



FEEDBACK

August 2023

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
Paul Crisher, KE8MOI
paulcrisher@gmail.com

Vice President
Zach Mann, W8MAN
zmann648@gmail.com

Secretary
Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ
w8aez@arrl.net

Treasurer
Michael Russell, KQ8N
kq8n@arrl.net

Member at Large
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
mel1853@hotmail.com

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Club News

Club Officer Elections

A reminder that Club Officer Elections are coming up in October. All positions are available if anyone is interested. Currently, the Club President, Secretary, and Treasurer will need to be filled as the current members holding those position have stated they will not be running this year. To exist as a club, we will need to fill those positions. The President is responsible for leading the meetings, signing off on paperwork (like agreements for Field Day), and is the backup to the Treasurer.

The Voice President handles the responsible of the President in their absents. Their main function is to plan programs and presentations for the club.

The Secretary records to minutes from the Club Meeting and the Board Meeting so they can be posted in the Feedback. This could be rolled into one of the other positions as well.

The Treasurer is responsible for the Club's finances including bills, reimbursement (if approved), and membership dues.

The Member at Large is needed if all four positions are filled. They are the tie breaker (if there is one) when the Board makes decisions. If there are only 3 Board members, a Member at Large is not needed or filled.

WX8BTL HIAD

The Skywarn group (WX8BTL) will be putting on a HIAD (Ham in a Day) on October 21st at the Department of Public Works Building on Kendall Street. This starts at 8 AM and goes until 3 PM. At 3 PM the SMARS VE Group will administer the test. While 3 VE's are needed to grade, because they are normally in a different room we will need at least 6 VE's (a runner, weather they are VE or not, will also be needed to transport the folders between the two rooms. More information will be provided at the Club Meeting's and future Feedback editions.

Other News

Devastating Hawaii Wildfires Prompt Response from Amateur Radio Emergency Service

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is closely following updates from the Hawaii Amateur Radio Emergency Service®, Hawaii ARES®, as amateur radio operators respond following deadly wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui.

On Tuesday, August 8, wildfires, fueled by the strong winds of Hurricane Dora, were burning in Maui and Hawaii Counties. By the next day, much of Lāhainā on Maui had been destroyed.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

10 GHz & Up

Bands: 10 GHz thru Light
Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB
Date: 08/19 – 08/20
URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

Rookie Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: RTTY
Date: 08/20
URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

September VHF

Bands: 50 Mhz & Up
Mode: Phone, CW, Digital
Date: 09/09 – 09/11
URL: www.arrl.org/september-vhf

EME Contest

Bands: 2.3 GHz & Up
Mode: Phone, CW, Digital
Date: 09/09 – 09/10
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

10 GHz & Up

Bands: 10 GHz thru Light
Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB
Date: 09/16 – 09/17
URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

**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>*

ARRL Section Manager Joseph Speroni, AH0A, who serves the Pacific Section including Hawaii and US territories in the Pacific, sent a message to members across the Section on Wednesday. "The suddenness of the Maui Disaster is shocking. It affects us all," he said. Speroni said it was difficult to know immediately the status of radio amateurs and equipment on Maui, including repeaters and gateways. "Sadly, there are now confirmed deaths and several of our ham friends have lost their homes."

Speroni reported that the ARRL Hawaii ARES website, <https://hawaiiares.net>, was modified to provide the latest emergency communications news. The website includes updates on Maui's amateur radio and communication infrastructure, including affected and operational radio systems, repeaters, and other emergency communication details.

"Wildfires have affected phones, internet, and cell services across Maui. VERY Limited Cell contact was established with Lahaina or its ham operators due to burned fiber lines and VERY limited hams in the area," included one of the updates.

Hawaii has many amateur radio repeaters and an extensive internet-linked repeater system, including KH6COM, a VHF/UHF Maui countywide system with emergency backup power. An update, as of August 11, 2023, shares that the KH6COM repeater system is operational in Central Maui, Haleakala Summit, Lanai, and Molokai. "Repeaters on the Whaler and Kaanapali Beach Hotel lost linking due to fiber optics cables burned. Those in Lahaina can utilize the Pu'u O Hoku Ranch repeater at the East end of Molokai."

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Hawaii and especially the Island of Maui," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "[ARRL] was in initial contact with Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, on Wednesday, August 9, and we have had daily briefs with him. This is an exceedingly challenging time for Hawaii, and we will be available as needed." ARRL has offered equipment available through ARRL Ham Aid, a program established in 2005 and funded through donations that makes emergency communications equipment available on loan to amateur radio organizations during disaster response when communications equipment is unavailable.

