



# FEEDBACK

April 2021

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.

### Board of Directors:

*President*

Kyle Brown, W8KDB  
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*Vice President*

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*Secretary*

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*Treasurer*

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*Member At Large*

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### Club News

## Membership Renewals

There has been some questions about membership renewals given the board has decided to do On Air meetings in order to save money until we can have a hamfest again. Membership fees can be sent to the club's PO Box (check preferred and made out to Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society), or you can reach out to Ivan W8IDR to arrange paying the membership fee. Below is the Clubs PO Box:

SMARS  
P.O. Box 934  
Battle Creek, MI 49016

The membership fee is still \$15.00 and cards will be mailed out after fee has been received. Donations to the club can also be sent to the same address.

## Club Financials

There is a correction from last weeks Feedback. It was brought to our attention that cost of the D-Stars Internet is being covered while the Club works on getting stabilized financially. This was brought to my attention after last month's feedback, so this is a correction for that. So I will like to thank everyone involve for that. I also want to thank people who have donated to the club as this will help us when we are able to have a Hamfest again.

For the 501(c)(3), the board has decided to set this aside for now until we are financial stable. I know getting 501(c)(3) could help the club with donations and what not, but it is highly recommended we talk with a CPA about getting 501(c)(3) certified and to understand all of the ins and outs of it. There are a lot of changes for the club that will need to be done, but this is something we will discuss with the CPA when we get to that point.

## October Club Meeting

We are planning to do an in person meeting on October. This is mainly so people can vote for the Club Officers. Please keep this in mind as I do not plan to run for Club President. I will keep posting this reminder (as well as the Membership Renewals) each month until the October Club Meeting.

## Field Day

We have completed the paper work for having Field Day at the Fort. Things will be a little different as we have some restrictions to work

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Rookie Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters  
Mode: SSB  
Date: 04/18  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

### June-VHF

Bands: Above 50 Mhz  
Mode: Phone  
Date: 06/12-06/14  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

### Kids-Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters  
Mode: Phone  
Date: 06/19  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

*\*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>*

around. The main one being that people need to sign up before arriving for contact tracing. These are the rules for us to barrow the location out at the Fort. Below is a link to sign up for Field Day.

<https://forms.gle/YSVJk6rqBfawW7wb8>

You will also be responsible for a self-evaluation for virus symptoms. Hand sanitize and wipes will be provided to help keep everyone safe. Please remember to bring a mask as well. If we have any updates, they will be posted in the Feedback.

## American Legion Proposal

As brought up in the March Club Meeting, and agreed on by the board, the Proposal and Email discussions for the proposal are being made available. Below is a link to a PDF that contains the emails and the PDF/Word Doc Proposal.

[https://w8df.com/Joint\\_Radio\\_Station\\_Proposal\\_DEAFT.pdf](https://w8df.com/Joint_Radio_Station_Proposal_DEAFT.pdf)

### Other News

## Amateur Radio Community Invited to Take Part in MARS Exercise on 60 Meters

Radio amateurs are invited to take part in the MARS exercise now under way until April 10 in support of the US Department of Defense. The five USB channelized 60-meter frequencies are available for interoperability (communication between services).

By convention, Channel 1 is designated the calling channel. This convention is established to train the amateur radio community to reach out on Channel 1 in times of national emergency for information from the federal government.

The amateur radio community utilizes 60 meters on a secondary basis with federal agencies.

This and similar 60 meter interoperability exercises are conducted during the first full week of each month. Air Force MARS has Sunday, 0501 UTC through Wednesday, 1701 UTC. Army MARS picks up Wednesday, 1701 UTC through Saturday, 0501 UTC. There is no service crossover.

