



FEEDBACK

December 2022

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

Membership Renewals

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 Diane KD8WXA to arrange paying the membership fee. With in person meetings coming back this month (and continuing until the end of the year), memberships renewals (which should already be taken care of) can be done at a club meeting. Below is the Clubs PO Box if you wish to mail it in:

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

The membership fee is still \$15.00 for one year. We have added additional memberships (10 years for \$125, 20 years for \$250, and lifetime \$300). Family members will add \$10, \$20, and \$30 respectively, depending on which membership you go with. A color Star will indicated if you have a 10 year, 20 year, or lifetime membership (Blue, Silver, and Gold). Cards will be mailed out after fee has been received or can be picked up at any club meeting. Donations to the club can also be sent to the same address.

2022 Battle Creek Christmas Parade Results



The Battle Creek Christmas Parade happened this past Saturday. Tom (KE8GDN), Stephanie (W8AEZ), Kelly (KE8MWQ), and myself (W8KDB) decorated the trailer and walked in the Parade. I know

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: CW

Date: 12/18

URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

Straight Key Night

Bands: All Authorized Amateur Freq.

(Mainly HF Bands)

Mode: CW

Date: 01/01

URL: www.arrl.org/straight-key-night

Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Date: 01/07

URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

RTTY Roundup

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

Mode: RTTY

Date: 01/07 – 01/08

URL: www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

January VHF

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

Mode: CW, Phone, FM, Digital

Date: 01/21 – 01/23

URL: 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>

Skywarn was unable to make it due to Cert working the Tinsel Toes 5k. The weather held out, it sprinkled a little, and we handed out candle along the route. More planning will be needed, as well as decoration planning, if we plan to be in the parade next year.

Other News

More on FT-8 and Dxpeditions

In episode #489 of Linux in the Ham Shack, Russ, K5TUX, and Bill, NE4RD, comment on my blog post, Is this the beginning of the end for CW DXing? First of all, Bill didn't quite get my point (which could be entirely my fault for not making my point more clearly). I was trying to raise the issue of some DXpeditions operating only FT-4 and FT-8, thereby leaving CW operators out in the cold.

Bill picked up on the second point, which is that it may be considered hypocritical for CW ops to complain about this. I wrote, "We CW operators often say that one reason for operating CW is that it's easier to work DX on CW than phone. So, I guess it's a bit hypocritical to bad mouth FT8 just because FT8 makes it even easier to work DX."

Bill went on to speculate about the possibility of sending remotely-controlled stations to DX locations instead of sending people at all. I have written about this several times:

[Will we soon be operating DXpeditions remotely?](#)

[DXpedition to use FT-8 robots?](#)

Frankly, I'm a little surprised that we haven't seen this already. I guess it would be kind of difficult to put up a 160m antenna remotely. Assuming that hurdle could somehow be overcome, I say, "Why not?" Building some kind of remote station has got to be less expensive than sending a dozen or more hams to a rock in the middle of nowhere, and it could operate for longer than just a couple of weeks.

Russ then went off on a little bit of a tangent. He compared operating FT-4 and FT-8 to using computer-generated Morse Code during contests. In my mind, they're not really comparable. I use N1MM and a WinKeyer during contests, but I still have to copy the code and log the contacts. All that can be automated with FT-4/8.

Russ then asked, "Would I want to work a piece of machinery that landed in a place and was spewing FT-8 and autocontesting?" His answer was definitely not. I'm not sure that's the feeling of most DXers, though. I think that most hard-core DXers wouldn't care at all. The thrill for them isn't to make contact with the person at the other end, but rather to get a confirmation that their signal was heard in some far-away place.

I kinda wish that they'd had me on the show to discuss this idea. It was, however, one of their "short topic episodes," so I understand completely why they didn't. It's an interesting idea, though.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/more-on-ft8-and-dxpeditions/>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

02/18/2023

Livonia Amateur Radio Club 52nd Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

URL: <https://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop/>

03/19/2023

Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

URL: <http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

08/05/2023

Elkhart East Hamfest

Location: Elkhart , IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network

URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

Grimeton Station to Transmit Christmas Message

On Christmas Eve morning, December 24, 2022, the [Alexander Grimeton Friendship Association](#), in southern Sweden will be on the air sending out a special [Christmas message](#) to the world.

The event will begin at 08:30 CET (07:30 UTC) with the startup and tuning of the Alexanderson alternator transmitter through Grimeton Radio Station, call sign SAQ. The transmission will begin at 09:00 CET (08:00 UTC) with the 98-year-old 200 kW Alexanderson alternator on 17.2 kHz CW.

