



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 18, 2023, 7:00pm
Garden City Presbyterian Church
1841 Middlebelt Rd.
Garden City, MI 48135

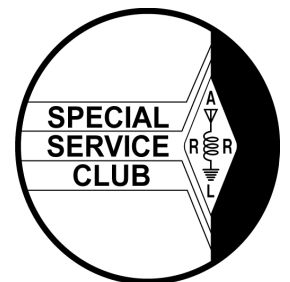
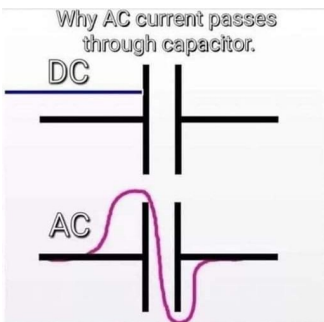
Photo courtesy YouTube

Field Day is Upon Us!

It seems to have snuck up on us, but next Saturday, June 22 is Field Day. As of this writing, we have not been given clearance to use the church property. Also, the generator in the club trailer is not working, so we would not have lights or air conditioning (or even fans). As a result, your club officers are recommending that we all participate operating class "D" (operating from home under AC power) or class "E" (operating from home using emergency power). We will still collect your contacts and submit them as a club, and you should still use the club call sign, K8GC. Remember, if you use your own call sign, you can still submit your contacts yourself, but they won't count as club contacts. We need participants. If you plan to take part, please drop me an e-mail and let me know what times and which band(s) you plan on working. You're not committed to these times or bands, but it will help us to coordinate our activities. Also, please monitor the RAGC Repeater (146.860 MHz, neg. offset, 100Hz PL) throughout the day so that we can use this for communications among ourselves.

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact any of our club officers; our phone numbers and e-mails can be found at www.gcarc.club. Good luck and have fun; I look forward to hearing you on the air next Saturday!

73, Don, KC8VCX



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With the recent announcements about MFJ closing down operations, many of us have been looking for alternate sources for gear and accessories. Thanks to Rich, W8DOW, who came across this list.

Note: All links were tested 4/13/24.

Major Manufacturers:

[ADI Pryme](#)

[Alinco USA](#)

[Alpha Power: Amplifiers \(RF Concepts\)](#)

[Ameritron \(Now MFJ\): Amplifiers \(see MFJ note\)](#)

[AOR Inc.: Monitor Receivers, Digital Radio Modem](#)

[AR² Communications Products: Preamps, more](#)

[Astron: Linear and Switching Power Supplies](#)

[Down East Microwave](#)

[Elecraft: Transverters - Kit Transceivers](#)

[Flex Radio Systems: Software Defined Radios](#)

[Ham TV \(was P.C. Electronics\): Amateur TV Equipment](#)

[Icom America - Amateur Products](#)

[Kenwood - Amateur Products](#)

[LDG Electronics: Antenna tuners, more](#)

[MFJ Enterprises Closed operation, repairs/parts only \(5/2024\)](#)

[Mirage Communications Equipment \(now MFJ\): Pre-Amplifiers, Power Amplifiers \(see MFJ note\)](#)

[Ranger Communications All-Mode Six-Ten and Twelve Meter Radios](#)

[SGC](#)

[TE Systems: VHF/UHF Power Amps](#)

[Ten-Tec](#)

[Yaesu USA](#)

Major Distributors:

[Advanced Specialities](#)

[Associated Radio](#)

[DX Store: Heil, Bird, Behringer mixers, lots of others.](#)

[Hamcity.com](#)

[Ham Radio Outlet](#)

[Hobby Radio Stop: Scanners](#)

[KJI Electronics](#)

[Lentini Communications Inc.](#)

[R&L Electronics](#)

[Radcomm Radio](#)

[Radio Dan](#)

[Texas Towers](#)

[Universal Radio Inc.](#)

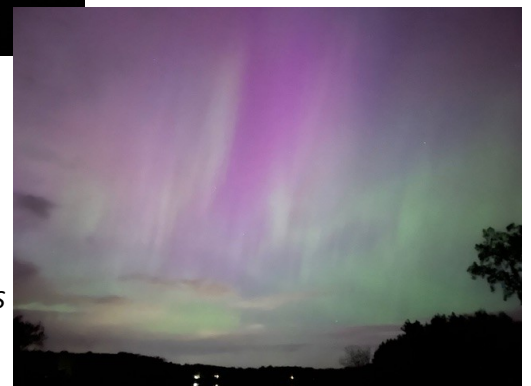
[WBØW, Inc.](#)



In addition to being a beautiful spectacle for us to enjoy, the aurora borealis, or northern lights can be a good indicator of high ionization in the atmosphere, a good thing for ham radio.

