



FEEDBACK

October 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.

Board of Directors:

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Paul Crisher, KE8MOI
paulcrisher@gmail.com

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Thomas Worthington, KE8GDN
tomcworth@aol.com

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Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ
w8aez@arrl.net

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Diane Wilkins, KD8WXA
Turtlelakediane@gmail.com

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w8kdb@arrl.net

Inside this issue:

Lead article.....	1
Supplemental article.....	1
Upcoming Radio Contests.....	2
Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions.....	3
Meeting Minutes.....	4
Board Meeting Minutes.....	5
Club Repeaters.....	6
Nets & Upcoming Events.....	6

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.

Board Member Elections

This a reminder that this month (October 20th) is Board Member Elections. If you would like to be added to the ballot, please let Paul know so you can be added. A 5th position will also be available (Member At Large) this time around, unless someone else decides to become President.

Other News

Florida Amateur Radio Operators Activate for Hurricane Ian

As Hurricane Ian was making its way to Tampa, Florida, in late September, the Sheriff's Tactical Amateur Radio Communications (STARC), W4HSO, was preparing for activation. ARRL member Tony DeAngelo, N2MFT, said STARC was activated on Monday, September 26, and continued operations through Thursday, September 29, 2022.

STARC has amateur radio equipment in five of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) locations, as well as a Homeland Security office. "It's a great working arrangement with all of the equipment provided for us," said DeAngelo. "Our volunteers staffed those locations and the remainder worked from their homes."

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

School Club Roundup

Bands: Any Band, except 12, 17, 30 and 60 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 10/17 – 10/21

URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

ARRL November Sweepstakes

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

Mode: CW

Date: 11/5 – 11/7

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

EME – 50 to 1296 MHz

Bands: 6 Meters to 23 Centimeter

Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW

Date: 11/12 – 11/13

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

ARRL November Sweepstakes

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 11/19 – 11/21

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

**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>

Over the course of the 4-day activation, 16 STARC volunteers worked 24 hours a day passing information for aid and assistance through the sheriff's office using WebEOC, a web-based emergency management information system.

DeAngelo emphasized that STARC is not a club, but a service organization. STARC volunteers are required to undergo an extensive background investigation, including fingerprinting by the HCSO. STARC volunteers are civilians and employees of various Hillsborough County government agencies, Verizon, Tampa Electric, St. Joseph's Hospital, Tampa Police Department, and other public and private agencies. In the event of a disaster, radio operators provide communications between participating agencies if normal means of communications are lost.

DeAngelo is a retired police officer, and has been a licensed amateur radio operator for 30 years. He will continue to monitor weather information in case another activation is needed.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/florida-amateur-radio-operators-activate-for-hurricane-ian>

Meters or Mhz?

In something that I wrote recently, I referred to “70 cm repeaters,” meaning, of course repeaters that operate between 420 MHz and 450 MHz (at least here in the United States). One of the reviewers took me to task for my use of this phrase, writing:

“Another thing that amateur radio gets wrong is the use of terms like 70 cm. WE old hams know what that means, but there aren't any radios that display a frequency in cm, so in my opinion, it's best to spell out frequencies and not wavelengths. To rewrite this, I'd say, “440 MHz repeaters” instead.”

While I see his point, I'm not so sure that he's right about this. Back in the day—and I'm talking the 20th century here—we used to call the 70 cm band, the 440 band (at least here in the Midwest). Note that we'd say “440” and not “420,” because most, if not all, the repeaters were located at the top end of the band.

Now, however, I think it's becoming more common to hear 70 cm instead of 440 MHz. Why call that band 440 MHz when we refer to all that other bands—at least all those lower in frequency—by their wavelengths? What I suggested is that I re-word “70 cm repeaters” to read “70 cm-band repeaters” or “repeaters for the 70 cm band.”

In his reply to this suggestion he wrote:

“To each his own, I guess. In my writing, I'm trying to make amateur radio seem accessible and inclusive to those who aren't currently hams, but might be interested. I'm not trying to “dumb it down”—my intended audience is techies—but I think that one only understands wavelength measurements once you're on the inside of amateur radio. To a non-ham it's cryptic

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

11/19/2022 – 11/20/2022

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur

Radio Technical Society

URL:

<http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm>

12/03/2022

FCARC WinterFest

Location: Archbold, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur

Radio Club

URL: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

to say 70 cm; non-ham wireless experimenters are used to seeing 433 MHz, 900 MHz, so that's why I use frequencies, not wavelengths."

I think that perhaps what I'll do is to continue to refer to the band as the 70 cm band when writing for amateurs, but be more specific when I think that non-amateurs will be part of the audience. For example, I might refer to "repeaters operating in the 70 cm band (420-450 MHz)."

What do you think?

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/meters-or-mhz/>

How do we make hamfests more fun?

On the [amateur radio subreddit](#), someone complained about the amount of junk that one finds at a hamfest. I can't seem to find the exact post right now, but the gist of it was that if you expect people to show up at hamfests, then there has to be something more than just junk for them to buy. The fellow opined that it wasn't any fun going to hamfests and coming back empty-handed because all he could find for sale was junk.



