

## Orlando Hamcation 2020

Inside this issue:



Above pictured left to right: Scott - W1BIC, Ed - K8DSS, Charlie - WD9IQV, and Rick - WØPC.

Above: Scott - W1BIC and Helen - ACØNF. As you know I drag Helen all over to ham-fests. To the right is Rick - WØPC and Paul - K8PD



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**The GM Nets meet daily Monday through Saturday on 7.277.5 MHz at 17:00Z**

Would you like to help out  
with Net Control Duties?  
Contact our Net Manager  
George, KB9VF  
kb9vf9@gmail.com

## 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  
Bill, WB9YUR  
Denny, N8XLS  
Phil, W9MPA  
Bob, K8MPV  
Charlie, WD9IQV  
Wally, WB8M  
Scott, W1BIC  
Roy, W8MRW

### 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.

**I can hear you on the “K3FEF.com” SDR Receiver  
Cycle 25 is finally starting to show sun spots!**

# Net Control Schedule

April 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:			1	2	3	4
			WB9YUR - Bill	W8MRW - Roy	WB8M - Wally	WØPC- Rick
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	KB9VF - Geo	K8MPV - Bob	W1BIC - Scott	W9PMA - Phil	N8XLS - Denny	WD9IQV - Charlie
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	WB9YUR - Bill	W8MRW - Roy	WB8M - Wally	WØPC- Rick	KB9VF - Geo	W1BIC - Scott
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	K8MPV - Bob	W9PMA - Phil	N8XLS - Denny	WD9IQV - Charlie	WB9YUR - Bill	W8MRW - Roy
26	27	28	29	30	Notes:	
	WB8M - Wally	WØPC- Rick	KB9VF - Geo	K8MPV - Bob		

Net News: We are still enjoying the use of remote SDR receivers to help us hear everyone on our nets. One receiver that's free to use often is the "K3FEF.com." Just use your computer's web browser to go to [www.k3fef.com](http://www.k3fef.com) and then select the frequency you want to listen to including sideband. Often from my home station, I can't hear Bill, WB9YUR. We're just too close together. By tuning into the K3FEF receiver, I can hear Bill and most other stations clearly. I can usually hear myself which can be confusing so don't forget to turn down the volume when it's your turn to transmit. 73, Rick-WØPC

## DMR Talk Group Connectivity to Selected Other Digital Modes

e.g. C4FM and D-Star Repeaters

by W8MRW Roy Sterling Heights MI

Recent developments in greater Detroit Area have led to a practical capability to communicate with selected FUSION and D-STAR Repeaters using a DMR Radio. Our example in today's article describes how some of our Radio Amateurs can use their Tytera MD-380 Handheld via a Jumbospot (or other) Hotspot to communicate via the WW8GM 2 meter C4FM and the WA8BRO D-STAR repeaters using identified TGIF DMR Network TalkGroups e.g. 99846 (WW8GM) and 31264 WA8BRO.

The WW8GM C4FM 2 meter (145.210 Mhz) repeater is located high atop the Renaissance Center (800 ft above ground level) at the Detroit River waterfront in downtown Detroit MI. The WA8BRO D-STAR 70 cm (442.0375 Mhz) repeater is located on the KA8WYN Tower (approx 140 ft above ground level) in Warren MI I-696 and Schoenherr Rd.

WW8GM C4FM 2m repeater is often a part of a linked C4FM Repeater system stretching the length of the Michigan Lower Peninsula from Toledo OH all the way north to the Mackinac Bridge. i.e.

WA8BRO 70cm D-STAR repeater has other connections besides XLX625p, e.g. D-STAR 089c. W8MRW has spoken to stations in Europe (both England and Scotland) via TGIF TG31264 and the WA8BRO Repeater.

W8MRW has been making contacts on these two repeater systems using only my Tytera MD380 DMR handheld. Tx is set at lowest power (2w) into an MMDVM Jumbospot HotSpot located in my basement using local RF Frequency 432.550 Mhz with zero offset. Bit Error Rate is typically 0.2 to 0.4

I monitor using the Pi-Star app Dashboard. I have my HotSpot configured for the TGIF DMR Network.

My Tytera MD380 Code Plug was given to me in summer 2018 from W1BIC Scott, friend and colleague from the General Motors Amateur Radio Club (GMARC). This codeplug also includes MD-380 Toolz.

