



FEEDBACK

February 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.

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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.

Crossroads Hamfest

As a reminder to everyone, the Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap is March 11th (second Saturday in March). Table rentals are \$10.00 (without power, power is an additional \$10.00; admission ticket is \$7.00). If you know some of the vendors who have been at the Crossroads Hamfest or know someone looking to offload some extra equipment they have laying around, please direct them to the website or pass the form to them.

We will need volunteers to help run it as, well as VE's for the Testing Session. Please let us know if you are available to help out.

Other News

Ham in a Day (HIAD) April 1st

Do you know someone who is interesting in getting their Amature Radio License? The Skywarn/CERT group will be putting on a HIAD on April 1st (no, this is not an April Fools Joke). The HAID will be held at the Battle Creek Police Department starting around 9 AM and going until 5 PM. Testing will happen around 3 PM and will be administered by SMARS. Please direct anyone who is interested to the Event Brite website (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hiad-amateur-radio-license-qa->

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

School Club Roundup

Bands: All Bands, except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 02/13 – 02/17

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

International DX - CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 02/18 – 02/19

URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

International DX - Phone

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 03/04 – 03/05

URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

*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>

test-tickets-525264980697). A fee of \$15.00 is due upon arrive to cover the test fee, this does not include the FCC fee that is paid to the FCC after the documents are submitted. Anyone who plans to attend the HAID will also need to get their FRN from the FCC.

TIL: Michigan issued the first ham license plates

On Twitter, one of the accounts I follow is Michigan'sPast. His tweets are always interesting, and I've learned a lot. One of his recent tweets included this photo of the display of Michigan license plates at the R. E. Olds Museum in Lansing, Michigan:



What jumped out at me was the W8AHV license plate in the third row. I didn't know that Michigan offered ham radio license plates that far back. I re-tweeted this, and a fellow named Rory replied, "According to this article. 1939 may have been the first year in Michigan." <http://www.pl8s.com/hams.htm>"

This article, written by Mike, W1DGJ, who is now unfortunately, a Silent Key. He writes,

"After completing an article about Amateur Radio Call sign auto license plates for the January 1995 issue of the American Radio Relay League's official journal, QST, I felt it would be appropriate to put together a collection of first year of issue ham plates from all the 50 states. My intentions were to also document this information for posterity. This unique collection had been attempted by plate collectors in the past, but to my knowledge it has never been successfully completed. Not something for the Guinness Book, but I feel it is an important part of Amateur Radio history."

The article includes this photo of his collection:

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/>

02/25/2023

La Porte County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Location: La Porte, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: La Porte County Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://lpcarc.org>

03/11/2023

Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: SMARS – Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

URL: <http://w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest>

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>

04/22/2023

St. Joseph County Michigan Amateur Radio Club Ham Fest

Location: Centreville, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: St Joseph County Michigan Amateur Radio Club



This display features two Michigan plates: the W8IQS plate from 1939 and the W8ZQV plate from 1954. Here's why:

“The first plates with ham call signs on them were issued in Michigan for 1939. The Great Lakes Amateur Radio Telephone Association of Detroit under the leadership of James Strang, W8NFR, proposed the special plates for hams. They petitioned the Secretary of State, Leon D. Case, to allow the request be granted under legislation that allowed a maximum of 3 letters and 3 numbers. It was more correctly a personalized or vanity type and 400 to 500 of these plates were issued to hams (ref. March 1939 QST). After the first year the officials felt the system not administratively workable and Michigan discontinued issuing them the following year. Michigan did not start issuing official ham plates until 1954. The next plate issued with a ham call sign on it was a 1950 Florida plate that is generally considered to be the first “true” ham plate.”

In addition to this history, the article is full of interesting stories as to how W1DGJ was able to find and acquire these license plates. Here's an example:

“One first year of issue ham plate was sent to me by the widow of a Silent Key asking the plate be added to my collection in his memory. The only problem was the plate had been repainted in silver with his call sign in black paint. He had displayed his expired ham plate on a second vehicle and did not want to be stopped by the authorities for using an expired plate on his automobile. I tried a little lacquer thinner on the back of the plate and found it removed his paint without effecting the original paint underneath (most likely an enamel paint). Under his workmanship I found an excellent condition first year plate for my collection. Unfortunately I did not have the foresight to photograph his repaint job that protected the plate for many years.”

I was sorry to read that W1DGJ is now a Silent Key himself. If anyone knows what happened to his collection of amateur radio license plates, I'd be interested in knowing that. Also, if you have any remembrances of W1DGJ, please comment below.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/til-michigan-issued-the-first-ham-license-plates/>

Meeting Minutes 01/18/2023

Called to order @ 7:00 PM

Board members: Paul KE8MOI, Zach W8MAN, Stephanie W8AEZ, Melanie KE8TPQ.

Others in attendance: Don W8RVT, Melanie KE8TPQ, John W8JRD, Dan N8EC, Larry KE8TOB, Larry KE8TVO, Kelly KE8MWQ, Jay N8ARR, Kyle W8KB, Jim W8JMZ, Bret KD8RHB, Terry N8LN, Tom WR8G, Jan W8JKG.

