

Firebird Heritage Membership

WW8GM
 443.075 MHz + 123 Hz PL
 145.210 MHz - 123 Hz PL

775 Feet Above the Detroit River
 Atop GM World Headquarters
 300 Renaissance Center
 Detroit, MI 48265-0001

EchoLink® Node: **99846**

Michigan / Wayne County - Grid: EN82

General Motors Amateur Radio Club

Over the years, there has been an overlap in membership between the Firebirds and the GMARC. The focus of the 2 clubs was different. The Firebirds were an HF club focused on having nets on 80, 40 & 20-Meters. On the other hand, the GMARC was more of a local group concentrated in the Detroit area. One of the overlapping members is our old friend Ben, WB9FJO. Ben helped get some of the GMARA club members to check into our 40-Meter net earlier this year re-kindling some old friendships. During one of their club meetings, they proposed a new class of membership recognizing the old Firebirds for all the years they gave to club and to the hobby. They voted unanimous in favor of the new "Heritage membership." The dues would be FREE the first year and only \$10.00 annually after that. They issue membership ID badges like the one pictured to the right indicating "Heritage Member". Bobby Corr, N8CY asks for a Passport Photo for the ID card with the membership application. I sent in a digital photo my wife took that seemed to fit the bill. If you take that approach, make your photo like Ben's to the right. Your old PIN is also printed on the badge too. If you can't remember your old PI number, Verle, K8VW can probably help you.



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The GM Nets meet daily Monday through Saturday on 7.277.5 MHz at 18:00Z and Tuesdays on 14.277 +/- QRM at 16:15Z

Would you like to help out
with Net Control Duties?
Contact our Net Manager
George, KB9VF
kb9vf@Comcast.net

Net Preamble & Closing



Net Preamble

This is (your call), today's net control. This net is composed of employees and retirees of the General Motors Corporation .

This net meets daily on this frequency for the purpose of getting better acquainted, expanding our knowledge, and improving our operating techniques. We promote friendship among participants in many locations who have many talents and have or have had a variety of work assignments. The General Motors nets are international in scope on some bands, and visitors are always welcome to check in. Please stay carefully tuned to net control at all times. This is (your call) (working for or retired from) (your) Division in (your city), (state). My home QTH is (where you live). My name is (your name) and we will now take check-ins, one at a time, please.

Net Control Stations:

George, KB9VF
Rick, WØPC
Verle, K8VW
Bill, WB9YUR
Denny, N8XLS
Bill, WD9AIH
Phil, W9MPA
Bob, K8MPV
George, N8NPW
David, ABØHU
Charlie, WD9IQV
Fred, WD8ADG
Ed, K8DSS
Chuck, WA8IHI
Wally, WB8M
Walter, DF4IZ

Net Closing

Are there any late check-ins for the net? (pause for late check-ins). Is there any further business for the net? (pause for any further business) Having no further business, we will close the net at this time. This net is composed of General Motors employees, retirees, and visitors. We meet each day, Monday through Saturday, on or about this frequency, at (**1700z** or 1800z). Thank you for your participation and please return often. This is (your call) now closing the net. 73 and Good Afternoon.

**Turn on the radio and tune us in. We are on 40-meters
Join us on or about 7.277.5 MHz at 17:00Z**

Net Control Schedule

May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: DX Net, 1615Z, 14.277 +/- QRM: Walter, DF1IZ Net Control			1 W9PMA - Phil	2 N8XLS - Denny	3 ABØHU - David	4 WD9IQV - Charlie
5	6 WA8IHI - Chuck	7 WD8ADG - Fred, DF4IZ - Walter	8 WØPC- Rick	9 KB9VF - Geo	10 WD9AIH - Bill	11 K8MPV - Bob
12	13 WB9YUR - Bill	14 K8VW - Verle, DF4IZ - Walter	15 N8NPW - Geo	16 W9PMA - Phil	17 N8XLS - Denny	18 ABØHU - David
19	20 WD9IQV - Charlie	21 WD8ADG - Fred	22 K8DSS - Ed	23 WB8M - Wally	24 WØPC- Rick	25 KB9VF - Geo
26	27 WD9AIH - Bill	28 K8MPV - Bob	29 WB9YUR - Bill	30 K8VW - Verle	31 N8NPW - Geo	Notes:



