



FEEDBACK

December 2013

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (wr8g@arrl.net) and get it published in FEEDBACK.

You don't have to be a professional writer, or even a writer at all. If you're comfortable with writing, great! If not, relate the story in the fashion that you are comfortable with and let the editor do the rest.

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell or purchase amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.

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Time to renew

Yes, it is once again that time of year. It's time to renew your membership in SMARS. The fee is a very low \$10 for the year and just \$1 for additional family members residing in the same household. Please bring your money to the next meeting. Exact change is always helpful.

Elections

Club elections will be held at the December 19th meeting. Nominations for Officers and member at large are due at the November 21st meeting. As of this time, all current board members will be on the ballot, however, fresh talent is welcome to put their hat into the ring. Please remember that most of the current board has served for several years.

Christmas Party

The Annual SMARS Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 14th starting at 6:00 PM**. There will be an optional gift exchange, to participate, please bring a wrapped gift for a OM or YL (and please remember to mark it as being for a OM or YL). The party will be held at Old Country Buffet on Beckley Road, south of Battle Creek. Please bring your family.

D-Star

A member of the club has approached the board with a request to put online a D-Star repeater using the club's call sign. The board and the club trustee approved the require unanimously. There are several details still to be worked out. Further details will be reported as they are made public. The repeater is to be available to all licensed amateurs that wish to use D-Star to communicate.



Board of Directors

President

Gary Williams, N8QC
n8qc@arrl.net

Vice President

Dave "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY

Secretary

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR
n8arr@hughes.net

Treasurer

Don Larkin, W8RVT
w8rvt@arrl.net

Member At Large

Tom Goodson, WR8G
wr8g@arrl.net

Club Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month
Maple United Methodist Church
342 Capital Avenue NE
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Next Meeting

December 19th @ 7 PM

SKYWARN Coffee

1st Saturday of every month
Immediately after Siren Test
Coney Island, N.E. Capital
Battle Creek, MI

Next Meeting

January 4th

BLB Luncheon

2nd Thursday of every month
Coney Island, N.E. Capital
Battle Creek, MI

Next meeting

January 9th @ 11:30 AM

SMARS Breakfast

2nd Saturday of every month
Coney Island, N.E. Capital
Battle Creek, MI

Next Meeting

January 11th @ 8:30 AM

Meeting Minutes 11/21/2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR. 29 members in attendance in total!

Secretary's report tabled as report not published due to power outage.

Treasurer's report tabled as report not published due to power outage.

Committee reports:

Hamfest 2014 – Flyers should be printed and tickets are being looked at. Apparently the phone isn't being answered at the printers. This will bear looking into by Doc. Payment has been made to the MAC to reserve it. Two vendors have paid for tables already.

RACES – There has been an invitation forwarded by the NWS Grand Rapids Forecast Center for SKYWARN Recognition Day. The date is December 6th and 7th in Grand Rapids. Hams are requested to run some radios for contacts. Apparently it will be a bit of a contest.

Chad Hayes will be the new RACES coordinator for the county. There is also a CERT/SAR/RACES website at BCESMI.org.

An upcoming event by Girls on the Run, called Tinsel Toes will be December 14th from 1700 – 1900 and spotters are needed.

A CERT Basic Training session will be held at the Public Works building on December 6th and 7th, concluding on the 14th. Times are not known ATT.

A CERT/SAR/RACES meeting and potluck will be on December 11th at 1800. Location??

November siren test covered 10 sirens in the city and 17 in the county. The next test will be December 7th.

The SKYWARN event on Sunday November 17 polled 47 check ins with 15 spotters on the road! This is a wonderful turnout and kudos to net control. There will be a SKYWARN meeting on December 17th at the Bedford Township Hall on Uldricks Road. Time unknown ATT.

Ham In A Day – The next will be the 4th Saturday in January (24th). No further information is known ATT.

Field Day 2014 – We will run QRP again with three trailers at either the airport loca-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

tion or at Fort Custer Recreation Area. Many details for Fort Custer have to be ironed out with Michigan DNR regarding passes to operate. Stay tuned.

VE session – The next scheduled testing will be the 4th Thursday in December at the Maple Methodist Church in the Babcock Room.

Other – Christmas Party will be on December 14th at OCB in BC beginning at 1800. Gift exchange is optional

Old Business: Nominations for next year’s officers. No one offered their names for nomination. The present officers all have agreed to continue, if elected.

