



MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL Affiliated
Club in Michigan
February 2019
Volume 67 Issue 2

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Don's Ditherings Don K8THU MCRC President

It is the coldest day of this winter as I write this on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. I have not been able to get on HF at my QTH for over a year. Life happened. Marriage, work on the house, a broken antenna wire, all in the same time period. Recently the antenna issue has been resolved and once again a loop Skywire working on 80 through 10 is up above the house. It is fed by ladder line down to just outside my second-floor shack. There it enters a 4 to 1 balun and the coax enters the house and connects to my Kenwood.

I have begun listening on HF and there is activity on 80 and 40 regularly. My headset was broken over the months and that is now on its way to Heil for repair. Slowly the other activities preceding getting back on the air will happen. I will get my logging program connected to my rig so the computer and rig can talk to each other again. My LOTW expired so I will have to apply for that again. My logging program needs to connect to the internet so it can alert me to DX stations on the air spotted by other hams. These are the things we must work on to make time on the radio successful even in winter!

February 9th is our next banquet as we transition from a November dinner to a February date. If the government stays open, we will have our Skywarn presentation on Friday, March 8th.

2019 is here, frigid cold and all but it is also a New Year for getting back on the air. I hope you will make some effort to do the same. Let's make 2019 more radio-active for all of us.

Don K8THU



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

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The CERT program trains laypeople to assist professional first responders when a disaster strikes. This helps the overworked professionals focus on more dangerous and critical tasks.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. These volunteers are a “force multiplier”, taking care of tasks like checking homes after an evacuation or reporting dangerous events or areas as they’re discovered. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Training at Masonic Temple in Detroit takes place on the 3rd Saturday of each month, except for a break in December.

Anyone interested in attending these classes, the Detroit Masonic Temple is about a half hour drive from Riverview. 500 Temple Street, Detroit Michigan.



TSCMU EMERGENCY DISASTER & SURVIVAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY Tactical Survival Crisis Management Unit/CERT 2019 SCHEDULE

January 19	Inside/Masonic Temple 500 Temple 4 th Flr. Level 4M Detroit
February 16	Inside/Masonic Temple
March 16	Inside/Masonic Temple
April 20	TSCMU/CERT Field Training Exercise-Milliken State Park 1801 Atwater
May 18	(TSCMU will attend the National ARRL Hamfest May 17-19)
May 17-19	2019 ARRL National Convention HAMfest –Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center-Xenia, Ohio
May 26	St. Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade 1 p.m. (Harper bet. 9-11 Mile Rd.)
June 15	TSCMU/CERT Field Training Exercise-Milliken State Park
June 23	National Annual Heritage Military Convention & Awards Ceremony
July 20	TSCMU/CERT Field Training Exercise- Milliken State Park
August 17	TSCMU/CERT Field Training Exercise-Milliken State Park
September 21	TSCMU National Preparedness Month Event MLK High School
October 19	TSCMU/CERT Field Training Exercise-Milliken State Park
November 16	TSCMU/CERT Class Lecture- Masonic Temple
December	(No Class) TSCMU/CERT Christmas Mixer-Traffic Jam 511 Canfield

(*Training locations subject to change based upon site availability)

Commander Robert B. Middleton, II
313-300-0165
Email: tscmuacad@gmail.com

MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB VE EXAMS



The next **Ham Radio License Exam** will be held on Saturday, March 9th at the First United Methodist Church. 72 Oak St in Wyandotte. As always, please check w8mrm.net for changes or updates.

January was another busy month for our VE Team. On Saturday, January 12th, The Motor City Radio Club conducted our regular bi-monthly VE test session. At 9 AM, seven applicants arrived at the First United Methodist Church in Wyandotte.

Herbert Baker, KB8YVS, and Carl Waldrop, KB4CWG upgraded from General to Extra. Patrick Champa, K8OCL, and Michael Talamonti, KC8WJQ, upgraded from Tech to General. Lucas Golematis and James Willett both obtained their new Technician license, and James Leeth passed both his Tech and General exams in the same sitting!!! Congratulations to all!

