



MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL Affiliated
Club in Michigan
March 2019
Volume 67 Issue 3

Inside this Spark Gap

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Metro Grand Spring Tour | 2 |
| Toledo Swap | 2 |
| VE Exams | 3 |
| Field Day | 3 |
| DXCC | 4 |
| Wyandotte Repeater | 5 |
| Ham Classes | 6 |
| Equipment for Sale | 7 |
| Code Practice before the Net | 8 |
| Upcoming Skywarn Classes | 9 |



Don's Ditherings Don K8THU MCRC President

We had our second banquet since November 2018 and there were still three tables of attendees. Again, the dinner was good but what was important was the opportunity to talk to folks about their lives. We celebrated Stan Briggs birthday and even sang happy birthday to him. Now we didn't sound like a choir, but we tried. Bob, K8HV, provided some books about ham radio as door prizes. He really is our education guru.

The club is looking to do a one-day special event station in Wyandotte this spring. We expect it will be at the corner of Biddle and Eureka, near the totem pole. When I called the special event coordinator and told him where we wanted to hold it, he told me that wouldn't be possible there because there is no electricity there nor Wi-Fi. In response I indicated that we didn't need either. He seemed shocked. He also appeared completely unaware of radio signals. We must do some education to many folks it seems. If the special event station is approved, we will focus on the radio contacts and talk about Wyandotte and its native American history.

This month our program at our March 8th meeting is Skywarn. This is usually popular so get there early if you want a good seat. This winter we had all sorts of weather, some snow, below zero record breaking days, ice and sleet. Recently we had over 24 hours of very high winds. Hopefully your antennas are still up after all that.

I am noticing increasing activity on the ham bands recently. Europe and Africa have been observed often. 80 meters in the evening is very active. As usual 40 is busy during the day. Some indications are that sun spots are increasing. All early signs point to conditions being very good for Field Day this year. We will be talking about Field Day much more in May and of course, June. Next month, April, we will look at fox hunts. Stan's, K8SB presentation promises to be very interesting.

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 |

It's Metro Grand Spring Tour Time May 5th



Once again the Motor City Radio Club has been asked by the Downriver Cycling Club to provide communications for the 36th 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. Up to 1,200 riders from southeast Michigan and beyond participate in this day-long supported tour through Huron-Clinton Metroparks and rural roads in southern Wayne and Monroe counties. 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.

Motor City Radio Club General Membership meetings are held at the Copeland Center at 2306 4th Street in Wyandotte at 7pm. Meetings are the second Friday of each month, except there is no meetings in February and August. August is the Club Picnic, and in February, there is the Annual Banquet.



HAMFEST 2019



TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION

TMRA's 64th Hamfest - Radios/Computers/Electronics

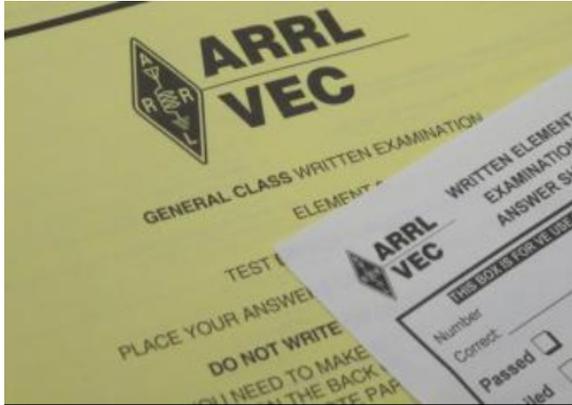
Sunday March 17th 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Owens Community College

Student Health and Activity Center (SHAC)

30335 Oregon Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551

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.

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

MAKE PLANS FOR FIELD DAY 2019



Field Day is ham radio's open house. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio. In 2019, Field Day will be the weekend of June 22nd and 23th. Setup is Friday, June 21st.

Location will be the same as last year, Grosse Ile's Centennial Farm.

Bruce AC8KD and Rick KE8BPZ enthusiastically volunteered to be co-chairs this year.

Make sure to mark your calendar now.

KEYSIGHT TECHNOLOGIES

Last week our KD8HFX did a presentation to the IEEE group. The presentation was hosted at Keysight technology in Novi. Keysight is a producer of high-end electronics test equipment.