My 2018 codeplug is configured for the Brandmeister DMR Network. I have not yet modified this codeplug to include a Zone for TGIF Talkgroups. I am inputting TGIF TalkGroups 99846, 31264 and 320 into my MD-380 using the Ad Hoc TG method. This works successfully until I modify the codeplug to include a Zone for TGIF Talkgroups.

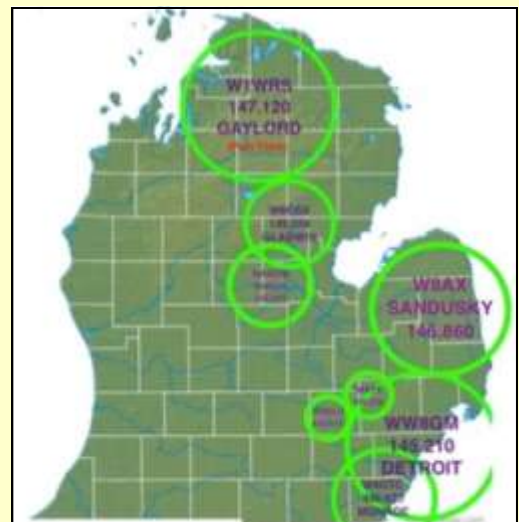
The TGIF TalkGroup 99846 connection to the WW8GM C4FM 2m Repeater was to be a 48 hour feasibility experiment at its first test in early March 2020. Performance went so well that it was decided to continue operation indefinitely. Connection has operated continuously since then with very few (if any) problems and very good performance.

GMARC C4FM Repeater has used the DMR TGIF TalkGroup 99846 for the Sunday Ohio Link Net and for its new Sat/Sun Trivia Net with good performance amongst all connections.

Referenced Peanut D-Star App is a free app provided by its owner David PA7LIM. I am using the app on my Android tablet to test Tx audio quality emanating from/to my MD-380 via TGIF Talk-Group 31264 to/from WA8BRO D-STAR XRF625P. This works well ; no problems. The Peanut website also cites a free Windows PC version which I have not installed/used as yet.

This is a brief summary of how I use my MD-380 DMR handheld to connect with C4FM and D-STAR Repeaters for (pretty much) seamless communications amongst the various digital modes.

I wish to extend our great thanks for the prime movers of this effort. Huge contributions from GMARC's AD8DP Doug, W8MJC Mike, WD8NMX Ron, K8DET Mike and W1BIC Scott ; AD8DP Doug and WW2MI Del from the WA8BRO Group.



# Net Control Schedule

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:					1	2
					W1BIC - Scott	W9PMA - Phil
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	N8XLS - Denny	WD9IQV - Charlie	WB9YUR - Bill	W8MRW - Roy	WB8M - Wally	WØPC- Rick
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	KB9VF - Geo	K8MPV - Bob	W1BIC - Scott	W9PMA - Phil	N8XLS - Denny	WD9IQV - Charlie
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	WB9YUR - Bill	W8MRW - Roy	WB8M - Wally	WØPC- Rick	KB9VF - Geo	W1BIC - Scott
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	K8MPV - Bob	W9PMA - Phil	N8XLS - Denny	WD9IQV - Charlie	WB9YUR - Bill	W8MRW - Roy



## What do you do when you are stuck at home?

**Here is what Denny is up to:** These are made from Walnut, Cherry and Maple Anywhere from 12 to 15 pieces glued by turning each piece 3 to 4 degrees to the right. Also my 30" by 30" Wooden Quilt ! 73, Denny (N8XLS)



### **K8DSS Stay@Home Projects:**

The nice outdoor weather is a great opportunity to do a few antenna projects. I am gathering material to completely rebuild my primary 10 - 40 meter, end fed antenna. The current HyEnd Antenna four bander has been in operation for about four years now and has worked great, but I wanted to increase the overall power handling capability. So I will use a new 49:1 auto transformer from Balun Designs, rated at a KW. A new 66 ft radiator wire will run from the pool cage support post at 10 ft, up and over the nearby live oak tree, at about 35 ft. I have been emailing with Bob, the owner of Balun Designs, to finalize the configuration of the multiband sloper.

A second antenna project is to replace a 53 ft non-resonant wire that lies on the roof tiles in an inverted V fashion, connected to a 9:1 Unun, with a resonant, LNR 30 Meter Endfed Halfwave antenna. 30 meters is such a great CW band, so I wanted a nice resonant antenna.

As for an indoor ham-related project, I am sorting and disposing of years worth of "junk box" stuff that are in 8 big tote boxes in our offsite storage unit. I am currently about 70% done and hope to finish in a few days. When local hamfests resume around here, I will try selling the stuff that was "too good to throw away".