Top of the RenCen - WW8GM/R

The GMARC UHF repeater in Detroit on 443.075 MHz (WW8GM/R) has an Echolink connection. If you can't make the net via RF, try out the Echolink connection on Monday evenings at 8:00 PM EDT (WW8GM-R, Node 99846) "The GMARC Information Net." Net control is Kurt WU8V. Photo by WU8V (L to R) Paul KC8BDK, Chuck N8ZA, Ray W8PIE



The Psychiatrist and the Proctologist

Best friends graduated from medical school at the same time and decided that, in spite of two different specialties, they would open a practice together to share office space and personnel. Dr. Smith was the psychologist and Dr. Jones was the proctologist. They hung a sign reading: "Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones: Hysterias and Posteriors." The town council was livid and insisted they change it.

So, the docs changed it to read "Schizoids and Hemorrhoids." This was also not acceptable, so they again changed the sign: "Catatonics and High Colonics." Still no go.

Next, they tried "Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives." Thumbs down again. Then came "Minds and Behinds." Still no good. Another attempt resulted in "Lost Souls and Butt Holes." Unacceptable again!

So they tried "Analysis and Anal Cysts." Not a chance. "Nuts and Butts." No way! "Freaks and Cheeks." Still no good. "Loons and Moons." Forget it.

Almost at their wit's end, the docs finally came up with: "Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones -- Odds and Ends." And everybody loved it.

Net Control Schedule

June 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:	DX Net: Walter, DF1IZ resumes November 5th					1 W9PMA - Phil
2	3 N8XLS - Denny	4 ABØHU - David	5 WD9IQV - Charlie	6 WD8ADG - Fred	7 K8DSS - Ed	8 WB8M - Wally
9	10 WØPC- Rick	11 KB9VF - Geo	12 WD9AIH - Bill	13 K8MPV - Bob	14 K8VW - Verle	15 WB9YUR - Bill
16	17 N8NPW - Geo	18 W9PMA - Phil	19 N8XLS - Denny	20 ABØHU - David	21 WD9IQV - Charlie	22 WD8ADG - Fred
23	24 K8DSS - Ed	25 WB8M - Wally	26 WØPC- Rick	27 KB9VF - Geo	28 WD9AIH - Bill	29 K8MPV - Bob
30	Notes:					





**Amateur
Radio
Club**

www.gmarc.org

GM Amateur Radio Club Membership Application

Membership in the GM Amateur Radio Club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio

New Member [] Renewal [] Heritage []

Present Call Sign _____ ARRL member yes/ no _____

Name _____

I would like to be called _____ (This will be used for the First Name on your ID Badge)

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Home Phone # _____

Cell phone # _____ Work Phone # _____

E-mail address _____

If you are/were a GM employee - Work location _____

Yearly dues are: January 1 -- December 31

[] \$20.00 Individual [] \$30.00 Family [] Heritage \$10 (first year free)

