



FEEDBACK

February 2024

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

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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

Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap

Our Hamfest is coming up quickly, less than a month away. We will need people to help with setup Friday 3/8 starting around 3 PM, people to help sell tickets during the Hamfest on 3/9, VE's to help with the testing, and people to help tear down after the Hamfest. We will be talking more about the Hamfest at the meeting this month.

Other News

The First Amateur Radio Station on the Moon, JS1YMG, is Now Transmitting

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with [Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog](#) introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days,

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: CW, Phone

Date: 02/12 – 02/16

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

International DX – CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 02/17 – 02/18

URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

International DX – Phone

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 03/02 – 03/03

URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

Rookie Roundup – Phone

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

Mode: Phone SSB

Date: 4/21

URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

**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>*

and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision -- within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/the-first-amateur-radio-station-on-the-moon-js1ymg-is-now-transmitting>

Amateur Radio Goes to High School in New York City

Staten Island Technical High School is the first New York City school to receive a grant from ARRL.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, said ARRL is working with the school in several ways. "We are working with them to build and equip an amateur radio station, to test and license students, and to put [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)] kits in the classroom thanks to a grant from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications](#) (ARDC)."

Goodgame visited the school several weeks ago to help administer amateur radio license tests, and with the help of the school's engineering and technology teacher, Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, there are now 32 juniors and seniors who are newly licensed amateur radio operators. Henriques attended the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) last year, and he intends to return to the program in 2024 for additional preparation and training.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is a donor-funded professional development program designed to help teachers elevate their STEM programs through the use of wireless technology.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-goes-to-high-school-in-new-york-city>

Operating notes: First POTA for 2024, 30 meters open to Europe, K1USN SST

The weather this week has been unseasonably warm, so I decided to drive up to K-3315, the [Island Lake Recreation Area](#) for a POTA activation. I left my house about 1:00 pm and got up to the park about 1:30. It was in the upper 50s and partly sunny.

The first thing I noticed when I got to the picnic area that I frequent is that someone had been using the picnic tables in my absence.

I guess that they thought they didn't have to clean up the acorn shells.

I made 30 contacts in the next 75 minutes, all but two on 20 meters. 20 meters was in great shape. I tried both 15 meters and 10 meters, but there just wasn't any activity on those bands.

It's going to get cold here again overnight, so I'm glad I decided to go yesterday. It was a nice break from winter. Spring is just around the corner, so it's certainly worth thinking about what improvements you might want to make for your POTA or SOTA rig.

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>

03/09/2024

Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: SMARS

URL: <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest>

03/17/2024

Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

URL: <http://www.w8hmf.org>

04/20/2024

Centreville Michigan Hamfest

Location: Centreville, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: St. Joseph County MI Amateur Radio Club

30 meters open to Europe

30 meters has been open to Europe the past couple of evenings. Yesterday, DF7TV answered my CQ, and he was nearly S9 here. He told me he was running 500 W into a vertical antenna. I followed up that contact with an HA4 contact.

Earlier this evening, an IK1 tail-ended a contact with station in Tennessee. He wasn't real strong, but it was 100% copy.

A question about the K1USN SST

Sunday evening, I loaded up the N1MM contesting software to make a few contacts in the [K1USN Slow Speed Test](#) (SST). I don't operate the SST every week, but every once in a while it's fun to do. I set my speed to 15 wpm and run a frequency.

This time, however, it seemed that everyone who replied to my CQ was either going much faster than 15 wpm or were seasoned CW ops that I've worked at higher speeds in ragchews or contests. It makes me wonder if the SST has perhaps strayed from its original intent, which is to "build CW skills and confidence with short easy exchanges." I'm not sure what can be done, but I think that some consideration should be given to encouraging veteran operators not to simply work each other.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-first-pota-for-2024-30-meters-open-to-europe-k1usn-sst/>

David Mills, W3HCF, developer of NTP, SK

David Mills, W3CHF, recently passed. He was widely recognized as the fellow who invented/developed the network time protocol, or NTP, which keeps all of the computers on the internet in sync. He was also a radio amateur. This is something that I was unaware of.

His New York Times obituary says,

"Throughout his life, Dr. Mills was an ardent ham radio operator; as a teenager he was in touch with Navy Seabees working in Antarctica and patched them through to their families in the United States.

His two-story clapboard house in Newark had an enormous antenna array on its roof. On his university website, he joked that "in emergencies, the rooftop antenna can be converted into helicopter rotor blades and lift the house to safety."

I never had the pleasure of working W3HCF, but I imagine it would have been a very interesting contact.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/david-mills-w3hcf-developer-of-ntp-sk/>

Meeting Minutes 01/18/2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Hamfest** – Ham fest chairman Matt AD8KA wing stadium secure vendor contacts needed donations from Alpha antenna event created on Facebook moving right along thank you Matt.
- **Skywarn** – Nothing to report at the meeting.
- **Field Day** – Winter Field day is Jan 27-28. SMARS will not be partaking in Winter Field Day, but Skywarn will be.
- **VE Session** – Next VE Session is Dec 28th 7 PM at United Methodist Church.
- **Repeater** – Thank you Matt and John all good on repeaters.
- **DSTAR** – Nothing to report.
- **POTA** – Going good, nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS

- No old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lavonia ham fest February 17 8 AM on ARRL website
- Arrow group has buses to Daytona \$70 to and from W8RD.org link club website
- In the process of new QSO cards for POTA That's all the news for now.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 02/01/2024

Attendance: chairman for ham fest 2024 Matt AD8KA
Melanie secretary KE8TPQ Zack VP W8MANN

Treasury report \$3,383.04

Thank you Jay N8ARR he will be handling tickets and raffle

Big thank you to Matt for reaching out to vendors we did have an extra meeting at the end of January to coordinate a few things for ham fest We're looking good and the date is closing in.

We have had plenty of donations for raffle prizes.

Our next big event coming up will be summer field day shooting for a meeting with Kathy in April to get that squared away.

It was brought up in the meeting a proposal for a communications Director?

Also discussed having a once in a while open house before The monthly meeting for something new.

Not much more to add short meeting with small attendance.

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

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 15th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: March 7th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: March 7th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: March 9th @ 8:30am VE Session: February 22nd @ 7:00pm Hamfest Setup: March 8th @ 3:00pm Hamfest: March 9th @ 8:00am
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