



FEEDBACK

December 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
Gary Williams, NK2M
nk2m@arrl.net

Vice President
Zach Mann, W8MAN
zmann648@gmail.com

Secretary
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
mel1853@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Daniel Whipple, KE8DW

Member at Large
Daniel Pesch, WB8KC

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Club News

Membership Renewals

Just a friendly reminder that Membership Dues are coming up. These can be paid at a Club Meeting (on the 3rd Thursday of every month) or sent in to the Club's PO Box. The amount is still \$15.00 for one year, \$125 for 10 years, \$250 for 20 years, and \$300 for Lifetime. Donations to the club can also be sent into the PO Box or taken care of at the Club Meeting.

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

Other News

Random thoughts: The case for paper, CB for youth engagement, POTA/SOTA safety

The case for paper

As most of you know by now, the ARRL is going to start charging extra for the print version of QST in January—even if your membership expires after that date. While I am generally in favor of magazines going digital, paper does have its advantages.

For example, I've recently been plowing through my stack of paper QSTs, looking for interesting things before I toss them. In the process, I've come across several items of interest, including articles on building an inline RF current sensor and building a short vertical for 160 meters.

I'm not sure that you'd get this kind of serendipitous occurrence with digital magazines.

CB for youth engagement?

[On reddit](#), someone asked if anyone had any information on successful programs for youth engagement. Someone replied, "Heard of a ham club that gave out old CB radios to young people in the area, and helped them with setting them up. Within 2 years, most of them were licensed hams!"

I think that in addition to just helping them get set up, you might also want to give the kids some structured activities, like showing them how to run a net or maybe do a hidden transmitter hunt, if such a thing is possible with CB radios. You'll also want to be available if, or should I say when, there are problems with the radios.

This sounds like an interesting idea to me. I asked for more details. Have any of you heard of something like this?

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

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: 01/06

URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

RTTY Roundup

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

Mode: RTTY

Date: 01/06 – 01/07

URL: www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

January VHF

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

Mode: CW, Phone, FM, Digital

Date: 01/20 – 01/22

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>*

SOTA/POTA Safety

A couple of weeks ago, I joined a [Long Island CW Club](#) Zoom meeting on portable operation. It was a great meeting, and a lot of good ideas were mentioned.

One of the best, I thought, was the reminder to be safe when doing a Parks on the Air (POTA) or Summits on the Air (SOTA) activation. One of the things that I do is to attached caution tape to my inverted-V antenna where there's any chance that someone could come into contact with it.

Another fellow mentioned that he wears a blaze orange vest when he heads into the woods. This had not occurred to me, as I have been operating from open areas where no hunters are allowed. But, if there's any chance that you might come into contact with hunters on your POTA/SOTA adventures, the orange vest is a good idea.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/random-thoughts-the-case-for-paper-cb-for-youth-engagement-pota-sota-safety/>

Student-Led ARISS Contact a Success

A student-led contact with astronauts through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program was a great success that earned significant media attention. On Monday, December 11, students at Harbor Creek High School in Harborcreek, Pennsylvania, used amateur radio to talk with Astronaut Andreas Mogensen, KG5GCZ.

The students are part of the Advanced Technologies Group, KC3SGV, an after-school club at Harbor Creek. Fifteen of the students are licensed radio amateurs. As [ARRL News reported last week](#), their faculty advisor, Assistant Principal Drew Mortensen, AC3DS, is a graduate of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. He utilized what he learned in the program and brought it back to the school. The ARISS contact is just one of the many successes the program has had.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, was on hand for the contact, and he was impressed by the skills demonstrated by the students.

Goodgame recalled, "From antenna assembly and installation to the actual control operator function of the radio during the contact itself, students were at the helm. Every student who asked a question of Commander Mogensen was a licensed amateur radio operator. When I asked what they had planned next, the response was, 'Well, the logical step would be to build and get a CubeSat launched.' This is exactly the type of program we hope to help create as an outcome of the Teachers Institute," said Goodgame.

Local, regional, and national media took note of the students' success. Local television newscasts (see [Amateur Radio in the News](#) below)

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

02/17/2024

Livonia Amateur Radio Club Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

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

02/24/2024

Cabin Fever Hamfest

Location: LaPorte, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: LaPorte Amateur Radio Club

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

featured the event, and NBC Journalist Harry Smith and a crew from NBC's TODAY were at the event to tell the story about the young hams.

This type of exposure for amateur radio is key to growing the hobby, according to ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. "The passion of these teenage operators led to this success story. Who doesn't love the story of young minds doing extraordinary things in STEM through amateur radio?" she exclaimed. ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, mentioned that the media coverage demonstrates the impact that the donors who have funded the Teachers Institute have on the future of amateur radio. Beal said, "The reach goes far beyond the one-week training institute and ripples out farther than we can see."