Unfortunately, in the event of a strong solar storm such as what we saw recently, the ionosphere can become over-saturated, and actually block Dx communications.

Photos: WT8S



Antennas and Accessories:**AEA: Analyzers****Alpha Delta: Antennas, Coax Switches****Antennas US: Antennas****Array Solutions: Antenna and Dx Accessories****Barker & Williamson Antennas****Butternut Antennas (now Dx Engineering)****Cable X-Perts Coax, Wire, Connectors****C.A.T.S. Rotator Parts, Alliance, CDR, Hy-Gain****Champion Radio Products: Towers, Safety Equip., Tower Hdwr, & Accs****Comet Antennas (N.C.G. Company)****Commscope (former Andrew) Heliax© Hardline****Cushcraft (now MFJ) Antennas (see MFJ note in Manufacturers)****Custom Cable Inc. (was RF Tec Mfg.): RF Surge Protectors, Connectors, Pre-fab'd Cables****Diamond (now RF Parts) Antennas****DX Engineering****DX Avenues (was DX Beam): HF Antennas (France)****Force 12 (now JK Antennas): Antennas, Tri-Ex Towers****Gap Antenna Products****Hustler (New-Tronics): Antennas: HF, VHF UHF antennas****Hy-Gain (now MFJ): Antennas, Rotators, Towers (see MFJ note in Manufacturers)****Hy Power Antenna Co.****Isotron: Low Profile Antennas****JK Antennas (includes Force 12): Antennas, Tri-Ex Towers****KLM (now M2) Antennas Support****Larry's Antennas: Mobile Antennas****Pulse-Larsen part of Pulse Electronics no website of products see PDF link: Mobile & Base Antennas****M² Antennas****Maldol Antennas (N.C.G. Company)****The Mast Company: Telescoping Fiberglass Masts****Metz Communications: Mobile Antennas****Mosley Antennas****Nemal Cable & Connectors****Radioware: Wire, Coax, Connectors****The RF Connection: Cable, Connectors****Rohn Towers (Gone)****SteppIR Antennas: (Fluid Motion) Remotely adjustable Yagi****Tashjian Towers Corp: New Towers (Tri-Ex support and parts)****Tennadyne: Log Periodic Antennas****Tri-Ex Towers: (see: Tashjian Towers)****Universal Towers: Aluminum Communications Towers.****U.S. Tower****Wireman Inc. Coax, Wire, more**

Ham Parts Distributors:

Allied Electronics

Amidon Associates: Iron-Powder & Ferrite Coil Forms

Antique Electronic Supply: Tubes, parts

B & A Products: NTE Replacement parts, test equipment

The Battery Store: (Now TNR Technical) All sorts of batteries

Barker & Williamson: Coils, transmitter RF parts, more

Batteries America - Mr. NiCad's

Bliley Technologies: Crystals, Oscillators

Circuit Specialists: Circuit Boards, parts

Component Distributors

CWS Bytemark: Coils, Cores, Ferrite (Santa Ana, CA)

Digi-Key: Parts, ICs, Components

• Eimac: No longer in business

Futurlec: Components, Parts

Gateway Electronics

ICE: Bandpass Filters, Receiving Converters, more

International CC: Components

Jameco Electronics: Parts, ICs, Components

J. W. Miller (NOW Bournes): Coils, Chokes, RF Transformers

MCM Electronics (now part of Newark) see history [MCM History](#)

Mouser Electronics: Parts, ICs, Components

National RF, Inc.: Dial Scales, DF Equipment.

Parallax BASIC Stamp μ controller

Parts Express: Electronic Parts

Peter W. Dahl (NOW Hammond Mfg.): Custom & Replacement Transformers

Powerwerx: Anderson Power Poles®, Adapters and Accessories

Radio Electronic Supply (NOW Vacuum Tubes Inc.): Vacuum Tubes - New and used.

Radio Shack It's BACK online

RF Parts: tubes, parts, etc.