The operating convention for MARS 60-meter interface with the amateur community designates Channel 1 as primary. For the purpose of this exercise, Air Force MARS phone operations will originate on Channel 1, digital and CW operations on Channel 2. If congestion occurs, either mode may direct their traffic to Channels 3 – 5. The only authorized digital modes are CW, M110A, Olivia, MT-63, MFSK-16, FT-8, and RTTY. M110A will likely have little or no use in this exercise.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-community-invited-to-take-part-in-mars-exercise-on-60-meters>

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**06/08/2021**

Hudsonville IRA Hamfest

Location: Hudsonville, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association, Inc.

Flyer:

<http://w8ira.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/IRA-Hamfest-2021-Full-Sheet-V3.pdf>

**\*NOTE\*** - All ARRL Hamfest near our location have been Cancelled (nearest ARRL Hamfest is in Ohio in June 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.

# ARISS USA Gets IRS 501(c)(3) Recognition

ARISS-USA, a Maryland nonprofit corporation, has earned recognition from the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a Section 501(c)(3) charitable, scientific, and educational organization. ARISS-USA is the US segment of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) international working group. With this IRS determination, donations to ARISS-USA become tax-deductible in the US, retroactive to May 21, 2020. This status allows the organization to solicit donations and grants.

ARISS-USA says it will continue to promote student involvement with the astronauts on the ISS via amateur radio. Working with educational organizations, ARISS provides opportunities to inspire, engage, and educate our next generation of space explorers through STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) activities and content.

"The educational scope and reach of what ARISS accomplishes has grown significantly since our beginnings in 1996," said ARISS-USA Executive Director Frank Bauer. "We are actively working to extend student reach even further. This, through the pursuit of potential student opportunities on human spaceflight missions beyond low-Earth orbit, is part of our Amateur Radio Exploration (AREx) Program. First AREx destination: the moon!"

ARISS-USA continues to collaborate with ARISS International and US sponsors, partners, and interest groups. ARISS' sponsors are NASA Space Communication and Navigation (SCaN) and the ISS National Lab. [Donations](#) to ARISS-USA are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrrl.org/news/ariss-usa-gets-irs-501-c-3-recognition>

## Meeting Minutes 03/18/2021

Meeting was held over-the-air on the 146.660 MHz repeater and called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Officers present** – President Kyle W8KDB, Vice President Tom KD8GDN, Treasurer Ivan W8IDR, Member-at-Large Smokey N5MKY, Secretary Stephanie W8AEZ

**Others in attendance:** WA8VRA, KE8VJL, KE8VJN, KD8MA, W8RVT, KE8RFN, WR8G, W8JRD

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Introductions

**Secretary's Report:** Motion was made by Arnie WA8VRA to accept the Secretary's Report as published in the Feedback, seconded by Ivan W8IDR. Motion was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Summary of the Treasurer's Report was given over the air by Ivan W8IDR. The three winners of the 50/50 donated their winnings back to the club. AT&T bill has been paid. Current balance in the club account is \$1,391.51. Motion was made by W8RVT to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by KD8GDN. Motion was accepted.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - Will not happen in March. The Board discussed holding the Hamfest in June at the Wings Event Center. July is a possibility, but the doors might need to remain open for circulation as there is no air conditioning. N5MKY reported that the Hudsonville Hamfest is in June.
- SKYWARN - Smokey N5MKY reported on the meeting that was held at the American Legion Post 257. The American Legion Post has decided to start their own amateur radio station with TALARC, The American Legion Amateur Radio Club. Due to COVID concerns, there will be no in-person storm spotter trainer this spring. WX8BLT/Auxcomm has emailed and posted a list of online training opportunities on their Facebook page. The Norman Oklahoma Storm Prediction Center will be giving a presentation via Zoom at the next SKYWARN meeting.
- Field Day - Current plans are to hold Field Day at Ft. Custer. N5MKY called Ft. Custer and left a voicemail but as of this time has not yet received a call back about availability of the site.
- VE session – Next VE session is Thursday, April 22nd in the downstairs fellowship hall of Maple United Methodist Church.