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is funded by the ARRL Education and Technology Fund. If you are interested in supporting STEM education through the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, visit www.arrl.org/GiveToSTEM.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) program, the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, [ARRL](http://www.arrl.org), and AMSAT.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/student-led-ariss-contact-a-success>

Meeting Minutes 11/16/2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Officers in attendance: Gary NK2M, Zach W8MAN, Melanie KE8TPQ, Dan KE8DW, Dan WB8KC

Members Present: NK2M, W8MAN, KE8DW, WB8KC, W8IDR, KE8GDN, N8EC, AD8KA, W8RVT, KE8TVO, KE8MWQ, W8JRD, KE8UUJ, KE8MOI, W8KDB, KB9IAR, N8RCF, W8JMZ, N8LN, N8ARR and a tardy KD8RHB and KE8TPQ.

Secretary's Report: Motion made to accept, Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: We currently have \$3,579.28 in the bank.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Hamfest** – Need a Chairman, KE8MOI Paul indicated he will probably not be available. N8EC Dan indicated he would be willing to help but does not want the full responsibility. Paul mentioned that we need to get the Certificate of Insurance to the Venue and to ARRL. Dan KE8DW will work on that. Further discussion to happen next month
- **Skywarn** – Sirens in Marshall Twp have been failing. If not fixed by next month we will not monitor those ones. Transmit antennas to be replaced and should be done before December, more to follow. Siren in Urbandale is still questionable. Siren at I-94 Eastbound still being worked. Skywarn meeting is next Tuesday. At last meeting Ben N5AMD provided a demonstration of VARA that proved very interesting. Skywarn Recognition Day is coming up 2 Dec. SET Calhoun County ranked very well. Calhoun County EOC received its Callsign, KN8EOC. District 5 AUXCOM Class is coming in March 2024, more information to follow.
- **Field Day** – Chairman W8MAN Zach. Fairgrounds POC, Cathy Comb notified us that there will be a car show going on where we operated last year. She is moving us back to the area just east of the horse barns. Should help us make contact with the community by having the car show and Field Day at the same time.
- **VE Session** – VE Testing on 28 Dec. Kalamazoo will be testing on 18 Nov and invited our VE members to participate.
- **Repeaters** – Don has not been visited recently but are working. W8RVT Don asked

for another member to get involved with repeater maintenance. AD8KA Matt agreed to help.

- **DSTAR** – Working as expected
- **POTA** – We continue to make lots of POTA contacts on behalf of W8DF. Made 212 contacts last weekend. Several members have come out and participated and all are welcome to. You don't need to bring a radio. We meet at Fort Custer, Whitford Lake on Saturdays around 1100.

OLD BUSINESS

- We missed the deadline to participate in the Battle Creek Parade.
- Christmas Party, 2 December 5pm, 415 S. 28th St.. KE8TPQ Melanie will be cooking. Open to donations and bring a dish to share.
- Officer turnover is complete.
- Power Supply for the trailer that smoked had been tested and is operational.

NEW BUSINESS

- N8ARR Jay donated a Kenwood 440 transceiver to the club for use at Field Day.
- AD8KA Matt would like to start a Youth on the Air Program and Fund. Said he would donate the first \$100 toward getting it going. Purpose would be to get youth interested in the hobby. 2 Schools in the area are on the ARRL Education Institute list. Not sure what that entails, need to do more research. W8MAN Zach asked for Matt to send him an email with the details for the SMARS Board to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 12/07/2023

Present at the meeting Zack Mann W8MAN Gary Williams NK8ZM Dan Whipple KEHDW Melanie Lake KE8TPQ Dan Peach WB8KZ

Treasury report \$3271.14

A donation was made to the church for the Christmas party in the amount of \$100.

Purchase for stamps new QSL cards for W8DF

Insurance renewal of a policy through ARRL Insurance program February 15, 2023 to February 15, 2024 for an amount of \$200

AT&T and D star for Internet? Can we combined for a cheaper price or better price?

Winterfield day January 27-28, 2024 undecided

VE session December 28 7 PM 342Capitol Avenue Battle Creek Michigan

Ham fest administrator needed for event ASAP will discuss next meeting December 21, 2023 in short we are asking for someone to take the reins on this so we have a ham fest it is very important to our club.

Also mention of a new power supply for field day next year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
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, 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

<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: December 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: January 4th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: January 4th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: January 13th @ 8:30am VE Session: December 28th @ 7:00pm</p>
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