



Volume VII, Issue 4

GM Net Newsletter

Merry Christmas



December 2014



Eastern Mediterranean Cruise

The cruise was very enjoyable. Our weather was great, so it made our port calls very comfortable and enhanced the scenery. We spent three days in Barcelona ahead of boarding the ship. Very large, bustling and progressive city. One of Europe's most popular destinations. Then, aboard the Celebrity Equinox, we went to Rome, the Amalfi Coast/ Positano, Pompeii, the Greek islands, Athens, Turkey and, finally to Valletta, Malta, before returning to Barcelona. The trip back home was about 24 hours and took us through Amsterdam, to Atlanta, to Tampa. Whew, 16 days of travel just jam packed with things to do! We visited all of the famous Roman and Greek ruins of ancient times, so it was very educational and enlightening. My brother, Bob, and his wife went with Susan And I. He was the photographer and amassed 1500 pictures, which he is organizing.

73' Ed - K8DSS



K8DSS, Easy dog and Susan visiting Santorini, Greece

Inside this issue:



Mediterranean Cruise	1
Net Preamble & Closing	2
December Net Schedule	3
Planning for Next Phase	4
January Net Schedule	5
...Next Phase (Cont.)	6
February Net Schedule	7
The Monster Tower	8
March Net Schedule	9
Heritage Application	10



K8DSS, Ed and Susan touring St. Peter's Square & Basilica - Vatican



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 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
Chuck, WA8IHI
Wally, WB8M
Walter, DF4IZ
Ed, K8DSS (Alternate)

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.

When running the net, pause after about 4 to 5 station during the roundtable and ask for check-ins to allow folks to get on the list.

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 18:00Z**

Net Control Schedule

December 2014

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

GM Net's Hamfest Crew Ft. Wayne 2014

Front Row L/R: Bob - KD8RUX, George - KB9VF, Phil - W9PMA, Ken - KG9O

Back Row L/R: Darrel - WD8ANZ, Charlie - WD9IQV, Denny - N8XLS



Planning for that next phase in life

By Pat Tice



Right now I'm looking at a photo of my mother-in-law's assisted living condo building and grounds. There are balconies outside the second floor units and patios outside the ground floor units. A spacious lawn falls away gently to the right, punctuated by light standards and trees.

She isn't a ham radio operator, but I am, and when she moved to assisted living recently I couldn't help thinking about what I would do to stay on the air if I decided to make a move to an apartment or condo. Would I have

to give up my ham radio hobby, or be content with VHF/UHF FM operation on local repeaters? Only this morning I talked on Echolink with a fellow ham who was shopping around for an assisted living condo.

Let's face it - The time will come for most of us when something will cause us to make a move to something other than a single-family home with a yard for HF antennas. What options will we have to continue talking to our friends on the HF bands? What if the local FM repeater is not within range? What if the condo association says "no" to antennas?

Well, here's the thing: You have to make the best of your options. When I talked with my friend this morning, we both knew that he was shopping around for condos, which meant that he was in the driver's seat and had some choices. If you know you are going to make a move in the near future, do some homework and look for a ham radio friendly environment. Time is your ally when you have enough of it, but can be your worst enemy when you find yourself needing to move almost immediately. No one relishes a move, but sometimes job, family, or a health condition may require it, sometimes on short notice.

Depending on the circumstances, a change in housing may be transitional and therefore temporary. If you know your "stay" is going to be only a few weeks, you may want to just stick with the relatively simple VHF/UHF HT or a mobile rig and power supply with an indoor mag mount antenna or an indoor J-Pole. Since internet access is usually available these days, you can stay in touch with friends on Echolink or some other VoIP-enabled system. It may even be possible to operate an HF remote base station like WØPC.

(continued on next page)

Net Control Schedule

January 2015

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

(Continued from pg 4)

In the longer term, you will want more choices.