Secretary's report - Motion was made by Zach, 2nd by Melanie. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report - Motion was made by Zach, 2nd by Melanie. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - Paul thanked WR8G for his help with the W8DF website. Jay N8ARR brought in the flier and tickets (orange) for the March 11th, 2023 Hamfest. Paul has a copy of the rental agreement. It is \$20 less this year than last year. He has received several gift certificates from vendors for the Hamfest raffle. So far, 8 reservations and 23 tables have been sold. Paul had a meeting with the Kalamazoo club tonight also (October 7th this year, 9am-4pm). They will be partnering with the Michigan antique radio society, 180-200 tables. They will have volunteers at our Hamfest, too. Smokey has publicized the Hamfest on social media and Textcom and Bret has mentioned it on the Kalamazoo net, it's also on QRZ and on the ARRL. Paul will send a copy of the club's insurance paperwork to Wings Annex along with the signed contract.
- Skywarn - In-person meeting this week Tuesday. Bret reported sirens (I-94 and Avenue A & Dickman, Marshall) are still out of order. Feb. siren test will be different - Smokey will do net control, but stations will be reporting via simplex 146.440 MHz. Tom WR8G reported that he can hear many of the stations from 14 Mile and J Drive. Bret is looking at getting upgrades at the EOC done, new radio antennas and a share station. 10 meters has been quite active. Smokey asked about Skywarn training for Calhoun Co. Bret has heard nothing at this time.
- Field Day - Field Day will be in June. Smokey recommended someone contact Ft. Custer soon in order to secure the location for that date. Zach W8MAN will be the contact person. Melanie suggested a picnic for Saturday.
- VE Session - There was 1 examinee for December's VE Session. Next VE Session is February 23rd. Kyle has not received any inquiries at this time from potential examinees. There will also be a VE Session at the March 11th Crossroads Hamfest, 10AM.
- Repeaters - Don W8RVT hasn't been up to the repeater site recently. The 2m repeater might have a corrupted hard drive. Tom WR8G offered to help Don if there is a computer issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jack Cox N8LS has several pieces of radio equipment for sale. The list has been posted to w8df.com website. Interested persons should contact Jack directly.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul added email address and cell# for texting information about club meetings to the club members' sign-in sheet.
- Bret KD8RHB asked if the SMARS club would be able to assist with a HIAD on Saturday, April 1st, at 3:00 PM. Location will be the Battle Creek Police Department at 34 North Division Street. The Chapel Hill Scouts group has 12 scouts interested in participating in the April 1st HIAD. Kyle W8KDB requested seven VE's to assist with the HIAD testing session.
- There will also be a CERT class in March. The dates will be announced in the near future.
- Bret announced that HAMS who complete IS100, IS 200, IS 700, and IS 800 could obtain an Auxcomm card. A background check is required. Another option is that interested HAMS could ask for an ARES volunteer card. Having these credentials helps with record-keeping of HAMS who provide volunteer services for the community. Bret asked any interested HAMS to contact him for more information or an application.
- Jim W8JMZ brought up an idea he had based on a motorcycle poker-run in which participants traveled to 5 different sites, collect a poker card from each site visited. The best poker hand and worst hand each received an award/trophy. For the "RAPR" - Radio Amateur Poker Run, there would be 5 locations set up within the county. Each site would be manned by a radio operator. The participant would do a simplex check-in at the location, receive a card, then proceed to the next site. At the end of the run there would be a hot dog cookout. Best hand and worst hand could receive gift cards. A date later in the spring is being considered.
- Zach W8MAN mentioned a couple of ideas he's had for club outreach activities. He'd like to plan out events for the club for 2023. His interest in amateur radio came about after watching a video on YouTube about a HAM broadcasting. His suggestion is that SMARS activate Ft Custer for POTA (Parks on the Air). If a club makes 1000 contacts at a park, they earn a "kilo." Zach suggested SMARS host an event at Ft Custer to earn a "kilo." Three people would be needed for the POTA, a singular call sign is used, and the same park must be activated. The rules for POTA activation are relaxed, meaning that it could be an ongoing event, perhaps held on more than one Saturday. His second idea - he proposed that the club do a Special Event Station. One of his first HF contacts from San Diego was the Indiana State Fair. Tom WR8G suggested the Cereal Festival. Zach said he's willing to work on setting this up.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 02/03/2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

Attendees: KE8MOI Paul, Diane KD8WXA, Zach W8MAN, Stephanie W8AEZ, Melanie KE8TPQ

Others: Guest of KD8WXA, John W8JRD

Topics of Discussion:

- 2023 Crossroads Hamfest: Paul reported that 29 table reservations have been received thus far from 13 vendors. Diane confirmed that a check had been mailed to Mercer for renewal of the club's insurance policy. Paul needs to forward a copy of the policy's declarations page to Wings Event Center ASAP.
- Club officer vacancy: Diane told the board that she will be moving to Texas before the end of February to be closer to her son and presented her letter of resignation. She will still be in state and plans to attend the February 16th SMARS Club meeting. Per Article II of Section E of the SMARS Constitution, the Board of Directors voted to appoint member Mike R., KQ8N, to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of the unexpired term in office. We thank Diane for her service to the club and send her our best wishes on her move.
- V.P. Zach W8MAN reported that he is processing the ideas generated since January's meeting about club outreach activities and presentations. All members are invited to forward any ideas to him via his email zmann648@gmail.com or in person.

Meeting ended at 7:00 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, 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: February 16th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: March 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: March 3rd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: March 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: March 23rd @ 7:00pm Hamfest Setup: March 10th @ 3:00pm Hamfest: March 11th @ 8:00am
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