They have provided us with a link to their e-bay store where they have many deals on test gear ready for the ham radio operator to grab.

<http://www.ebaystores.com/keysight>

Check out their store and see if there is a deal on test gear that your shack needs.

How to determine a real Nagoya antenna from a fake one

Fake NA-771 print



Genuine NA-771 print



Donated Electronics Gear Looking for a home

We have been contacted about a potential donation of equipment. The gear is mostly vintage electronics; with only one piece of ham gear in the lot.

Looking to see if anyone would be interested in the equipment.

1. Hallicrafters Co. Receiver Model SX-101
2. DuMont Type 304-A Cathode Ray Oscillograph
3. EICO Model 666 tube tester
4. DC Power Supply Model 301E
5. ESPY MFG CO. Multimeter (no probes)
6. GE Type CG-46116 Radio Receiver (Navy)
7. Radio (short wave receiver)
8. Vacuum tubes (various)
9. Misc. parts and PCBs, etc.
10. Byte Magazine: Issue #1 Sept 1975 ~ Aug 1978 V3N8
11. 73 Magazine: 1978/1~7

The gentleman donating the equipment is willing to arrange the delivery of the equipment.

Here is an album of pictures that shows the amount and condition of the equipment. <https://imgur.com/a/2cY15mg>

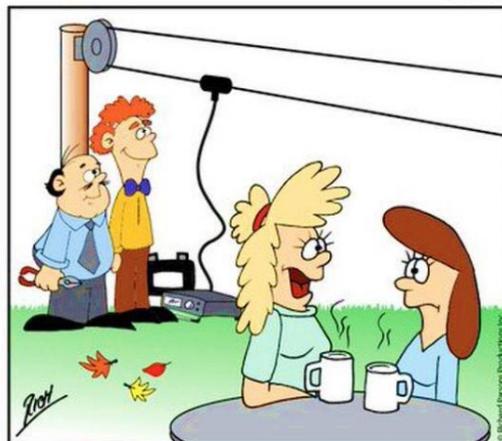
If you are interested in the entire lot of gear, please reach out to KD8HFX@gmail.com He will put you in contact with the donor.

Let's see if we can find a home for this stuff.

Jim KD8HFX

SUCH A HAM

SH-005



Stan & Cliff have been working all day on installing my clothesline, Mary.

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"**.



Skywarn Training ***March 8th***

At the Motor City Radio Club **March General Membership meeting**, Skywarn Training will be provided by the National Weather Service Forecast Office for the Detroit/Pontiac area.

SKYWARN® is a National Weather Service (NWS) program. Trained weather spotters provide reports of severe and hazardous weather to help meteorologists make life-saving warning decisions.

SKYWARN® spotter reports provide vital “ground truth” to the NWS. They act as our eyes and ears in the field. Spotter reports help our meteorologists issue timely, accurate, and detailed warnings by confirming hazardous weather detected by NWS radar. Spotters also provide critical verification information that helps improve future warning services. SKYWARN® Spotters serve their local communities by acting as a vital source of information when dangerous storms approach. Without spotters, NWS would be less able to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property.

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such as HAM radio, to join the SKYWARN® program. **The March 8th monthly meeting of the Motor City Radio Club will be at the Copeland Center at 2306 4th. Street in Wyandotte, starting at 7pm.** If you are unable to make this training session, a list of other ham clubs in Wayne County hosting SKYWARN training is on Page 8 of this month's Spark Gap.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING CLASS

The Motor City Radio Club presents a 9 part series of Amateur Radio License Classes finishing with an exam on the 10th to obtain your Amateur Radio License. The class is free, but the license exam fee is \$15.00.

Class runs for 9 weeks beginning Saturday, March 9 @ 10AM. The exam is on the 10th week, May 11.

Please register by phone, in person or online at baconlibrary.org



Saturday, March 9 @ 10AM
Class Runs for 9 Weeks with exam on 10th week.

