



# FEEDBACK

July 2019

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor ([w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto: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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## Club News

### Field Day Completed



Well, we have completed another Field Day and what a good weekend it was. The weather was looking like rain according to the predictions, but instead it was a very nice sunny day. The bugs weren't too bad until it started to get later in the day, and even then they weren't as bad as we thought they might be. All of the Bands seemed to be running fine and even the digital bands were very active. We operated until about midnight before calling it a night and starting back up in the morning. The new trailer layout worked out very well and we have some plans for the trails to get them ready for the next Field Day. Mike Russell (KQ8N) wanted to share some observations, so I will turn it over to him.



## FIELD DAY, PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS: MORE THAN JUST A CONTEST

Courtesy of Mike Russel (KQ8N)

Field Day 2019 has come and gone. I was able to help with set-up and tear-down this year, but couldn't get involved with operating due to family commitments. While headed home on Sunday after tear-down, I couldn't help but hear on the club repeater, one of the participants talk to a non-participant about the weekend. The non-participant said he didn't come out because he doesn't see the point in contesting.

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

### EME Contest

Bands: 6 Meters and Up  
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital  
Date: 8/19 - 8/20/2019  
URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### 10 Ghz & Up

Bands: All Authorized microwave bands 10 Ghz and Up  
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital  
Date: 9/21 - 9/22/2019  
URL: [www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up](http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up)

### EME Contest

Bands: 13 Centimeters and Up  
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital  
Date: 9/21 - 9/22/2019  
URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### School Club Roundup

Bands: All Except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters  
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital  
Date: 10/21 - 10/25/2019  
URL: [www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/school-club-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>*

Full disclosure, contesting is not my first love either, HOWEVER, Field Day is MUCH MORE than a contest. We spent time on Friday setting up three trailers that consisted of operator positions, crank up towers, assembling antennas (horizontal and vertical) and ground grids. Establishing generator power, solar power, and interconnecting the operator positions with computers and network cable. Canteen facilities for those participating and visiting were set up as well (thanks Jay). ALL these actions are necessary to practice should it ever be necessary to establish communications during a disaster or other emergency where amateur radio is called into service.

Field Day also provides us the opportunity to “strut our stuff” to the public. We get very few nationally promoted opportunities over the course of the year to show what amateur radio is about and get new folks involved. A sign-in sheet at our event listed 31 non-ham visitors to our site including the Mayor of Battle Creek. While our site is a wonderful radio-quiet location in Fort Custer, it was not a front and center location for visibility...yet more than 30 (and probably more including some Young Marines) came out to see what our hobby is about. Some visitors stopped by during set-up and some during operations. Several of us were able to escort these visitors around the site and explain what was going on and in some cases allow third-party operation. We have got to get these people hooked to keep our hobby alive!

The Fort Custer staff provided us with a great freshly mowed and level area to operate that included picnic tables and a rustic toilet as well as plenty of parking.

As many of you know, Terry (N8LN) and I teach a Tech level class from time to time. Coincidentally, our last class was in its final week when Field Day happened. Many of our students were able to make it out to see and hear what HF communication entails as well as other modes of operation. We talked a lot about this in class, but nothing beats hands-on. All were impressed with the time and commitment it took to get the trailers and towers set up.

By the way, congratulations to our newest Technicians: Mike Patzowsky KE8MOG, Bill Thick KE8MOH, Paul Crisher KE8MOI, Scott McDonald KE8MOJ, and Tim Yancer KE8MOK.

If you weren't able to come out this year, how about joining us next year even if contesting isn't your cup of tea. Maybe some other modes ARE of interest to you, like satellite operation or VHF/UHF. Make a proposal to the club, and set up a station. Or just come out to support the operation by setting up and tearing down, acting as an Ambassador, or just being a pretty face on the grounds! If the entry fee to Fort Custer is an issue next year (remember the Recreational Passport is good all year at all State Parks), perhaps we can make arrangements to shuttle between a parking lot off of Dickman Rd into the Rec Area.

The sign-in sheets and operator logs showed 23 hams at the site (not all were members) and from that number, 11 operated a station during the 24 hour event. Congratulations and THANKS to all that helped

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**07/20/2019**

Auburn Hamfest  
Location: Auburn, IN  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana  
Amateur Radio Association  
[w9ou.org](http://w9ou.org)

**08/10/2019**

Angola Hamfest  
Location: Angola, IN  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Land of Lakes Amateur  
Radio Club

**09/07/2019**

CNARC Hamfest  
Location: Okemos, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur  
Radio Club  
[centralmiarc.com](http://centralmiarc.com)

**09/07/2019**

GRARA Hamfest 2019  
Location: Wyoming, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur  
Radio Association  
[w8dc.org/file/club/  
2019GRAHamFestFlyer.pdf](http://w8dc.org/file/club/2019GRAHamFestFlyer.pdf)

**09/08/2019**

Findlay Hamfest  
Location: Findlay, OH  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club  
[www.findlayradioclub.org](http://www.findlayradioclub.org)

**09/15/2019**

Adrian Hamfest  
Location: Adrian, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club  
[w8tqe.com](http://w8tqe.com)

**10/19/2019**

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest  
Location: Muskegon, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Muskegon County

with the 2019 activities. If you didn't get out there this year, we hope to see you in 2020! There will be plenty to do, contesting or not. 73

## Other News

# Special Event Stations to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing

A number of Amateur Radio special event stations will be (or already are) on the air during July to mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969.