If you are lucky enough to find (or land in) a housing arrangement that allows for outside antennas, you can consider wire antennas, like an end-fed Marconi design tuned against ground, or maybe even a vertical antenna. If you don't see any other outside antennas, you can still ask! One assisted living campus near us has allowed at least three separate instances of outdoor wire HF antennas that I know about. One antenna was an end-fed that had to be over 100 feet long! We cannot always get exactly what we want, but sometimes we can get something that is good enough.

If you absolutely have no outdoor antenna options, what then?

There is no way to sugar-coat the reality of a "no antennas" apartment or condo. Sure, you can try indoor antennas for HF, but I have stopped recommending them altogether. The reasons are several:

- Noise from lighting, appliances, and switching power supplies is just plain awful when you place your antenna indoors. There are switching supplies everywhere in great numbers these days.
- Indoor antennas increase RF exposure and can fall outside FCC guidelines for safety.
- Indoor antennas are necessarily very short and need antenna tuners with a lot of range. Their feedpoint impedance is very low and they have virtually "single frequency" bandwidth for a given antenna tuner setting.
- Indoor antennas can cause RFI for your own electronic gadgets or those of your neighbors. That means you can only operate at low power levels.
- Indoor antennas just plain don't work very well.

A cautionary tale

If you think you are going to be the one smart guy who makes his indoor antenna system work, think again. The odds are not only stacked against you, but they are piled up so high that the pile fell over on top of you! I remember one guy who had to move from his house to an apartment. A volunteer from a radio club helped him put a wire antenna along the top of the roof. The volunteer then helped this older fellow set up his station equipment at the operating desk, but the linear amplifier was boxed up and placed in the closet.

"You can only operate with your transceiver", the volunteer told him. "There is no way you can use high power, so I have packed the linear amplifier away for you."

After a week or two, the poor fellow had some bad news. He was banned from operating at all in his apartment and would have to take the antenna down. The reason was that he had hooked up the amplifier and transmitted with high power, setting off all the building's fire alarms.

Be creative

The fact of the matter is that you are going to have to be more creative to stay on the air. You can go HF mobile if you own a car. You can join a radio club with a club station. You can operate remote base HF via the internet. You can use an indoor antenna and run QRP with PSK-31. You can make arrangements with a friend to periodically visit and use the friend's Station. (Continued Next Page)

Net Control Schedule

December 2014

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 0	2 ABØHU - David	3 WD9IQV - Charlie, DF4IZ - Walter	4 WA8IHI - Chuck	5 WØPC- Rick	6 K8DSS - Ed	7 KB9VF - Geo
8	9 K8MPV - Bob	10 K8VW - Verle, DF4IZ - Walter	11 WB9YUR - Bill	12 W9PMA - Phil	13 N8XLS - Denny	14 ABØHU - David
15	16 WD9IQV - Charlie	17 WA8IHI - Chuck, DF4IZ - Walter	18 WØPC- Rick	19 K8DSS - Ed	20 KB9VF - Geo	21 K8MPV - Bob
22	23 WB9YUR - Bill	24 K8VW - Verle, DF4IZ - Walter	25 W9PMA - Phil	26 N8XLS - Denny	27 ABØHU - David	28 WD9IQV - Charlie

Notes:

DX Net, 1615Z, 14.277 +/- QRM:
Walter, DF4IZ Net Control

(Continued)

None of this is like having a 75 foot tower with stacked Yagi antennas and acres of real estate for full-sized dipole antennas, but you do what you have to do. If you have time to do your homework ahead of choosing new digs, by all means check out housing covenants and condo or apartment restrictions. Check out the policy at assisted living facilities. It is always best to plan ahead as much as you can, which will give you a better chance of staying on the air.

