

Preserving Our Hobby

Headlines: "ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees." Where is our hobby going? It seems like the ARRL wants to give away all the hard work we've put in. First it was dropping the code requirement to 5 WPM, then dropping it all together. Now they want to give phone privileges on HF to Technicians. Where is it going to end. As you can see, I was a bit upset when I heard the latest request from the ARRL. This past weekend, I was listening to a QST from WAØRCR on 1.860 MHz AM Saturday. Vern Jackson transmits all the different ham radio related podcasts. His QSTs are on every Saturday. It's a little irritation to the contesters but Vern's KW AM broadcast station is there every Saturday all day and night. This past Saturday's podcast was talking about the expanded privileges for Techs. After listening to the discussion, I've changed my opinion. I got over the dropping the code and I'm beginning to get over this new proposed change. One big thing is the fact our average ham population is getting older. There is a very slight growth in the numbers and I'm sure that EmComm is driving it. Have you been to a hamfest lately, look around. How many young folks do you see? We are just one generation from the end of our great hobby. What brings the gee-wiz factor to kids and younger generation? They can already use the Internet for a lot of the things we do. Requiring, new hams to be restricted to the dead 10 meter band and the very sporadic 6 meter band is a little boring. 2 meter FM is very quiet compared to where it was before cell phones. Satellite operations are possible but not all Generals or above do that part of the hobby either.

I'm sure the hobby will out last me as an individual but I'd like it to continue for several more generations, maybe using modes that we haven't even dreamed about yet. Our frequencies are a valuable resource that once we loose them, they are gone forever. Give the new kids a chance to join our hobby.

73, Rick, WØPC

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**The GM Nets meet daily
Monday through Saturday
on 7.277.5 MHz**
17:00Z (Daylight Time)
18:00Z (Standard Time)

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
Phil, W9MPA
Bob, K8MPV
Charlie, WD9IQV
Scott, W1BIC
Wally, WB8M
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. Visitors are always welcome to check in and join our daily net. 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 17:00Z**

Net Control Schedule

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:						1 WB8M - Wally
2	3 WØPC- Rick	4 KB9VF - Geo	5 K8VW - Verle	6 K8MPV - Bob	7 W1BIC - Scott	8 W9PMA - Phil
9	10 N8XLS - Denny	11 WD9IQV - Charlie	12 WB9YUR - Bill	13 WB8M - Wally	14 WØPC- Rick	15 KB9VF - Geo
16	17 K8VW - Verle	18 K8MPV - Bob	19 W1BIC - Scott	20 W9PMA - Phil	21 N8XLS - Denny	22 WD9IQV - Charlie
23	24 WB9YUR - Bill	25 WB8M - Wally	26 WØPC- Rick	27 KB9VF - Geo	28 K8MPV - Bob	29 K8VW - Verle

Snow Bird Planning

It's not too early to think about making your reservation to attend the Orland HamCation. A good size group of us stay at the "Hampton Inn Closest to Universal Studios" in Orlando. We usually have dinner together at a local restaurant as well as lunch at the hamfest. It's a great time of year to get out of the cold and meet with your old Firebird and GM Net friends. You can order your ticket ahead of time saving the wait in line at the gate (<https://www.hamcation.com/>). Maybe you have some extra ham equipment that you don't need....the tailgate flea market area is fantastic. The RV parking is \$35.00 per night if purchased early.

73, Rick



W1BIC Gaylord Remote

From Scott's Powerhouse

As many of you know I have been operating my station in Gaylord, Michigan remotely since moving into a Condo in 2011. In the winter of 2017, Rick W0PC introduced me to Remote-Hams.com and using Rick's station.

In the spring of 2017 I bought an Icom 7300 at Dayton. Then at Dayton this year I bought a B26 RF2K+ from RF-Kit.de.

The B26 RF2K+ is really 2 computers (a Raspberry Pi and an Arduino) that have been programmed to make the box of electronics think it's an Amplifier. The Amplifier is sold as a Kit, and even though the final assembly is fairly minor, I found the final testing and alignment to be above my abilities W4EEY assisted me with that phase.

I am still learning how to operate the amplifier, but there are several good YouTube videos that do a great job of describing the Amplifier and its capabilities.

