vegas Chicken
- Perch & Shrimp Combo
- Shrimp Scampi
- Chicken Parmesan

COST \$20/ Person

Register on line or at the meeting in October

As expected, baked potato, vegetable, salad, garlic bread, water, soft drink, Iced Tea, & Coffee refills are included with your dinner.

Adult beverages available through the wait staff only

Cost this year is \$22.00. Registration is now available online. Go to the club website www.w8mrm.net. Click on Operating Events, then November events. Click on November dinner.

Or give the order form, with your money, to Treasurer Dale WA8FRD at the meeting on October 10th.

MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB VE EXAMS

At 9 AM on Saturday, September 8th, The Motor City Radio Club VE team conducted its regular bi-monthly VE test session. Four applicants arrived at the First United Methodist Church in Wyandotte all seeking to obtain their new Amateur Radio Technician license. All four successfully passed their exams and received their new call signs on Friday, September 14th! They were Craig Engelhart KE8KNY, Thomas Imlach KE8KNZ, Randy Miller KE8KOA, and Ryan Miller KE8KOB. Congratulations to all! VE's making this happen were Bill Loeber NU3D, John Roberts N8KAM, Jim Lemerand K8SSB, Dean McKinney KE8HVA, Bill Nemet KD8WTT, Tony Kiser KE8CDD and myself.

The next **Ham Radio License Exam** will be held on Saturday, November 10th, at the First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St in Wyandotte. As always, please check w8mrm.net for changes or updates.

Items to bring with you when taking the exams:

\$15.00 exam fee (Exact Amount Preferred)

Number 2 Pencil

An original of your current FCC license (if you have one)

A copy of your current FCC license (if you have one)

Two pieces of Identification (at least one photo)

Your PayPal Receipt if you choose to pay online

Your FRN number if you choose to pre-register



Although not mandatory, we strongly recommend you pre-register for your FRN number

at: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls> to avoid using your Social Security number on the NCVET QUICK-FORM 605.

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 "Operating and Events" tab on the top, then click on the exam announcement date. On that page, you can register for the exam and also pay beforehand using PayPal.

Woody N8MWQ

VE Liason



The Board of the Motor City Radio is proud to announce that magnetic signs for your vehicle will be offered for sale, starting at the October meeting. Size of the signs is 23" wide by 12" high.

Cost for one sign will be \$25. Cost for two will be \$40.

A picture of the sign is shown here.



Thanks to all the operators who participated in the 86th birthday of the Motor City Radio Club Special Event station, It was a huge success. 171 contacts, big pile-ups on 40 meters. Pizza, pop, chicken wings and ham radio fellowship. We started slow on 20 meters and finished with a bang on 40 meters!



Bruce AC8KD at the special event station on Saturday, September 15th.



Tony KE8CDD (left) logging for Don K8THU



Kimball N8FNC operating the special event station

At the October meeting, there will be discussion about where the winter breakfasts will be held. In the past, monthly breakfasts from November to April are held at the Leo's Coney Island in Taylor. And the monthly breakfasts during Fox Hunting season from May to October are held at the Leo's in Riverview. The board will be looking for a consensus as to whether to just leave the breakfast all year in Riverview. Or continue having it to Taylor in the months that there are no Fox Hunts.



Also at the October meeting, there will be a sign up sheet passed around for food for the December Christmas Potluck. Because the November meeting is the annual banquet, the sign up for the December Dinner will be in October.

Speaking of the Banquet, starting in 2019, the Club Banquet will be in February every year. What a great club we are in. A banquet in November, Christmas Dinner in December, and another Banquet in February. It's a good thing.

Membership

Dues are Due



Dues for the Motor City Radio Club are due every October 1st.

There are three ways to renew:

You can bring your dues to the October meeting and give them to the Club Treasurer Dale WA8FRD.

You can mail your dues to the club at the P.O. Box listed on the last page of this Spark Gap.

Or you can renew with PayPal or a credit card on the club's website www.w8mrm.net.

To renew via the website, log in. After you log in, you'll see your name on the upper left hand corner of the page. Click on your name to bring up your profile.