This was a very successful test session with all seven applicants either receiving an upgrade or a new license!

VE's making this happen were Don Novak, K8THU, Bill Loeber, NU3D, Ralph Nagy, KA8KGW and myself. Many thanks to all for their help and support as we could not do this without their dedication.

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 NCVEC 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 Liaison

Mysterious radio signals from deep space detected

By Helen Briggs BBC News

Astronomers have revealed details of mysterious signals emanating from a distant galaxy, picked up by a telescope in Canada. The precise nature and origin of the blasts of radio waves is unknown.

Among the 13 fast radio bursts, known as FRBs, was a very unusual repeating signal, coming from the same source about 1.5 billion light years away. Such an event has only been reported once before, by a different telescope. "Knowing that there is another suggests that there could be more out there," said Ingrid Stairs, an astrophysicist from the University of British Columbia (UBC). "And with more repeaters and more sources available for study, we may be able to understand these cosmic puzzles - where they're from and what causes them."

The CHIME observatory, located in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley, consists of four 100-metre-long, semi-cylindrical antennas, which scan the entire northern sky each day. The telescope only got up and running last year, detecting 13 of the radio bursts almost immediately, including the repeater.



Canada's new radio telescope CHIME

"We have discovered a second repeater and its properties are very similar to the first repeater," said Shriharsh Tendulkar of McGill University, Canada.

"This tells us more about the properties of repeaters as a population."

FRBs are short, bright flashes of radio waves, which appear to be coming from almost halfway across the Universe.

So far, scientists have detected about 60 single fast radio bursts and two that repeat. They believe there could be as many as a thousand FRBs in the sky every day.

There are a number of theories about what could be causing them.

They include a neutron star with a very strong magnetic field that is spinning very rapidly, two neutron stars merging together, and, among a minority of observers, some form of alien spaceship.

The Motor City Radio Club **Spring Technician License Class** begins March 9, 2019 at 10:00 am.

Class will run to approximately 11:45 am for 9 consecutive Saturdays at the Bacon Memorial Library just off West Jefferson at 45 Vinewood in Wyandotte. The VE test will be on the following Saturday May 11 at 9:00 am.

The manual for the class will be KB6NU's No-Nonsense Technician-Class License Study Guide. Free pdf download of the book can be got at <https://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/>

We are also planning a safe soldering class at the library to start a week earlier on March 2. That class is at 1:30 pm.

Registration for these classes is now open. Register by calling the library at 734 246-8357.



NEW MEMBERS

New members Bob W8RFC, Renee Hardy (no call ... yet) and Mark W8MCW joined the MCRC at the January meeting. Welcome.

The Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association maintains the repeater on 147.240. This group is all volunteer, and maintenance of the machine depends on contributions from users like you. If you use the machine, consider donating to the repeater fund. It's easy to do, just fill out the form below, clip and mail this form and your donation to the address on the form. Or give this form and your donation to any MCRC board member. Checks and money orders can be made to the: **"WYANDOTTE AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION"**.

Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association
1885 Pinetree
Trenton, Michigan 48183

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

Email _____

Donation Amount _____

Former MCRC President Jim Baker N8RWK passed



The Motor City Radio Club regrets to share the news of the passing of Jim Baker N8RWK. Jim was an active member of the MCRC and Past President until retiring from Great Lakes Steel in 2001 and moving to the Jackson area. After moving to Jackson he wasted no time and became active in the ham radio community there.

Jim was the Cascades Amateur Radio Society where he was the current President and Net Manager.

The MCRC offers its condolences and prayers to the many family members, friends and the Cascades Amateur Radio Society. We will all miss Jim.



MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB GENERAL MINUTES
JANUARY 2019



Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

President: Welcome all. FRB – what is it? Fast radio Burst. First discovered about 2017. Signals source is several light years away. 400 MHz lowest frequency discovered.

We will be looking shortly for volunteers for field day.

Vice President: Read the membership requirements.

Admin: the December General Minutes were read to the membership.

