



MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL
Affiliated Club in Michigan
October 2019
Volume 67 Issue 10

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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 Wyandotte Repeater. 100 Hz tone. or use EchoLink WY8DOT-R.

CW (QMN) Traffic Nets:

<u>Net Name</u>	<u>MHz</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>
Michigan Net	3563	Sun-Sat	18:30 hrs
Michigan Net	3563	Sun-Sat	22:00 hrs

Digital Traffic Nets:

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

Southeast Michigan Traffic Net:

2215 hours each night on the Spirit of 76 repeater. 146.76 with a 100 Hz pl.



Don's Ditherings
Don K8THU
MCRC President

September is ending. It is my understanding that we had some difficulty in finding people to run for office this year. I regret that I couldn't be present at the nominations meeting but a planned trip to Alaska for a family wedding followed by a trip to Colorado intervened.

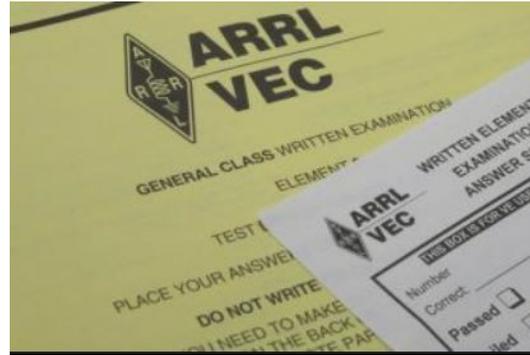
First, I want to congratulate John Russman, W8BJZ; Bruce Menning, AC8KD; Claudia Mayer-Smith KE8MIE; and Dale Poblenz, WA8FRD for offering their names for nomination. I want to assure them that the outgoing officers will be with them to offer whatever help we can as they assume their new roles after the election in October.

Of course, Dale is the holdover from years and years as treasurer, so this is not new for him. Secondly, Bruce is a past president and will be able to offer our incoming president plenty of insight into the nuts and bolts of what being president entails. Denise has assured me that she intends to come to our election meeting and meet with the incoming secretary about the role and function of secretary.

Finally, I wish all the nominees well in the coming year. May the Motor City Radio Club end 2019/2020 with a stronger and better club than it is now. My specific hope is for a resolution for a permanent repeater location. In addition, may we continue to be welcoming to new members and involve them in all our activities.

Don K8THU

MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB VE EXAMS



On September 14th, one applicant showed up at the First United Methodist Church in Wyandotte. Joshua Portelli took both the Technician and General Exams and aced them both! His new call is KE8NAC. Congratulations to him!

VE's present were Bill Loeber NU3D, Bob Cunningham W8RFC, Bill Nemet KD8WTT, Michael Fluegemann KE8AQW and myself.

Many thanks to our VE team that took the time to make this possible. Our next Ham Radio Test Session will be held again at the First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak Street in Wyandotte on Saturday, November 16th at 9AM.

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

FT8 has become a popular digital mode on the HF bands

FT8 offers "sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel." Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, and an entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute.

The new mode is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode's 8-frequency shift keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz. Unlike JT65 or JT9, transmit and receive cycles in FT8 each last about 15 seconds. Like JT65, FT8 requires accurate time synchronization. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ.

"FT8 is an excellent mode for HF DXing and for situations like multi-hop Es on 6 meters, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable," says Joe K1JT.

2019 ARRL November Sweepstakes



The ARRL's annual November Sweepstakes is the oldest domestic contest, beginning in 1930. Sweepstakes paused during World War II but came back stronger than ever.

It's a competition between North American stations, individuals, teams, and clubs.

For many US and Canadian hams, it is their first contest operation and remains a regular event on their yearly schedule for a lifetime. The contest is somewhat unique in that each station may only be contacted once and the number of different recognized locations ("multipliers") is limited to the ARRL and RAC sections. Working all of the sections is called a "Clean Sweep" and allows the station to claim one of the coveted Clean Sweep coffee mugs – there are other awards, as well.

CW: First full weekend in November (November 2-4, 2019).

Phone: Third full weekend in November (November 16-18, 2019).

