



FEEDBACK

May 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.

Board of Directors:

President

Kyle Brown, W8KDB
w8kdb@arrl.net

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tomcworth@aol.com

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Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ
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Treasurer

Ivan Rhodes, W8IDR
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Member At Large

Glenn "Smokey" McCray, N5MKY
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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.

Small Hamfest

Many people have suggested having a small Hamfest in a parking lot or something like that. The board is behind this idea, but we need someone to step forward to plan the event, present it to the board, and run the event. Some of the requirements of the board are that where ever it is planned to have the event, we need permission to be there. The event also needs to follow CDC and State guide lines for gatherings outside.

If you are interested in setting up the small Hamfest for W8DF, please contact a member of the board.

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. We are still waiting for approval (as of the last board meeting), but we do not expect any issues. Things will be a little different as we have some restrictions to work 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.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

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>*

<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.

Other News

Wooden Satellite to Launch by Year's End

The WISA Woodsat project, being sponsored by plywood supplier WISA in an unconventional PR initiative, is poised to place a wooden satellite into orbit by the end of the year. The idea is to test the suitability of treated wood as a low-cost and widely available material for space applications. The IARU posting for Woodsat indicates that several amateur radio experiments will be on board as well as photo downlinking, including selfies.

The wooden satellite is based on a basic, versatile CubeSat format, Kitsat, which is designed with educational use in mind. It retails for just \$1,500. Based in Finland, the Woodsat project began with students across the country contributing parts to a CubeSat launched by balloon. The satellite will be a 10-centimeter cube weighing 1 kilogram, covered on all sides by coated birch plywood from WISA plywood. Nine small solar cells will power the satellite, which will orbit at an altitude of 500 – 550 kilometers.

As the sponsor quipped, "WISA Woodsat will go where no wood has gone before. With a mission to gather data on the behavior and durability of plywood over an extended period in the harsh temperatures, vacuum and radiation of space in order to assess the use of wood materials in space structures."

Once in orbit, Woodsat will be able to extend a selfie stick to capture photographs of the wooden box as it hurtles through space at 40,000 kilometers per hour (24,800 miles per hour). This will allow the mission leaders to monitor the impact of the environment on the plywood.

The satellite would downlink its telemetry and images from two cameras using amateur radio frequencies.

"The wooden satellite with a selfie stick will surely bring laughter and goodwill," added mission manager Jari Mäkinen of Arctic Astronautics. "Essentially, this is a serious science and technology endeavor. In addition to testing plywood, the satellite will demonstrate accessible radio amateur satellite communication; host several secondary technology experiments; validate the Kitsat platform in orbit, and popularize space technology."

An April 23 Engineering and Technology article has more information. — Thanks to AMSAT News Service via JoAnne Maenpaa, K9JKM; E&T, and the IARU

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/wooden-satellite-to-launch-by-year-s-end>

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.

Silent Keys

Jim Sheldon N8MVV - Long-time SMARS member became a SK on May 8, 2021. Survived by his wife, Nancy N8TIA, also a longtime member.

Beverly Williams KA8CXS – After a short battle with cancer, Bev became a SK on May 14, 2021. She will be missed.

From Nuts and Volts: How old is old enough?, repairing circuit boards

Every week, I get an email from Nuts and Volts, one of the few electronics magazines still around. It contains links to articles on their website, and there's almost always something that I want to read. Here are a couple of articles from recent issues that you might want to read....Dan

How old is old enough?

This is a question we almost all have faced. How young is too young to get a kid interested in electronics. Of course, it depends on the kid, but the author says that even 8 or 9 years old is old enough:

If you're looking to introduce electronics to an eight or nine year old, I'm a big fan of the Snap Circuits series which is sort of like LEGOs with embedded components. The entry-level model is around \$30 from Amazon. With color-coded LEGO-like components, you and your youngster can build over a hundred different circuits — from a water alarm to a timer.

I started playing around with stuff when I was about 10 or 11, with some guidance from my dad, who built a couple of hi-fi kits, and a raft of Popular Electronics and Electronics Illustrated magazines.

Repairing circuit boards

Repairing the complex circuit boards in our transceivers may be beyond the skills of most hams, but there's still an awful lot of electronics that we use on a regular basis that is fixable. This article explains how to do that.

For example, the author points out that performing a visual inspection should be your first step:

Visual inspection is an essential first step in troubleshooting. Check for loose connectors or components in sockets, which can often get dislodged in shipping. Look for burned or damaged parts, or solder bridges causing a short circuit of signal or power lines.

You might be surprised at how many problems you will find by just looking!

