



MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL Affiliated
Club in Michigan
November 2018
Volume 66 Issue 11

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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 in the air and leaves are beginning to fill the grass rather than the trees. It is time for us to be looking at any last minute repairs to our antennas and preparing for the next season which will make such repairs even more difficult. If you don't have an outside VHF antenna, now would be a good time to get it up if that is possible.

Our Fall dinner is coming soon on the November 10th. Dale says you may still be able to join us if you haven't registered yet. Check with him if you want to go. Based upon our recent experience in Riverview, the food and venue promises to be good. Since this is our Fall Banquet, there won't be a meeting this month and we won't be having a regular meeting next month either. December is our Holiday Pot-Luck Dinner. We will be sending around a list for what you want to bring to the December dinner at our banquet.

November is Sweeps month. If you can get on HF, it is a great time to spend a little time on either CW or Phone during Sweeps. You don't have to spend a lot of time but just get a few contacts. If you are licensed as a tech you will likely find at least some activity on 10 meters.

See you at the Banquet

Don, K8THU

2018 Fox Hunts

The last Fox Hunt for 2018 was October 20th. Congratulations to the winners of October's hunt Stan K8SB and Ruth WB8AFO .



Tony KE8CDD and Woody N8MWQ were the overall winners for the 2019 season with 27 points each. Bruce AC8KD was second in 2018 with 25 points and Bob K8HV finished third with 21 points.

Foxhunting is a whole lot of fun. Anyone that didn't get an opportunity to participate in 2018 can look forward to next year. The first Fox Hunt of 2019 will be in May, and Stan K8SB will be the fox.

Three Steps to Cleaning a Soldering Tip

By: [Ashley Awalt](#) 10/17/2018 www.digikey.com



Cleaning your soldering tip will not only keep it operating at optimum efficiency, but also extend its lifetime. Just follow these three steps to ensure that you keep your soldering tip clean.

Step One:

Try using a brass sponge or copper braid to clean off any particles or oxidation by inserting the tip and twisting a few times. If this didn't clean it, apply solder with a flux core, and repeat.



Step Two:

If the tip is still not clean, apply tip cleaner (also known as tip tinner or activator). This is a mixture of flux and solder that has a much higher concentration of flux than your typical flux core solder. To use this, heat the soldering iron, dip it in the cleaner and twist to cover the entire tip. This contains flux that will help to remove the oxidation and buildup that may be on it, while the solder in it will help to re-tin the tip to protect and prolong its life.



Step Three:

Remove the excess tip cleaner using a wet sponge, brass sponge, or copper braid. At this point, if it is still not looking great it may be time to replace the tip.

Never use harsh abrasives to clean the soldering tip as this will remove the protective coating and degrade the life of it altogether. This will ultimately require you to replace the tip prematurely.

Keeping the tip clean and tinning it before you store your iron will help prolong its life.

However, just like everything else, things wear out over time. If the above steps clean it, but the tip cleaner needs to be utilized more frequently than previously, the tip is wearing out and it would be a smart idea to procure a new one before the other is totally worn out.

About this author



Ashley Awalt is an Applications Engineering Technician that has been with Digi-Key Electronics since 2011. She earned her Associate of Applied Science degree in Electronics Technology & Automated Systems from Northland Community & Technical College through the Digi-Key scholarship program. Her current role is to assist in creating unique technical projects, documenting the process and ultimately participating in the production of video media coverage for the projects. In her spare time, Ashley likes to – oh, wait, is there such a thing as spare time when you're a mom?

MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB VE EXAMS

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 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

46th FORT WAYNE HAMFEST HOSTING THE ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION CONVENTION



ARRL Forum Saturday 10:00 AM

President Rick Roderick K5UR
Central Div. Director Kermit Carlson W9XA
Central Div. Vice Dir. Carl Luetzelshwab K9LA
Lab. Assistant Manager Bob Allison WB1GCM
Indiana Sec. Mngr. James Merry Jr. KC9RPX
Illinois Sec. Mngr. Ron Morgan AD9I
Wisconsin Sec. Mngr. Patrick Moretti KA1RB

Saturday Evening Dinner 5:30 PM

**Admission: \$6 Sat & Sun, \$3 Sun only
Children under 12 free (with adult)
Parking is \$6 this year.**

- Ham Radio License Testing (\$14)
9 AM till 12 PM Saturday
- WAS & DXCC Checking and CQ awards
- New & Used Ham Dealers
- Main & Hourly Prizes
- Equipment Check-out Table
- Talk-in 146.880-
- Forums Saturday only
- Tables:
\$25 Regular (8ft),
\$50 Premium (8ft),
\$30 Electricity

NOV.

17&18

2018

SAT 9 AM to 4 PM
SUN 9 AM to 2 PM



Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
4000 Parnell Ave
Fort Wayne, IN
73,000 sq. ft. all indoors
(Coliseum Parking \$6 per vehicle)

ARRL
Special Event Station
W1AW/9

Get the latest information at
www.fortwaynehamfest.com
www.facebook.com/FTWAYNEHAMFEST/

CQ World Wide DX Contest

The CQ WW is the largest Amateur Radio competition in the world. Over 35,000 participants take to the airwaves on the last weekend of October (SSB) and November (CW) with the goal of making as many contacts with as many different DXCC entities and CQ Zones as possible.