During both weekends, the contest period Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

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.

Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association
1885 Pinetree
Trenton, Michigan 48183

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

Email _____

Donation Amount _____

Checks and money orders can be made

to the: **"WYANDOTTE AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION"**.

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 at 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 "10/01/20" 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.



Motor City Radio Club
General Membership Meeting
September 13, 2019



Meeting called to order at 7:01pm.

President not present.

Vice President Rick KE8BPZ report. Membership requirements read. Info on October elections.

Secretary not present. No August minutes because of picnic.

Treasurer Dale WA8FRD - Report submitted subject to audit. Dues are due effective October 1st.

Trustee Jim KD8HFX - Nothing to report.

Parliamentarian Bill NU3D - Nothing to report.

Net Control not present.

VE Chairman Woody N8MWQ - Exam tomorrow 9/14 at 900 hours.

New members welcomed to the club:

Claudia Mayer-Smith KE8MIE

Michael KE8AQW

Lucas KE8LHZ

Fox hunt chair Bruce AC8KD - Next fox hunt is September 21st. Breakfast that morning at 900 hours, followed by the fox hunt at 1030 hours.

Education chairman - Bob K8HV - First class of the fall was on September 7th. 4 members.

CW classes before the net have started over starting September 10th.

Spark Gap - Status Quo.

Nominations - Motion was made and seconded to have nominations. The motion did not pass.

Discussion of the roles of each member of the board.

A motion was made again for nominations, it also was seconded, and this motion passed. The following club members were nominated:

John Russman W8BJZ for club president.

Bruce Menning AC8KD for club vice president.

Claudia Mayer-Smith KE8MIE for club secretary.

Dale Poblentz WA8FRD for club treasurer.

Presentation by Stan K8SB on 75 years of the Motor City Radio Club.

50/50 drawing won by Mark W8MCW.

Presentation by Kimball N8FNC on National Disaster Preparedness Month Expo to be held on Saturday, September 28th at Martin Luther King High School in Detroit.

Meeting adjourned at 2122 hours.



October Motor City Radio Club Board Elections this month

October is the time for us to elect the officers who will lead us into the next year.

The MCRC meeting on October 11th will focus our primary business for the evening on a final selection of candidates, and then our 'Election'.

From the Minutes of our September 2019 Meeting (see page 4 of this issue):

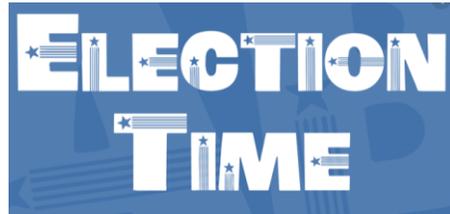
Nominated for the 2019 - 2020 term:

President John Russman W8BJZ

Vice President Bruce Menning AC8KD

Secretary: Claudia Mayer-Smith KE8MIE

Treasurer: Dale Poblenz WA8FRD



If you are unable to make the October meeting, your voice still counts. Just fill out this form below, put it in an envelope, and give it to any board member, and the vote of whoever you designate will also be your vote.

MCRC Proxy Form:

General Elections for Club Officers class of 2019-2020

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 11, 2019.

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 2019-2020 General Election

Signed _____ Date: _____



The Titanic Distress Call Was "CQD" – Not "SOS"

The Titanic's radio operators, Harold Bride and Jack Philips, were employees of a radio telegraph company named "Marconi." Marconi's distress call then was CQD, not SOS. CQD is still a common distress call for British ships.



Only known photo of Titanic's radio room

Fox Hunting

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.

It's a lot of 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.