Grimeton Radio Station, SK6SAQ, will be QRV (ready) on the following frequencies:

3.535 MHz CW

7.035 MHz CW

14.035 MHz CW

3.755 MHz SSB

7.140 MHz SSB

QSL reports can be sent to SK6SAQ via email at info@alexander.n.se.

The event will also be live streamed on the Alexander SAQ Grimeton Friendship Association [YouTube Channel](#).

The Alexanderson alternator transmitter is the only remaining example of early pre-electronic radio transmitter technology. The station, built in 1922 - 1924, has been preserved as a historical site. From the 1920s through the 1940s, it was used to transmit telegram traffic by Morse code to North America and throughout the world during World War II.

More information about the December 24 Christmas Eve event and the transmitter can be found at the [Grimeton Radio Station](#) website.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/grimeton-station-to-transmit-christmas-message>

Meeting Minutes 11/17/2022

Called to order @ 7:00 AM

Due to inclement weather, the meeting was kept short

Board members: Paul KE8MOI, Tom KE8GDN, Diane KD8WXA, Stephanie W8AEZ.

Others in attendance: Don W8RVT, Zach KN6PIK, Kyle W8KDB, Don KB9IAR, Melanie KE8TPQ, John W8JRD, Dan WB8KC.

Secretary's report – Motion was made to accept, motion was seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's report – Motion was made to accept, motion was seconded, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Paul - can't have Wings Stadium on March 18th. We have three options: March 3rd, but can't set up on Friday; March 11th (is one week before the Toledo Hamfest); or not have it. Paul contacted Kellogg Arena and Fairgrounds – none of them are available. Majority present at the meeting agreed to have the SMARS Hamfest on March 11th at Wings Event Center. Paul will contact Tom WR8G and have the fliers printed off so they can be sent down to Ft. Wayne's Hamfest.
- Field Day – No word yet on whether SKYWARN will be holding a winter field day at Uncle Larry's.
- VE Session – Three attendees, two adults and one minor. Two earned their licenses. Next VE Session is December 22nd.
- Christmas Party – Will be December 3rd from 5:00-7:00 PM at church across from Lakeview Middle School. Melanie will coordinate the food. Will do a white elephant exchange (optional), \$10 gift limit. SMARS will donate \$100 to the church as a thanks for using the church.
- Repeaters – Comcast had removed some cables at the repeater site, bringing the repeater offline. Don W8RVT contacted them and negotiated a discount for the down-time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Battle Creek Holiday Parade: There are a total of 117 entries in the parade. Setup Crew for the parade should be at Tom KE8GDN's house at 9:00 AM Saturday. We will need help decorating the trailer and truck. Parade numbers will need to be posted on the truck as well. Need to decide where/when to operate: in the trailer, or from the back of the truck. Best option would likely be to operate from the truck bed or inside the truck. The CERT vehicle driven by Bret will be in front of SMARS. No stopping is allowed during the parade unless organizers tell vehicles to stop. The parade route is about 1/2 mile, beginning from Washington/Champion and ending at Cafe Rica. Our staging area is on Champion Street near the Baymont Hotel and our entry point will be near the crosswalk at Battle Creek Central High School. Staging opens at 3:00 PM. Must line up before 4:30 PM. Parade begins around 5:30PM

NEW BUSINESS:

- \$100 was donated anonymously to the club tonight. Paul has SMARS mugs also available for purchase – buy one for \$10, get one free!

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 12/02/2022

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

Attendees: KE8MOI Paul, Diane KD8WXA, Melanie KE8TPQ, John W8JRD, Zach KN6PIK

Others: Kyle W8KDB

Topics of Discussion:

- Parade rescheduled for Saturday, 10 December times still the same.
- Christmas party Saturday, December 3rd. Agreed on \$100 donation to the church for the Christmas party.
- Ham fest Saturday March 11th 8-2 Set up on Friday like normal. Tear down on Saturday Harley comes in right after. Table rentals \$100. All hands on deck let us know if you can help set up or tear down

Meeting ended at 7:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Member-at-Large

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, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

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.

All repeaters are available via EchoLink (70cm and 1.25m are W8DF-R; 2m is W8DF-L)

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

Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI
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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 Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz <i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i>	Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: December 15th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: January 5th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: January 6th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: January 14th @ 8:30am VE Session: December 22nd @ 7:00pm
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