Scroll down and click on the "Renew to "10/01/19" box.

Peruse the current info about yourself, make any changes you desire.

Click on the box that says "Update and Next" in the lower right hand corner.

Click "Invoice" to pay at the meeting or mail your payment in. Or click "Pay Online" to pay with PayPal.

Don't miss the next MCRC meeting on October 12th. October is the time to elect the officers who will lead us into the next year.

Nominated for the 2018-2019 term of office:

- President: Don K8THU
- Vice President: Rick KE8BPZ
- Secretary/Admin: Denise KC8HDX
- Treasurer: Dale WA8FRD.

If you will be unable to be at the October Election meeting, we encourage you to use the "Proxy" form to have your vote cast by another member of your choice. Proxy ballots can be given to any other member that will be at the October meeting, or mailed to the club address listed on the last page of the Spark Gap.

If mailing, please mail at least 5 days before the meeting.

Elections in October

MCRC Proxy Form:

General Elections for Club Officers class of 2018-2019

This official proxy will allow the person designated here to act as my authorized agent for the purpose of voting in the Motor City Radio Club's general elections. These elections are scheduled to take place on at the General Membership Business meeting, to be held on October 12th, 2018

By completing and signing this proxy, I authorize my agent to receive and cast the ballots reserved for me.

The proxy vote cast by my agent will be counted as if I cast it myself.

Full Name of Voting Member: _____

Voting Member Call: _____

Full Name of designated proxy agent: _____

Call Sign of designated proxy agent: _____

I, _____, affirm that I authorize the above named as my official agent for the purpose of voting in the Motor City Radio Club 2018-2019 General Election

Signed _____ Date: _____



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Motor City Radio Club every time you shop, at no cost to you. And Amazon Smile works with Prime just the same as it does on regular Amazon. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Motor City Radio Club

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you can select the MCRC to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to the club.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Motor City Radio Club. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

MCRC Officers

President

Don K8THU

president@w8mrm.net

Vice President

Rick KE8BPZ

vicepresident@w8mrm.net

Secretary/Admin

Denise Keeler KC8HDX

secretary@w8mrm.net

Treasurer

Dale Poblentz WA8FRD

treasurer@w8mrm.net

Custodian

John Roberts N8KAM

Trustee(s)

Jim Baksa KD8HFX for W8MRM

John Roberts N8KAM for W8GTZ

Parliamentarian

Bill Loeber NU3D

nu3d@arrl.net

Committee Chairs

V.E. Liaison

'Woody' Kirkman N8MWQ

N8MWQ@arrl.net

Net Manager

John Roberts N8KAM

netcontrol@w8mrm.net

Education

Kimball Williams N8FNC

k.williams@ieee.org

QSL Manager

Jim Baksa KD8HFX

k8sak@arrl.net

Webmaster

Jim Baksa KD8HFX

webmaster@w8mrm.net

Associate Webmaster

'Woody' Kirkman N8MWQ

N8MWQ@arrl.net

Spark Gap Editor

Mike Antio W8MRA

w8mra1@gmail.com



U.S.E.C.A. Hamfest 2018

Sunday, October 28, 2018

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Vendors may set up at 6:30 AM

Talk-in on K8UO Repeater 147.180+ 100 Hz CTCSS

United Food & Commercial Workers Local 876 Hall

876 Horace Brown Drive Madison Heights, MI 48071

(2 blocks south of 13 Mile Road, between Stephenson Highway & John R Road)

Questions? Ask our Swap Chairman:

Gary Simms, KI8M, email: ki8m@arrl.net 586-322-2134

New & Used Sales, Radio test bench, VE test session *

DXCC card check available (Forms need to be filled out in advance. All bands & awards except 160m)

Great Door Prizes, food and Radio Raffle!

Swap admission is \$5.00 (Children under 12 are free) and each table is \$15.00

Tables should be purchased in advance. Limited tables may be available day of swap.

