



THE SPARK GAP



Motor City Radio Club

The Longest ARRL Affiliated Club in Michigan
WWW.W8MRM.ORG

June 2009

Volume 55 Issue 06

Field Day T-Shirts

The June Meeting is your last chance to order your limited edition 2009 field day T-Shirt. This years T-Shirt will be personalized with your call sign. Be sure to get your order in TODAY. Orders forms are available at the meeting and in the Spark Gap. Not participating in field day?? Order a shirt anyway!!! They are just \$15.00 and each comes personalized with your call sign.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!!!

Congratulations

Congratulations goes out to Joey Jones, KD8HFZ our newly elected Club Secretary. Please be sure to shake his had that the June meeting, where he will officially take up the position.

Congratulations also to go Bob AC8DZ formerly KD8BVH on passing his exam for Amateur Extra. Bobs accomplishment remind us all what dedication and perseverance can accomplish. Good job AC8DZ

Membership Cards

A reminder to members who have not already done so. You can pick up your 2009 membership cards from Dale WA8FRD at the May meeting.

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Prez Sayz...

Wow! We've been pretty busy. We provided communication for the 3 disciplines race and for the Metro Grand springs tour. We had 4 of 5 folks either upgrade or get their license for the first time. Folks I've talked to have told me they had a lot of fun. There is a lot more fun on the horizon! This month, we have the opportunity to show the world, or at least Taylor, what we can do when we hafta. We have the ability and we have the talent. I can't wait till we put it all together at Field Day. SEE YOU THERE!

Field day is not only an opportunity to "show our stuff". It's also an opportunity to get together and spend time with our friends and family. To that end, we hope you will take the opportunity to visit us for dinner. It'll be something special... something you won't soon forget... and there are two ways to get your ticket.

If you sign up and help with the entire setup or teardown, you'll get a ticket. If you sign up for a 4 hour shift at any position, you'll get a ticket. Sign up for two shifts... get 2 tickets... and so on, and so on. If you work on the FD committee, you get a ticket. Now, if you sign up for a shift after dinner, we trust you. We need you. The other way to get a ticket is to buy one. I believe the cost will be approximately 10 bucks per person but... you will get more than your money's worth! We'll also accommodate any dietary concerns.

To be sure, we MUST, MUST, MUST have a count by June 10. What we have depends on how many people sign up or buy tickets. If we have enough, the plans are for a pig roast. If we don't have enough interest, we'll tone it down... a little. We'll feed the staff on duty at that meal time and we want to be sure we have enough so sign up early. After June 10th, there'll be no more reservations taken, the menu will be set, and the food ordered. If you can't be at the meeting to sign up, PLEASE contact Ray, KD8DPZ, or any of the board members. You can also sign up on the Tuesday night net... just let the net manager know.

Folks, we need you. It doesn't matter if you don't like to talk on the air, don't trust your code proficiency, can't type, or any other issues. We can use you to help make this the MOST successful FD we've ever had and you will have fun! Lastly, the results are in. We have a winner! The top dog will be revealed 6/5.

2009 Field Day

The month of Field day is finally upon us. The June program portion of the meeting is completely dedicated to field day preparation.

This year we hope that all members will join us for the two day event. If you are an operator a logger or just want to come and hang out for some fun in the sun, there will be a place for you.

Field day provides many hams the opportunity to get on the air for the first time or operate in a mode they have not used before. New hams can spend some quality time with experienced and get practical experience tuning antennas, making contacts and working pile-ups.

Our two main tents this year will operate slightly different than in years past. Each tent will be assigned an operating band and allowed to operate in any mode the current operator wishes.

As always the GOTA station will be there to introduce interested members of the public to the benefits and excitement of Amateur Radio. Maybe even ignite the spark of imagination in a young person.

Food this year is going to be provided by our leader Jim—K8SSB. Members who operate, log or work one of the tents for four or more hours, will earn food tickets. Those wishing to just hang out can still eat for \$10.00.

The 2009 Field Day t-shirt also available for purchase. If you can not participate in field day to get a T-shirt and show your pride for the MCRC. There is only more meetings between now and Field Day so order your shirt today. Cost for this years T-Shirt is \$15. Please complete the coupon below for your limited edition 2009 field day shirt.

We look forward to seeing you all at Heritage Park for 2009 Field Day!!!

Field Day T-Shirt Order

Name _____ Call _____

Field Day shirts are **\$15.00** please select your size:

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ XXL _____

Telephone Number _____

A Month of Public Service

The month of May found the MCRC providing for not just one but two public service events. The 3Disciplines race on May 2nd and the Metro Grand Springs Tour on May 3rd.

Small three hour events manned by only a few operators, like the 3D race, and large all day events like the MGST; help hone our operating skills and reinforce our professional image within the community.

Every time we deploy as a group we learn something new. Sometimes what we learn is simple, and it improves the operating skills of just one ham. At the 3D race Jim KD8HFX took the reigns as W8MRM net control for the first time. With a few wise words from the Yoda of net operations, John N8KAM, Jim did a fine job running the show. Other times what we learn, we learn as a group. During the MGST the checkpoints had to think fast on their feet to relay communications from the distant stations back to net control. These public service outings improve both the quality and safety of the event, but our skills as operators.