Johnston emphasized that most of amateur radio communications, including any messages being relayed, are being handled on the existing repeater system in the state. On shortwave, HF stations across Hawaii are operating nets on 7.088 MHz.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), on Saturday, August 12, [reported](#) that "more than a dozen federal agencies and departments are mobilized to assist state, county, nonprofit and private sector partners to help the people of Hawaii with recent devastating wildfires. Personnel from FEMA, federal agencies and voluntary organizations are arriving daily to Hawaii to support active response and initial recovery efforts."

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/devastating-hawaii-wildfires-prompt-response-from-amateur-radio-emergency-service>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

09/09/2023

Grand Rapids Area Hamdest

Location: Wyoming, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

URL: <https://w8dc.org/grand-rapids-area-hamfest>

09/10/2023

Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

URL: <http://findlayradioclub.org>

09/17/2023

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://w8tqe.com>

09/23/2023

BARA Trunk Sales

Location: Berrien Center, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Blossomland Amateur Radio Association

URL: <http://W8MAI.org>

09/23/2023

CMARC HAM FEST

Location: Lansing , MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

Two New Digitpeating Amateur Radio Satellites Approved

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has coordinated two European digipeating satellites that are scheduled to launch in fall 2023. At the Technical University of Košice in Slovakia, satellite Veronika, a 1U CubeSat, is scheduled for launch on a Falcon 9 launcher on the Transporter 9 mission in October 2023.

The satellite will be equipped with a 24/7 digipeater on two different bands, as well as experimental slow-scan digital video (SSDV) transmissions. There is an education and outreach mission planned to involve Slovak grammar and high schools, and to transmit special CW and AX.25 messages on several special occasions. The satellite will be equipped with a novel Attitude Determination and Control System (ADCS) subsystem, including electromagnetic actuators and a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receiver. This will also help to identify the satellite during the first days and weeks of orbit.

The satellite will communicate using [Spacemanic's](#) well-known Murgas transceivers (BDSat-1, BDSat-2, Planetum-1). Altogether, Veronika will provide: AX.25 telemetry, a CW beacon, a digipeater, AX.25 and CW messages on special occasions for community engagement, experimental SSDV transmissions, [SatNOGS](#) integration, a decoder, and a dashboard. A downlink on 436.680 MHz has been coordinated, and it will use 9k6 G3RUH AX.25 and a CW beacon. A SpaceX launch on the Transporter 9 mission will send the satellite to a 500/600-kilometer polar orbit.

The [Romanian Federation of Amateur Radio \(FRR\)](#) is preparing the ROM-3 for launch in October or November 2023. ROM-3 is a 50 x 50 x 100-millimeter picoSAT with three missions and objectives. Its primary mission is to act as a digital amateur radio repeater. Its secondary mission is to transmit low-resolution SSDV images in a Gaussian frequency shift keying (GFSK) mode. The tertiary mission is to transmit a CW beacon that will help amateur radio operators detect the presence of the satellite and measure basic properties of the signals, such as its strength, fading due to spinning, and Doppler to measure speed. A downlink on 436.235 MHz has been coordinated for 20 WPM on CW, 500 (bps) GFSK telemetry, and 5 (kBps) GFSK SSDV. A SpaceX launch will send ROM-3 into a 500-kilometer polar orbit.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/two-new-digitpeating-amateur-radio-satellites-approved>

Meeting Minutes 07/20/2023

Called to order 7:00 PM

Officers present: Paul KE8MOI, Mike KQ8N, Melanie KE8TPQ, Stephanie W8AEZ.

Others present: Leo WD8DCA, Don W8RVT, Bret KD8RHB, Rick N8RCF, Kyle W8KDB, Ned WB4BKO, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G, Matt AD8KA, John W8JRD, Terry N8LN, Ivan W8IDR, Dan KE8DW, Dan N8EC, Kevin KE8UUJ, Ben N5AMD, Brian A., Larry KE8TVO, Harold KE8JZU.

