



FEEDBACK

March 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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Inside this issue:

Lead article.....	1
Supplemental article.....	1
Upcoming Radio Contests.....	2
Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions.....	3
Meeting Minutes.....	4
Board Meeting Minutes.....	5
Club Repeaters.....	6
Nets & Upcoming Events.....	6

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 has been completed and was a success (we are in the black when it was completed). Thank you to the Chairman (Matt AD8KA) and the Hamfest team for all of their work up to and during the Hamfest. For anyone who might have missed the Hamfest, there was a little news story from Channel 3 WWMT

(<https://wwmt.com/news/local/ham-radio-enthusiasts-dial-in-to-2024-crossroads-hamfest-radio-swap-zachary-mann-souther-michigan-amateur-society-crossroads-swap-fcc>) as well as the time lapse of the event (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_VGdvR8Mql).

There are some items to discuss regarding the Hamfest next year which will happen in a future Club Meeting. If you would like to offer some input we can apply for next time, join the Hamfest committee, or offer assistant for the next one, please join us at a Club Meeting.

Other News

2024 ARRL Field Day Theme: Be Radio Active

The theme for 2024 ARRL Field Day is "Be Radio Active." The event will run on June 22 - 23, and it will be one-part contest, one-part emergency communications exercise, and one-part open house -- and a great time. The theme encourages radio amateurs to take advantage of the peak of Solar Cycle 25, which we are nearing. Activity this year is likely to be extremely high thanks to favorable solar conditions. The upper HF bands, such as 15 and 10 meters, should benefit most from the Cycle's peak.

There are resources available already for clubs and individuals to make their Field Day plans. ARRL will publish more information and tools so that hams can make the most of the event as it draws near.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

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>*

Amateurs interested in learning more are invited to join the [Field Day Facebook](#) group to connect with others who are planning for the big weekend.

Find links to all of the resources on the ARRL Field Day web page at www.arrl.org/field-day.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/2024-arrl-field-day-theme-be-radio-active>

Amateur Radio Stands Ready to Support Eclipse Operations

The upcoming April 8, 2024, solar eclipse has many excited about the opportunity to witness the darkness of totality. Spectators from across the country are traveling to the path of total darkness that will stretch from South Texas to Northeastern Maine.

Some states are anticipating more than a million travelers for the event. In the impacted areas, schools will be letting students out early for the day, and residents are being encouraged to avoid driving on the day of the event. Emergency response organizations are adding staff for the event in many areas. The eclipse is expected to directly impact parts of 14 states as it moves across the country. The travel impact alone could be substantial.

In preparation for the event, many state emergency management organizations have called on local hams to provide communication services via HF nets and locally on VHF/UHF frequencies. There have been numerous planning meetings, exercises, and preparations across the country. The [ARRL Emergency Management department](#) has worked with ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators and Section Managers in the directly affected areas to collect the frequencies each Section plans to utilize, and to assist in any frequency conflicts. Hams across multiple states and ARRL Sections have been practicing their communications capabilities via Winlink, SSB, and CW. "It is great to see Sections along the path working together to be prepared to assist in any emergency, should it occur during the event," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Heavy traffic is the major concern, but [anything can happen] during such a large event," he added.

Johnston went on to say, "There will be several on-air operating events on the day of the eclipse, but please give some space for any emergency traffic that may be taking place as well."

Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) is leading the [Solar Eclipse QSO Party](#) which will allow radio amateurs to participate in propagation research by operating during the eclipse and submitting their logs. Much of that activity will be focused on the FT8 frequencies of the non-World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) HF bands, but all modes will be welcome during the event.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-stands-ready-to-support-eclipse-operations>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

04/20/2024

Centreville Michigan Hamfest

Location: Centreville, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: St. Joseph County MI

Amateur Radio Club

05/04/2024

AC8RC Mini-Swap and Trunk Sale

Location: Dorr, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Allegan County Radio Club

URL: <http://ac8rc.org>

05/05/2024

Lucas County ARES Trunk Sale & Swap Meet

Location: Toledo, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lucas County ARES

URL: <http://lucasares.org>

05/17/2024 – 05/19/2024

Dayton Hamvention

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

URL: <https://hamvention.org>

HAARP Needs Ham Help

Amateur radio operators and radio astronomers are being asked to help monitor a new research project by the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP).

The project officially began on February 28, but it will run until March 3, 2024.

Some examples of experiments planned for the project are the production of extremely low frequency (ELF) and very low frequency (VLF) emissions and studies on the effects of ionospheric plasma waves on orbiting satellites. HAARP scientists believe these experiments will help lead to a greater understanding of the production and enhancement of ELF and VLF waves, as well as lay groundwork for future studies of satellite interactions with space plasma.

Operating frequencies will vary, but all HAARP transmissions will be between 2.8 and 10 MHz. Actual transmit days and times are highly variable based on real-time ionospheric and/or geomagnetic conditions. There are no specific data collection requests from funded investigators, but reception reports from hams are appreciated and may be submitted to uaf-gi_haarp@alaska.edu or mailed to HAARP PO Box 271, Gakona, AK 99586.

Below are the anticipated operating times and frequencies:

- March 1 from 0130 to 0800 UTC: 2.8, 3.25, 3.3, 4.1, 5.4, 6.8, and 9.6 MHz
- March 2 from 0230 to 0900 UTC: 3.25, 4.5, 5.8, and 9.6 MHz
- March 3 from 0200 to 0800 UTC: 2.8, 3.25, 3.3, 4.1, 5.4, 6.8, and 9.6 MHz

Numerous experiments will operate at frequencies based on the f₀F₂ critical frequency calculation from the Gakona, Alaska, ionograms. For updates on ionospheric conditions in Gakona, consult the ionograms from the HAARP Diagnostic Suite.

Editor's note: Amateurs are reminded that another way they can use their stations to advance scientific understanding of the ionosphere is participating in the upcoming HamSCI Solar Eclipse QSO Party and associated events surrounding the April 8 eclipse.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/haarp-needs-ham-help>

Meeting Minutes 02/15/2024

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** – Just around the corner. We need people to help setup, run the event, and tear down.
- **Skywarn** – Paul (KE8MOI) will run the meeting February 20th. Marshall sirens had issues this month and the I-94 Rest Area is still out. CERT Training is available April 12th – 15th and 20th. In person Skywarn training (NWS Spotter Training) available March 14th in Centerville, MI. Ham in a Day (HIAD) is planned for May, no exact date yet. TextCom will be used for more of alerts with most information being supplied though Nets.
- **Field Day** – Winter Field Day was ran by Dan, Don, and Kevin at home. 196 contacts in total. Summer Field Day is coming up and we are planning to be at the Fair Grounds this year. Details to be discussed at a future meeting
- **VE Session** – Next VE Session is February 22nd at the church, with one at the Hamfest on March 9th.
- **Repeaters** – All is good as reported by Matt and Don
- **DSTAR** – Nothing to report.
- **POTA** – A POTA activation is planned for Saturday at Fort Custer State Park around 10:30 AM at the Lake Pavilion. Breakfast at Cafe Towle around 8 AM.

OLD BUSINESS

- No old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Talked about the Hamfest

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 02/07/2024

Minutes have not been provided at this time.

I imagine Hamfest was the main topic though.

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: March 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: April 4th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: April 4th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: April 13th @ 8:30am VE Session: April 25th @ 7:00pm
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