



# FEEDBACK

December 2020

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

## Cornoavirus (COVID-19) Update

While it seems the restrictions have been extended to December 20<sup>th</sup>, they do not list limiting the number of gatherings (as far as I could tell). The church has also reached out and said that we are allowed to use the church for our meeting if we want. At this time, we are still planning to meet at the Maple United Methodist Church on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Masks will be required and if you are not feeling well we ask that you stay home. We will not be having the pre-meeting dinner. Skywarn will have an On-Air meeting December 15<sup>th</sup>.

I have reached out to Wings about our 2021 Hamfest and from what I have been told, things are still up in the air for them. So far they do not have any major restrictions, but it is believed that if they are allowed to have shows and events in March, or just after March, that it would be a limited capacity (something similar to 20%, which is about 350 people on the Valley floor) as well as masks and social distancing. With this in mind, March might not be the best time for the Hamfest. We do need to have one as it is our primary source of money to keep the club running. They did say July would be a safer bet for capacity, but it is something we need to decided. Without a Hamfest, we don't have the funds to keep the club running.

As mentioned at previous meetings, we will not have a Test Session in December as it falls on Christmas Eve.

## Calhoun HamClass Success

Another successful Technician class ended November 11, 2020 after 18 hours of classroom time with three students becoming licensees! Congratulations to Don Jezierski (KE8QBW), Jarrod Slaughter (KE8QBU), and Isaiah Slaughter (KE8QBV). The group tested November 18th with volunteer VE's Kyle (W8KDB), Stephanie (W8AEZ), and John (W8JRD). A quick turn-around through the ARRL-VE got their licenses posted in a week! This makes a grand total of 53 that have gotten through class since 2014. Social distancing has made the last two graduating classes a little more challenging...but all kept their masks on, and the tabletops were cleaned before, during, and after each session and test. All three were given entry level dual band handhelds that were donated by a generous ham. If you hear the guys on the air, make them feel welcome!

If you know someone that would be interested in a future class, have them contact Terry N8LN or Mike KQ8N at [calhoun.hamclass@gmail.com](mailto:calhoun.hamclass@gmail.com)

Story submitted by Mike KQ5N

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Rookie Roundup-CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters  
Mode: CW  
Date: 12/20 (6 Hours)  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

### Straight Key Night

Bands: All Authorized Amateur Frequencies  
Mode: CW  
Date: 01/01  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

### Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters  
Mode: Phone  
Date: 01/02  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

### RTTY Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters  
Mode: Digital  
Date: 01/02 - 01/03  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

### January VHF Contest

Bands: Authorized Frequencies above 50 MHz  
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW  
Date: 01/16 - 01/18  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>

*\*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>*

## Other News

# Australian Radio Amateurs Denied Access to 60 Meters

After considering several options for a 5 MHz amateur allocation, the Australian Communications and Media Authority ([ACMA](#)) has come down in favor of national government interests. Following a formal [consultation](#) (a “proceeding” in FCC parlance), ACMA has decided not to permit ham operation on the 5351.5 – 5366.5 kHz band. The 15 kHz-wide band was allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis in 2017, but as ACMA explained, “unresolved sharing issues” prevented ham radio use of the band, operated on by more than 500 other licensed services (mostly land mobile and aeronautical services), as well as by the Australian military.

Options ranged from Australia-wide access to the whole band or part of the band, to a segmented or channelized amateur allocation, to no amateur access. ACMA decided that national defense and security use of the allocation were “of high importance” in determining maximum public benefit and decided on the last option.

“In balancing Defence’s existing use of the 5351.5 – 5366.5 kHz band against the impacts of introducing use by the amateur service, the ACMA has decided not to support amateur use in the band,” the agency said. “Public and non-public submissions from the Department of Defence showed that expanding the use of the 5351.5 – 5366.5 kHz band to potentially several thousand amateur operators could impact important radiocommunications operations. The ACMA recognizes the high level of interest shown by the amateur community in adding this band and understands there will be disappointment. However, we are confident the decision is appropriate and consistent with the objects of the Radiocommunications Act. In particular, this includes supporting defence and national interest objectives.”

Australia’s International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society, the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA), argued for amateur access to 5351.5 – 5365 kHz as a compromise. A WIA survey showed most Australian radio amateurs preferred that choice. WIA noted that because the band was agreed upon at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 on a shared secondary basis, as well as allowing low-power, such as 15 W EIRP (effective isotropic radiated power) operation, “amateur radio operators in over 80 countries around the world have been granted access to the band, including many of our near Pacific neighbors, New Zealand and Indonesia.”

“Australian amateur operators therefore have a strong desire to be able to commence communications on this band with these countries,” WIA concluded. Two spot 5 MHz frequencies are allocated to the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network (WICEN) “to provide emergency and safety communications.”

Radio amateurs in New Zealand lost access to 60 meters in late October. Use of this band by radio amateurs was provisional, allowing hams to use two frequencies in the band — 5353.0 kHz and 5362.0 kHz — as part of a trial.