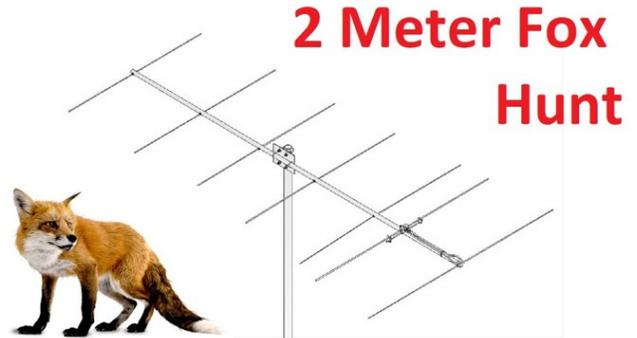


photo courtesy SevenFortyOne

Motor City Radio Club's Fox Hunts start at 1030 hours from the parking lot of the Riverview Leo's Coney Island at Fort and Sibley Road. The Fox Hunts run once a month until October. Once you do it, you will be hooked. Before the hunt at 1030 hours, most meet for breakfast at 0900 at the same restaurant.

Here's a list of the Fox Hunt dates for 2018:

May 25th - Congratulations to Bruce AC8KD for finding the elusive Fox.

June 15th- Winner was Mike KE8AQW. Fine job.

July 20th - Second win for Bruce AC8KD this season.

August 17th - Great job to Woody N8MWQ and Linda for finishing first this month.

September 21st Bob K8HV got the best mileage to find the fox.

Season Finale October 19th.

AMATEUR
UTICA SHELBY
USECA
EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
RADIO CLUB

U.S.E.C.A. Hamfest 2019
Sunday, October 27, 2019
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

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





Joel Stanley
WU8Y Silent Key

It is with great sadness that the Motor City Radio Club has learned former club member Joel Stanley WU8Y passed on September 11th from a sudden illness.

All who knew Joel share fond memories of him as a kind and gentle person. He was always a welcoming face at club meetings and volunteering for special events. Joel would often operate the wee hours of the morning at Field Day. Many newer hams remember him for his outreach and encouragement as they started into the hobby.

Joel leaves behind his wife Bobbi. Please remember his friends and family in your prayers.

Hamvention Signs 5 Year Contract with Expo Center

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has signed a 5-year agreement to keep the Dayton Hamvention at the Greene County Expo Center, according to Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, Hamvention General Chairman. "It has been a wonderful experience working with the Expo Center team in the development of this agreement," Gerbs said. "With the 5-year agreement signed, the Expo Center and Hamvention can move forward with additional enhancements to the facilities."

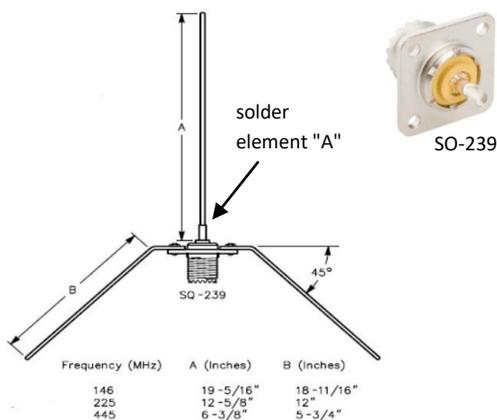
The Dayton Amateur Radio Association President Ron Cramer, said the board, in approving the contract noted that, "The relationship with the Expo Center and Greene County, the City of Xenia and Xenia Township has proven especially rewarding. They all have worked hard to make Hamvention a success over the last three years. We look forward to a great relationship over the next five years and beyond.

Hamvention 2019 attendance was 32,472, highest recorded since the move to the Exposition Center in Xenia in 2017 which was coordinated by Cramer, who was Hamvention General Chairman in 2017 and 18.

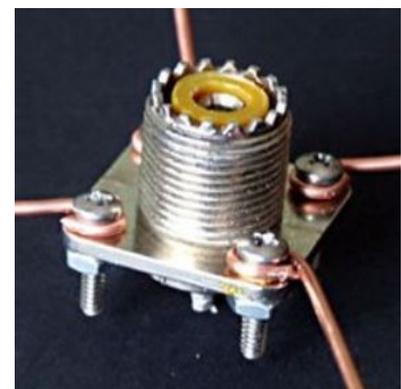
Hamvention, the world's largest ham radio show, is held the third full weekend in May. The dates for 2020 are May 15, 16 and 17.



