



MCRC Spark Gap



The Longest ARRL
Affiliated Club in
Michigan
April 2024
Volume 72 Issue 4

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The Motor City Radio Club meets the second Friday of each month (except in February and August) at the Copeland Center in Wyandotte.

2306 4th St, Wyandotte, MI 48192

Door open at six for Eyeball QSO's.

Meeting starts at 7p.m.

Next meeting at the Copeland will be April 12th.

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:

Net Name	KHz	Days	Time
Michigan Net	3563	Sun-Sat	18:30 hrs
Michigan Net	3563	Sun-Sat	22:00 hrs

Digital Traffic Nets:

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

Southeast Michigan Traffic Net:

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



2024 ARRL Field Day Theme: Be Radio Active

03/15/2024

The theme for 2024 ARRL Field Day is "Be Radio Active." The event will run on June 22 - 23, and it will be one-part contest, one-part emergency communications exercise, and one-part open house -- and a great time.

This year's Field Day site is Young Patriot's Park in Riverview.

Activity this year is likely to be extremely high thanks to favorable solar conditions. The upper HF bands, such as 15 and 10 meters, should benefit most from the Cycle's peak.

Field Day Chairman this year is Craig N2WXD. Scope of operating this year will be determined by the number of people who sign up. We would like to run 2A plus a GOTA station this year.

We need plenty of operators for this to be a success.

Sign up in three easy Steps

1. [Register for Field Day on the club Website](#)
2. Review the Operator and Logging schedule below to see what time slots are available
3. Email [KD8HFX\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:KD8HFX@gmail.com) to secure your operating and or logging time. (We want to give members an opportunity to get involved in FD. So please be judicious in asking for operating times. As we get closer to FD2024 you can take additional open slots.)

April is a beautiful month for radio. It's an opportunity to get out of the house and talk from different locations that may be less familiar but can be a lot more interesting and exciting. POTA activity is just one of the options available, and you don't need to be camping to activate a park. QRP outdoors with a wire tossed into the trees is another fun way to get out of doors with a microphone or a key. Or just take an HT south of Wyandotte on Biddle Ave or on Pennsylvania Rd, then get on the air to tell everyone how many deer you can spot in the open field!

President's Corner



I guarantee you'll get to chat with fellow animal lovers, and it's hard not to enjoy watching the wildlife from the comfort of your car or from a bicycle (Just don't get caught feeding them). Of course, in Michigan we never know if the April weather will fully cooperate with outdoor activities, but we can hope.

Weather is always a dominant force around us, and April is finally the month we can all get our new certifications for SkyWarn in-person locally. It's been several years since we've had this local opportunity. I'm very pleased to have personally worked for the White Lake NWS to secure this training location for them downriver. This event is open to everyone whether they're a radio operator or not, so expect to see police and fire public service employees, schoolteachers, and a wide variety of interested citizens. We're expecting over 100 attendees from local communities and have capacity for 300, so come as you are, and bring some friends for this multimedia presentation. Please consider this your personal invitation – no RSVP required, and there's no cost to attend, and no advertising or obligation of any kind. Just pure weather education provided by NOAA. I can't wait to see you there. After all, when's the last time you got something useful from the government for free?

Mark your calendar for:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6p97jxA63uDerT4d8>

National Weather Service SkyWarn Training
Thursday, April 11th, at 7pm
Wayne County Community College
21000 Northline Rd. Taylor, MI 48180
(Use the Prechter Theater Entrance)



Google maps says this is less than 5 miles from Wyandotte, so it's close and easy to find. Scan the QR code with your smart phone for the location on google maps and GPS directions or click on the link. There's plenty of handicap parking near the door, and our SkyWarn meeting will be the only one I know of with a hotdog, snacks, and drinks vendor in the back of the room. Don't miss this event! After the training don't forget to take the extra step available only to radio operators by getting your Wayne County SkyWarn Spotter ID from Keith Armitage (send email requests to wcarpsc@gmail.com). He'll give you more information and details about joining our Wayne County weather net, but the NWS training is a prerequisite that must be completed every two years, so don't skip it. Literally everyone reading this with a technician license who owns a VHF radio can participate from the safety of their own home after attending the meeting and getting an ID. As an ARRL Service organization, strong participation from our club with SkyWarn is encouraged. Direct any questions to me, and I'll get you pointed in the right direction. Just don't miss the April 11th meeting!

Do you have other suggestions for getting out of the house to use radio for fun or service? Bring ideas to our regular meeting during the new business portion, and I'll call on you to share your ideas with everyone!