In the US, ARRL proposed amateur access to the band in a 2017

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**\*NOTE\*** - All ARRL Hamfest near our location have been Cancelled (nearest ARRL Hamfest is in Indiana in July 2021 at this time). There is a possibility that future Hamfest listed here might also be cancelled. Please remember to make sure to verify that the Hamfest hasn't been cancelled before traveling to a Hamfest.

[Petition for Rule Making](#), seeking a new, contiguous secondary band at 5 MHz to the Amateur Radio Service. ARRL also asked the Commission to retain shared access to four of the current five 60-meter channels (one would be within the new band) as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP (peak envelope power) effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. So-called "interoperability" frequencies in the band have been shared by amateur and federal government entities such as Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) during exercises and actual emergencies.

[Information](#) on US amateur access to 60 meters is available on the ARRL website. — Thanks to The 5 MHz Newsletter Editor Paul Gaskell, G4MWO

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/australian-radio-amateurs-denied-access-to-60-meters>

## FCC to Require Email Addresses on Applications

Amateur radio licensees and candidates will have to provide the FCC with an email address on applications, effective sometime in mid-2021. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as defective.

The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence and will no longer print or provide wireless licensees with hard-copy authorizations or registrations by mail.

A Report and Order ([R&O](#)) on "Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services" in WT Docket 19-212 was adopted on September 16. The new rules will go into effect 6 months after publication in the Federal Register, which hasn't happened yet, but the FCC is already strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. When an email address is provided, licensees will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses when the application is granted.

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur station license "must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name." For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license will have to show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. "The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence," the amended rule will state. "Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address."

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/fcc-to-require-email-addresses-on-applications/>

## Meeting (On-Air) Minutes 11/19/2020

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD Ivan W8IDR Tom W. KE8GDN Smokey N5MKY and incoming Secretary Stephanie W8AEZ

**Others by radio check in:** 12

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Introductions**

**Greetings to new members:** none this month

**Secretary's Report as published in Feedback:** Motion Don W8RVT Second Tom KE8GDN Approved

**Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:** n/a

**Committee Reports:**

- Hamfest: Status is still uncertain. The date March 20 is reserved, but restrictions are unknown. The date could be moved and there was a suggestion to do trunk sales later in the year.
- Skywarn: Bret KD8RHB brought up the possibility of a ham shack at the Legion post. The Washington School siren is supposed to be fixed for December. State notifications need better info. The weather on November 15 was classified as a wind event with power outages.
- FieldDay: No new news. A cabinet was obtained from Jay N8ARR, but any work on the trailers has been delayed for the winter.
- VE: The last session had 6 successful candidates, 3 Techs, 2 Generals, and 1 Extra. The candidates from Terry N8LN and Mike KQ8N's class tested November 18 and all passed. The Kalamazoo VE team is looking for a location and VEs for November 21. There will be no scheduled session for December as that would fall on Christmas Eve.
- Repeaters: Don W8RVT reported the lockup on the 2 meter repeater was related to the digital voice recorder. That has been disconnected and the repeater is working normally. Don is still investigating possible interference with the Potterville repeater.

**Old Business:**

- Tom KE8GDN reported that several of the presentations for this year will be carried over to 2021. We did get 2 Foxhunts in this year.

**New Business:**

- Kyle W8KDB announced the cancellation of the Christmas party this year. There will have to be a decision on the 50/50 proceeds. These could be awarded at the Board meeting, the next Club meeting, etc. Also to be decided is the requirement to be present to win.
- Don KB9IAR reported that the Albion Masonic #20 donated \$50 to the Club.

- Tom KE8GDN and Kyle W8KDB discussed the possibility of setting up a station at the American Legion Post. Details need to be worked out: access, equipment, etc. There is also the possibility of holding Club meetings there. Don W8RVT stated that he has equipment for sale, if needed.

**Adjourned:** 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting (On-Air) Minutes 12/01/2020

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

**Officers present:** Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD Tom KE8GDN Smokey N5MKY Ivan W8IDR

**Others:** Craig N1CEW Don W8RVT Tom WR8G

**Topics:**

- Kyle had an email from the church. It is closed to worship services, but open on a limited basis for other activities. If the current restrictions allow, we are going to try for a face to face meeting. Masks and the usual precautions still are required. If something changes, there will be an on the air meeting.
- There is still the 50/50 prizes to be awarded. Normally this happens at the Christmas party. One of the concerns is the requirement to be present to win. If there is a face to face meeting, the general membership will be asked for their opinion. Don suggested also polling those that are not present at the meeting. but could be reached on the 2 meter repeater. There is also the option of just returning the money to the general fund or just waiting until 2021.
- Ivan asked about the D-star internet cable bill for the 3rd and 4th quarters which is still pending. Kyle said he'd talk to Terry about this.
- Wings is still reserved for March 20, 2021 but this is still very much up in the air due to not knowing what restrictions will be in place. The Hamfest could be moved later in the year, but not conflicting with Kalamazoo's Hamfest.

**Adjourned:** 5:54 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 186.2 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: December 17th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: January 7th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: January 5th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: January 9th @ 8:30am VE Session: February 25th @ 7:00pm</p> <p>Some events might not happen due to COVID restrictions. Please check ahead of time to see if the event is going on.</p>
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