Treasurer: Refreshment fund is in good shape. Report accepted as written. Please sign up for dinner tonight but can accept reservations up to next Friday night. Applications for the dinner are available for tonight.

Committee Reports:

Education – code packets were started before last net. Registration for the next class is open at the Wyandotte library.

Fox Hunts - Questionnaire passed out so club can see how much interest there will be

Field Day 2019 Discussion.

Spark Gap – article about “we are not alone” radio signals.

Librarian – still working hard.

VE – need more examiners. No new licenses are being issued while the government is shut down.

Webmaster – Like and share articles. Trying to be sure everything in webpage goes into Facebook and Twitter. Consistency.

Feb 9th will be dinner at the Sportsmen's Den.

Announcement that the March meeting will not be about Skywarn if government shutdown continues.

Refreshments: Coffee Dale 3 dozen donuts Dale. Pop Rick & Renee.

New Member Announcements: Renee Hardy is a new member. Mark Wheeler W8MCW, Conley Worsham KE8KFC, Bob Cunningham W8RFC are also new members.

Magnetic plaques still available. Sold 17 out of 20 tickets.

Break

President asked about the net, website, publicity and Spark Gap.

Input from club. Comments on net – broader questions, some like net as it is now. Need people to print out net information – working on it.

Website is working really well. Need to recapture club history. Videos can be put up on website – needs to be original ideas.

Club should create content for the sake of the club members. Other interesting content we can provide a link.

Publicity – for education publicity is essential. Need volunteers for the job. Sign up sheets, flyers for club should all be available for events like the street fair.

Need a certain percentage to be ARRL members for insurance, etc. We encourage all to list on sign in sheets if you are a member.

On profile on website check box on your profile as an ARRL member.

Kimball suggested again we join CERT. They are looking to understand Ham radio.

Club Announcements

The next Board Meeting will be Thursday, January 17th.

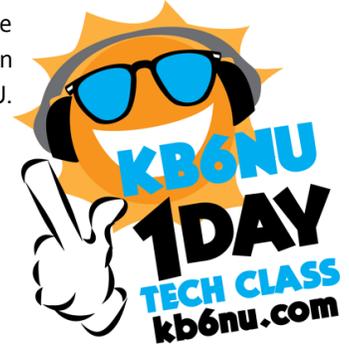
The next General Meeting will be Friday, February 8.

Respectfully submitted

Denise KC8HDX

One-Day: Amateur Radio license class:

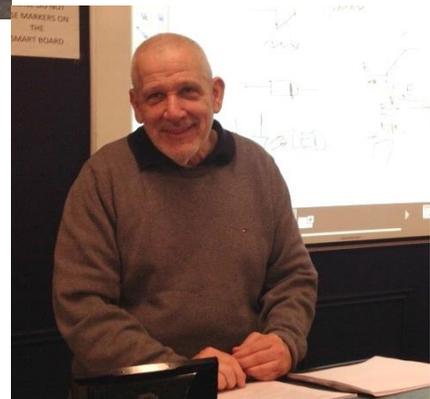
Saturday, January 12, 2019 was a cold, windy day outside but, perfect weather inside the management building at Lawrence Technological University (LTU) for 23 students to take part in the One-Day License Class, conducted by Dan Romanchik, Amateur Radio Call Sign KB6NU. Room M336 was warm and cozy, with coffee and rolls for breakfast to get the day started. (Special thanks to Ben Sweet for all the arrangements at LTU.)



Dan, who is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan has taught these classes for several years with a better than 85% successful 'pass' rate for the FCC examination.

Dan also publishes a free study guide, "No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide" which students may download as a PDF version for free from <https://kb6nu.com/study-guides/>.

Students are encouraged to read through the study guide a few times before class, take some online practice test and bring questions to class so that any fuzzy points can be cleared up before taking the test.



Volunteer examiners (VEs) from several Detroit area Amateur Radio clubs administered the FCC Examination for the Amateur Radio licenses. These included Hams from the Ford Motor Amateur Radio League (Tin Lizzy), the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club and the Livonia Amateur Radio Club.