The list includes:

N8A, until July 24, Midwest VHF/UHF Society, West Chester, Ohio; WB4ICJ, July 14 – 20, Kennedy Space Center; N1A, July 14 – 28, Milford (Ohio) Amateur Radio Club; N4A, July 16 – 25, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Amateur Radio Club; K2M, July 16 – 24, Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (honoring those who built the LEM on Long Island); K2CAM, July 16 – 24, Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club;

N5A, July 18 – 21, Razorback Contest Club, Springdale, Arkansas; W3A, July 18 – 23, the National Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (K3NEM); W4A, July 19 – 21, Huntsville (Alabama) Amateur Radio Club; K8QYL, July 20, Reservoir Amateur Radio Association; K9MOT, July 20 – 21, Motorola Amateur Radio Club; N0M, July 20 – 22, South East Metro Amateur Radio Club; K1M, July 20 – 28, Stratford Amateur Radio Club; GB5EHL, until July 28, Leicester Radio Society "Eagle Has Landed" commemoration, and PA11APOLLO, until August 2, in the Netherlands.

[Search](#) for additional Apollo 11 special event stations on the ARRL website.

Article courtesy of (<http://www.arrl.org/news/special-event-stations-to-commemorate-50th-anniversary-of-the-apollo-moon-landing>)

## Operating Notes: 20m open, random Field Day notes

In case you haven't been paying attention, 20m has been open more in the past couple of days. Today, for example, I made 7 20m contacts, including several in Europe. I don't think this is a long-term trend, but it's nice to make some contacts on 20m.

I copied the special bulletin for Field Day this year. My original plan was to copy the first Friday evening CW transmission at 20 wpm. So, just before the transmission was to begin, I tuned to 7047.5 kHz (I wonder how they chose that particular frequency?) and set up my

Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

[mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf](https://mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf)

**10/20/2019**

Hamfest & Amateur Radio Swap and Shop

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club & Southwest MI Amateur Radio Team

[KalamazooHamFest.com](https://KalamazooHamFest.com)

digital recorder.

It's a good thing that I set up the recorder because I found that I couldn't actually write that fast. I quickly fell behind and then just gave up. I could copy the message easily enough in my head. I just couldn't get it down on paper.

After the bulletin ended, I played it back and copied using a text editor. That was very easy. I should have started off doing that. In any case, I scored 100 points Friday evening before making a single QSO.

Saturday night while operating 40m CW, I worked VE7SAR. The very next contact was K5SAR.

And, finally, another operating oddity. On June 20, 2019, I worked VE3 BXG. My previous QSO with Mark was on June 20, 2018.

Article courtesy of (<https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-20m-open-random-field-day-notes/>)

## Meeting Minutes 06/20/2019

**Called to Order:** 7:04 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 Rick W8RCF Second Jay N8ARR Approved

**Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:**  
Motion Bev KA8CXS Second Smokey N5MKY Approved

### Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: Still looking for a venue for next year. Several sites are being investigated.
- ARES/RACES: Lots of activity this month. Between hailstorms, burning of hot dogs, Get Your Colon Rolling, Breakfast Table, and Girls on the Run, volunteers were kept busy.
- Field Day: Same format as usual. Setup Friday at 3, operate from 2pm Saturday until 2pm Sunday. Saturday dinner will OT's and Chef Jay will cater the other meals.
- VE Testing: Next session is June 27th. Last chance to test before the question pool changes.

### Old Business:

- Larry W8VVG donated 2 HTs to the club. It was decided to give them to the first 2 youths to pass their Tech exam.

### New Business:

- Willie AB8WD was injured in a motorcycle/deer collision. Val (YL of Arnie WA8VRA) had a stay in Ann Arbor. Both are now home.
- W8RCV (not sure if that's the right call) is operating a 5w AM station from the reservation.

**Adjourned:** 7:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

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## Board Meeting Minutes 07/08/2019

**Called to Order:** 5:38 PM

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

**Others Present:** Jay N8ARR Stephanie W8AEZ

### Topics:

- Hamfest: NoThing found yet for a venue. Go/no go date will be August 1.
- Field Day: Report has been submitted. Training needed for loggers and operators. The new trailer arrangement worked well with no interference. Need to pick up another power supply. Some of the trailers lack screens. There was much discussion on setting up all trailers like the VHF one.

**Adjourned:** 6:10 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><b>Club Meeting</b>  3rd Thursday of every month  Maple United Methodist Church  342 Capital Avenue NE  Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b>  1st Saturday of every month  Immediately after Siren Test  Coney Island, N.E. Capital  Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>BLB Luncheon</b>  1st Thursday of every month  Coney Island, 962 Capital  Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b>  2nd Saturday of every month  Coney Island, 962 Capital  Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p><b>SMARS Nets:</b>  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><b>Other Nets:</b>  Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p>Club Meeting: July 18th @ 7:00pm  BLB Luncheon: August 1st @ 11:30am  Board Meeting: August 6th @ 5:30pm  Club Breakfast: August 10th @ 8:30am  VE Session: August 22nd @ 7:00pm</p>
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