A simple quarter wave vertical made with an SO-239 chassis mount connector

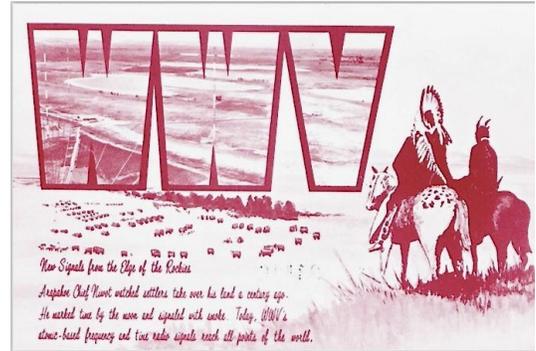


Having problems making your favorite repeater? A simple outside antenna is very easy to make. All you need is some solid electrical wire, solder, cutters, a SO-239 chassis mount connector. Build this, slide the whole thing connected to coax down the middle of a piece of pipe, and you're on the air.



bottom view of connector

Festival of Frequency Measurement Set to Honor WWV Centennial



09/18/2019

HamSCI and the Case Amateur Radio Club of Case Western Reserve University (W8EDU) will sponsor a **"Festival of Frequency Measurement"** on WWV's centennial, October 1, from 0000 to 2359 UTC (starting on Monday evening, September 30, in the Americas). The event invites radio amateurs, short-wave listeners, and others capable of making high-quality frequency measurements on HF to participate and publish their data to the HamSCI community on the [Zenodo](#) open-data sharing site. "Changes in ionospheric electron density caused by space weather and diurnal solar changes are known to cause Doppler shifts on HF ray paths," the event announcement says. "HamSCI's first attempt at a measurement of these Doppler shifts was during the August 2017 total solar eclipse. We plan a careful measurement during the 2024 eclipse."

Some of the questions the research event is hoping to answer include how WWV's 5 MHz propagation path varies over a given calendar day, and how various measurement techniques for understanding the path variations compare. The objectives are to measure Doppler shifts caused by the effect of space weather on the ionosphere, and to use a specified measurement protocol available to Amateur Radio operators and other citizen-scientists. The experiment will use August 1, 2019 (UTC) as a control date.

"The recordings in this experiment are expected to show formations of the D-layer at stations' local sunrise and other daily events of the ionosphere," the announcement said. "Space weather varies day to day and some features may be prominent. We'll see what we get!"

- from the ARRL Newsletter

Mark your calendar for the February 2020 Dinner.

Our yearly Club Banquet is sooner than you think. 2/15/2020.

Same place as last year, Sportsman's Den on Sibley in Riverview, with a stunning panoramic view of Mount Trashmore. Right now the menu and price is expected to be the same. Make plans now to attend. Everyone has a great time. Always a great opportunity to wine and dine with each other, and have eyeball QSO's with the better half of our fellow hamsters.



George Washington and his father used Morse code! When young George chopped down the cherry tree his father asked "Who di-dit?" and George replied "I di-dit da-dah"



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 Amazon Smile 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 Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile 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.

Tuesday Night Code Practice

Tune into the Wyandotte Repeater at 2045 hours to learn Morse Code. Every Tuesday night, 15 minutes before the Motor City Radio Club Two Meter net, Bob K8HV runs code practice.



A summer without sunspots

The sun is undergoing a remarkable period of spotlessness. During northern summer 2019, the face of the sun was blank (no sunspots) more than 89% of the time.

This marks it as one of the deepest Solar Minima in a century. Interestingly, the summer of 2019 also brought a sign that Solar Minimum is coming to an end.

Visit Spaceweather.com for the full story

MCRC Officers

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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

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V.E. Liaison

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John Roberts N8KAM

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MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB, INC.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Coming Events

October 11th at 1900 hours. October general membership meeting.

Topic: Elections.

October 17th at 1930 hours. Board meeting at Leo's Coney Island at Fort and Sibley in Riverview.

Everyone is welcome to all board meetings.

October 19th at 0900 hours. Club breakfast at the same place we have the board meetings.

Leo's Coney Island, 19230 Fort St, Riverview MI.

October 19th at 1030 hours. Fox Hunt #6. Season Finale. Leave from the parking lot of the Leo's Coney Island after the club breakfast.