Please make checks payable to: **GM Amateur Radio Club or GMARC**

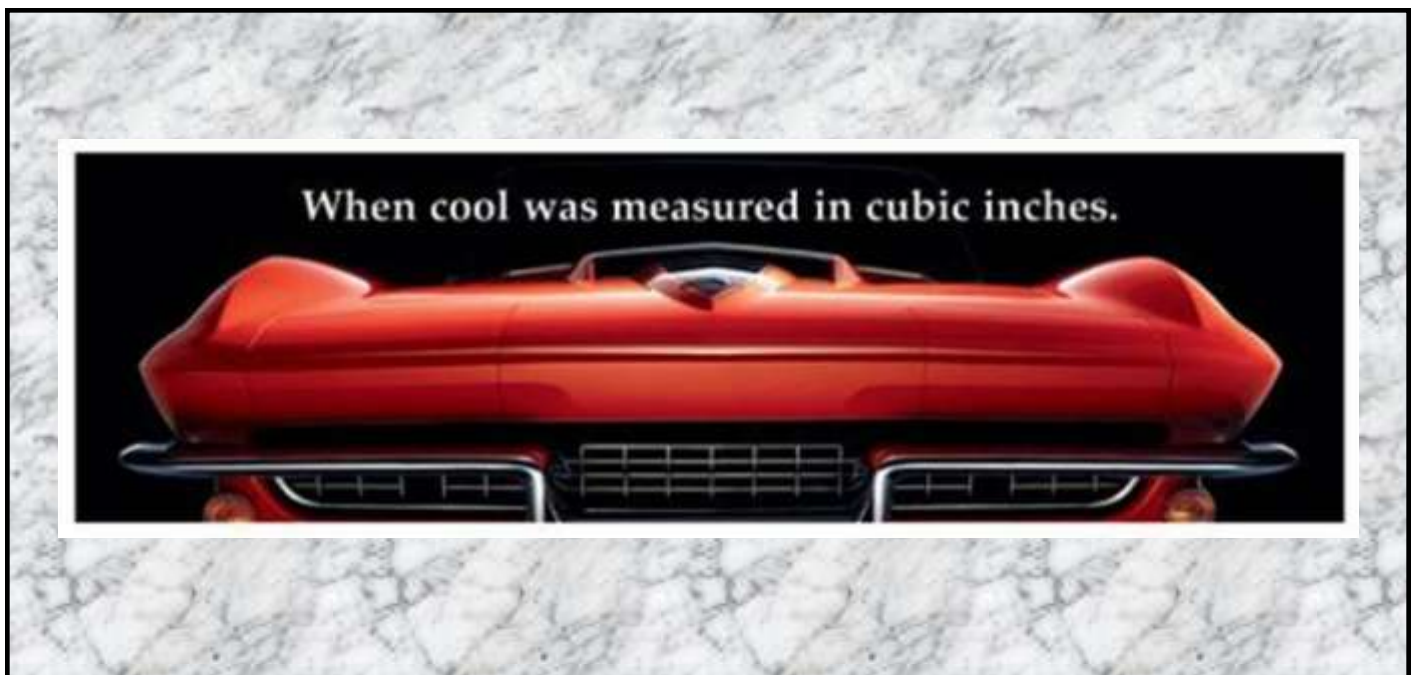
Note: Please enclose a passport photo (for your membership id)

Mail to: **GMARC**
 Bobby Corr - N8CY
 45601 Fox Ln w apt 106
 Shelby Township, MI 48317-5054

Net Control Schedule

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:	1 K8VW - Verle	2 WB9YUR - Bill	3 N8NPW - Geo	4 W9PMA - Phil	5 N8XLS - Denny	6 ABØHU - David
7	8 WD9IQV - Charlie	9 WD8ADG - Fred	10 K8DSS - Ed	11 WB8M - Wally	12 WØPC- Rick	13 KB9VF - Geo
14	15 WD9AIH - Bill	16 K8MPV - Bob	17 K8VW - Verle	18 WB9YUR - Bill	19 N8NPW - Geo	20 W9PMA - Phil
21	22 N8XLS - Denny	23 ABØHU - David	24 WD9IQV - Charlie	25 WD8ADG - Fred	26 K8DSS - Ed	27 WB8M - Wally
28	29 WØPC- Rick	30 KB9VF - Geo	31 WD9AIH - Bill	Notes: DX Net: Walter, DF1IZ resumes November 5th		



Ham Radio Freedom

by David Hathaway

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Surprisingly, ham radio is something that has not been entirely messed up by state action. As a matter of fact, it has avoided most of the crazy rules that have affected commercial broadcasting and commercial two-way radio in recent years.

The ruinous policy of converting all over-the-air broadcast TV to digital transmission has greatly reduced signal coverage. On the eve of that grand edict taking effect several years ago, many historic stations went out of business rather than spending the money to convert to less effective technology that would reduce their broadcast range. The pay satellite and cable TV lobby won out on that one over the free providers. Digital doesn't always mean better. The same thing applies to cell phones. Remember when cell phones used to sound clear, with fuller audio fidelity, and very little signal lag? That was back when 3-watt transmitters and broader band analog signals were an option. Regulators have caused the robust quality of cell phone communication to degenerate over time. Your current cell phone emanates a very low powered, very narrow band digital signal which is also plagued with multiple other state-caused unintended consequences like poor hybridization (the ability of both sides to interact at the same time) over the extremely narrow digital signal, low quality compressed audio, and latency delays in the digital stream (when you both keep interrupting each other because you think there is silence when your friend is actually talking).

Another policy change within the past year that has negatively affected users of two-way commercial radio is a new FCC requirement to use a more "narrow band" FM radio signal. This reduces audio fidelity and effective transmission distance. Hams are exempt from this requirement even though they use identical technology for two-way FM voice communication in their walkie-talkies, vehicle mounted radios, and base radios. They can continue to use the much more effective wider band FM signals.