- Repeaters - Don W8RVT needs a volunteer to take over maintenance of the repeaters. Echolink interface malfunctioned, he brought it back to his workbench. Anyone who's interested in helping is encouraged to contact Don at w8rvt@arrl.net or Kyle at w8kdb@arrl.net.

### OLD BUSINESS

- N5MKY made a motion that the entire email thread on the proposal for the SKYWARN/Auxcomm American Legion proposal be included in this meeting's minutes. Motion was seconded by W8AEZ. Per Tom WR8G, this can be placed on the club's web page for member access.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Tom KE8GDN brought up two items: 1) the list of activities that he put together last year will need to be pushed forward due to COVID restrictions, and 2) a Foxhunt is being planned for this spring.
- Tom KE8GDN was asked for the board members' email addresses and asked if this information can be added to the w8df.com web page. Per Tom WR8G, the emails were not listed on the w8df.com homepage as to prevent them receiving spam. Hyperlinked email addresses for the Board members are listed on the front page of the Feedback.
- Don W8RVT asked for the status of the club getting a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Per Kyle, the club would need a tax ID and club assets need to be assessed. The EZ form could be used if the club has less than a certain amount of assets. Don stated that as we have a corporation (which we do), he said the tax ID should be on the club's paperwork. Don stated he would investigate the tax ID further.
- John W8JRD reported that he received the information for renewing the ARRL Special Service Club status as he was still listed as SMARS Secretary. He will complete the required paperwork and submit it for processing.

W8IDR Ivan made the motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Tom WR8G.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes 04/06/2021

**Called to Order:** 5:33 PM

**Officers present:** Kyle W8KDB, Ivan W8IDR, Tom KE8GDN, Stephanie W8AEZ, Smokey N5MKY

### Topics

- Hamfest: COVID restrictions are still in place for the Wings Stadium Annex. Per Smokey, the first hamfest appears to be in Hudsonville in June.
- Field Day: ARRL Field Day will be at Ft. Custer Recreation Area this year. Smokey prepared the forms for hosting the event plus shared a draft of an electronic COVID screening form for participants. A \$150 contribution to Ft. Custer will be made by the club in exchange for use of the site. He will forward the completed forms and a copy of the club's insurance policy to Tony. Per Smokey, on-site camping of 3-5 units should be allowed.
- We expect to use all three club trailers for Field Day and a normal setup. Items will need
- to be shifted between the trailers before then. Kyle has the antenna rotors and will pick
- up lubricant for them at Harbor Freight. He also found some newer weather-resistant
- connectors for the rotors that should corrode less than the current ones; he will pick up
- some and donate them to the club.
- 501(c)(3): Based on Kyle's initial investigation of the 501(c)(3) process, the club will need obtain an EIN# and to talk to a CPA or financial advisor regarding necessary audits. Current financial reporting would also need to be revamped. The board agreed to postpone further discussion.
- Treasurer's report: The board discussed options for sharing the Treasurer's report with club members. One option is to have a Google Drive link to the report and post the link on w8df.com.

- Club Officer Elections: The board agreed that officer elections should be done in person at Maple United Methodist Church. Kyle will follow up with the church regarding arrangements to use the fellowship hall for that meeting.
- VE Sessions: So far, one person is interested in attending the June VE session. The current testing fee is still \$15.00. The \$35.00 testing fee is not yet being imposed by the FCC; they will issue a notice about 30 days in advance of when the fee will change.
- Tom KE8GDN is organizing a foxhunt for April 24th. The location will likely be Leila Arboretum.
- The club is still looking for someone to take over maintenance of the repeaters from Don W8RVT.

**Meeting adjourned:** 6:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ  
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: April 15th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: May 6th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: May 4th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: May 8th @ 8:30am VE Session: April 22nd @ 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. Board Meeting planned for Coney Island, if restricted then meeting on 2 meter repeater.</p>
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