

**\*\*Special Edition\*\***

Inside this issue:

**40 is Broke! What else is new?**

Ham radio is a participation hobby. If you turn on your radio and can't hear anything, it's no fun. We've had a lot of that lately during our 40-meter nets. Our Nets have been going on for well over 40 years and have become a fun way to stay in-touch with old friends. Matter of fact, our friend are getting older too. In this issue we will be giving some ideas to try to get more out of your hobby and stay in touch with our GM Net Gang.

On page 4 and 8 we give information about using remote receive sites. They are FREE SDR radios. Give them a try.

Another great way to stay hooked up is to use a complete remote controlled ham station. They too are FREE. Several in our group use a program called RemoteHams that has both a Server program for the actual radio end and a Client version for the RemoteHams users like you. First step is to go to <http://www.remotehams.com/>. Next, register for an account and download a client version of the software. Once you have the program installed, you can scroll through all the possible stations to connect to. During the registration process, they ask you to upload a copy of your license. When you ask for permissions to join the club and have transmit privileges, the Sysop can download and verify your license. Our active group currently has WØPC using an Icom IC-7610 and a fan dipole for 10-160 meters, W1BIC using an Icom IC-7300 with a full power amplifier into an off-center fed dipole and K8DSS using an Elecraft K3 running 100 watts into a wire. Not all of our stations are online all the time. The key is to be granted permission to transmit, the receive end is much easier. This has been very brief so go online and check it our. 73, de 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

## 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:		

## W4DXCC DX and Contesting Convention Pigeon Forge, TN

The South Eastern DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) was founded in early 2005 for one reason...to bring DXers and contesters together in fellowship. The first convention was held on Oct. 1, 2005 at the MainStay Hotel and Conference Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. It was a resounding success and continues with a star-studded cast of speakers who dedicated their time and money to share their experiences and knowledge. No words can express their valuable contribution.

In 2009, their name changed to W4DXCC and has retained the new name but carried on the old tradition of ham fellowship.

This year Ed Gansen, K8DSS attended the Great Event.



# Web Based Remote Shortwave Receivers to Assist Rx Capability on the GM HF Net

by W8MRW Roy W1BIC Scott W0PC Rick

Many of us have turned-on and tuned-in 7.277.5 MHz, only to discover we can't hear anything. Yes, it's a low point in the current sunspot cycle and conditions are still going downhill. The bottom of the cycle may actually be another year or more away. We have found a couple of work-a-rounds that many of us are using to keep us communicating on the air and hearing more of our net participants when their signals skip over us. We are using a web based remote shortwave receivers, along with our own transmitter, which allows us to take advantage of receivers in favorable locations that can hear the stations we can't. (They're FREE \$\$\$)

Note: Before you start down this road you will need to make sure your speakers are working on the device you are using for web browsing. Here is a short video to test your PC Speakers <https://youtu.be/URrEtyFSEnc>

The remote Rx websites we've been having good luck with thus far are :

WebSDR : K3FEF Milford, PA <http://k3fef.com:8901/>

SDR.hu: KiwiSDR in Farmington Hills, MI <http://misdr.duckdns.org/>  
W8CMN Denton Hill, Fenton, MI <http://dentonhill-sdr.moses.bz/>  
Penn State University, State College, PA <http://radiodxing.ddns.net:8073/>

**The WebSDR K3FEF-W3TKP Milford, PA seems to be our best result so far.** We've had a fairly good trial run this week which gave us solid copy on signals that otherwise are hard to read or no copy otherwise.

Try going directly to K3FEF in Milford, PA <http://k3fef.com:8901/> see what you hear. The remote receiver, it will look like this:

The screenshot displays the K3FEF WebSDR interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Welcome', 'Status', 'Normal', 'Log into WebSDR', and 'Log out of theme'. Below this is a 'CHROME AUDIO PROBLEM' warning and a 'PLEASE READ' notice. A search bar for 'my name or call sign' is present, with 'w0pc' entered. The main display area features a waterfall plot showing frequency bands from 2.5 to 7.5 MHz. Below the plot are several control panels: 'Frequency' (7277.50 kHz), 'Bandwidth' (2.40 kHz), 'Modes' (AM, CW, USB, etc.), 'Waterfall view' (Zoom, Max, Min, Speed, Size, View), 'Logbook' (Call of station, Comments), and 'Signal strength plot' (none). The interface is clean and functional, typical of a web-based SDR application.

# 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	

## WØPC Hamfests:

This year has been a good one for me selling stuff at the: Winterfest in January, Zero Beaters Hamfest in July and the St. Charles ARC Hamfest in August. Later this month is the Halloween Hamfest in Kirkwood, MO and I'll be there.

