



FEEDBACK

April 2019

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (w8kdb@arrl.net) and get it published in **FEEDBACK!**

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell, purchase or swap amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.

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Inside this issue:

Lead article.....	1
Upcoming Radio Contests.....	2
Supplemental article.....	1
Meeting Minutes.....	4
Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions.....	3
Club Repeaters.....	5
Nets & Upcoming Events.....	6

Club News

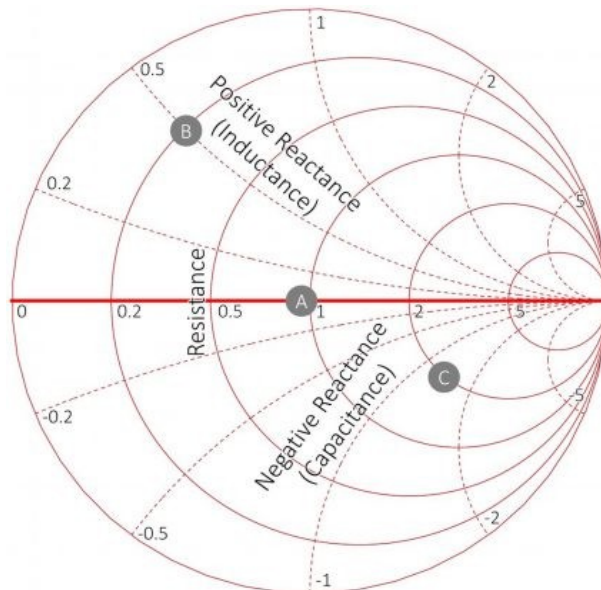
MSPOTA Activation

Reminder that this Saturday (April 20th) SMARS will be activating Fort Custer for Michigan States Parks on the Air (MSPOTA). Setup will start on April 20th at 9 AM, we will start operating at Noon the same day, and will finish the activation April 21st at Midnight. We will tear down sometime in the morning.

Other News

One of these days I'm really going to learn how to use a Smith Chart

I keep saying that one day I'm going to really master the Smith Chart. I kind of understand them, but don't ask me to give an impromptu lecture on how they work and what they're used for. That being the case, I keep collecting links to articles on the net that are supposed to explain how they work. Here's my latest collection:



[How does a Smith Chart work?](#)

Upcoming Radio Contests

Looking for a little action on the airwaves? You might want to check out these upcoming contests!

June VHF

Bands: All authorized freq. above 50 MHz (6 Meters)
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Dates: 6/8 - 6/10/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/june-vhf

Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters
Mode: Phone
Dates: 6/15
URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

Field Day

Bands: Any Band Except 60, 30, 17, or 12 Meters
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Dates: 6/22 - 6/23/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/field-day

IARU HF Championship

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters
Mode: CW, Phone
Dates: 7/13 - 7/14/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship

222 Mhz and Up Distance Contests

Bands: All authorized UHF and between 222 Mhz and 241 Ghz
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Dates: 8/3 - 8/4/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest

10 Ghz & Up

Bands: All Authorized microwave bands 10 Ghz and Up
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Dates: 8/17 - 8/18/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

Rookie Roundups

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: RTTY
Date: 8/18/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

**A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

The Smith chart appeared in 1939 as a graph-based method of simplifying the complex math (that is, calculations involving variables of the form $x + jy$) needed to describe the characteristics of microwave components. Although calculators and computers can now make short work of the problems the Smith chart was designed to solve, the Smith chart, like other graphical calculation aids remains a valuable tool.

[The Smith chart: more vital after all these years](#)

Using the Smith chart, you can graphically illustrate the complex impedance, $Z=R+jX$, of a transmission line, antenna, amplifier, or any signal point in the RF range at which the simple resistive approximation is not sufficiently valid. However, the ability to place the real and imaginary parts of Z on a 2-D graph instead of using numbers for R and X is not what makes the Smith chart significant.

[Smith Chart: Old tool, new home](#)

Even in these days, when news travels instantly and there are few secrets, it's possible to miss an important or interesting story. That's what happened to me recently: I was doing some online research and came across an item from October 2015, published at IEEE Microwave Magazine: "[The Smith Chart Comes Home \[President's Column\]](#)."

The news was simple: the column explained that IEEE MTT-S [Microwave Theory and Techniques Society] was buying "the rights from the Smith family of the Smith trademark belonging to Analog Instruments, along with the copyright. In return, the MTT-S would make the Smith chart available to students, practitioners, and indeed people all over the world involved in microwave technology."

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/one-of-these-days-im-really-going-to-learn-how-to-use-a-smith-chart/>

The Doctor Will See You Now!

"Listening Outside the Ham Bands" is the topic of the new (April 11) episode of the "[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)" podcast. Listen...and learn!

Sponsored by [DX Engineering](#), "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone — whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks, your host, QST Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also email your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on [Apple iTunes](#), or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). You can also listen online at [Blubrry](#), or at [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices. If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our [beginner's guide](#).