Such requirements like mandatory usage of less effective digital signals or reduced radio signal bandwidth have not been applied significantly to ham radio. Since ham radio is largely considered an experimental amateur (unpaid) medium, most transmission modes are allowed. Ham radio operators use many diverse forms of communication including ham satellites; digital or analog transmissions; FM/AM and other modes; and a choice of bands ranging from worldwide high frequency bands to more local VHF, UHF, and microwave bands. Ham operators also send TV signals, digital facsimile images, and re-transmitted signals from unmanned mountaintop and tower repeaters over long distances. There are many linked repeater systems (most having solar or generator power back-up) that connect multi-state regions throughout the U.S. These repeaters are accessible via a small walkie-talkie like [this](#) compact full featured dual band VHF/UHF handheld radio for \$114 or [this](#) one for \$40. The radio and repeater technology is the same as used by many police departments for wide area coverage via handheld or vehicle mounted radios. In many cases, hams have fewer government imposed antenna restrictions than commercial radio operators. This is due to the experimental nature of the hobby and the government acknowledged concept that hams perform a public service by providing alternate communications in emergencies.

Government allowed power limits are much higher for hams than most other non-commercial and commercial radio categories. The familiar Citizen's Band (CB) is allowed a 4 watt signal and the Family Radio Service (FRS) is limited to half a watt. Ham radio, on the other hand, is allowed 1,500 watts on most bands. Most modern state regulated cellular phones have a maximum power output well under one watt (they are allowed up to two watts) and they self-adjust to power outputs down to 20 milliwatts (20/1,000 of a watt). **Continued on page 10**

Net Control Schedule

August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: DX Net: Walter, DF1IZ resumes November 5th				1 K8MPV - Bob	2 K8VW - Verle	3 WB9YUR - Bill
4	5 N8NPW - Geo	6 W9PMA - Phil	7 N8XLS - Denny	8 ABØHU - David	9 WD9IQV - Charlie	10 WD8ADG - Fred
11	12 K8DSS - Ed	13 WB8M - Wally	14 WØPC- Rick	15 KB9VF - Geo	16 WD9AIH - Bill	17 K8MPV - Bob
18	19 K8VW - Verle	20 WB9YUR - Bill	21 N8NPW - Geo	22 W9PMA - Phil	23 N8XLS - Denny	24 ABØHU - David
25	26 WD9IQV - Charlie	27 WD8ADG - Fred	28 K8DSS - Ed	29 WB8M - Wally	30 WØPC- Rick	31 KB9VF - Geo



Ham Radio Freedom

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One of the best characteristics of ham radio is related to privacy. It is impractical for a government snooper to easily grab data about ham communications. The state goes for the low hanging fruit. It has become so easy to snoop en masse that the government rarely monitors anything that is not connected to a grid in this country. The extent of government domestic radio monitoring is usually limited to some review of general radio frequency activity, not usually hard-targeting any individuals. It is much easier to require Google to search for key words in stored gmails. It is very easy to do the same with Verizon wireless for text messages. It is easy to require a cooperating cell phone company to tap a cell phone from a thousand miles away and cause the Electronic Serial Number (ESN) tracked device to route all of its data and communications to a central government repository. There is practically no legwork for these mass intercepts and they are required of, and facilitated by, private communications providers under laws like the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). It is near impossible to grab stored communications content through a grid for most ham radio communications.