At the end of the class, after the exams were concluded, final results were:

18 new Technician Class Licenses! 1 new General Class License! 2 will need to take the exam again. (2 did not take the exam.) Of those who took the exam, 95% passed!

Note: Several local Amateur Radio Clubs conduct 8 to 12 week classes for those who need more study time and coaching to get their 'Ham Radio Ticket'. Find them through the American Radio Relay League site at: <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>

Coordination for the class refreshments and lunch were sponsored by the IEEE Southeastern Michigan – Chapter 8 (EMC). With this first successful 'trial run' they plan to work with local university IEEE Student Branches to hold more such class opportunities throughout the year.

For more information, contact Dan Romanchik, KB6NU: 734-930-6564, cwgeek@kb6nu.com

China to Launch Two Amateur Radio Satellites in April

01/21/2019

Two new Chinese satellites with Amateur Radio payloads are planned for an April 5 launch, CAMSAT has reported.

CAS-7A will carry H/T (21/29 MHz) and H/U (21/435 MHz) mode linear transponders, V/U linear and V/U FM transponders, a UHF CW telemetry beacon, UHF AX.25 4.8k/9.6k baud GMSK telemetry, and 3-centimeter AX.25 1 Mbps GMSK image data transmission for an onboard camera.

CAS-7B is described as a 500-millimeter sphere spacecraft weighing 3 kilograms. It will carry a V/U transponder and a UHF CW telemetry beacon.

— *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

Daytona Beach CERT ART Special Event Station – N4DAB

61st Annual Daytona 500

Speedweeks 2019



61st Annual Daytona 500 – Speedweeks 2019

February 13 – Feb 17, 2019

**Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team, N4DAB,
Daytona Beach, FL.**

HF and 6M; CW SSB DIGITAL (PKS31, RTTY, JT65). Watch for spots on sites such as DX Summit, DXWatch. Propagation is everything!

Coordinator: Steve Szabo WB4OMM, 536 Central Park Blvd, Port Orange, FL 32127.

Several stations participating and on the air simultaneously. Primary operating hours 0900 to 2400 each day local time as operators are available. Frequencies announced via spotting networks as station activates and posted on the Team website. QSL card and Commemorative Certificate available. QSL Card: Your card with a SASE for direct, or via the bureau. Certificate information will be published on this web page and www.grz.com as costs and permissions (logos) are confirmed.

For more information, contact Steve WB4OMM at: wb4omm@arrl.org

Livonia Amateur Radio Club

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- *Food Concession
- *Tickets \$5.00

Sunday, February 17, 2019 8:00am - 12:00pm

Manhole Covers Serve as Antennas

The inconvenient truth of future 5G networks is that their increased high-speed bandwidth, and the use of the millimeter wave spectrum (the radio spectrum above 30 gigahertz) to achieve it, comes at a price: Those radio signals barely propagate around the corners of buildings



To overcome this issue, the strategy has been a combination of small cells with massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) antennas to increase coverage. Small cell deployment will be so extensive that the Small Cell Forum predicts 5G small cell will overtake 4G small cells by 2024. The total installed base of 5G or multimode small cells will reach 13.1 million by 2025, constituting more than one-third of the total small cells in use.

So, how do you manage to get all of these small cells dispersed throughout a city landscape where buildings are everywhere and there's little open space for signals to travel?

Engineers at Vodafone, headquartered in the United Kingdom, have come up with an ingenious solution: make manhole covers do double duty as antennas for mobile communications. This clever solution manages to avoid all the troubling issues that had worried many observers about the proliferation of small cells. It eliminates traffic disruptions from street construction, and there are no antennas awkwardly placed on buildings, marring the appearance of a neighborhood.

“We envisage that we may be able to use the manhole coverage solutions for 5G rollout going forward” said Ally Stevens, a network media relations manager for Vodafone UK.

While it may seem that the big metal manhole covers would interfere with signals, the manhole does not interfere with the mobile signals, although there is a small level of power loss caused by the manhole.