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-doctor-will-see-you-now-107>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

06/01/2019

FCARC Summer Swap
Location: Wauseon, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club
k8bxq.org/hamfest

06/16/2019

Monroe Hamfest
Location: Monroe, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Monroe County radio Comm Assoc
mcrca.org

09/15/2019

Adrian Hamfest
Location: Adrian, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club
w8tqe.com

10/19/2019

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest
Location: Muskegon, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.
mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf

Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Club, W8ZHO, Raffle

The Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council, W8ZHO is located in the Lake Michigan coastal community of Muskegon. We enjoy five acres and a clubhouse with towers and antennas on the shore of Lake Michigan. Our club dates to before WWII is affiliated with the ARRL, and is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 charity. In an effort to support our efforts to promote our hobby of amateur radio we are having a raffle, a HF/6-meter transceiver. The Icom 7300 SDR transceiver has only been out of its box a handful of times. The radio will be raffled at our club's Field Day site, June 22, '19. Raffle tickets are \$5. Raffle tickets available through PayPal for \$6 (the extra dollar helps cover PayPal expenses and postage) Please use PayPal for your ticket request using our email address, maarc@w8zho.com. We will snail mail your ticket stub. Raffle tickets will also be available at the Cadillac and Hudsonville Hamfests in Western Michigan. The winner need not be present to win. We printed 500 raffle tickets. The State of Michigan license number is R51613.

ICOM 7300

SDR - HF/50 mHz Radio

Raffle benefits: Muskegon Area Amateur

Radio Council, W8ZHO

Nearly new

Icom 7300 HF/50 mHz Transceiver

500 Tickets Available at \$5.00 per ticket

See any MAARC member

or

Tickets available for \$6.00* per ticket through PayPal
(maarc@w8zho.com)

*to cover PayPal processing fees & postage

Lic. No. R51613

Drawing in Muskegon, MI, 2:00 pm,

Field Day, June 22, 2019

Meeting Minutes 03/21/2019

Called to Order: 7:03 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KDB Tom WR8G Jan W8JKG John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings to new members

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback:
Motion Jay N8ARR Second Tom KE8GDN Approved

Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:
Motion Jay N8ARR Second Bev KA8CXS Approved

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: Attendance near last year's levels. Costs \$500 more than last year with the purchase of the TenTec radio as grand prize. Next year's Hamfest will be a scheduling problem as the 3rd Saturday of March being the 21st with Toledo being the 15th. The Wings Event Center is booked for the 14th. We will have to consider other venues, swapping dates with other groups, or other options. There were no complaints about the higher ticket prices, but compliments about the wide aisles and the self-serve chair arrangements. There will need to be a new Chair for next year.
- ARES/RACES: 15 at the March meeting. April's meeting will be a road trip to WWMT to meet with Keith Thompson. Cert training 3-22 at 6pm, 3-23 8am til ?, 3-30 8am til ?. Barry County looking for volunteers 4-13 for bicycle event with go boxes or portable equipment. FEMA Emergency Communications Module training is a 4 hour course, date TBA.
- Field Day: Site at Fort Custer reserved. Food again from OT's. Setup Friday 6-28 at 3pm, operate from 2pm Saturday to 2pm Sunday. Help needed for setup and teardown. There are 5 camping slots at the site.
- MSPOTA: April 20 - 21. Plan is to operate from noon until midnight, with setup at 9am.
- VE Testing: HIAD had 6 new techs and 1 general. The Hamfest session had 18 candidates with several new techs (including several college students), and several upgrades to general and extras. Also this month are sessions in Branch County and Kalamazoo.

- Technical Engineer: Yaesu repeater swapped in while noise issues are tracked down. Some were dirty connectors. The plan is to swap back on 3-22.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

- Is there any interest in a cubesat project?
- Next week is Severe Weather Awareness week. Interview on WBCK @ 8:05 Tuesday.

Adjourned: 8:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 04/02/2019

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY

Others Present: Jay N8ARR

Topics:

- Hamfest: Any contacts with the other events being held March 14, 2020? Any suggestions on other venues?
- MSPOTA: Need to make sure the tall ladder is in the VHF trailer. Smokey has rented a 4 person cabin. Jay is planning to bring canopies and a space heater.
- Field Day: set

Smokey proposed the Club purchasing a noise finder, such as the MFJ unit. The Club would have to have a procedure for loaning out the unit. Next is to find if there is interest among the general membership, or maybe other clubs for it. Jay has an old unit, but is not sure if it works.

Jay is planning to set back from running the BLB. Others will need to step up to run it.

Adjourned: 5:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

S.M.A.R.S. W8DF Club Repeaters

2m Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz

2m DStar 146.79 MHz, -600 KHz offset

*1.25m Repeater 224.240 MHz, -1.6 MHz offset

APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39 MHz

*70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

70cm DStar Repeater 442.7625 MHz, +5 MHz offset

***Note:** 70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via Echolink.

Other Repeaters

2m Repeater 147.120 MHz, +600 KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

<p>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>SMARS Nets: Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 MHz Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 MHz Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 /443.95 MHz Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 MHz Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz</p> <p>Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Club Meeting: April 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: May 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: May 7th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: May 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: April 25th @ 7:00pm</p>
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