A huge **thank you** goes out to all of the club members who volunteered. These events would not be possible if it was not for the our members dedication to providing public service communication to groups like these.

Special thanks go to Linda KC8PKY and Jim KD8HFX, the chairs of the MGST and 3Disciplens race respectively.

W8MRM Yahoo Group

Ron—N8XZ has created and volunteered to moderate a Yahoo group dedicated to MCRC. For those not familiar with internet groups, they are an excellent places to post questions, share pictures, and give sagely Elmer advice.

Members are encouraged to join the group to share ideas, ask for help or just post information about ham radio. It can also be an excellent place to share stories about that hard to get DX.

You can access the group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w8mrm/>

Thank you Ron for setting up such a convenient place for members to meet on line and share their ham experiences.

Trenton Mid Summer Festival

What happens after the tulips begin to bloom... I'll tell you. SUMMER FESTIVALS begin to pop up in communities everywhere. These public events are the perfect setting for ham radio operators to demonstrate their skills and hopefully spark a young persons interest in a hobby we all love.

The MCRC has traditionally participated in the Trenton Mid Summer Festival. We plan to continue that tradition this year, on the weekend of July 10th thru 12. Dale, WA8FRD, has taken up the banner, to organize, the operators for this event. Members who wish to operate HF & VHF stations and help promote amateur radio to the public should contact Dale.

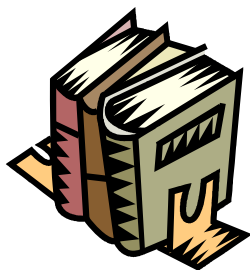


The Library is Open

In an effort to make some of the club resources more accessible to the members a library is being established. Books will be available to members in good standing for a check out period of one month. If you are interested in one of the book, contact the club librarian Ray KD8DPZ. Books will be available at the next club meeting and should be returned to the librarian one month later.

Books Currently Available

1. ARRL 2008 Hand book
2. ARRL Operating Manual 9th edition
3. ARRL RFI Book 2nd edition
4. Technician – Class License Manual
5. MORE wire Antenna Classics Vol2



If you have additional books or materials you would like to donate to the club, bring them with you to the next meeting and give them to the librarian. Your contribution will be much appreciated.

2008 - 2009 Club Officers

President	Jim Lemerand	K8SSB	president@w8mrm.org
Vice President	Ray Olczak	KD8DPZ	Vicepresident@w8mrm.org
Secretary	Joey Jones	KD8HFX	
Treasurer	Dale Poblenz	WA8FRD	treasurer@w8mrm.org
Custodian	John Roberts	N8KAM	
Trustee	Charlie Romick	K8SAK	K8SAK@arrl.net
Parliamentarian	Jim Baksa	KD8HFX	kD8HFX@comcast.net

Club Volunteers

Education	Dave Metz III	KC8OBH	
Net Manager & Emergency Coms	John Roberts	N8KAM	net-control@w8mrm.org
Publicity	Anne Travis	K8AE	
V.E. Liaison	Don Novak	K8THU	
Refreshment Chair	Paula Arnold	N8ZLM	
Spark Gap Editor & Webmaster	Jim Baksa	KD8HFX	Webmaster@w8mrm.org
Historian	Sharon Bledsoe	KC8GMG	
QSL Manager	Charles Romick	K8SAK	
Distribution	Ralph Nagy Marv Weir	KA8KGW KC8DQJ	
Printer	Dale Poblenz	WA8FRD	Treasure@w8mrm.org
Librarian & Field Day Chair	Ray Olczak	KD8DPZ	Vicepresident@w8mrm.org
Metro Grand Springs Chair	Linda Metz	KC8PKY	

Website Updates

Do you have ideas or articles for the website? Is there something you would like to see improved? Feel like helping develop content? See Jim KD8HFX with your ideas, or articles. Help make the website a resource for both our club and for amateur radio enthusiasts.

Things to think about

Believe it or not, it will soon be time to think about who will lead our club in 2010. Nominations for the October elections will take place at our September meeting. If you are interested in learning more what is required in a leadership role, see one of the board members.

Leading the club is only a small part of what keeps the MCRC going, it also takes involved members and volunteers.

September is also the time when we will look to select the Club Member of the Year. Last years winner was Dale, WA8FRD. Who will you select for next years?

As you think about who would like to see honored with Club Member of the Year, the board of Directors will be busy selecting the member who best exhibits the volunteer sprit as the Volunteer of the Year. Last year the Board honored Ray –KD8DPZ with this honor.

The members you select will be honored around the November meeting, and their names will be added to previously honored members.

Take a moment to think about the people you think make the biggest impact in the club and honor them.

