



# FEEDBACK

March 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  
[w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdb@arrl.net)

*Vice President*  
Thomas Worthington, KE8GDN  
[tomcworth@aol.com](mailto:tomcworth@aol.com)

*Secretary*  
Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ  
[w8aez@arrl.net](mailto:w8aez@arrl.net)

*Treasurer*  
Ivan Rhodes, W8IDR  
[idrhomdes@aol.com](mailto:idrhomdes@aol.com)

*Member At Large*  
Glenn "Smokey" McCray, N5MKY  
[n5mky@arrl.net](mailto:n5mky@arrl.net)

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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.

## 501(c)(3)

The board is looking at making the club a 501(c)(3) as it will help with possible donations in the future. There is a lot that goes into a 501(c)(3), so if we have any accountants that is familiar with 501(c)(3) we would be grateful for some help in making it happen.

## Club Financials

I was asked to provide a financial report to help understand the financial issue we have. I don't like to put the financial report in a public document like this (since anyone can look at it), so I will try and to provide examples of the issue. Our biggest expense per month is the Internet bill for both the repeater and the D-Star repeater. The total of both bills is about \$100 a month. If you times that by 12 months (1 year), it comes out to \$1,200 a year for the Internet connection. We do not have enough (at this time) in the bank to cover the Internet for the repeaters this year. Insurance and location rental are other expenses that we have to take care of as well (which is why we have moved to an on-air meeting this year). We are working on possibly securing a rent free location. There is also the fee for being Incorporated in Michigan (which I think is only \$20 or so) that has to be paid close to the end of the month. I hope that helps.

## 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>*

## Other News

# Spacewalk Could Return ARISS Ham Station in ISS Columbus Module to the Air

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRL](#)) reports that efforts to determine what's keeping the ham station in the ISS Columbus module off the air have been unsuccessful thus far. The radio equipment works, but no signal appears to be reaching the external ARISS antenna. The station, typically operated as NA1SS, has not been usable since new RF cables were installed during a January 27 spacewalk extravehicular activity (EVA) to support the commissioning of the [Bartolomeo](#) payload hosting platform installed last spring. During the January EVA, the coax feed line installed 11 years ago was replaced with another built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Airbus.

ARRIS has scheduled a March 10 news conference to discuss efforts to restore operational capability to the Columbus module ham station. The news conference will provide insights into some of the cable troubleshooting already conducted, ARISS said. During a March 13 spacewalk (EVA), astronauts Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, and Victor Glover, KI5BKC, plan to return the ARISS antenna feed line cabling to its configuration prior to the January 27 spacewalk.

ARRIS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said the ARISS team has been working closely with NASA and the ESA to identify what may have caused the "radio anomaly" keeping the ISS Columbus module ham station off the air.

This past week, astronauts on the ISS performed troubleshooting tests on all four new feed lines installed on the Columbus module. One cable was earmarked for the ARISS station, while the other three are for Bartolomeo. ARISS reported over the weekend, however, that it was unable to establish communication using any of the feed line cables connected to the ARISS radio system, which was tested in Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) mode.

The plan to return the ARISS cabling to its original configuration was a "contingency task" for a March 5 spacewalk, but the astronauts ran out of time. On March 5, astronauts Kate Rubins, KG5FYJ, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP, worked on some other Bartolomeo cable/connector troubleshooting. If all goes well, the March 13 spacewalk will complete that work.

ARRIS became aware of the station problem after a contact with a school in Wyoming, between ON4ISS on Earth and Hopkins at NA1SS, had to abort when no downlink signal was heard. For the time being, ARISS school and group contacts with crew members have been conducted using the ham station in the ISS Service Module.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/spacewalk-could-return-ariss-ham-station-in-iss-columbus-module-to-the-air>

## 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.

## VE Session Report

Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

Total Candidates – 6

New Technician Class – 4

New Technician/General Class – 1

Upgrade to General Class – 1

# Maritime Radio Day is Set for April

The 10th anniversary of Maritime Radio Day ([MRD](#)) will take place from 1200 UTC on April 14 to 2200 UTC on April 15. The annual event commemorates nearly 90 years of wireless service for seafarers. Radio amateurs and shortwave listeners are welcome and should [register](#) in advance by April 1.

Stations such as coastal radio stations and ships may participate only if operated by former commercial or Navy operators, or by radio technicians who worked on the installation and/or maintenance of naval equipment. Former Merchant Marine Radio Operators or former Ship's Electronic Technicians are encouraged to participate.

All traffic must occur around the following international naval frequencies on amateur radio bands: 1824 kHz; 3520 kHz; 7020 kHz; 10,118 kHz; 14,052 kHz; 21,052 kHz, and 28,052 kHz. The primary working frequency is 14,052 kHz. There is no power limit. Participants exchange QSA (signal strength, 1-5), QRK (readability, 1-5), name, call sign of last or favorite ship/aircraft/maintenance company, and "additionally a tr, msg and/or a QTC, if you like."