For Handiham World, I'm... Patrick Tice, WA0TDA

From the Editor: I have been in contact with Pat Tice for a number of years since we both have worked with the handicapped helping them get licensed. When I read Pat's article, I had to call him and ask for permission to reprint it. I was remembering Ray Tompkins, K1RAY with his move from his home in Connecticut to his daughter's home in Tyrone, GA then to an Assisted Living Home where he could setup his radios. My 2 different stays in the hospital this year brings home the possibility the time for a move may be rather sudden.
73, Rick

New Sarasota EOC & 911 Center

Ed, K8DSS has been spending part of his retirement doing Engineering work for the county, designing the antenna and feedline system for the ARES/ACS group at the EOC. The new Sarasota County EOC and 911 Center has a new 250 ft free standing tower designed to handle 200 mph winds.



Two of the five amateur radio antennas on the new tower. These are at 210 ft. Level. They are fed with 1 5/8" Heliax. That's some pretty expensive stuff.



No, That's not Ed climbing the tower



With today's price of concrete, can you imagine how much of our taxpayer money is in the hole in the ground to support such a huge antenna.... In 200 MPH winds?

There will be more than 12 antennas on the tower when it's all done. That's some serious wind loading. **Did I hear CQ CQ DX CQ DX... de K8DSS**

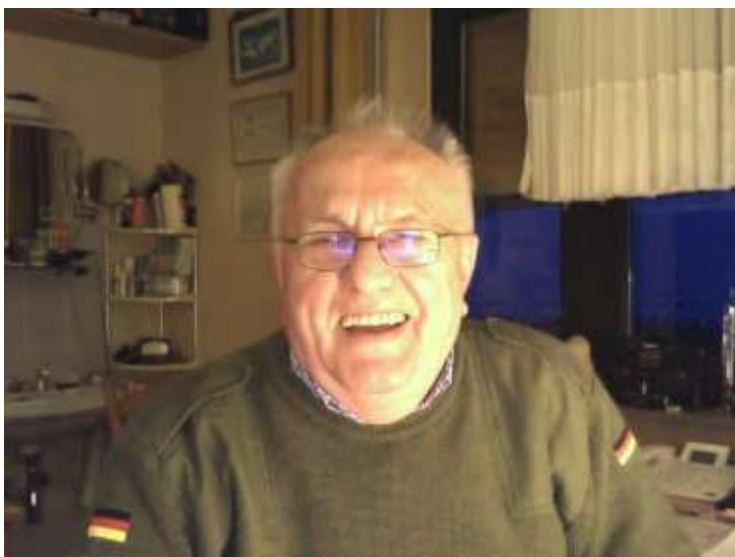
Net Control Schedule

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 0	2 WA8IHI - Chuck	3 WD8ADG - Fred, DF4IZ - Walter	4 WØPC- Rick	5 K8DSS - Ed	6 KB9VF - Geo	7 K8MPV - Bob
8	9 WB9YUR - Bill	10 K8VW - Verle, DF4IZ - Walter	11 W9PMA - Phil	12 N8XLS - Denny	13 ABØHU - David	14 WD9IQV - Charlie
15	16 WA8IHI - Chuck	17 WD8ADG - Fred, DF4IZ - Walter	18 WØPC- Rick	19 K8DSS - Ed	20 K8MPV - Bob	21 KB9VF - Geo
22	23 WB9YUR - Bill	24 K8VW - Verle, DF4IZ - Walter	25 W9PMA - Phil	26 N8XLS - Denny	27 ABØHU - David	28 WD9IQV - Charlie
29	30 WA8IHI - Chuck	31 WD8ADG - Fred, DF4IZ - Walter	Notes: DX Net, 1615Z, 14.277 +/- QRM: Walter, DF4IZ Net Control			

GM DX Net

Tuesdays at 16:15Z on 14.277 MHz +/- QRM. Walter DF4IZ is the Net Control. The dates are marked on the net schedules within this newsletter. CU you on 20-Meters!





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

Note from the Editor: Many of our old Firebird ARC have also joined the GMARC as "Heritage" members. Nets are on WW8GM/R (443.075 MHz) linked to Echolink via WW8GM-R Monday's @ 8 PM EST or 0:00 Z