Svetlana: Tubes (Available through [RF Parts](#))

Tower Electronics: "the ham's dime store"

Vacuum Tubes Inc.: Tubes, Parts

W&W Manufacturing: Batteries, Inserts

HAM RADIO

IT'S A CONTACT SPORT



MI ARRL Section Hamfest, Meeting and Event Calendar

Jun 16, 2024	Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI
Sep 7, 2024	Branch County ARC Trunk Swap, Coldwater, MI
Sep 14, 2024	GMARC Trunk Swap, Shelby Twp, MI
Sep 15, 2024	Adrian Swap & Shop, Adrian, MI
Oct 5, 2024	Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI
Oct 6, 2024	USECA Hamfest, St Clair Shores, MI
Oct 8-13, 2024	USA ARRL Radio Orienteering Nat'l / IARU Reg. 2 Championship, Chelsea, MI
Oct 12, 2024	Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest, Muskegon, MI
Dec 1, 2024	L'Anse Creuse Hamfest, Troy, MI

DISCORD

If you thought the GCARC 2 meter repeater (146.860 with -100 hz PL tone) was the only way members had to communicate amongst ourselves, you'd be wrong. Discord, is an excellent and most importantly, free online multimedia messaging tool. It can be freely downloaded as a desktop app on your Windows, Linux or macOS computer, or utilized as a mobile app for Android and iOS devices.

We can thank Ray Crane, KC8RC for introducing this platform to the club during last month's meeting which now has come to fruition. At a moment's notice, no matter where you are or what you are doing, your thoughts on any subject matter can be keyed in for us all to read and respond to interactively. In Ray's words, "It will be another great resource for building and maintaining a sense of community and camaraderie here at GCARC".

Ray has volunteered to maintain our own Discord (more of a tenant or management domain than a server, as such, but that's the term they use for it) so we can manage who has access, what channels are created, and as necessary perform moderation activities.

More general information on the what and the why of Discord is available from these links:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discord>

https://www.reddit.com/r/RedditForGrownups/comments/t417q1/can_someone_please_explain_discord_to_me_like_im/

For those interested, email Ray at kc8rc@fastmail.com to receive an invitation to join the group. There are a number of us already chatting. Looking to see you there too.

73,
Rich, AC8FJ



MONROE HAMFEST

and Computer Show

Father's Day - June 16, 2024

7:30 am to 1 pm

Presented by:

The Monroe County Radio Comm. Assoc.

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

Overnight Camping available

Talk-in 146.72

For more information and

Table, Trunk and Ticket orders

Go to: <http://www.mcrca.org>

Click on Hamfest in the top blue ribbon

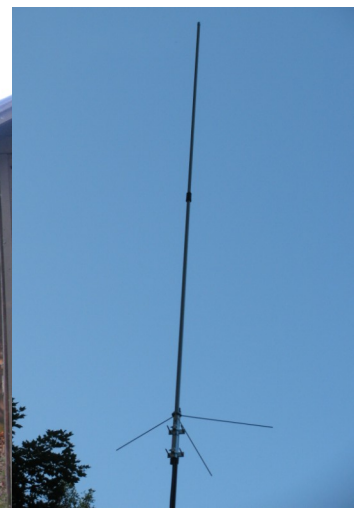
You can now order tables and tickets online using Paypal

or email Fred KA8EBI at ka8ebi@yahoo.com

This is an ARRL approved Hamfest.

Please do not reply to this email instead,

Use Email : ka8ebi@yahoo.com



Have you heard of Trail to Eagle (TTE)?

Over the years, you may have heard Scott Deykes / WT8S and myself mention this Scouting America program on our repeater or at one of our many club breakfasts. Let me enlighten you with a synopsis of what this entails. This one-of-a-kind program was developed from our Michigan Crossroads Council over 28 years ago. It is an opportunity for Scouts of First-Class rank and at least 13 years old to earn additional unique merit badges not necessarily made available within their local troop geographical area before they turn 18 years of age. Once one turns 18, are considered an adult and not able to earn Scouts highest honor, Eagle Scout. It is held at D-Bar-A Scout Ranch in Metamora, MI and run by an amazing volunteer staff, who continue to set the bar high every year.