After helping my sister clean out my mother's house, I realized there was tons of stuff stored that was of no value to anyone but the owner. My kids urged me to get rid of the excess stuff so they wouldn't have to throw it away after I'm gone. So, I started going through my ham junk boxes and started pulling out items that I'd most likely never use again. Wow, I found duplicates of way too many things. As a result of selling off a huge pile of excess stuff, I was able to spend old money on more new stuff. Boy I love the new stuff especially not having to tap into my savings account. I'm also focused on helping College Ham Clubs that are active. They are the next generation for our hobby and I feel it's a good investment as well as a tax right-off. 73, de WØPC



## If you want to explore deeper into the world of Web based Shortwave Receivers:

Two of these web based remote receive sites are:

WebSDR <http://websdr.org/> (complete listing worldwide)

SDR.hu <https://sdr.hu/> (complete listing worldwide)

Each web site offers a large number of receive sites both in the USA and around the world. They're FREE! Example is that Michigan stations can't hear each other directly but can through the remote receive site near Washington DC. The K3FEF station can handle over 50 simultaneous users each on a different frequency at once. Just add your call sign and enter the frequency that you want to listen to in "kHz" in other words 7277.50. Select the sideband and you are ready to go. Put your call sign in the box and just run the controls to get the feel of the process. Try whichever ham band you choose (remember to select proper LSB or USB for the band). See what stations you hear and how well. Move the tuning arrow-slider or type in the desired frequency. You can save frequency(s) to one of several memories; handy if you move the slider off frequency. When you name your saved frequencies, they will show up as flags on the band map. There is a block to check for whenever you wish to mute the audio or resume listening.

Right now at 1945 EDT Roy W8MRW is listening to 75 meters traffic on 3874.95 kHz AM. QSO signals are reading S9+. Much other traffic shows on the 80/75 m band. There are currently 53 users (at this time) accommodated by the K3FEF Rx Remote; mostly on 80/75 m and 40 m.

SDR.hu Rx remotes operate similar to WebSDR ; although the appearance is somewhat different. Just practice with the controls to get familiar with Rx Remote operation. Most SDR.hu remote receivers use the KiwiSDR interface and offer larger waterfall displays and more extensive individual Ham and SWL bands.

This is how W8MRW uses the WebSDR K3FEF Rx Remote: Main TxRx on the GM HF Net is via RemoteHams RcForb Client software. Also open the Mozilla Firefox web browser (or one of your choice) and load the WebSDR K3FEF Rx Remote. Both applications will be open simultaneously in two separate windows on Windows PC. W8MRW mutes and unmutes each radio Rx to best hear the GM HF Net's traffic.

Recent Net participants using above described practice (or some variation thereof) include W8MRW, W1BIC, W0PC, K8DSS and N8XLS.

There is a world map at bottom of WebSDR page (page where all the remotes are text listed) with the locations of all the remotes. One can zoom a little on that map and home in on the world area you want e.g. North America or USA. You can then click on any bubble representing individual remotes ; info on that remote comes up including its www link. Click on that link and it takes you right to the operating web page of that individual remote.

Remember the two Rx Remote websites discussed here are not the only ones available. Also remember that the WebSDR K3FEF Rx Remote is just one of hundreds of Rx remotes available.

There are several YouTube videos for WebSDR and SDR.hu showing their operation. Worth a look. <https://youtu.be/RQMpei-N31U>

# Net Control Schedule

October 2018

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](http://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

## Space Weather Woman

**Dr. Tamitha Skov** is better known as the “Space Weather Woman.”

She is a credentialed space weather forecaster who’s day job is primarily in the field of solar and space physics doing research and in testing of spacecraft materials in realistic space radiation environments. Her forecasting work as “Space Weather Woman” got the attention of Bob Heil and has become a regular guest on the weekly “HamNation” show (<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>). HamNation is hosted by Bob Heil, Gordon West, George Thomas, Don Wilbanks, Valerie Hotzfeld, Amanda Alden, and Dale Puckett. The program is Wednesday at 9:00pm Eastern / 6:00pm Pacific / 01:00 (Thu) UTC. They discuss interesting news topics and other Amateur Radio related subjects and simple construction projects that you can try at home. Following the “ON-Air” broadcast, they get on the air and chat with everyone.

If you would like to go directly to Tamatha’s Space Weather Forecast, just enter: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TamithaSkov> in your web browser. You will find some really fascinating videos of the sun with the explanations of what you are looking at. The demand for her forecasting has allowed her to cut back on her day job to focus more time on her broadcast for numerous TV channels and magazines. If her forecasts are really down to earth in language. Check it out. If you live in the northern states you can get a heads up on when to watch for the northern lights (aurora borealis). She has lots of good pictures of very colorful auroras on her web site.





# Net Control Schedule

January 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:		1 WB9YUR - Bill	2 N8XLS - Denny	3 WD9IQV - Charlie	4 WB9YUR - Bill	5 W1BIC - Scott
6	7 K8MPV - Bob	8 W9PMA - Phil	9 N8XLS - Denny	10 WD9IQV - Charlie	11 WB9YUR - Bill	12 WØPC- Rick
13	14 N8XLS - Denny	15 WD9IQV - Charlie	16 WB9YUR - Bill	17 K8MPV - Bob	18 W1BIC - Scott	19 W9PMA - Phil
20	21 WØPC- Rick	22 WD9IQV - Charlie	23 WB9YUR - Bill	24 K8MPV - Bob	25 W1BIC - Scott	26 W9PMA - Phil
27	28 N8XLS - Denny	29 WD9IQV - Charlie	30 WB9YUR - Bill	31 W8MRW - Roy	Notes:	

**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



# Amateur Radio Club

[www.gmarc.org](http://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  
Scott Bicknell  
3720 Crestwood Drive  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-4306

**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