Let's get outside and have fun!



Club Call W8MRM
Since 1934

**General Membership Meeting
March 8, 2024**

Motor City Radio Club

President – Tony Griffin KE8NSU

Vice President – Bob Lawrence K8HV

Secretary – Bryan Shiroda - KC8ZIQ

Treasurer – Craig Dunn N2WXD

Custodian – John Roberts, N8KAM

Trustees – Jim Baska KD8HFX

John Roberts N8KAM

Parliamentarian – Dale Poblentz WA8FRD

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM EST at the Copeland Center in Wyandotte, MI by Tony KE8NSU

Attendance: Members Present: 21 Visitors Present: 1 New Members: None

Reports:

President - Tony KE8NSU

- Motion to accept the previous minutes as published in the spark gap was motioned by Mike W8MRA and seconded by Craig N2WXD. All in favor.
- Introduced and welcomed our guest speaker for the evening, Keith Armitage - KD8ZSK who will be presenting information about Wayne County ARPSC and service in ham radio.

Vice President - Bob K8HV

- The ARROW Dayton bus trip has extended its registration deadline to April 12, 2024.
- Bob Heil of Heil Sound and a major advocate for Amateur Radio has passed away.
- There will be a total solar eclipse April 8 just south of here. This is supposed to be the last eclipse for 20 years.
- The tech class is going well, there are two sessions remaining. There will probably be another class next January.

Secretary - Bryan KC8ZIQ

- Nothing to report

Treasurer - Craig N2WXD

- Reported on our financials. Amount on Bank Statement : \$2,842.72 after outstanding checks not cleared \$2,395.74. VE Account unchanged. Savings Account unchanged.
- Sign-up for field day operating, set up and tear down will soon be available on the web site and on the sign-in table at general meetings. Please consider how you would like to participate in field day and sign-up to aid planning efforts.
- Field Day will be held at Young Patriots Park and there will be a VE Session at the library on site.

Committee and Coordinator Reports

- Fox Hunt / Historian / Special Events - Bruce AC8KD ○ Still in the fox hunt off season. Still need to determine a starting location. There will be some discussion about some rule changes. These changes should be firmed up some time in April. No special events are planned but Bruce would like to plan for something.
- VE Liaison - Woody N8MWQ ○ There will be a test session tomorrow, the session is full with 10 test takers scheduled to attend. ○ Should have plenty of VE's to cover.
- Spark Gap Editor - Mike W8MRA ○ Going Well but had a hard drive crash so please excuse any formatting errors. If you want anything published in the Spark Gap send it Mike's way.

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- Tony presented the idea of holding a hamfest / swap meet to raise funds for the club. This idea is at the very beginning and Tony has been working on some preliminary plans.

Break at 7:47 PM

Presentation Started at 8:02 PM

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 8:45 PM

Next General Meeting: April, 2024

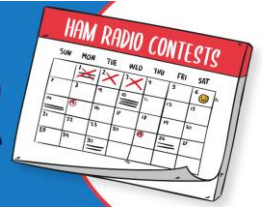
Minutes recorded by Secretary KC8ZIQ Bryan Shiroda

Worked All
Legos

SPONSORED BY



CONTEST CALENDAR

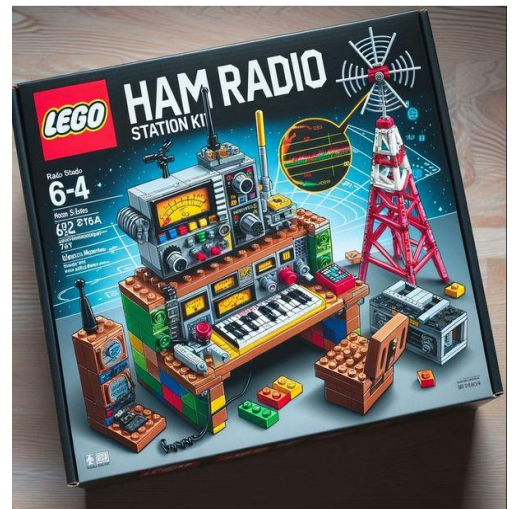
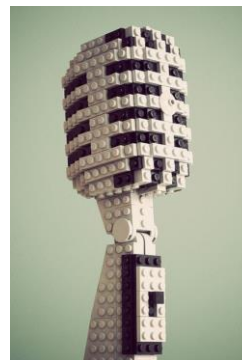


Join the
fun on
April 1st



Duncan's Toy Chest will be
sponsoring a Worked All Lego's
Special Event.