Ham 101 will be held sometime after the next HIAD (01/24/14). Perhaps February 8th, 2014.

New Business: The contract for church rental is coming up. No objection was raised to continue where we are for the next 6 months. The rent is very reasonable and much less than any other venue that might be available. Besides, the lower room has much more room, especially when 29 members attend!

A collection was taken up for a young child suffering from cancer. The funds will be donated in the club’s name.

Meeting adjourned at 1952.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

Hamfests

01/04/2014: WARAC's 42nd Annual Midwinter Swapfest
Waukesha, WI
West Allis Radio Amateur Club
<http://www.warac.org>

01/19/2014: 47th Annual Mid-Winter Hamfest
St. Charles, IL
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
<http://wheatonhamfest.org>

01/19/2014: SCARF Hamfest
Nelsonville, OH
Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
<http://www.scarfarc.com>

Income and Expense Statement

11/1/13 Through 11/30/13

Category Description	11/1/13-11/30/13
INCOME	
50 50	25.00
Dues: 2014	172.00
TOTAL Dues	172.00
Hamfest Inc: Electric	10.00
Tables	150.00
TOTAL Hamfest Inc	160.00
Interest Inc	0.27
TOTAL INCOME	357.27
EXPENSES	
Equipment: Maintainance TS440	34.97 366.00
TOTAL Equipment	400.97
Equipment Fire Extinguishers	333.90
Meetings: Refreshments	17.77
TOTAL Meetings	17.77
Utilities: Telephone	168.10
TOTAL Utilities	168.10
TOTAL EXPENSES	920.74
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-563.47

S.M.A.R.S. W8DF Club Repeaters

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

2 Meter Repeater 146.660 MHz
-600KHz offset, PL 94.8

70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz
+5MHz offset, PL 94.8

1.25 Meter Repeater 224.240 MHz
-1.6MHz offset

70cm and 1.25 meter repeaters are linked.
Also available via echolink.

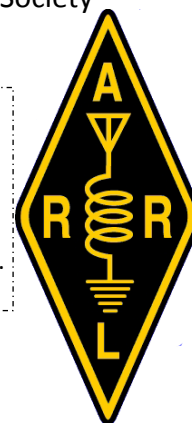
W8DF-5 144.39Mhz Digipeater/Igate
Find it on www.aprs.fi

Other Area Repeaters:

Skywarn/ARES/RACES (WX8BTL)

2 Meter: 147.12, +600KHz offset, PL 186.2

70cm: 442.350, +5MHz offset, PL 94.8



Special event stations educate, entertain

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I like special event stations. I enjoy operating them and making contact with them. Whenever I operate WA2HOM, our club station at the Ann Arbor (MI) Hands-On Museum, one of the first things I do is to search for special event stations.

One of the reasons I enjoy operating special event stations is that it's educational. For example, on November 17, I worked W4D in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. They were commemorating the 520th anniversary of the discovery by Europeans of the island of Puerto Rico. As a result, I learned that on November 19, 1493 Christopher Columbus landed on the island, naming it San Juan Bautista in honor of Saint John the Baptist, a name that was later changed to Puerto Rico (rich port).

Working special event stations is also entertaining. Most times when you work a special event station, you can tell that they're having a good time. One time, I worked W4B, operating from the Kentucky Bourbon Festival. Now, those guys were really having a great time!

How do you find special event stations?

One way to find special event stations is to just tune around. Most special event stations will be operating at least a 20m phone station, so take a look at that band first. Also, consult the special event stations listings in QST or on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>). KE2YK also has a special events page (<http://ke2yk.wordpress.com/special-event-station-events/>).

In addition to working special event stations, you should consider organizing and operating one of your own. For the past two years, several members of our Rotary Club who are also amateur radio operators have operated W8P on the third weekend in February, which commemorates the founding of the Rotary Club and helps spread the word about the End Polio Now campaign (<http://www.endpolio.org/>). It was not only fun to do this, but I think that we helped raise awareness about polio around the world.

Whatever your reason for holding a special event, you'll want to be somewhat knowledgeable about your topic.

For example, if you decide to set up a special event station at the local Rutabaga Festival, you might want to know how long they've been having the festival, how many pounds of rutabagas are produced by local farms and around the U.S., and maybe even find a couple of rutabaga recipes that you could send out to stations that work you.