*Note: VE testing is between 9-10 AM. Bring \$14.00 cash, photocopies of existing licenses to CSCEs. Originals not accepted. Two pieces of ID are also required, one of which must have a photo. You must also provide either your Social Security number or FRN. Pre-registration is preferred, but not required. Contact Alec, NF8X, nf8x@arrl.net.

VENDORS! DO NOT ATTACH ANYTHING TO THE WALLS!!

Name _____ Call _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

of Tables _____ # of Admission Tickets _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Special Requests _____

Checks for table reservations & admission tickets should be made payable to:
USECA PO Box 46331 Mt. Clemens, MI 48046



Motor City Radio Club
General Membership Meeting
September 14, 2018

Submitted by Admin/Secretary - Denise KC8HDX

1. Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.
Members Present: 25 Guests: 5
2. President's Report: Board Nominations tonight.
3. Vice President Report: Read Rules for MCRC new members.
4. Admin Report: The picnic at Elizabeth Park was a great success. Minutes from the last (July) meeting accepted as printed.
5. Treasurer's Report: The meetings for 2019 will all be held at the Copeland Center. Without objection the report was accepted subject to audit. \$22 cost of dinner per person. Due by the October meeting.
6. Committee/Coordinator Reports:
 - a. Education – Kimball N8FNC. Bob has started the Technician classes at the Wyandotte Library.
 - b. The soldering class will be held in February. More publicity for the class will be started.
 - c. Fox Hunts – Bruce AC8KD. There are 2 Fox Hunts left. The breakfast will be at 9 and the fox hunt at 10:30 a.m.
 - d. Net Manager/Emergency Communications/Custodian – John N8KAM. There is a possibility for a simplex net.
 - e. VE program – Woody N8MWQ – 4 applicants took the tests and all passed. Letters of congratulations and an invitation to come to a meeting were sent by the Admin/Secretary.
 - f. Spark Gap – Mike W8MRA – please e-mail any articles for the Spark Gap to Mike.
 - g. Webmaster – Jim KD8HFX – going well. You can post items for sale on our site. You can also pay your dues and sign up for the Dinner on the website. You must sign in as a member.
 - h. Librarian – Ray KD8DPZ – no report.
7. Awards/Recognition – the new badges are ready for pickup. No new members at this time.
8. Old Business: Ideas, volunteers needed as well as suggestions for a club field trip.

Program Presentations: Possibilities suggested are: amateur radio astronomers presentation, hot spots – what they are and how it works, launching a cube satellite,

Trailer for W8MRM – we have two. One is used for equipment but we need an operations trailer. There is the possibility of renting a pop up for a few days. There is an issue of storage if we buy one.

9. *MCRC Dinner:* Cost \$22 per person. A signup sheet with your dinner choices marked is required. The October meeting is your last chance to sign up. You may also sign up online.

10. Club/Board Announcements:

At the October meeting, we are going to ask the membership about where to have the breakfast when there is no Fox Hunt.

Next Meeting: Friday October 12th at 1900.

Program – Nominations

President – Don K8THU

Vice President – Rick KE8BPZ

Admin/Secretary - Denise KC8HDX

Treasurer – Dale WA8FRD

Please try to be at the next meeting on Oct 12. Every vote counts!

Note: The MCRC has a Facebook page. Please “like” it so it will go out to a lot of readers.

MIT finds a way for submarines to talk directly to airplanes

It uses a mix of sonar and radar to overcome water-air limitations.

by John Fingas for Engadget

Submarines can't normally communicate directly with anything above the water due to the physical limits of their signal, but that might change in the near future. Researchers have developed a wireless system that can transmit data from an underwater source to the air. The approach, known as translational acoustic-RF communication (TARF), sends a sonar signal to the surface, where tiny vibrations at different frequencies correspond to the 0s and 1s of binary data. Above the water, an extremely high frequency radar (30GHz to 300GHz) can pick up on minuscule changes in signal angles that relate to the data bits. It's just a matter of processing the bits into meaningful data after that.

TARF doesn't require a perfectly still sea, either. New signal processing algorithms use the frequency of waves to tell the difference between large waves and the tiny ones scientists are looking for. The initial approach only works in waves nearly 6.3 inches high, but MIT hoped to refine it for use in rough ocean waters.