When all of this is done, I need to add some lightweight wire antennas to my portable HF kit for use with the KX2. My portable antenna arsenal is OK, but a ham always needs more options when out in the field or away from home! Stay well.

73 Ed (K8DSS)

# Net Control Schedule

April 2020

## June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:	1 WB8M - Wally	2 WØPC- Rick	3 KB9VF - Geo	4 K8MPV - Bob	5 W1BIC - Scott	6 W9PMA - Phil
7	8 N8XLS - Denny	9 WD9IQV - Charlie	10 WB9YUR - Bill	11 W8MRW - Roy	12 WB8M - Wally	13 WØPC- Rick
14	15 KB9VF - Geo	16 K8MPV - Bob	17 W1BIC - Scott	18 W9PMA - Phil	19 N8XLS - Denny	20 WD9IQV - Charlie
21	22 WB9YUR - Bill	23 W8MRW - Roy	24 WB8M - Wally	25 WØPC- Rick	26 KB9VF - Geo	27 W1BIC - Scott
28	29 K8MPV - Bob	30 W9PMA - Phil	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

## February in Florida - WØPC

Going to Florida in February is an important event for Helen (ACØNF) and me. I really enjoy attending the Orlando Hamcation hamfest with it's vendor displays of new radio equipment and Forums by the hobbies top experts. It not only gets us out of Missouri during the coldest month of winter but gives us a chance to visit with a bunch of family and



Janis and Bob

friends as we travel. This year we stopped by and had dinner with Bob and Janis Wilson (K8MPV). We missed them last year. Both Bob and Janis were looking good and doing well. The next day, we headed to The Villages, FL and stopped in and had lunch with Bob and Carman Hall (N8AOF). We got to ride in Bob's new truck...

boy it's a beauty. I may have to buy one for myself. It's exactly what I'd like to have, even down to the color (Metalic Red). Continuing on, we visited Ed and Susan Gansen (K8DSS) in

Lakewood Ranch for a few days before Hamcation. During that time, we had lunch on Siesta Key with Scott and Brenda Bicknell (W1BIC). Unfortunately, I missed some great photo opportunities. I really should have gotten my camera



Bob and Carman with Helen and Rick

out of my pocket more than I did. I was having too much fun with such great friends the thought escaped me. I know our younger generation would have been flashing pictures all over Facebook and all. My Bad! The next leg of our travels was to Orlando where we all stayed at the same hotel with a bunch of friends. I've includes some of the groups pictures on the lead page. From Orlando, we headed south to Cape Coral, FL where we spent the next week soaking up the beautiful scenery and weather. During our Cape Coral stay, we arranged to have Scott-Brenda, Ed-Susan, and Charlie (WD9IQV) come and spend an afternoon with us including or Cape Coral hosts Don and Rose (KCØDE). Unfortunately, Charlie's wife Dixie (KB9APQ) wasn't feeling well and didn't make it. We did get to see her at the Orlando Hamcation along with Charlie's son Alan (N9LLJ). The last leg of our trip took us through Biloxi, MS where we had dinner with another old friend, and I use that term loosely, Barry, WB5WB. That's where the rain began. From Biloxi to Houston, TX was solid rain. From there on up to our niece and nephew's home in Georgetown, TX was clear sailing. After spending a few days with family, it was time to head back towards Missouri. We stopped by and visited with my son Brian (KCØEYE) and his family. Those grand kids are really growing. Finally after spending a few days at our Lake Ozark condo, we made it home tired and happy. 73, de Rick, WØPC



# Net Control Schedule

## July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes:			1 N8XLS - Denny	2 WD9IQV - Charlie	3 WB9YUR - Bill	4 W8MRW - Roy
5	6 WB8M - Wally	7 WØPC- Rick	8 KB9VF - Geo	9 K8MPV - Bob	10 W1BIC - Scott	11 W9PMA - Phil
12	13 N8XLS - Denny	14 WD9IQV - Charlie	15 WB9YUR - Bill	16 W8MRW - Roy	17 WB8M - Wally	18 WØPC- Rick
19	20 KB9VF - Geo	21 K8MPV - Bob	22 W1BIC - Scott	23 W9PMA - Phil	24 N8XLS - Denny	25 WD9IQV - Charlie
26	27 WB9YUR - Bill	28 W8MRW - Roy	29 WB8M - Wally	30 WØPC- Rick	31 KB9VF - Geo	Notes:



### 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](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**  
**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