Please register by phone, in person or online at baconlibrary.org



45 Vinewood
Wyandotte, MI 48192
734-246-8357
www.baconlibrary.org



Larry KE8HCD has is helping sell some equipment for a friend. Below is the list of gear for sale. Along with the suggested price, and what GigaParts is currently selling it for. If you are interested, contact Larry at:

lkvanbelle@gmail.com or catch up with him at the club meeting, or at breakfast.

| description | Mic | Manual | Box | Serial Number | Price suggestion | NEW - GigaParts |
|--|--------|---------------|-----|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Kenwood TS 590S | Y | Y | | B1700227 | 600 | N/A |
| TE System RF Power Amp Model 055G | | | | | 500 | 799 |
| MFJ-891 1.6-60 MHz Meter | | | | 101066 | 65 | 99 |
| Ameritron ARB-704 | | | | | 50 | 60 |
| Bell System Speakers | | | | | | |
| MFJ J-4125 Switching power Supply 25 amp | | | | | 50 | 79 |
| Astron RS-50A power supply | | | | 207070021 | 200 | 280 |
| MFJ Versa-Tuner III MFJ-962D | Y | Y | | | 200 | 275 |
| Ameritron AL-811 Amp | Y | Y | | 17854 | 750 | 889 |
| Various Ammeter | | | | | | |
| Various Voltmeter | | | | | | |
| Bird Watt meters | | | | | | |
| MFJ J-259B antenna tuner | Y | Y | | | 150 | N/A |
| MFJ J-862 SWR watt meter | Y | Y | | | 25 | 55 |
| MFJ 1700C transmitter switch | | | Y | | 75 | 110 |
| Alpha Delta Delta 4 coax surge protector | | | | | 75 | 94 |
| Mirage A1015G amp for 6 meter | Y | Y | | 616-295 | 250 | 359 |
| Mirage B2518G amp for 2 meter | | | | | 250 | 349 |
| KLm electronics 160w VHF | | | | 222507179 | | |
| RadioShack 2 meter power amp/pre amp CAT# 19-1122a | | | Y | | | |
| TigerTronics Signal Link USB interface | | Y | Y | | 50 | 115 |
| RIG BLASTER PRO | Y | Y | | | | |
| RIG BLASTER PLUS | Y | Y | | | | |
| MFJ MFJ-784B tunable DSP Filter | | | | | 150 | 245 |
| 3 each Armitron ARB-704 | | 1 with manual | | | 45 | 60 |
| ICOM IC-706 MK IIG | Y | Y | | 18783 | 500 | N/A |
| Kenwood TR 751A mono band 144 mHz | Y | Y | | | 200 | N/A |
| Kenwood TS 680S HF + 6M | Y | Y | | | | |
| Kenwood TS 480 | Y | Y | | | 750 | 1050 |
| Realistic HTX-100 | Y | Y | | | 85 | N/A |
| Sharp CB-500 UB | Y | | Y | | 20 | N/A |
| Yaesu FT 1802 | no mic | Y | Y | | 85 | N/A |
| Alnico DR 235 mk III | Y | Y | Y | | 200 | 225 |
| Realistic 440mHz CAT# 19-1140 | | | | | 200 | |
| 3-500z transmit tube and socket | | | | | 5525 | 5143 |



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 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

Bob Lawrence K8HV

rbtlaw@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

Don't just wait until 2100 hours to tune in the Wyandotte Repeater. Every Tuesday, Bob K8HV transmits CW (Morse Code) practice sessions fifteen minutes before the Motor City Radio Club 2-Meter Information net.

The sessions have started from the basics. Sessions 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/>

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Coming Events

March 8th Skywarn Meeting. 7pm. Mark your calendar now for the yearly Skywarn Training Meeting. The training will start promptly at 1900 hours, followed by the business meeting. Copeland Center. 2306 4th Street Wyandotte 48192.

March 9th VE Exam at 9am. First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St, Wyandotte 48192.

March 16th Club Breakfast at 9am. Leo's Coney Island 19230 Fort Street in Riverview.

March 21st Board Meeting at 7:30pm. Coney Island 19230 Fort Street in Riverview.
Everyone welcome to all board meetings.

April 12th General Membership Meeting. 7pm. Copeland Center. 2306 4th Street Wyandotte 48192.
Topic: Fox Hunt Demo - Stan K8SB.

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