Fox Hunt Scoring

- 1st Place 7 pts
- 2nd Place 4 pts
- 3rd Place 3 pts
- 4th and higher 2 pts
- Participate and not find Fox 1 pt
- Hiding the Fox 3 pts



Fox Hunt Schedule

- Hunt 1 May 30th
- Hunt 2 June 20
- Hunt 3 July 18
- Hunt 4 August 15
- Hunt 5 September 19
- Hunt 6 October 17

Week 1 Results

Place	Calls		
1st	KC8OBH	KC8PKY	KD8JTZ
2nd	K8SB	WB8AFO	N8KAM
3rd	N8ZFH	KC8NNX	
4TH	N8TDF	N8SLJ	KC8DQJ
FOX	W8KZP	KB8TOO	

Club Member of the Year

Name _____ Call _____

How would you like to help the MCRC:

Leadership _____ Field Day Chair _____ Event Chair _____

Sweepstakes Chair _____ Other (Please Specify) _____

Telephone Number _____

Please return your Nomination to Joey—KD8HFZ

Volunteer Interest

Name _____ Call _____

How would you like to help the MCRC:

Leadership _____ Field Day Chair _____ Event Chair _____

Sweepstakes Chair _____ Other (Please Specify) _____

Telephone Number _____

Please return your Interest form to Jim K8SSB

Editorial... The Merits of Service

It has been almost a year since I volunteered to take over the role of Spark Gap editor and Webmaster for the Motor City Radio Club. In the past year I have taken every reasonable opportunity to take on additional opportunities to aid the club.

Being new to Ham radio and a new member of the club, I felt it was a good way of getting to know the people and the hobby. Service has given me the ability to learn many members names and to form relationships more quickly than if I had chosen not to volunteer.

When Jim K8SSB asked me to serve the club and the Board as the Parliamentarian, I was worried that I would not be up to the task. Having never served a group in a leadership roll let alone as the interrupter of parliamentary procedures. It did not take long for me to realize that it wasn't necessary that the job be done perfectly, only that someone take the time to try.

There are many jobs to do, and there are fewer and fewer people stepping up to do them. Many who do raise their hand, quickly find themselves overwhelmed by the enormity of it all. Some never raise their hand because they may be afraid of failure, or disappointing the group. In my experience those who volunteer always succeed! They succeed because of their skills and they succeed because others around them WILL NOT let them fail!!

A member of the club e-mailed me a number of months ago, with words of thanks and encouragement for tackling the job of editing the Spark Gap. I replied to her thanking her for her kind words, but I also expressed that the quality of the news letter was not solely due to my work, it was due to the members like Stan and Ron who sent me content each month. These members helped me succeed, and would not let me fail.

Her e-mail did not end with these words of encouragement, it also contained wisdom warning of taking on too much. One can quickly find themselves more involved in the "job" and miss out on other aspects of club involvement. I can't say that service has made me a better operator. In fact I spend more time working on club business than I do playing radio. But my time serving has grown my connections to Hams that I have grown to admire and respect. These will be the men and women that Elmer me, and help me become an outstanding amateur radio operator.

The Board and volunteers are not leaders, they are the custodians of 75 years of amateur radio tradition in the Motor City. Serving the club, not only allows one to grow as a person, but it allows them to honor the members of the past and ensure that future amateur operators will have a club rich in history and steeped in the traditions of amateur radio.

Members are the driving force in any service organization. The President and Board of Directors can only facilitate the wishes of the members. The Motor City Radio Club is at a cross road... it needs the commitment of its members to see this club thru the next 75 years.

These are my thoughts, I'll leave the rest of this column blank, so you can think about the words that will describe how your service makes its mark....

Jim - KD8HFX

**Test Sessions
Coming to a
Location Near You!**

Motor City Radio Club Test Session

July 11th

Sponsor: MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins Welcome)

Contact: DON F NOVAK

(734)281-7030

Email: K8THU@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: GLENWOOD

METHODIST CHURCH

2130 FORD AVENUE (NORTHLINE)

WYANDOTTE, MI 48192

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192-0337
P.O. BOX 337
MOTOR CITY RADIO CLUB, INC.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Save The Date!

Date(s)	Activity	Time
June 5th	MCRC General Meeting — Filed Day Prep	7:30 p.m.
June 18th	Board Meeting — Big Boy, Wyandotte	7:30 p.m.
June 26th	Field Day Setup—Heritage Park	
June 27th—28st	FIELD DAY!!! - Heritage Park	
June 20th	Club Breakfast & Fox Hunt—Leo's Coney Island, Taylor	9:00 a.m.
July 10th	SPECIAL DATE MCRC General Meeting—	7:30 p.m.
July 11th	Test session Glenwood Methodist Church	9:00 a.m.
July 16th	Board Meeting — Big Boy, Wyandotte	7:30 p.m.
July 18th	Club Breakfast— & Fox Hunt—Leo's Coney Island, Taylor	9:00 a.m.

Join us every Tuesday at 9 p.m. for the Motor City Radio Club Net on the 147.24 Wyandotte Repeater. Or use EchoLink: K8UH/R

The Spark Gap is published monthly as the official organ of the Motor City Radio Club, Inc.