CQ WW Contest Dates

SSB was October 27 - 28, 2018

CW will be November 24 - 25, 2018

Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday

Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday

For more information, visit <https://www.cqww.com/>

Special Announcement from the Wyandotte Repeater WY8DOT



The Wyandotte repeater WY8DOT, formerly K8SB, had been located on the top floor of the Riverview Towers Co-Op at Fort and Pennsylvania since January 1980.

For 38 years we have maintained a good relationship with the residents and elected board of Riverview Co-Op. However, in July of this year we were contacted by CSI management Corporation, who oversees the co-op building and the majority of the senior living buildings in Southeast Michigan and other states. After several emails, we were requested to remove all equipment within 30 days. That was roughly August 8th with a deadline of September 1st.

At no time was any reason given for this request. No complaints have been made about the repeater or any of the members that serve the repeater. Through additional e-mails we were able to negotiate more time to properly and carefully remove the repeater and start the process of finding a new location. And again we pressed for a reason to remove the equipment and still none was given. Emails and phone calls go unanswered.

So what does this mean for you...

On Saturday 10/06/2018 this repeater was shut down and removed, and operating with our back up repeater system. It will have the same frequency's 147.24 - 147.84 and 100 Hz tone but no courtesy tone or bells and whistles. Echo link will still be available.

However, due to the much lower antenna height and lower power level, those of you that use a handheld from the comfort of your chair will most likely not be able to make the repeater.

John from Ohio might possibly because I can receive him here in Taylor but he might not hear us. Perhaps we can use this time to optimize your antenna systems and make this temporary inconvenience a bit better.

We are currently looking for a new home for the repeater and have a few options to look in to but a timeline is not possible at this time.

As president of The Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association, I would like to apologize for this inconvenience and assure you we are doing everything possible to get the regular repeater back on the air.

John N8KAM
President WARRA

Your Membership Dues may be overdue



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.

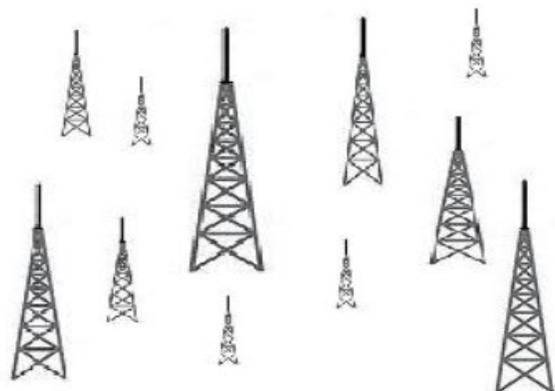
Scroll down and click on the "Renew to "10/01/19" box.

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.

As the letter on Page 4 from John N8KAM states, the Wyandotte Amateur 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 the form and your donation to the address on the form. Checks and money orders can be made to the:



"WYANDOTTE AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION".

Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association
1885 Pinetree Dr
Trenton, MI 48183

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Donation amount _____



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.

ARRL November Sweepstakes

November Sweepstakes is an opportunity for ham radio operators in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

CW Sweepstakes is the weekend of November 3rd.

Phone Sweepstakes is the weekend of November 17th

For complete contest rules, visit <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>



December Christmas Celebration

The December General Membership meeting is December 14th. After a short business meeting, there will be a potluck Celebration of Christmas.

It's a great time to laugh and talk with your fellow hamsters and share the spirit of the season.



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

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N8MWQ@arrl.net
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John Roberts N8KAM
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Motor City Radio Club
P. O. Box 1337
Southgate, MI 48195-0337
Est. 1932



October 12, 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:08 p.m.
The roll was called. 33 members, 3 guests.

President: a discussion of the repeater will be discussed later in the meeting.
Vice President: thank you to all who participated in the special Event station.
Admin Minutes: Minutes accepted as printed.
Treasurer Report: accepted subject to audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: 2 students at this time and they are doing well.
Fox Hunt: fox will check out how well the repeater works for the hunts.
Motor City Radio Club 2 Meter Net: the Net is being evaluated.
Special Events: A person to do publicity is needed.
VE program: The next session will be Nov 10 at 9 a.m.
Field Day: we would like to fill the chair/co-chair positions in the next two months.
Librarian: open to questions. Books are available.
Trailer for W8MRM – one is needed.

Election: President – Don Novak, K8THU
Vice President – Rick Hardy, KE8BPZ
Secretary/Admin – Denise Keeler, KC8HDX
Treasurer – Dale Poblentz, WA8FRD

Magnetic Sign Purchase – signs are available. \$25 each or \$40 for a pair.
50-50 raffle – tickets are available. There are 3 prizes.
Repeater Issue – the current site is temporary. There was a discussion about the relationship between the Repeater Association and the MCRC. Discussion of the nonprofit status of the repeater.
Comments will be in the Spark Gap.

LIFE IS SIMPLE



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Coming Events

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.

11/15/2018 Board Meeting at 19:30 hours. Leo's Coney Island, 19230 Fort St., Riverview 48193
Everyone is welcome at all Board Meetings.

11/17/2018 Club breakfast at 9am. Leo's Coney Island, 19230 Fort St., Riverview 48193

11/17/2018 Phone Sweeps

12/14/2018 General Membership Meeting and Christmas Celebration.