Every station gets a gift
card to Duncan's Toy
Chest in New York City



Operating Times
will be
from 12 to 12.

ELECTRON FLOW THROUGH WIRE

A basic presentation of how it travels, reflects, and stabilizes

-Tony Griffin KE8NSU

Here's a great video that let's you watch the electrons flow through your transmission line from your finals to the antenna at different impedance matches. It shows forward and reverse voltage (I. E VSWR) as the power wave travels and reflects.

While this is a great primer for really understanding transmission lines, impedance, Smith charts, etc, please bear in mind that radio is NOT exactly what the video maker is trying to explain. His presentation is correct, but he doesn't use words we often use, and steers clear of the math. But this is a real voltages display in a beautiful graphical presentation with the simplified analogy of electron motion within a wire in real time. This is well explained and mimics many AC behaviors we see. If you watch and it's not quite clear how this relates to radio, think in these terms...

The "fast switch" he triggers is your final amplifier, the twisted pair is your transmission line, and the open/short is your antenna being disconnected or being in place. The data presented shows a single DC pulse voltage to follow, but radio sends millions of pulses and is dependent upon your frequency. AM and FM make this different in additional ways as well. Because we have frequency to deal with, our waves can multiply the voltage to become MUCH larger and smaller than the effects we see in DC, so you can easily see how you might blow your finals with a bad match. Also note that with DC, a zero ohms short is the equivalent of a perfect "impedance" match for radio.

While these and other differences between AC and DC are substantial, this still shows the critical DC basics you'll need to properly understand our AC RF systems. Remember, AC is really just DC when referenced to changes over time.

There are too many great points in the video for me to address each here, so watch it and feel free share comments or ask me questions at a future meeting. I'm also glad to expand on the AC or DC theory and physics if desired. I really enjoyed this video, and I hope everyone can grab a new bit of useful knowledge from it.

Link:

<https://youtu.be/2AXv49dDQJw?si=ySSNRNPdrxkmE9sL>

Or scan



Enjoy!

-Tony KE8NSU



ARRL Volunteer Examiner Program

Volunteer Examiners (VEs) are US licensed Radio Amateurs holding a General Class license or higher, who offer their time to administer the FCC licensing exams through a FCC authorized Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization. The ARRL VEC is the largest VEC organization in the US. A team of three or more ARRL VEs are able to test candidates applying for a new license or upgrading an existing license.

If you are interested in becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE) and serving the Amateur Radio community, it's easy and free! Visit the ARRL website and search for volunteer examiners. Download the manual, take an open book test, and you're good to go:

<https://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners>

Consider contributing your time and expertise to your local community by becoming an ARRL VE. Serving the Amateur Radio community as a VE is a gratifying experience!

STORM TEAM SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

HOSTED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
DETROIT/PONTIAC

BEGINS AT 7 P.M. THURSDAY APRIL 11th
WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DOWNRIVER CAMPUS 21000 NORTHLINE
TAYLOR MICHIGAN

CLASSES ARE ALSO BEING HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE FROM MARCH TO JUNE THOROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN. FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
<https://www.weather.gov/dtx/skywarncert>

The poster features a blue background with white and yellow text. On the right side, there is a logo for Skywarn, which consists of a stylized orange and black eye shape above the word "SKYWARN" in bold black letters.

Spring has sprung.

Tis the season for antenna projects. Got a moonraker that you are just itching to get up? Maybe just a dipole strung from the house to the garage. Whatever it takes to get on the air, the club can help.

Pick a day a month or so ahead. Let the Spark Gap editor know and they will publish it in the next newsletter.

Have some food for those who show. Mention grub and they will come.

MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB VE EXAMS

March was a busy month for our MCRC VE Team. Due to Bob K8HV's Technician Class at the Bacon Memorial Library, we had two test sessions this month.

On Saturday, March 9th, we had 10 applicants show up at the First United Methodist Church in Wyandotte. All 10 were successful in passing their exams.

William Clark KF8AMQ, Jason Fenech KF8ALO, David Goroni KF8AMJ, and Sam Howard KF8ANJ passed their Technician exams. Bill Leibengood N8RWF, and Josh Osmialowski W8JMO both upgraded from Tech to General. Alan Finer WB8OWD, Dorene Finer WB8OWE, Daniel Guita K8DJG, and Thomas Russo KF8ACZ all upgraded from General to Amateur Extra! Congratulations to everyone!!!