If you are interested in more information about this Amplifier, this iPresentation to the Greer SC Amateur Radio Club on the RF-Kit B26 RF2k+ Amplifier. December 11, 2017 would be a good place to start. <https://youtu.be/fiPWMfQVCA0>

73, Scott, W1BIC



Net Control Schedule

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:	1 W1BIC - Scott	2 W9PMA - Phil	3 N8XLS - Denny	4 WD9IQV - Charlie	5 WB9YUR - Bill	6 WB8M - Wally
7	8 WØPC- Rick	9 KB9VF - Geo	10 K8VW - Verle	11 K8MPV - Bob	12 W1BIC - Scott	13 W9PMA - Phil
14	15 N8XLS - Denny	16 WD9IQV - Charlie	17 WB9YUR - Bill	18 WB8M - Wally	19 WØPC- Rick	20 KB9VF - Geo
21	22 K8VW - Verle	23 K8MPV - Bob	24 W1BIC - Scott	25 W9PMA - Phil	26 N8XLS - Denny	27 WD9IQV - Charlie
28	29 WB9YUR - Bill	30 WB8M - Wally	31 WØPC- Rick	Notes:		

WSPR

Have any of you heard of **WSPR** (pronounced whisper)? Neither had I until a recent radio club meeting. During a discussion with a club member, he mentioned that he is actively involved with WSPR. So what is WSPR? The letters stand for Weak Signal Propagation Reporting . In simplistic terms, it a system of individual, low power (mostly 1 watt or less) amateur radio stations, and the internet. The stations are somewhat similar to beacon stations in that they send out a specific digital encoded signal on a controlled time schedule. Stations receiving the signals can up load the info on the internet to the WSPRnet site. This info is then available on a real time basis, for all other stations to look at. You can go to the site and see what stations are hearing your signal. The website also has mapping so that you can see lines connecting the stations that transmit and those that hear the transmissions.

There is WSPR activity on most of the ham bands. You can learn more about WSPR at www.wsprnet.org and download the software at the WSJT home page <http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/> .

I have only been looking at this for a few days and find it interesting. You will be decoding the signals and you can't even hear them! When you select the band you want to monitor or use, the program will give you the frequency to tune in where the activity is located. It is amazing what low power can accomplish. Give it a try in your spare time.

Bob – K8MPV



Hear the Music

Too many people put off something that brings them joy just because they haven't thought about it, don't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming or are too rigid to depart from their routine. I got to thinking one day about all those people on the Titanic who passed up dessert at dinner that fateful night in an effort to cut back. From then on, I've tried to be a little more flexible.

- How many women out there will eat at home because their husband didn't suggest going out to dinner until after something had been thawed? Does the word 'refrigeration' mean nothing to you?
- How often have your kids dropped in to talk and sat in silence while you watched 'Jeopardy' on television?
- Because Americans cram so much into their lives, we tend to schedule our headaches. We live on a sparse diet of promises we make to ourselves when all the conditions are perfect! We'll go back and visit the grandparents when we get Steve toilet-trained. We'll entertain when we replace the living-room carpet. We'll go on a second honeymoon when we get two more kids out of college.
- Life has a way of accelerating as we get older. The days get shorter, and the list of promises to ourselves gets longer. One morning, we awaken, and all we have to show for our lives is a litany of 'I'm going to,' 'I plan on,' and 'Someday, when things are settled down a bit.'
- When anyone calls my 'seize the moment' friend, she is open to adventure and available for trips. She keeps an open mind on new ideas. Her enthusiasm for life is contagious. You talk with her for five minutes, and you're ready to trade your bad feet for a pair of Rollerblades and skip an elevator for a bungee cord.
- My lips have not touched ice cream in 10 years. I love ice cream. It's just that I might as well apply it directly to my stomach with a spatula and eliminate the digestive process. The other day, I stopped the car and bought a triple-decker. If my car had hit an iceberg on the way home, I would have died happy.
- Now...go on and have a nice day. Do something you WANT to...not something on your SHOULD DO list. If you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make, who would you call and what would you say? **And why are you waiting?**
- Have you ever watched kids playing on a merry go round or listened to the rain lapping on the ground? Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight or gazed at the sun into the fading night? Do you run through each day on the fly? When you ask 'How are you?' Do you hear the reply? When the day is done, do you lie in your bed with the next hundred chores running through your head? Ever told your child, 'We'll do it tomorrow.' And in your haste, not see his sorrow? Ever lost touch? Let a good friendship die? Just call to say 'Hi'?