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When he's not working special event stations, Dan, KB6NU enjoys building kits and working CW. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

FOR SALE

Kenwood TM241 \$85
 Kenwood TM231 \$75
 Kenwood TM231 \$75

All three include Mic and mounting bracket and function according to spec

KDK FM2030 \$35
 Kenwood TR7800 \$35

These transceivers are great for APRS They both include an interface cable to plug into a TinyTrak3 or TinyTrak4. Also included is a Mic. The radios do not produce a CTCSS tone which is not used for APRS.

W8RVT Don on any SMARS repeater or w8rvt@arrl.net or (ugh) 269 963-7797.

Note from the editor

This month you will notice an article from Dan Romanchik, KB6NU. Dan has generously offered to allow us to include his column in our news letter and I intend to include it as often as possible. Thanks Dan.

Robotics

Got a call from Steve Seifert who is the event coordinator for a robotics competition to be held at the Marshall Middle school on December 21st. He is looking for volunteers to help with the event, below is the information that I received from him:

FIRST Robotics is an organization that inspires students to pursue STEM in their academics and later as a career. Marshall Middle School is hosting the state championships this year on Dec 20-21, 2013. If any of your members are interested in more information, please have the email me and I will be happy to respond.

We have early registration and inspection on Friday, Dec 20 from 6-9pm. Our doors will open for general registration/inspection and match play at 7am Saturday and we expect to finish by 7pm-ish.

Here is a look at the types of volunteers we need and the general times

- Food concessions - Morning, Lunch time (mainly, although food is served all day)
- Match Queuing - Afternoon
- Judge Room Management - Morning
- H/W & S/W Inspections - Friday night and Saturday morning
- Host General Info - All day
- Traffic Directors - Morning

Thank you.

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Steve Seifert, Event Coordinator
Michigan FTC State Championships
mobile (269) 267-4835
sseifert@scoutmarshall337.org
sseifert@us.ibm.com

Board Meeting 12/03/2013

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR, Tom WR8G, Bev KA8CXS, John W8JRD.

Treasurer's report was passed around. Things look pretty good.

Hamfest 2014 – The ARRL has sanctioned the Hamfest. Tickets have been printed by Allegra Printing; 1000 tick-

ets for \$113.00.

Christmas party – Some decisions have to be made, and soon, regarding door prizes. Perhaps some HTs from R&L. A firm declaration of how much money is on hand from 50/50 sales will help. Don will investigate and report to John.

501 (3)c organization. More information is still needed so this item was tabled for now.

Gary will discuss continued rental with the church elders this month.

VE sessions for 2014 – The 4th Thursday in December, 2014, falls on Christmas day. It was decided that, for now, we will not hold a VE session on that day. The option is still open to change the date, if there is enough interest. As usual, VE sessions will be held on the even numbered months, on the 4th Thursday.

Chad Hayes is the new RACES coordinator. We need flyers or information from his office regarding HIAD or RACES meetings so we can post same. We can't support RACES if they don't pass on information.

Meeting adjourned at 1845.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

TS440-SAT

In past years, I have used my TS440 for field day. As I no longer have the TS440, I recommended the board authorize me to shop eBay for a club TS440. I found a candidate that was described as having the common "dot problem" and won the bid on it. A few hours on my bench fixed the "dot problem" and now the TS440 works fine. As I could see on the auction, the case looks far from new, but beauty (or lack of) is only skin deep. The radio does have the optional (value near \$100) CW filter installed. That should excite all the CW users on field day!

W8RVT-Don

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



SMARS

P.O. Box 934

Battle Creek, MI 49016

FIRST CLASS MAIL

«CALL»
«NAME»
«ST_ADDRESS»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

SMARS NETS

Before Lunch Bunch
Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66

Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66
Monday 7:00 PM, 147.12 (Skywarn)
Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95
Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95
Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365
Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95

Please see page 3 for offsets and PL tones

Upcoming events:

BLB Lunch: December 12th @ 11:30 AM
SMARS Breakfast: December 14th @ 8:30 AM
SMARS CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 14th @ 7:00 PM
Club meeting: December 19th @ 7:00 PM
VE testing: December 26th @ 7:00 PM
Siren test: January 4th @ 1:00 PM
SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test
BLB Lunch: January 9th @ 11:30 AM
Club meeting: January 16th @ 7:00 PM