I can't say that I don't sympathize with that argument. I realize that one ham's junk is another man's treasure, but the volume of junk at hamfests does seem to be increasing, and I've gone to many hamfests and returned disappointed that I didn't find anything worth buying.

I've thought for quite a while that it might be possible to make a few bucks by selling microcontrollers, like Arduinos and Raspberry Pi Picos. Of course, I'd also have to sell related boards, such as audio boards, relay boards, etc.

I may just give this a go. Even if I don't make much money doing this, perhaps it will spur others to start playing around with these things, and ultimately, have more fun with amateur radio.

What do you think? Is there a market for microcontroller stuff at hamfests? What would I need to do to be successful? What could other vendors sell that would make hamfests more fun?

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/how-do-we-make-hamfests-more-fun/>

Meeting Minutes 09/15/2022

Called to order at 7:00 AM

Officers in attendance: Paul KE8MOI, Tom W. KE8GDN, Diane KD8WXA, Stephanie W8AEZ

Attendees: Jim KE8UUC & daughter Sasha, Arnie WA8VRA, Jim KC2JJQ, Sean W8SJR, Larry KE8TOV, Smokey N5MKY, Ivan W8IDR, Jay N8ARR, Kyle W8KDB, Terry N8LN, Don P. KB9IAR, Don L. W8RVT.

Moment of silence was observed in memory of Jim Keller, KD8MA

Secretary's report – Motion made by Tom W. KE8GDN,, 2nd by Jay N8ARR, motion passed.

Treasurer's report – Motion made by Jay N8ARR, 2nd by Smokey N5MKY, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Paul reported Musekon has an upcoming hamfest (Oct 15th Sat). Kalamazoo hamfest is Sunday, October 16th in partnership with the Michigan Amateur Radio Society. We need to start thinking about our 2023 Crossroads Hamfest.
- Skywarn/CERT - Bret White - Will be doing a WinLink presentation after tonight's meeting. He also picked up new hardware for earth-moon-earth communication: 2m/70cm antenna. CERT class begins this Friday night. Jim Zoss – expect peaks in severe weather again, beginning in October. Smokey N5MKY passed along thanks to all those who checked in for the Auxcomm drill. Next Skywarn Meeting @ 6:30 PM at American Legion on B Drive North. Bret KD8RHB mentioned the District 5 full-scale exercise (9 counties) around Sept 27th. Will practice a real world scenario involving police, fire, bomb squad, and the EOC. HIAD will be on October 15th, testing begins at 3:00 PM.
- Field Day – Nothing to discuss.
- VE Session – Had two upgrades at our August session. One SMARS member upgraded to General class via taking his test online. It cost him \$14 to take the test, no FCC fee to upgrade his license. The next SMARS VE session is October 27th.
- Repeaters - Don W8RVT stated about 2 weeks ago (Monday storm) - power was lost at WBCK. Don went to the repeater site after dinner to check the repeater. The transfer switch had failed.

Tuesday it came back on, repeater was back up but no Echolink. He went back up to the site, no power to the modem. He swapped out the modem with another one that he had, and the repeater came back online. The 220 repeater was weak about a week ago. He brought the repeater home to troubleshoot. Power amplifier was bad. Don put in another power amplifier and asked the club to consider purchasing another power amplifier as a spare. Don also mentioned he saw a sign advertising Verizon Internet for \$25/month + modem. He suggested the club look into it to see if it might be worthwhile to switch from AT&T (our current provider) to Verizon.

OLD BUSINESS:

- He put popup canopies over the trailers. Repairs will start with the VHF trailer roof. Trailer work cannot be done this weekend. He asked for all volunteers to come out to his home around 10am next Saturday, Sept 24th to begin application of the rubberized roof. (Rain date will be Sunday Sept 25th.) Many thanks again to Jay N8ARR for his financial contribution toward the purchase of the roofing supplies for the trailers!
- The (MComm 365 group) Mid Michigan Operators Club out of Grand Ledge is hosting one this weekend at the Lincoln Brick Park. Charge is \$3 for county residents, \$5 for non-residents to enter the park. Tom plans to go to see how they run their foxhunts and get suggestions for running future ones with our club.
- Members are asked to bring in their QSL cards for a "show and tell" at the October 20th club meeting. He also wanted to remind members that they are also welcome to share their hobbies (outside HAM radio) at our club meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Elections for SMARS Club officers will occur at the October 20th club meeting. All officer positions are open for nominations. Being an officer requires very little of your time, and it's a great way to support the club! Anyone who is interested in running for office, please pass word on to Paul KE8MOI.

Presentations this Evening:

- POTA presentation by Smokey, N5MKY
- WinLink presentation by Bret White, KD8RHB.

Meeting was adjourned 8:09 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 10/07/2022

There was no "official" Club Officers meeting for October (7th) as only 2 officers were present (KE8MOI and W8AEZ).

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: October 20th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: November 3rd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: November 4th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: November 12th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 27th @ 7:00pm
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