When you worry and hurry through your day, it is like an unopened gift - thrown away. Life is not a race. Take it slower. Hear the music before the song is over.

Net Control Schedule

November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:				1	2	3
				KB9VF - Geo	K8MPV - Bob	K8VW - Verle
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	W1BIC - Scott	W9PMA - Phil	N8XLS - Denny	WD9IQV - Charlie	WB9YUR - Bill	WB8M - Wally
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	WØPC- Rick	KB9VF - Geo	K8VW - Verle	K8MPV - Bob	W1BIC - Scott	W9PMA - Phil
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	WB9YUR - Bill	WD9IQV - Charlie	N8XLS - Denny	WD9IQV - Charlie	K8MPV - Bob	WB9YUR - Bill
25	26	27	28	29	30	Notes
	W1BIC - Scott	W9PMA - Phil	N8XLS - Denny	WD9IQV - Charlie	WB9YUR - Bill	

The GM Amateur Radio Club meets the third Tuesday of the month (except July & August) at 7:00 PM, at the

Packard Proving Grounds

49965 Van Dyke Avenue

Shelby Township, MI 48317

[Between 22 Mile & 23 Mile Roads]



Meetings are also Streamed Live on Facebook - search for GM Amateur Radio

General Motors Amateur Radio Club (GMARC)

Flash News: The next membership meeting of the GM Amateur Radio Club will be Tuesday 18-Sep-2018 at 7:00 PM at Packard Proving Grounds in Shelby Township. We are fortunate to have 2 members of the Amateur Radio Astronomy Society, Tom Hagen NE9Y and Ken Redcap KR5RAR make the presentation for this meeting.

McMath-Hulbert Astronomical Society and Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers is bringing home-made amateur radio telescopes to demonstrate how students and amateur astronomers can observe the universe with simple, low cost instruments that can perform actual radio astronomy experiments. Our main instrument will be a 2'x3' rectangular horn radio telescope we built that will receive signals from the hydrogen gas of our own Milky Way galaxy. This telescope can also be used to detect other radio sources in the sky. Other instruments we will bring are very low frequency (VLF) receivers that are used to detect the influence of solar flares on the earth's magnetosphere and atmosphere. One such VLF receiver that we helped to design was used last year to study effects of the total solar eclipse. Hundreds of students and amateurs across the USA used this receiver to gather radio propagation data and to upload it to a central database via cell phone. The Eclipse Mob organization sponsored this work and it was funded by a National Science Foundation grant.

An important mission at the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers and the McMath-Hulbert Astronomical Society is education for young people.

Belle Isle Lark-in-the-Park

We had (18) total attendees, and everyone had a good time. The weather was pleasant, and we made contacts on 20 and 40 meters in spite of poor band conditions. Bill N8SA was the consummate host, and his motor home made sure everyone was comfortable. We enjoyed hot dogs on the grille courtesy of Scott W1BIC, and pop and water were supplied by the Club.



We may plan another Lark-in-the-Park this fall @ River Woods Park in Auburn Hills. - Scott Bicknell, W1BIC

The Club will be at the Ft Wayne Swap on November 17, 2018 at Table G021

Net Control Schedule

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:						1 N8XLS - Denny
2	3 WD9IQV - Charlie	4 K8MPV - Bob	5 WB9YUR - Bill	6 W1BIC - Scott	7 W9PMA - Phil	8 N8XLS - Denny
9	10 WB9YUR - Bill	11 WD9IQV - Charlie	12 N8XLS - Denny	13 WD9IQV - Charlie	14 K8MPV - Bob	15 WB9YUR - Bill
16	17 W1BIC - Scott	18 W9PMA - Phil	19 N8XLS - Denny	20 WD9IQV - Charlie	21 WB9YUR - Bill	22 N8XLS - Denny
23	24 WD9IQV - Charlie	25 K8MPV - Bob	26 WB9YUR - Bill	27 W1BIC - Scott	28 W9PMA - Phil	29 N8XLS - Denny
30	31 WØPC - Rick	Happy New Year 2019				



Amateur Radio Club

WWW.GMARC.ORG

443.075 MHz + 123 Hz PL
145.210 MHz - 123 Hz PL
EchoLink® Node # 99846

WW8GM

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

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

EchoLink® Node: 99846



Michigan / Wayne County - Grid: EN82



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