November 8th at 1900 hours. General Membership meeting. Topic: tba.

November 16th at 0900 hours. VE Exam at First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St, Wyandotte, MI 48192.

‘Elmer’ - *An experienced Amateur Radio operator with a steady hand who took you under their wing and taught you the right way to be a proper radio operator.*

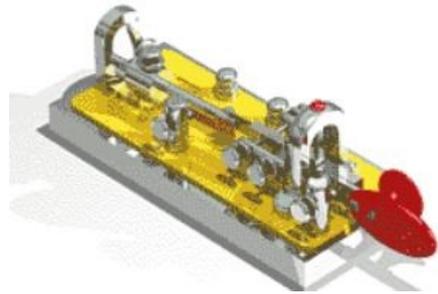
Unfortunately, many Amateur Radio operators never had the benefit of an Elmer’s attention and kindness. Most of us were left to our own devices when it came to figuring it out. And most of the time it worked out fine... but there were other times, like the times we were wondering why nobody ever answered our CQs, because we didn’t know our code sending was so atrocious. It would have been nice back then, when CW was still relatively new to us, to have someone sit next to us and show us how to send better code...

Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE and Rich Collins, K2UPS - the New Elmers - are changing all that with the Long Island CW Club. Beginning in January 2018, they started teaching Morse code and CW in live classes over the Internet to anyone who wanted to learn. Their method of teaching Morse code and CW is casual and fun. It is a unique experience that has already appealed to more than a hundred students wanting a less structured and more relaxed approach to learning the code.

In a recent podcast, Howard and Rich explain how the club got started, their unique way of teaching, and the classes available to anyone wanting to learn the code and have fun. If you’re brand new to the code, or someone who’s been struggling to learn, checkout the Long Island CW Club... it just may be what you’ve been looking for. Check out the podcast at: <https://www.ditdit.fm/shows/episode-23-the-new-elmers>

And look into the Long Island CW Club on line at: <https://longislandcwclub.org/>

- Thank you to Kimball N8FNC for this article



N-TYPE CONNECTOR SERIES

N-Type connectors are designed to satisfy the need for a durable, weatherproof, medium-size RF connector with consistent performance through 11 GHz. N-Type connectors feature threaded coupling mechanisms and are fully interchangeable with N-Type connectors made to the MIL-C-39012 specification. These connectors are used in all systems where excellent RF and mechanical performance is critical.

- Broad line of military, industrial and commercial grade products available
- Excellent RF performance from DC to 11 GHz, and DC to 18 GHz on extended range
- Threaded coupling mechanism ideal for vibration resistance





SALEM
SOUTH LYON
DISTRICT LIBRARY
8800 Pontiac Trail,
South Lyon, MI 48178
588.6476

WINTER WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

at the Salem-South Lyon District Library

9800 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon, MI 48178

Monday October 7th

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Pre-registration required

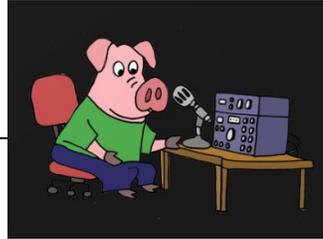
To register call 248-858-5300 or email ocem@oakgov.com. Please include your name(s), phone number, and email address.

Oakland County Homeland Security announces a partnership with the National Weather Service that will bring a FREE Winter Spotter training session.

The session will discuss the following topics:

- A review of the 2018-19 winter season
- A look at winter weather climatology,
- An examination of winter weather meteorology
- A review of NWS winter forecast products
- A review of guidelines and reporting procedures for winter weather spotters





Why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"

(from Florida Skip Magazine - 1959)

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS?" Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY and POOGIE MURRAY.

At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HY-AL-MU," using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO." They then decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station CALL became "HAM."

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio amateur operators picked their own frequency and call-letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity. In 1911 ALBERT HYMAN chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his Thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator DAVID I. WALSH, a member of one of the committees hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis is that he asked HYMAN to appear before the committee. ALBERT HYMAN took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the BILL went through that they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the BILL imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM." That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

Nation-wide publicity associated station ""HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time in radio an amateur is a "HAM."