- Courtesy IEEE Spectrum website

<https://spectrum.ieee.org>



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 club is happy to report that we have already had money donated to the club due to purchases made on Amazon.

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 Poblenz 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

Bob Lawrence K8HV

rblaw@att.net

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

CW Code Practice - Tuesday Nights

Beginning January 8th, 2019 Bob K8HV will begin holding CW (Morse Code) practice sessions fifteen minutes before the regular scheduled 2-Meter Information net.

The sessions start from the basics. Sessions will cover learning the SOUNDS of each letter.

Anyone interested in learning CW is welcome to tune in.

Here's a couple of links provided by Kimball N8FNC. Articles that many have found helpful in learning code. Enjoy:

<http://www.kl7kc.com/FistsCodeCourse/withtheflow.pdf>

<http://www.kl7kc.com/FistsCodeCourse/instant.pdf>

SKYWARN Training Classes for 2019 - Wayne County

March 8, 2019 Friday 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Sponsors: Motor City Radio Club and Wayne County ARPSC

Wyandotte Copeland Center

2306 4th St.

Wyandotte, Michigan 48183

4th is four blocks West of Biddle (Jefferson) The center is three blocks South of Ford Ave. (Northline)

City web site: <http://www.wyandotte.net/>

Club web site: <http://www.w8mrm.net>

March 9, 2019 Saturday 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Sponsors: Garden City Amateur Radio Club and Wayne County ARPSC

Garden City Presbyterian Church

1841 Middlebelt Road

Garden City, Michigan 48135

One block South of Ford Road, West side of street, park on South side of building, session in basement.

Location web site: <http://www.gardencitypresbyterian.org/>

Club web site: <http://www.gcarc.net>

March 20, 2019 Wednesday 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Sponsors: Livonia Amateur Radio Club, Livonia Office of Emergency Management and Wayne County ARPSC

Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium

32777 Five Mile Road

Livonia, Michigan 48150

Four blocks East of Farmington Road, South side of road, park in rear of building, session in Auditorium.

Location web site: <http://livoniapubliclibrary.org/civiccenter>

Club web site: <http://www.livoniaarc.com/>

Thursday, March 28, 2019 Thursday 9:00am - 10:30am

Sponsors: U of M Dearborn

U of M Dearborn - Fairlane Center North

19000 Hubbard Drive

Dearborn MI 48128

Room Quad E

Map: <https://umdearborn.edu/about/visit-campus/maps-directions>

There is free visitor parking in designated areas around the building.

April 10, 2019 Wednesday 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Sponsors: Canton Public Safety Department and Wayne County ARPSC

Canton Public Safety Emergency Operation Center

1150 S. Canton Center Road

Canton, MI 48188

Located ½ mile south of Cherry Hill Road, on the west side of S. Canton Center Road

Web site: <https://www.canton-mi.org/254/Emergency-Management>

National Weather Service - White Lake Office: <https://www.weather.gov/dtx/>

SKYWARN Spotters page: <https://www.weather.gov/dtx/skywarn>

SKYWARN Recognition Day web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>

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Southgate, Michigan 48195
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MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB, INC.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Coming Events

2/9/2019 General Membership and 2019 Banquet. 1800 hours.

CW Sportsmen's Grill (Formally Sportsmen's Den) 15001 Sibley Rd. Riverview, MI 48193.

2/16/2019 Club Breakfast at 09:00 hours. Leo's Coney Island 19230 Fort Street in Riverview.

2/21/2019 Board Meeting at 19:30 hours. Coney Island 19230 Fort Street in Riverview.

Everyone welcome to all board meetings.

3/8/2019 Skywarn Meeting. 1900 hours. Mark your calendar now for the yearly Skywarn Training Meeting.

The training will start promptly at 1900 hours, followed by the business meeting.

3/9/2019 VE Exam at 09:00 hours. First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St, Wyandotte 48192.

May 17-19 Dayton Hamvention at the Greene County Ohio Fairground and Expo Center.