Secretary's report: A motion made to accept, motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Current account balance is \$4245. There are currently 53 members in the club. A motion made to accept, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Kalamazoo Hamfest & Vintage Radio Club Swap-meet will be held from 9AM-4PM on October 7th at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. Matt will do a presentation on GRMS at the Hamfest.
- Skywarn – There were 15 people at the last meeting. Many CERT volunteers assisted at the Field of Flight half-marathon. There were 2 siren failures last month. On July 12th, there was a confirmed EF1 tornado in the Colon area. FEMA Region 5 held a Zoom meeting last Tuesday, followed by a presentation on Thursday about recruitment and retention. CERT training class will be held on 9/15, 9/16, 9/23 at the Department of Public Works building on Kendall Ave. The National Night Out event is August 1st from 4-8PM. Calhoun County Fair will be in August. Bret will set up his mobile communications unit at the Fairgrounds. Amateur Radio Poker Run will be on August 26th from 10AM-2PM. All who are interested in participating should contact Smokey N5MKY. There will be a total of 5 stops before heading back to the American Legion for a hot dog cookout. The Auxcomm Fall Exercise/SET will be on October 24th.
- Field Day – It helped having all of the trailers arrive at the same time at the Field Day site. Setup took three hours and tear down took 2 hours. Melanie's catered meal on Saturday was also shared with the Skywarn group at the American Legion. The Astron power supply used with the HF Icom radio went out during the event. Tom WR8G kindly lent the

club a backup one. Positive comments were shared about the LED lights. Maintenance needs to be done on the #1 and #2 trailers, including the jacks (trailer #1) and more outlets to run digital equipment (trailer #2). Dan N8EC suggested welding the leveling jacks to the trailers. Feedback from those who participated in our Field Day event: the Calhoun County Fairgrounds provided free public access, the area was relatively free from noise interference (exception was the VHF trailer). Melanie suggested the club expand use of the digital modes next year. Many thanks to all who participated in our event. A special thank-you to Mike KQ8N for securing the Fairgrounds site for us, Fairgrounds manager Cathy Combs, and Melanie KE8TPQ for supplying the food!

- VE Session – There were 5 attendees at the June session, all but one passed their exams. Outcome: 1 Technician, 3 General class licenses were awarded. Next VE Session is Thursday, August 24th at 7 PM at Maple United Methodist Church.
- Repeaters – Terry N8LN reported the D-Star VHF is working. Don W8RVT said he hadn't needed to go to the repeater site recently. One of tonight's attendees shared that it was nice to be able to participate in the Before Lunch Bunch net via Echolink.

OLD BUSINESS:

- POTA – Reminder: Anyone activating the club call sign (W8DF) should let Terry N8LN know ahead of time. Dan WB8KC plans to do a POTA activation at 11AM this Saturday, Whitford Lake pavilion in Fort Custer. All operators are welcome to join him.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bret KD8RHB shared that there will be a Ham in a Day (HIAD) on October 21st at the Department of Public Works building on Kendall. He will need VE's to assist with administering the exams. VE Coordinator Kyle W8KDB will be out of town that day. Tom WR8G offered to run the session in Kyle's place.
- Officer Elections are fast approaching (October 2023)! Volunteers are needed for the positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer as those who are currently serving in these positions are not running for re-election. A vibrant club relies on the active participation of all of its members!

- Serving as a board member requires little time or investment on your part, and the club benefits from fresh ideas that new board members bring with them. If you're thinking about running for office, please let KE8MOI or any of the current board members know which office you're interested in so your name can be added to the ballot.
- A suggestion was made that Board meetings be held on the same evening of, but 1 hour prior to the Club meetings (6:00PM on the third Thursday of the month).

Note: Melanie KE8TPQ will not be at the August club meeting. Paul KE8MOI will not be at the September club meeting.

Meeting ended at 7:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Motion made to adjourn. Motion seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ

SMARS Secretary
Board Meeting Minutes 08/04/2023
Meeting called to order at 6:45 AM

Attendees: Paul KE8MOI, Melanie KE8TPQ, Steph W8AEZ, Zach W8MAN; John W8JRD

Topics of Discussion:

- Mike KQ8N forwarded Paul KE8MOI the Treasurer's report. There is \$3710.85 currently in the club's bank account after deductions. WR8G bought four computers for the club for \$125 each for logging, total cost of \$530.00. All of the accessories to run PSK and one computer are being donated to the club by WR8G.
- Paul followed up on the suggestion at last month's club meeting that the Board and Club Meetings be held on the same date. Paul stated that the meeting dates for the board and club membership are in the SMARS Club Constitution, so any changes in when the meetings are held would need to be addressed through the Constitution.
- Reminder: Club officer elections for club officers will be in October. Candidates are needed for the positions of club president, treasurer, and 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, 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: August 17th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: September 7th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: September 1st @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: September 9th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 24th @ 7:00pm HIAD: October 21st @ 3:00pm (Department of Public Works Building)
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