Since its inception in 1995, over 2,400 Eagle candidates from 12 states, 31 councils, as well as from the Far East and Trans-Atlantic Councils, have attended this unique program. One of the largest attended camps had 191 Scouts participate from six states, eleven different councils, and a Scout from Shanghai, China. Scouts from nearly every corner of the Michigan Crossroads Council have participated in this event.

Over 64% of our candidates have attained the rank of Eagle Scout and even more are still working on achieving this lofty goal. Since the inclusion of over 176,000 girls in the scouting program in the last 5 years, 6,000 have also attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

We have 60 staff members who have been with the program for ten years or more. Scott has been involved many more years than I have. There is a ratio of one staff member for every two youth. The Scouts have earned, on average, over 1,000 merit badges each year with an

average of over six to 10 merit badges per Scout. TTE is not a merit badge mill, but rather a highly structured week that allows ample time to work on merit badges. A Scout must earn the merit badge; they are not just given one. Eagle required merit badges are offered along with 68 non-Eagle merit badges. A sampling of merit badges offered include Aviation, Surveying, Geocaching, Robotics, Fly Fishing, Animation, Movie

Making, Cooking, Photography, Horsemanship, Digital Technology, Signals & Codes, Engineering, Wood Carving, Golf, Mining in Society, Metalwork, Welding, Farm Mechanics, Railroading, Animal Science and Small Boat Sailing.

Scott is a registered merit badge counselor for Search and Rescue, Plumbing and Weather. He also serves as a Scoutmasters to one of the 8 troop color units. I am registered for the Radio merit badge. In addition, our Garden City Amateur Radio club (GCARC), sponsors a special event station during that week. We monitor specific frequencies on 2, 20, 40 and 80 meters. This year's event will be listed in the July issue of QST magazine using the Boy Scouts call K2BSA/8. We're also listed on the ARRL website. One of the requirements of this badge is to have a QSO with some operator on the air. Scouts will learn about propagation and how signals travel all over the world. All Scout participants, who are called "Eagle Candidates" will be divided into provisional units and will be based out of the cabins at the Ranch.

Overseeing the Scouts per cabin will be at least three Scoutmasters and a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM), many of whom are Eagle Scouts, and in most cases have gone through the TTE program. All meals will be served by the D-Bar-A food service staff, in Wyckoff Lodge Dining Hall.

While the emphasis is on earning merit badges, there will be many other high adventure activities which all add to the fun. These include flag ceremonies, a water ball competition, "Basarball" (volleyball), Boy Scout Jeopardy, chess tournament, mile swim, a camp wide Vesper Service, and the ever-popular Order of the Arrow (service organization within the Boy Scouts) sponsored ice cream social.

Throughout the week, the Eagle candidates are competing for the highly coveted Troop Spirit Award. Troops demonstrate their spirit with cheers and songs performed at assemblies before and during all meals. One of the MOST sought-after distinctions is the George Thomas Award. This award is presented to Eagle Candidates who exhibit the same spirit and enthusiasm that this outstanding Scouter showed for the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Preparation for this camp starts after the last one ends. It is literally, a year long effort to keep all the moving pieces reserved in place. Our motto is "You've Got to Believe".

Richard Zarczynski, AC8FJ

The event is listed in this month's QST and the listing as shown on the next page includes frequencies that the Scouts will be monitoring.



Copy of listing as seen in QST:

July 1 – July 5, 0100Z – 0400Z, K2BSA/8, Metamora, MI.
 Garden City Amateur Radio Club/Boy Scouts of America/ Michigan
 Crossroads Council. **Trail to Eagle.** 3.840 7.270 14.330.
 QSL. GCARC, P.O. Box 482, Garden City, MI 48136-0482.
We will monitor frequencies depending on operator availability.
<https://scoutingevent.com/272-TTE2024>

The Garden City Presbyterian Church has treated us very well over the years. They not only have provided us with a meeting space, they have allowed us to hold several special events in their building and/or on their grounds. They have even given us a room to set up as a “radio room” for the club station and equipment storage. Did you know that we have an HF antenna installed in the attic of the church building?

On August 17th, the Church is hosting a classic car show, with proceeds to benefit Focus Hope. They have asked our club if we would help out with parking and possibly other areas. This is a good opportunity to come enjoy the day with friends, chat on our HTs, and help our benevolent hosts with a very worthwhile cause. If you’d like more information, please contact Scott, WT8S.

