

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:

Merry Christmas from SMARS	1
Silent Key Notice	1
Upcoming Radio Contests	2
The Fall Thru Index	2
Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Club Repeaters	4
Nets & Upcoming Events	5

Merry Christmas from SMARS!



Pictured above: W8RVT, KA8CXS, (diane & don), WA8VRA & YL Val, KC8SLI, AB8HK, N8LS, (nancy sheldon), W8IDR, N8RCF, KE8GDN & his YL. Photos courtesy of John W8JRD.

This year's Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 14th at Coney Island Cafe. A total of 33 attendees enjoyed a good meal, conversation and camaraderie with HAMS and their invited guests. The winners of the end-of-the-year 50/50 drawing were Bev KA8CXS, Jim N8MVV, and Jan W8JKG.



A special thank-you to our server, Myra (pictured above), and the staff of Coney Island for their hospitality, Terry N8LN for making the banquet room arrangements, and Jan W8JKG and Tom WR8G for hosting the raffle drawing. We look forward to seeing you all and more next year!



Silent Key Notice

Duane Kilbourn, W8NZ, of Battle Creek, passed away on November 21, 2019. His obituary can be accessed on the [Baxter Funeral & Cremation Service webpage](#).

Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

ARRL Rookie Roundup - CW

12/22/2019

www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

Original QRP Contest - CW

12/28-12/29/2019

qrpsc.de/contestrules

AGB New Year Snowball Contest –

CW, Ph, Dig

1/01/2020

qsl.net/eu1eu/agb_nysb.htm

NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest –

CW, Ph, Dig

1/02/2020

nrau.net/activity-contests

RSGB AFS Contest – CW

1/04/2020

www.rsgbcc.org/hf

ARRL RTTY Roundup – Dig

1/04-1/05/2020

www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

North American QSO Party – CW

1/11-1/12/2020

www.ncjweb.com

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint – CW

1/13/2020

www.4sqrp.com

North American QSO Party SSB - Ph

1/18-1/19/2020

www.ncjweb.com

NA Collegiate Championship, SSB –

Ph

1/18-1/19/2020

www.w9smc.com/nacc

ARRL January VHF Contest – CW,

Ph, Dig

1/18-1/20/2020

www.arrl.org/january-vhf

**A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the [ARRL's web page Contest Calendar](#).*

The Fall Thru Index

By Don W8RVT

The Fall Thru Index (TFI) was developed after several years of study and should be included with weather reports and forecasts. This is very important as it directly affects public safety. The index ranges from zero to ten with zero being very safe and ten very dangerous.

We here in Michigan are quite fortunate as the index is normally very low, usually zero. Residents in desert climates are at the other extreme.

How does it work? Clouds are designed to prevent humans from falling thru into the space above. The danger increases when clouds develop holes, or worse, become non-existent. Should one of these holes be over a human, that person may fall thru the hole to be never seen again. Just think of people you haven't seen for some time. They possibly were victims of fall thru.

The safe way to prevent this tragedy is simply hold on to something. This can be a lawn mower, a golf club, the hand of a significant other or the dog's leash. During winter, a snow shovel or snowblower works well. One important thing to watch for is when you think it is safe outside; wind can blow a hole in the clouds. Should that hole pass overhead, a person can fall thru instantly if they are bare handed.

It is rather simple to determine the index. As are most days, if NO blue is visible, the index is zero and very safe. If NO clouds are visible, the index is ten and very dangerous. Should half the blue be covered by clouds, the index is five. The Fall Thru Index is determined by the percentage of blue covered by clouds.

Don-W8RVT is waiting for the Nobel Prize.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

1/19/2020

Hazel Park ARC's 54th Swap & Shop

Location: Madison Heights, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.hparc.org>

4/11/2020

Crossroads Hamfest

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://www.w8df.com>

Meeting Minutes 11/21/2019

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD
Smokey N5MKY Tom WR8G Jan W8JKG
ncoming: Ivan W8IDR Tom W. KE8GDN

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings to new members: none this month

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 Tom WR8G Approved

Committee Reports:

ARES/RACES: No meetings until February. The
Pennfield UHF repeater has a new PL of 186.2

Field Day: Winter Field Day set for January 25-26.
SMARS finished at 30% from the bottom on the
scores for Field Day 2019

VE Testing: Next session December 26. There was
only 1 candidate in October and he passed his Tech.

Technical Engineer: Having some problems with the
power amp on the 2 meter repeater.

Hamfest: Terry N8LN will be the chair. A choice
needs to be made between March 7 or April 11. The
March date keeps the Crossroads Hamfest early in
the season, April should have better weather. April
11 was selected by the membership. Terry N8LN
had contacted
vendors at the Fort Wayne Hamfest and several
were interested in the alternate date.

Old Business:

Christmas Party December 14 from 6 - 8pm at
Coney Island Cafe. Everybody will order off
the menu and be responsible for their bill. A gift
exchange is planned, please limit gifts
to \$20. There will be a final 50/50 drawing.

Don W8RVT will order a new 30 amp power supply
for the trailers.

New Business:

The Pennfield UHF repeater has a new PL of 186.2.
The website and newsletter will need to
be updated.

A nice meteor shower is due November 21.

The Potawatomi Tribe is the first storm ready tribe in
Michigan and third in the Midwest.

Adjourned: 8:18 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 12/03/2019

Called to Order: 5:31 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD Smokey
N5MKY Jan W8JKG Tom G WR8G
Incoming: Ivan W8IDR Tom W. KE8GDN

Others: Jay N8ARR Don W8RVT Stephanie W8AEZ
Terry N8LN

Topics:

Tom G, Mike KQ8N and Terry met for an exchange of
info on Hamfest. It looks like April 11, 2020 will work.
Tom G to contact Wings about contract. A note needs
to be sent to Dale WA8EFK about the one year change
of date. Jay will take care of having tickets and the
updated fliers printed. Jay and Smokey will share PA
duties. Kyle will run the vendor check in, get the
Hamfest and the VE session registered.

Tom W. has the old tires and wheels for the trailers.
Don brought the new power supply for one of the
trailers.

Christmas Party is all set for December 14.

Club Membership dues for 2020 start now. Jan will
bring cards to the Christmas Party and get pretty bills
for the 50/50 drawing.

Adjourned: 6:15 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: December 19th @ 7:00pm VE Session: December 26th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: January 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: January 7th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: January 11th @ 8:30am</p>
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