The system isn't about to transmit photos or highly detailed reports when the current prototype can only transmit data at a few hundred bits per second. Decades-old dial-up modems are faster. And of course, it's focused on one-way transmissions. Even that little bit of data might be enough for all kinds of applications, though. Submarines could send their findings directly to aircraft (including drones) circling above while remaining safely underwater, and without using boats as intermediaries. That could keep sailors out of harm's way, and make transmissions possible in situations where conventional ships just aren't available.



Winter Skywarn Training October 27, 2018

in Macomb County

Macomb County Emergency Management has partnered with the National Weather Service to bring a Winter Skywarn Spotter Training opportunity to Macomb County in 2018. As far as I am aware, this Winter Weather Spotter Course will be the only one in our area this year. If you are interested or would like to announce it to your county/city residents, please feel free to do so. This course is open to anyone interested in attending.

The course will be conducted at 10 A.M., Saturday, October 27, 2018. This course will be held in the Michigan/Superior Room of the Macomb Intermediate School District building located at 44001 Garfield, Clinton Township, 48038.

To register for this course, call Macomb County Emergency Management at (586) 469-5270 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday or email registration requests to MCOEM@macombgov.org. Please include within the email the names of those planning on attending. This is just to give us a head count to send on to the NWS. The course is open to any and all who are interested and there are no age or group affiliation requirements to attend and there is no charge to attend as well. We have room for roughly 160 so there is plenty of room.



As many have heard on the net, W8MIR became a silent key earlier this year. His wife would like to sell his equipment. This is also listed on the club website. Anyone interested, please contact the Spark Gap Editor (that would be me) at w8mra1@gmail.com. Here is a list of the equipment with suggested prices:

Yaesu YS-500 SWR meter	\$65.00
Archer SWR meter	\$15.00
Icom IC-2800 Dual band with dash mount remote head	\$225.00
Icom HM14 hand microphone	\$30.00
Icom HM985 hand microphone	\$40.00
Trippe Lite PR-15 power supply	\$40.00
MFJ 461 Pocket CW reader	\$60.00
MFJ 418 Pocket Toner	\$60.00
Radio Shack Race Scanner	\$25.00
Pyramid Model PS-12 power supply	\$30.00
Arista 46-482 power supply	\$10.00
MFJ Versa Tuner	\$45.00
Radio Shack 651 digital scanner	\$100.00
Icom IC-746 w/AT-100 tuner and side speaker	\$700.00
Radio Shack Pro-96 scanner	\$100.00
MFJ 4245MV switching power supply	\$140.00
MFJ 4245MV switching power supply	\$140.00
MHC777 Universal charger	\$25.00
MFJ-259B antenna analyzer	\$200.00
Yaesu YO-100 monitor scope	\$150.00
ARRL Satellite Anthology book	\$10.00
ARRL 2004-2008 General Class License Manual	\$5.00
ARRL Vertical Antenna Classics book	\$12.00
ARRL Emergency Communications Handbook	\$8.00

Anything that does not get sold this month will be hauled to the USECA Swap at the end of the month.

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED
Southgate, Michigan 48195
P.O. BOX 1337
MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB, INC.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Coming Events

10/12/2018 General Membership Meeting at 19:00 hours at the Copeland Center. 2306 4th. St, Wyandotte, MI 48192. Topic: Election of Officers.

10/18/2018 Board Meeting at 19:30 hours. Leo's Coney Island, 19230 Fort St., Riverview 48193
Everyone is welcome at all Board Meetings.

10/20/2018 Club breakfast at 9am. Leo's Coney Island, 19230 Fort St., Riverview 48193

10/20/2018 Season Finale Foxhunt #6 at 10:30 hours from the parking lot of Leo's in Riverview.

11/3/2018 CW Sweeps

11/10/2018 VE Exam at 09:00 hours. First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St, Wyandotte, MI 48192

11/10/2018 General Membership and Banquet. See Page 2 for more details.

11/17/2018 Phone Sweeps