



FEEDBACK

January 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.

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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

ARRL Kids Day a Success in Nebraska

The [Bellevue Amateur Radio Club](#) and the Science Club at [Yates Illuminates](#) teamed up to offer the youth in Omaha, Nebraska, with an opportunity to get on the air for ARRL Kids Day.

The event occurred on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at Yates Illuminates, a former elementary school that is now a culture and community center. Amateur radio operators Dudley Allen, KD0NMD; Terry Gampper, N0BXQ; Frank Jozwiak, KB0EOR, and Mike Terneus, WB0BEE, served as volunteer operators and were extremely patient coaches who nurtured the kids' curiosities of talking on the radio. Dozens of youths as young as 4, as well as young-at-heart Bob Hutton, 91, used the event call sign to talk to amateur radio operators across the country and around the world.

Parents were impressed with Kids Day. One parent said, "The event organized by the Yates Illuminates Science Club was a perfect blend of education, technology, and community spirit. My kids were thrilled to delve into the world of amateur radio, thanks to the expert guidance of the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club. They learned about radio technology and how to contact other young radio enthusiasts across the country. This hands-on experience in communication technology was not only fun but also incredibly educational."

The final highlight of the day came as each child received their certificate of completion. Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America were all represented as the country of birth or the original nationality of the youth participants, and they talked with amateurs as far away as England and Canada.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

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

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

**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 Kids Day is already planned for next year, and the Yates Illuminates Science Club will continue to help youth learn the basics of electrical circuits, electronics, and radio propagation, as well as how to make homebrew antennas. Foxhunts, the integration of a course in radio, and other applied scientific learning opportunities (such as wildlife tracking and rescuing, aviation and space research, and communications) are also planned.

More stories and photos of ARRL Kids Day can be found on the [ARRL Contest Soapbox](#).

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-kids-day-a-success-in-nebraska>

2024 Orlando HamCation Awards

The HamCation® Awards committee has announced the [2024 Orlando HamCation](#) recipients of the Carole Perry Educator of the Year and the Gordon West Ambassador of the Year awards. Both awards will be presented at the 2024 Orlando HamCation, which is hosting this year's ARRL Florida State Convention, on February 9 - 11, 2024.

Lewis Malchick, N2RQ, is the recipient of this year's Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award. Malchick holds an Amateur Extra-class license and is co-founder of the [ARRL School Club Roundup](#), of which he's been active with for more than 25 years. He formerly taught chemistry at the Brooklyn Tech High School, where he's an advisor to the school's Amateur Radio and Wireless Tech Club, W2CXN. Malchick is the trustee for the Stuyvesant High School Amateur Radio Club, W2CLE, the chairperson of the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) Education Committee and has participated in five ARISS contacts. He's spent his lifetime educating children and adults about amateur radio.

The Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award was first awarded at the 2019 HamCation to its namesake, Carole Perry, WB2MGP, in honor of her work as an educator and teaching students about ham radio. It is given annually to individuals who've made outstanding contributions to educating and advancing youth in amateur radio.

The 2024 Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award winners are Fred, AB1OC, and Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB. The Kemmerer's hold Amateur Extra-class licenses and are active in the [Nashua Area Radio Society](#) promoting amateur radio instruction, youth outreach, and STEM education. Together, they've created and helped grow [Ham Bootcamp](#), a program encouraging more than 900 hams to learn new skills. They're active in the club's training and licensing events, along with Tech Night, which complements club meetings. Their participation in STEM activities includes high-altitude balloon launches, foxhunts, and ARISS contacts for many schools.

Fred Kemmerer is the ARRL New England Division Director, and he chairs and contributes to several subcommittees. Anita Kemmerer serves the Division as an Assistant Director for mentoring and new

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>

ham development. The Gordon West Ambassador of the Award was first awarded the 2023 HamCation, in honor of West's contributions and inspiration to the amateur radio community. It's given to individuals who represent and inspire others and who embody the amateur radio spirit by making outstanding contributions to the amateur radio community.

HamCation has been sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, W4PLB, since 1946, and is held annually on the second weekend of February.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/2024-orlando-hamcation-awards>

“Marty on the Mountain” Engstrom, N1ARY (SK)

Avid radio amateur, Marty Engstrom, N1ARY, of Fryeburg, Maine, has become a Silent Key. He died on January 4, 2024. Generations of New England television viewers may know him as Marty on the Mountain from his weather reports on camera for WMTW-TV from the station's transmitter site on Mount Washington in Gorham, New Hampshire.

Engstrom was known to quip that he was not intentionally in the weather business: “I’m a TV engineer, not a meteorologist!,” he would say. Engstrom served the viewers of New England for 38 years. He began at the station in the mid-1960s, after a career in the United States Air Force, according to a memorial on the WMTW website. He retired in 2002.

In 2003, Engstrom released his autobiography, Marty on the Mountain: 38 Years on Mt. Washington, in which he discussed his passion for amateur radio.

As a well-known radio amateur in his area and beyond, Engstrom's voice was easily recognizable. According to Bill Mann, W1KX, “You could recognize his heavy Maine accent before he even identified.”

According to those who knew him, Engstrom frequently served his community through amateur radio. After a major ice storm in 1998, hams in Oxford County, Maine, banded together to form an emergency communications group. “Marty's low-key approach to various situations, even the more stressful ones, helped the group stay focused. His wealth of knowledge of transmitters and antennas certainly was a tremendous benefit to the less experienced hams,” said Wayne Strout, N1YIS. “Marty actively worked as a member of our group with drills and training for both CERT and ARES.”

Engstrom served for some time as the Treasurer of the Yankee Amateur Radio Club and had been a longtime ARRL member at the time of his passing. He was 86 years old.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/marty-on-the-mountain-engstrom-n1ary-sk>

Meeting Minutes 12/21/2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

New Member: Tom Lowe KE8LEJ and Gary Edwards KE8LEK

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Hamfest** – Our Hamfest March 9th. We will need volunteer's for setup on March 8th starting around 3 PM, and volunteers for clean up after the Hamfest after 12 PM on the 9th.
- **Skywarn** – Good turn out for the UHF check on Aux com Simplex. Tornado sirens in Marshall are all good. I-94 and Urbandale School are still out. Volunteer hours for November took third place and it is looking good for December.
- **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** – Repeaters are all good and need to update license by October 2024
- **DSTAR** – Working as expected.
- **POTA** – W8DF is doing a great job on the Kilo Award

OLD BUSINESS

- No old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- December 30th, Youth on the Air

A moment of silence was held for George Taft W8UVZ who became a silent key.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 01/04/2024

Treasury report \$2935.61 paid out \$367.47 cash on hand \$215.66

Last VE session 5 candidates to new text

Next VE session February 22 7 PM 342 Capital Ave. N., East Maple United Methodist Church

Repeaters got an open mic issue! Fox hunt was used to find the culprit kids messing around lol

Which brings me to mention should we have a fox hunt soon

Winter field day sounds like a No go talk to Bret from Skywarn see if they're doing anything.

Ham fest confirmed ARrL has been published already for March
Entry \$10 tables \$20 electric \$15

Meeting ended 7:36 PM

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: January 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: February 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: February 1st @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: February 10th @ 8:30am VE Session: February 22nd @ 7:00pm Hamfest Setup: March 8th @ 3:00pm Hamfest: March 9th @ 8:00am
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