VE's present were Bob Cunningham W8RFC, Bryan Shiroda KC8ZIQ, Bill Loeber NU3D, Don Novak K8THU, John Roberts N8KAM, and myself.

Then on Saturday, March 23rd, 5 applicants from Bob K8HV's Technician class arrived at the Bacon Memorial Library. Dennis McNeil KF8ARJ, Mike Patrick KF8ARL, Norma Patrick KF8ARK, Jeanette Mills KF8ARU and George Mills KF8ART all were successful in passing their Technician exams. Congratulations to all the new hams!!!

Our next exam will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at the First United Methodist Church, 72 Oak St, Wyandotte, MI 48192. New start time for 2024 is 10:00 am.

Please register for that exam or any other exams at www.w8mrm.net.

Instructions on how to obtain an FRN number can also be found there or at: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores>.

All payments are CASH only! Credit cards no longer accepted.

Please use entrance on Oak Street. There will be a sign on the door that says: "Amateur Radio Exams".

Items to bring with you:

1. \$15.00 exam fee. Cash only, exact amount preferred.
2. Number 2 Pencil and a black ink pen.
3. A copy of your current FCC license (if you have one)
4. Two pieces of Identification (at least one photo)
5. Your FRN Number. If this is an upgrade, your FRN number is on your license.

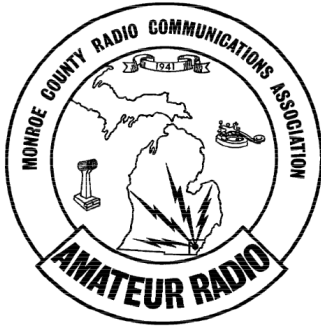
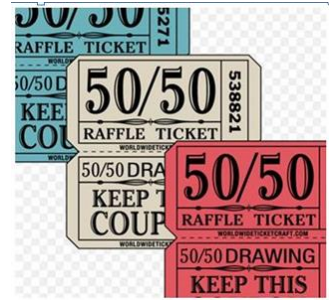
If this is an upgrade, your new license will arrive via email with a link to a PDF copy of your license.

If you are obtaining your first license, the email will contain a link to an FCC page where you have to pay the new \$35 application fee. The link will have payment instructions for each qualifying candidate. The candidate will have 10 calendar days, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or, in very rare instances, an explanation for why the application was dismissed or denied. The link will be valid for 30 days.

Woody Kirkman N8MWQ
VE Liaison



Please buy 50/50 tickets at every club meeting. This is what pays for the hall rental. Ralph KA8KGW will gladly take your money. He only asks that you have exact change. Thank you.



MONROE HAMFEST

and Computer Show



Father's Day - June 16, 2024

7:30am to 1:00pm - Set-up 6:30am Presented by:
The Monroe County Radio Communications Association

Monroe County Fairgrounds

M-50 at Raisinville Rd. (2 Miles west of Monroe)
FREE PARKING

Indoor Facilities / Trunk Sales
Computers and Equipment
Distributors / Hot Food

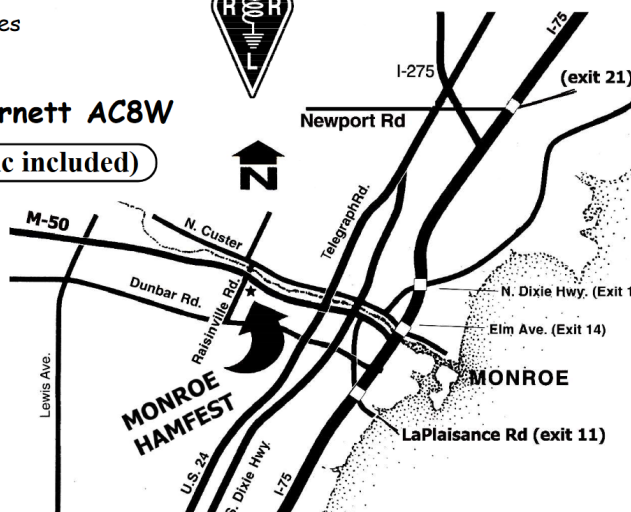
QSL Card checking by Stan Arnett AC8W

Over Night Camping \$40 (electric included)

Tables indoor 8': \$15 each, does not include admission ticket. Electric available in all buildings, bring cords.

Trunk 10' Spaces: \$10 each, does not include admission ticket.

Tickets Advance \$7 each.



