



# The Wireless

September 2023

The Garden City

Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 482 • Garden City, MI 48135-9998



**Next Meeting:**  
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023, 7:00pm  
Garden City Presbyterian Church  
1841 Middlebelt Rd.  
Garden City, MI 48135



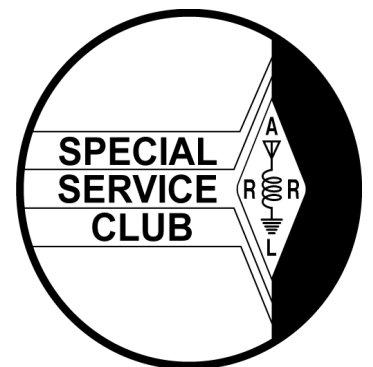
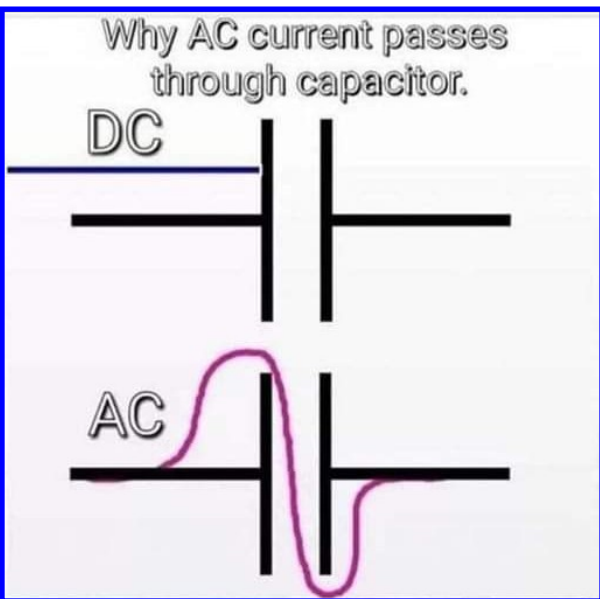
Photo: AC8FJ

Looking back on this summer, I can't really say that I did anything special. We took a two-week trip to see by wife's brother in Tennessee, then on to North Carolina to spend a few days with our son. Otherwise, between working and taking care of family, life goes on regardless of the season. Tomorrow night (Tuesday) is our first club meeting for 2023-24, and we've got quite a few things to talk about, so I hope to see you all there.

### A reminder from our Treasurer:

I will begin collecting 2024 dues at the September meeting. The current fee is \$17.00. Please bring exact change if payment is by cash. Checks to GCARC also will be accepted. Dues can be paid in person during meetings or by mail to our P.O. Box listed above. Please mention our club to prospective new members who may be interested in joining.

73.  
Richard Zarczynski / AC8FJ  
GCARC Treasurer



*Editor's note: One of two things has happened. Either I have lost a bunch of files, or we have actually caught up on Mat's awesome technical articles. And so, from April of 2019, we are pleased to present this **Best of Mat-Matics**:*

# Mat-Matics, #67 1/2

## Your Own Antenna Farm

### Mat Breton, N8TW

Everyone ham wants to have an antenna farm! You can have multiple higher efficiency single-band antennas, separate low-noise receiving antennas, and antenna with completely different directivity and propagation characteristics. You can put up experimental antennas, and then leave them up as art. You can put them on QSL cards, on webpages, and make it your Facebook photo (for those old enough to still use Facebook). I encourage everyone to till and plant your own antenna farm, and improve it every year.

There are several things you will first need before making your antenna farm:

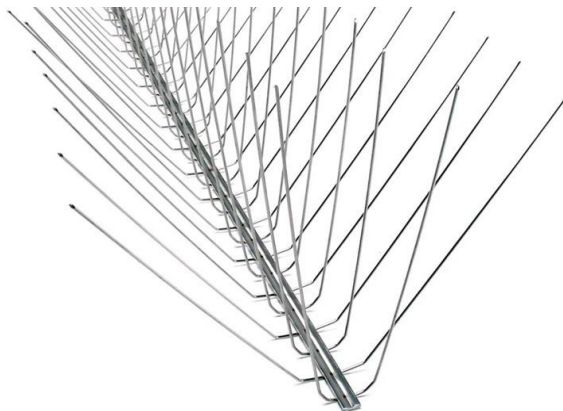
**Autopatch:** The first step is to get a patch of land upon which to plant your antennas. If you re-used the same land area each year, you can refer to it as an autopatch.

**Packets:** You need seed packets. Search the internet for "packet radio" to see all the available varieties. These won't come from Burpee, but it is said they travel fast.

**Feedlines:** You certainly need to feed you antennas. If you are planning on growing very tall antennas, consider using Ladder Line. If the antennas don't seem to be growing very fast, try to coax them a bit, but remember that your crops will probably be thinner due to the increased losses associated with coax.