There is no longer a logging requirement for ham radio, so there will not be the possibility of an audit of personal logs that were previously mandated regarding your historical communications. The frequencies and modes are so varied that it would require a team to try to understand the vagaries of the communications of one small group of radio operators. There is no ESN assigned to your device that allows the government to track you. The common usage of directional antennas in ham radio would require an interceptor to not only know the band, frequency, mode, and time of the transmission but, to effectively calculate angles and azimuths and place himself in the path of the signal with suitable equipment. Too close or too far from a transmitter would cause an interceptor to miss the communication entirely when ionospheric bounces are involved in international communications. Most ham communications immediately vanish into the ether after the conversation and it would require an old school recorder, a pair of headphones, and a real-time dedicated team of government operators spinning the dial to try to grab a snapshot of your specific communications. The truth of the matter is that this is cost prohibitive and is not often attempted on a domestic level. Why would law enforcement agencies bother trying to mobilize a bunch of unionized, carpal tunnel, flexitime, flexiplace, overtime-seeking, perdiem-seeking teams for one-off targeted intercepts anyway when Americans have given up gazillions of bits of data that only require a contractor-provided computer system to profile, slice, dice, sort, and spit out the desired results. The ham operators in your region spend lots of their own money on free access equipment like repeaters and digital radio bulletin board systems (like email sent over the radio). These ventures are usually free for any ham to use. It is very much a self-organizing activity using privately procured equipment. There is a lot of plug-and-play equipment available that requires very little technical knowledge to set up. If you have very little money, it is a perfect hobby and a perfect way to talk to your family while you are on the road because you will be able to access lots of strategically placed [communications equipment](#) belonging to others with no monthly access charges. A hundred dollar handheld radio will allow you to communicate back to your family via repeaters over a large area at no cost to yourself. China produces a fantastic array of compact full frequency products. Many ham radios can be modified to operate in other bands. Google "ham radio mods" and you will see many step-by-step articles describing how to get the most out of your radios. (continued)

(Continued from pg 10)

Another nice feature of ham radio is that it furthers the Jeffersonian ideal of friendly relations with foreign countries that are so often demonized by the state. Ham radio operators collect proofs of contact (called QSL cards) from many countries around the world. They learn that these foreigners are normal people just like they are. The government cannot simply turn off or block access to certain countries or certain individuals like they can when the internet or a cell phone is used.

A present day positive aspect of ham radio is an *improvement* in international signals during the peak of the 11-year solar cycle (which we are experiencing right now). Although you have heard on the main stream media about the current negative effects of these solar flares on communications, hams eagerly look forward to this predictable point in the cycle. The almost fully digitized, feeble, weak-signal world of satellite entertainment and communications dreads this 11-year atrocity. Hams love it. The ionization of the ionosphere by heavy solar activity actually improves the ability of high frequency signals to bounce ("skip") within the atmosphere to other distant parts of the earth allowing better communications with persons thousands of miles away.

Study for licensing in the U.S. is still easy. The main reason the system works so well is that it is privately operated by volunteer hams called "Voluntary Examiners." Some charge a nominal fee to administer the test but, only about \$10 to recoup some of their expenses for mileage, etc. Study for the license used to require a [preparation book](#) which you can still use but, all of the question pool is now available on line at [qrz.com](#) for free. You can take as many practice tests as you desire using a test generator on [qrz](#) that creates endless numbers of tests using the real questions. The question pool stays the same for a few years, so it is a memorized multiple choice gig (in case you thought the FCC would require real learning; remember the government set this up). Nine members of my family have passed the radio theory tests and obtained their licenses, some advancing to higher license classes, usually doing so as part of their homeschooling when they get to about 10 to 14 years of age.

Reciprocal usage of your U.S. license is allowed while you are travelling in many countries with no additional licensing requirements. Many foreign countries will grant you a license if you simply show them your U.S. license and pay a fee. In reality, residents of many third world countries use modern ham radio equipment for short and long distance communication as commonly as Americans use telephones and no licenses are applied for and no fees paid.

Hope to hear you on the air.
73's from KK6HG / CP6XZ.

May 4, 2013

David Hathaway is a former supervisory DEA Agent. He is a cowboy and aficionado of Latin America where he has lived and traveled extensively.

He homeschools his nine children and maintains the website [charityendureth.com](#).



Radio Geezers

- You know you are a radio Geezer when you have more tools than you'll ever need, but can't find them.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you need to keep your radio's user manual on the desk.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when your antennas are getting smaller and closer to the ground.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when it's been 40 years since you've had the snot shocked out of you.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you check into the weather net, the noontime net, the Bell Telephone net, and some other net just because they are there.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you still have a phone patch and Q multiplier in the cabinet.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when your radio warms up faster than you do
- You know you are a radio Geezer when RF gets into your hearing aid
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you have to find your teeth to have a QSO
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you can no longer see the parts used to make radios
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you know how to properly tie a wire bundle using waxed string.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when some of your test gear you built is older than your adult children.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you add light in front of your radio so you can read the dials.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when the neighbor kid annoys you with his rap music so you get on six meters and call CQ when there is no chance of a band opening.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you buy a piece of gear only to find out you already had one in the garage you forgot about.
- You know you are a radio Geezer when you can no longer log, make QSO's and drive at the same time.