



FEEDBACK

January 2021

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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Club News

Cornoavirus (COVID-19) Update

We have survived 2020 and are now into 2021, but COVID is still an issue that we are dealing with. Please remember to stay safe and healthy while we wait for it to die out or for some kind of vaccine to be developed and distributed to everyone.

A couple updates for this year, we are going to move to On-Air club meetings only (on the 2 meter repeater normally). This choice was made to help cut down on the expenses for the club. Because we have not had a Hamfest since 2019, our finances are not looking too good. A Hamfest for this year (at least for our normal time) is looking like it will not happen. I would like to try and shot for one later on in the year as we need to have one to help fund the club. We will still have the Exam Sessions on the even months at the church, but we are planning to use the downstairs room to help support the large number of people we tend to get for the exam and allow them to spread out.

Skywarn will be having mostly On-Air meetings. They planned to meet in January at the American Legion Post 257 near Harper Creek Middle School, however a recent update was sent out and they will do an On-Air meeting. Join them on Tuesdays for updates on if they will meet in person or do On-Air meetings in the future.

For the Board Meetings, we will plan on meeting at Gregg's Coney Island Cafe & Grill as normal. The only exception would be if the government has restricted indoor dining at restaurants. At this point it looks like February 1st is when that will be lifted, but they have said that in the past and just kept extending it. So at this point, I am not holding my breath for February 1st as being the date we can do inside dining. If we are not allowed to meet at Coney Island due to indoor dining being restricted, we will have an on air meeting (normally on the 2 meter repeater).

Speaking of exam sessions, there have been some new changes to the exam paperwork. The FCC is requiring a FRN and an email address. I haven't found anything specific to the FRN, but that is what ARRL's What to Bring to an Exam Session indicated. Also the interactive version of the 605 form on ARRL's site only shows FRN to be filled in (although the instructions still say SSN or FRN). As for the email, if an email address is not supplied the FCC may dismiss the application as "defective." It also sounds like current licensed Amateur Radio Operators will need to update their FCC registration to include an email (if one is not already on file) before June 29, 2021 (when this goes into effect). See the article in Other News.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

School Club Roundup

Bands: All Bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 02/08 - 02/12

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

ARRL DX

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: CW

Date: 02/20 - 02/21

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

ARRL DX

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Date: 03/06 - 03/07

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

**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

FCC to Require Email Address on Applications Starting on June 29, 2021

Effective on June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an email address on all applications. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as "defective."

On September 16, the FCC adopted a Report and Order ([R&O](#)) in WT Docket 19-212 on "Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services." The R&O was [published](#) on December 29 in the Federal Register. The FCC has already begun strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. Once an email address is provided, the FCC will email a link to an official electronic copy of the license grant. An official copy will also be available at any time by accessing the licensee's password-protected Universal Licensing System (ULS) account.

Licensees can log into the ULS [License Manager System](#) with their FRN and password at any time and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday – Friday, 1300 – 2300 UTC) or [reset the password](#) on the FCC website.

The only way to refrain from providing an email address on an application would be to submit a request to waive the new rule, providing justification for the request. (The FCC would not be obliged to grant such a request.)

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur radio 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 must 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 <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-to-require-email-address-on-applications-starting-on-june-29-2021>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

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.

FCC reminds us not to do anything illegal

I got this odd email from the FCC this morning:

From: FCC Office of Media Relations
<FCCOfficeofMediaRelations@fcc.gov>

Subject: Enforcement Advisory to Amateur & Personal Radio Service Licenses & Operators

Date: January 17, 2021 at 9:45 AM

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau today issued an Enforcement Advisory warning amateur and personal radio services licensees and operators that they may not use radio equipment to commit or facilitate criminal acts. The Enforcement Advisory says: "The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and coordinate future activities. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted purposes, including speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes. Specifically, the Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting 'communications intended to facilitate a criminal act' or 'messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.'"

The full enforcement advisory is available at:

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-73A1.pdf>

Media Contact: Will Wiquist, will.wiquist@fcc.gov

This is, of course, in response to the call by some to use amateur radio in place of social media outlets, such as Twitter and Parler. Here's one such [blog post](#). And, of course, preppers have been getting licenses for years.

I find it kind of funny that the FCC would issue such a statement. After all, isn't it obvious that using personal radio services for illegal purposes is also illegal?

As for using amateur radio as a substitute for Twitter or Parler, I think that those that try this will be very disappointed. Amateur radio really isn't set up for one-to-many or many-to-many communications like social media websites are. I think those that try to use ham radio in place of social media are going to find that it's too much work for too little gain. Who knows, though? Maybe they'll come up with a novel approach.

If I were in law enforcement, I might be more worried about the use of DMR encryption. I'm certainly no expert, but it sounds like it would be awful tough to decrypt a DMR communication if they use the 40-bit encryption mode.

At any rate, I haven't heard of any unusual activity in this area, but I'm curious if you have where you are. If so, please let us—and perhaps the [Volunteer Monitor Program](#)—know.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/fcc-reminds-us-not-to-do-anything-illegal/>

Meeting Minutes 12/17/2020

Called to Order: 7:15 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD Ivan W8IDR
Smokey N5MKY

Total Attendance: 6

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings to new members: none this month

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback: Motion
Smokey N5MKY Second Ivan W8IDR Approved

Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:
Motion Don W8RVT Second John W8JRD Approved

Committee Reports:

- Skywarn: Bret KD8RHB ran a net in lieu of a meeting. He tried something different with call sign, name, and favorite color spelled phonetically. A club station at the Legion Post is still under discussion. Ivan donated an antenna for the cause. Several local hams participated in Skywarn Recognition Day.
- FieldDay: No new news.
- VE: There will be no scheduled session for December as that would fall on Christmas Eve and restrictions due to COVID.
- Repeaters: Don W8RVT reports nothing major happening, but there some spurs on the APRS digipeater.
- Hamfest: Status is still uncertain. The date March 20 is reserved, but restrictions are unknown. Wings suggests later in the year may be better with masks and social distancing.

Old Business:

- There weren't enough members present to make a recommendation about the 50/50.
- There are on-going discussions about moving the club meeting to the American Legion Post.

New Business:

- Nothing this month.

Adjourned: 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 01/05/2021

Called to Order: 5:37 PM

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

Others present: John W8JRD

Topics

- Hamfest: COVID-19 vaccine is currently in short supply and it is not likely to be widely available until later this year. This and the new more easily communicable strain of the virus may impact the club's ability to hold a Hamfest.
- Finances: Per Ivan, the club presently has \$1501.43 in its account. Estimated yearly expenses include \$1,200.00 for internet connection for repeaters, \$150.00 for upstairs room rental, \$420.00 for rental of downstairs room. Considering the impact that not having a Hamfest will have on club finances, Kyle proposed cost-saving measures be implemented. Holding board meetings and monthly club membership meetings on-the-air for the foreseeable future would reduce expenses. When restaurants are allowed to reopen, board meetings can resume at Coney Island Cafe as there is no club expense involved. VE sessions would continue to be held at Maple United Methodist Church. Kyle will talk to the church about the change in the room rental agreement.
- There was a previous suggestion that SMARS move its club meetings to the American Legion Post 257 near Harper Creek Middle School. Further action is pending a discussion with the Legion.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Ivan W8IDR and seconded by Smokey N5MKY

Meeting adjourned: 5:52 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/lgate, 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>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 (On-Air): January 21 @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: February 4th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: February 2nd @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: February 13th @ 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. Board Meeting planned for Coney Island, if restricted then meeting on 2 meter repeater.</p>
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