Even though making an antenna farm seems easy, there are always potential issues to watch out for. I've listed a few below, with solutions for you to consider:

**Birdies:** If you start hearing birdies in your receiver, you may want to put up some deterrents in your antenna farm. You could go old-school with a scarecrow, or you could go new school with some spikes on your antennas:



*I bet the increased bandwidth on the bird-proof element above is HUGE.*

**Critters:** If you are getting critters intermittently interfering with your signals, consider picket fencing. If that doesn't work, you can always try fox hunting.



Reactance: If you antennas get too large you may encounter a bad reactance from your neighbors. This is because antennas that are too long become inductive, meaning they can induce bad reactions in non-hams. You usually want to keep this reactance to a minimum, since a known resistance is easier to match.

Sporadic-E: One way to reduce the sporadic E comments (“eeeh?”, “eek!”, “eh?”, “err ...”, ...) you are subjected to is to disguise your increasing number of antennas. Try to add them slowly, and disguise them as flagpoles, laundry lines, maple syrup collection lines ... whatever it takes.

Antenna height matters: big tall antennas elicit a lot of envy from your fellow hams but may have some associated negatives. Not the least of which can be added resistance. It is well known that a 3/8-Wave vertical antenna will have a higher radiation resistance than a 1/4-Wave vertical. This increased resistance from higher vertical antennas is often reflected in the looks you’ll get from your XYL.

**Summary:** I hope some of this advice helps. Remember to keep your plow on the ground and your losses low.



Yeah I just bought one of those “smart” HF rigs. It almost anticipates your settings. Only thing is, if I forget myself and start using rough language... it retunes itself to 14.313.



# AMATEUR RADIO/COMPUTER SWAP

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023**

**L'ANSE CREUSE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SWAP & SHOP**

	<p><u><a href="#">Balkan American Community Center</a></u></p> <p>1451 E. Big Beaver Road Troy, MI 48063</p> <p><b>8 AM – Noon</b></p> <p>(Vendors with Pre-Paid tables get in at 6:30 AM For set up only. No pre-sales will be allowed to be fair to all Swap attendees)</p> <p><b>SWAP TICKET: \$10.00</b> (Kids under 12 Free)</p>	
<p><u><b>NEW &amp; USED EQUIPMENT:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RADIOS</b> – Amateur, Commercial, CB</li> <li>• <b>ELECTRONICS &amp; COMPONENTS</b></li> <li>• <b>COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE</b></li> <li>• <b>ACCESSORIES</b></li> </ul> <p><u><b>DOOR PRIZES:</b></u> (deposit swap ticket at club table)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> \$ 100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25</li> <li>• ARRL GIFT CERTIFICATES</li> </ul> <p><u><b>SWAP FEATURES:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FREE PARKING</b></li> <li>• <b>FOOD &amp; DRINKS</b></li> <li>• <b>VE TESTING</b></li> <li>• <b>Talk-In: ECHO Repeater 147.08+ 100hz</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Radio Raffle</b></p> <p><b>Icom 7300</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HF/50 Mhz Transceiver</li> <li>➤ Real-time Spectrum Scope</li> </ul> <p>Raffle ticket: \$10. Available at the club table/advanced reg. Winner will be drawn before the end of swap (You do not need to be present to win!)</p>	
<p><b>FCC EXAM SESSION:</b></p> <p>VE Testing: Doors open at 9:00 AM. You will need to bring \$15.00 cash, copies of existing licenses or CSCEs, (originals will not be accepted), two pieces of ID (one must have a photo). You must provide an FRN by registering in the FCC CORES system <b>before</b> exam day. Questions: Contact Gregg, <a href="mailto:n8gco@arrl.net">n8gco@arrl.net</a></p>		

**For Additional Information Contact:**

Russ Price / N8HAR  
LCARC Swap Chairman  
40565 Shakespeare Dr.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313  
[n8har1977@gmail.com](mailto:n8har1977@gmail.com) - Please put 'LCARC Swap' in subject.

**\*Please see reverse side for advanced registration form\***

# Countdown to W4DXCC

**September 29rd and 30th, 2023, Pigeon Forge, TN**

**The W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention is about 6 weeks out. We sure hope you're planning on joining us. We have another well rounded schedule of topics! Please visit our website for all the details and to purchase your tickets! [Click here to go to the W4DXCC website](#)**

**The W4DXCC Convention has MOVED to an upgraded hotel and convention center. We have negotiated a good rate for you. The Ramsey has about 80 rooms available but these rooms go fast. Call now )and make your reservations at the number below, tell them you want the " W4DXCC by SEDCO" rates.**

**865-428-2700**



**We'll be sending out more details including the schedule of activities Wednesday. 73!**

**The W4DXCC Planning Committee**