I'm a big proponent of trying to fix something before just tossing it. You'll learn something by doing so, and if you can fix whatever it is you're trying to fix, you'll save money in the process, too.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/from-nuts-and-volts-how-old-is-old-enough-repairing-circuit-boards/>

Meeting Minutes 04/15/2021

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 KE8GDN, Treasurer Ivan W8IDR, Member-at-Large Smokey N5MKY, Secretary Stephanie W8AEZ
Others in attendance: W8RDX, KD8MA, KD8RHB, W8RVT, W8JRD, N8ARR

Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Smokey N5MKY to accept the Secretary's Report as published in the Feedback and seconded by Tom KE8GDN. The motion was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: A summary of the Treasurer's Report was given by Ivan W8IDR. The current balance in the club account is \$1,560. The club has received \$140 in donations and \$60 in club dues and the AT&T bill monthly bill has been paid. A motion was made by Dave W8RDX to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Jim KD8MA. The motion was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - At this time, Kyle has received no updates from Wings Event Center regarding the easing of restrictions on attendees in the Annex location. Smokey N5MKY asked about the possibility of holding an outdoor hamfest. Jay N8ARR reported he drove past Wings Event Center about two weeks ago and noted the MHSAA was holding a wrestling competition and the parking lot was rather full. Kyle will follow up with Wings for an update before the May 4th board meeting.
- SKYWARN - Per Brett KD8RHB, there will be a face-to-face meeting on Tuesday, April 20th at 6:30pm at the American Legion Post 257. At that meeting will be a Zoom presentation by Bill Bunting, Chief of Operations at the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. A question and answer session will follow the meeting.
- **Field Day** - Paperwork has been completed for Field Day at Ft. Custer and will be reviewed by Tony. In addition to the regular application forms there is also a new requirement that all visitors to the Field Day site provide contact tracing information. Smokey has created a contact tracing form and spreadsheet which can be accessed and

completed online. The link to the form can be located on page 2 of last month's feedback. Smokey asked if the club will be providing food for Field Day participants. Kyle confirmed that food will be provided.

- VE session – Next VE session is Thursday, April 22nd in the downstairs fellowship hall of Maple United Methodist Church. Kyle asked for 4-5 VE's to be present at the session.
- Repeaters - Don W8RVT reported there was noise on the 2m repeater today earlier today. He is continuing to work on the Echolink repeater. Anyone who's interested in helping with the maintenance of the repeaters is reported the encouraged to contact Don at w8rvt@arrl.net or Kyle at w8kdb@arrl.net. N5MKY advised the courtesy beep that was being transmitted on the SMARS 146.660 MHz repeater during Tuesday's SKYWARN net was caused by the rdai

OLD BUSINESS

- Based on the information Kyle received, the club should speak with a CPA prior to moving forward with filing for a 501(c)(3). Due to the current financial situation, the proposal will be temporarily shelved.
- 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.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tom KE8GDN stated that current restrictions on face-to-face meetings have placed some club activities temporarily on hold. The Foxhunt that was discussed for April 24th will need to be moved to sometime in May due to Tom's family obligations. He asked for everyone interested in participating in a Foxhunt to send him an email at tomcworth@aol.com and indicate the date/time which would work best for them.

N8ARR Jay made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ivan W8IDR

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 05/04/2021

Called to Order: 5:32 PM

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

Topics

- Treasurer's report: Per Ivan W8IDR, current account balance is \$1,675.27.
- Field Day: Tom KE8GDN picked up sanitizing wipes and disposable face masks. Smokey N5MKY spoke with Park Ranger Tony about the club's application for use of the park. Per Tony, the form that was originally supplied to our club is now outdated. Smokey has received an updated form which he will complete and submit to Tony for approval. No mini-cabins are available to rent on Field Day weekend, so overnight campers (around 4 campsites total) will need to supply their own camping accommodations. We will need at least 1 person to stay overnight to make sure the trailers and equipment are secure. Kyle W8KDB will bring his generator. Smokey N5MKY and Stephanie W8AEZ will follow up with the Dig In Cafe in Augusta for catering prices for . Meal suggestion is pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, macaroni and cheese).
- Hamfest: Some of the club members have asked about possibly having an outdoor trunk-sale this year. Kyle will post a notice in the next issue of the Feedback asking for volunteers to arrange the event and secure a suitable location.
- Club Officer Elections: Kyle left a message with Maple United Methodist Church regarding holding an in-person meeting prior to club officer elections in October. He has not heard back from the church at this time.

- VE Sessions: There were a total of 4 candidates at the April 22nd VE session. One General and one Extra class ticket were earned by the candidates.
- Willard Library: Stephanie W8AEZ will contact Willard Library to check what amateur radio study books are available to the community.
- Ron Cady K1RKD sent a message to the club. He has a pre-WWII radio that he wanted to donate to SMARS to sell. The functional status of the radio is unknown. Based on the age and type of equipment, it might be difficult to locate an interested local buyer.

Meeting adjourned: 6:05 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: May 20th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: June 3rd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: June 1st @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: June 12th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 24th @ 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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