(MiQP) is an operating event held annually in Michigan. Amateurs inside the target area (in this case Michigan) earn points towards their QSO party score for making contacts with other amateurs located anywhere, while amateurs outside of the target area get QSO party points only for contacting amateurs inside the target area. It's a great opportunity to hone your HF operating skills and get ready for this year's Field Day. MiQP can provide concentrated dose of operating that will crack the rust off your CW ability or brush up on your phone operating techniques, skills that you can use in other on-the-air activities.

Plan now to participate in the 2024 MiQP Michigan QSO Party on April 20th.

Code Practice on the Wyandotte Repeater

Every Tuesday night, 15 minutes before the Motor City Radio Club Two Meter Net, Bob K8HV provides CW Code Practice sessions. So many in the club are saying this has been a great way to learn the code. Others who already know it, but don't use it as frequently as they would like, are also saying how nice it is to refresh their skills in remembering code. So tune in every Tuesday night at 2045 hours and give it a listen. Special thanks from the club to Bob for doing this.



Tech Line Net Starting May 2nd

Every Thursday At 8pm On the Wyandotte

Starting the First Thursday in May, there's a new net coming to the Wyandotte Repeater. In addition to the ever-popular Tuesday Night Net, Tech Line Net will be every Thursday at 8pm.



MCRC board meeting.

MCRC Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Foggia's Pizzeria.

Upstairs inside the Zodiac Racquet Club at 14795 Dix Toledo Rd in Southgate.

This month's board meeting is on April 17th starting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend all board meetings.

**Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association
Operators of WY8DOT**

I hereby donate \$ _____ to assist in operating expenses of the Wyandotte Repeater: 147.840/147.240 MHz.

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____ Email Address _____

_____ ZIP _____ Date: _____

Please make check payable to The Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association:
Mail to :
The Wyandotte Amateur Radio Repeater Association
1885 Pinetree Dr
Trenton, MI 48183

MCRC Officers

President
Tony Griffin - KE8NSU
president@w8mrm.net

Vice President - Programs
Bob Lawrence K8HV
vicepresident@w8mrm.net

Secretary
Bryan Shiroda - KC8ZIQ
secretary@w8mrm.net

Treasurer
Craig Dunn N2WXD
treasurer@w8mrm.net

Custodian
John Roberts N8KAM

Trustee(s)
Jim Baksa KD8HFX for W8MRM
John Roberts N8KAM for W8GTZ

Parliamentarian
Dale Poblentz WA8FRD
wa8frd@gmail.com

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

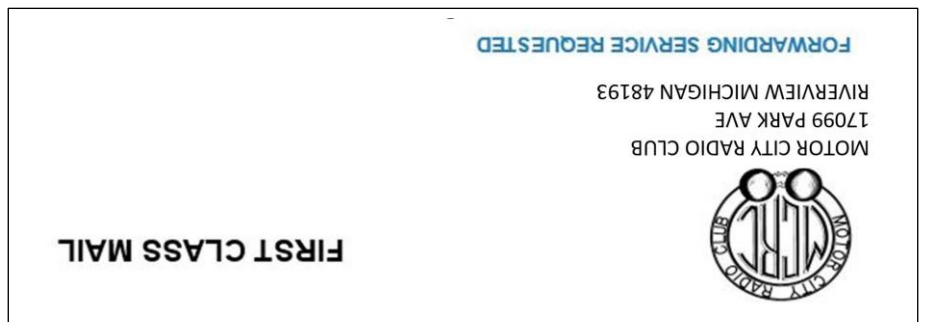
QSL Manager
Jim Baksa KD8HFX
k8sak@arrl.net

Webmaster
Jim Baksa KD8HFX
webmaster@w8mrm.net

Associate Webmaster
'Woody' Kirkman N8MWQ
N8MWQ@arrl.net

Spark Gap Editor
Mike Antio W8MRA
w8mra1@gmail.com

Donate to the Wyandotte Repeater Association. They provide the greatest Two Meter Repeater in Metro Detroit, home of the Motor City Radio Club Tuesday Night Two Meter Net. The premiere net in all of North America.



Upcoming events

April 12th General Membership meeting 7pm Copeland Center 2306 4th. St, Wyandotte.
Program: Capital Spending and Budget.

April 17th Board Meeting at 7pm. Foggia's Pizzeria. 14795 Dix Toledo Rd, Southgate.
Inside the Zodiac Racquet Club. Everyone is welcome to attend all board meetings.

May 10th General Membership meeting 7pm Copeland Center 2306 4th. St, Wyandotte.

May 11th Ham Radio Exam at 10am. First United Methodist Church
72 Oak Street in Wyandotte. Please register at www.w8mrm.net for the exam.