Submit an [email](#) or letter detailing stations worked to Rolf Marschner, Narzissenweg 10 53359, Rheinbach, Germany.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/maritime-radio-day-is-set-for-april>

## Meeting Minutes 02/18/2021

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,

Seven members (including KC8KPL) in attendance.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Introductions

**Secretary's Report:** Motion was made by John W8JRD to accept the report as published in the Feedback, seconded by Tom KD8GDN. Motion was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Summary of the Treasurer's Report was given over the air by Ivan W8IDR. Dues from several members have been received along with a \$10.00 donation to the club. Motion made by Smokey N5MKY to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Bev KA8CXS. Motion was accepted.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - Current COVID restrictions for Wings limits capacity to 250 people max including staff and vendors, which would not make a March Hamfest worthwhile. Per Melissa, there is no AC in the Valley. There is a possibility of having Hamfest in June.
- SKYWARN - Smokey N5MKY reported there will be no National Weather Service in-person spotter training sessions this year. They are working on some virtual training, but nothing is scheduled at this time. Both Detroit and Indiana have training schedules posted. So far 26 (of 61) are signed up for TextCom. At signup, the cell phone number and provider must be provided as due to the web interface. Smokey is still planning on following up with the American Legion about SMARS having its meetings and VE sessions there.
- Field Day - At this time we are planning on participating in Field Day. A note was sent out through the ARRL about extending COVID rules for this year's Field Day event. Individuals can link up to the club without going out to the Field Day location. Kyle will be doing maintenance on the rotors. Trailer work is on hold for a couple of months for when the weather is better.

- VE session – Next VE session is Thursday, Feb. 25th at 7:00pm. The session will be held in the larger downstairs room at Maple Hill Methodist Church to allow for social distancing and masks are required for all attendees. Any VE's are welcome to attend the session.
- Repeaters - Don W8RVT reported that he hasn't been up to the site for 2-3 months now. The temperature inside the transmitter building is maintaining around 72 degrees.

### OLD BUSINESS

- The 2020 50/50 drawing will be done at the Feb 25th VE session. The winner(s) need not be present at the VE session in order to collect their prize(s). Ivan W8IDR will be at the VE session to collect any dues from club members.

### NEW BUSINESS

- W8RVT Don asked if there was a discussion about the club applying for 503-c status. Per Kyle, nothing has been done at this yet. Don will come to the next Board meeting to share what he found out about how to apply for 503-c status. Don suggested W8IDR check and see if we have Michigan incorporated (nonprofit?) status. Don suggested that members who are over 71.5 years of age with an IRA that requires they need to take a distribution make a donation to a club.
- The plan for the next Board meeting is to meet in-person at Coney Island Cafe. We will need to limit our group size to keep within COVID in-person dining guidelines. Per Kyle, VE's can meet at Coney for dinner before next week's session.

WA8VRA Arnie made the motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Tom KE8GDN.

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ

## Board Meeting Minutes 03/02/2021

**Called to Order:** 5:35 PM

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

**Others present:** Don W8RVT, John W8JRD

### Topics

- Hamfest: Kyle spoke with Melissa at the Wings Event Center regarding hosting a Hamfest in June or July. June is completely open, July 16th-17th and 30th-31st are also available. She stated that the Valley can be quite warm in the summer as it has no air conditioning.
- Don W8RVT brought three items to the Board for discussion:
  - The Motorola MICOR 2m repeater stopped working on March 1st. Don swapped it out for the Fusion repeater. The MICOR is now on his work bench.
  - He is no longer able to repair and do maintenance on the repeaters and asked that someone be found to take over for him.
  - It would be beneficial for SMARS to file for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization status, which would allow the club to accept tax-free donations. Application/filing fee is around \$400 and filing can be done online. Don offered to front the application fee, which the club could refund to him after filing. Kyle will take a look at the paperwork and see what reporting will be required of the SMARS.
- John W8JRD brought it to the Board's attention that our ARRL Special Service Club status needs to be renewed.
- VE Report: There were a total of six candidates at the February 25th VE Session. Five earned their Technician license, and one earned an upgrade from Technician to General.
- The Board discussed N5MKY's proposal draft regarding establishing a WX8BLT Skywarn/Auxcomm and SMARS joint radio station at the American Legion Post 257. The first draft of the proposal states that SMARS will assist the Legion in establishing an amateur radio club and obtaining a callsign, provide VHF and HF radio equipment, antennas, and training for American Legion members who wish to become licensed amateur radio operators.

- Field Day: SMARS is planning to participate in ARRL Field Day 2021 (June 26th-27th). The Club needs to decide which site to use for operation. Smokey N5MKY will check with Ft. Custer to see if our prior location there is available. Tom KE8GDN will check with the Club's liability carrier to ensure our policy is up-to-date.

**Meeting adjourned:** 6:30 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: March 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: April 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: April 6th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: April 10th @ 8:30am VE Session: April 22 @ 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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