



# FEEDBACK

December 2016

## Equipment to Sell or Swap?

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

### Board of Directors

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### Inside this issue:

<i>Christmas Party reminder</i>	1
<i>KB6NU Article</i>	1-2
<i>Silent Key notice</i>	2
<i>Yearly Dues reminder</i>	2
<i>The Elves of OF9X</i>	3
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>	4
<i>Upcoming contests</i>	5
<i>Club Repeaters</i>	5
<i>Upcoming events and local nets</i>	5



## SMARS Christmas Party is fast approaching!

Join us **Saturday, December 17, 2016 at Clara's on the River from 6:00-8:00pm** for food and fun!

Our meal options are: Club Car Top Sirloin (\$19.99), Club Car Chicken Hawaiian (\$16.99), Fettuccine Alfredo (\$16.99) and Meat Lasagna (\$16.99). Beverage service (milk, juices, and "adult beverages" are available for an additional charge), salad is included with all of the options, a potato/starch is also included with the sirloin and chicken entrées.

Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange are asked to bring a gift (less than \$20), labeling it "for a man" or "for a lady." Our end of year cash prize 50/50 drawing will also take place.

**Come and celebrate the holiday season with us!**

## SDR for newcomers to amateur radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

12/02/2016

This morning, I got an e-mail from a reader who asked, "I would like you to help me understand software-defined radio (SDR) and applications for hams."

Now, I'm in no way, shape, or form an expert on SDR. I know what SDR is—or at least I think I do—but how to explain it to a newcomer? So, the first thing I did, of course, was to do a Google search. Searching for "software defined radio for amateur radio operators" yielded 181,000 results.



**Editor's Note:**

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



**Silent Key Notice:**

We have learned that SMARS member Thomas Cornell, N8YEB, became a silent key on Tuesday, November 29, 2016. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this time.

**Dues are Due!**

With the end of the calendar year, club membership dues for 2017 are due. Yearly dues are \$10.00, with \$1.00 for each additional family member. It's the best bargain in town, and the funds raised help to sustain our club activities, such as upkeep of our repeaters.

Dues may be paid in-person at the club meeting, at the Christmas Party, or mailed to:

**SMARS**  
**P.O Box 934**  
**Battle Creek, MI 49016**

The best one that I found is [Software Defined Radio for Amateur Radio — An Overview](#). This is a slide show from a presentation give by Steve Dick, K1RF, on February 11, 2015.

The first few slides give a good overview of what we mean when we say a radio is “software-defined.” Then, the presentation digs into some of the technical aspects of SDR.



The ICOM IC-7300 is an example of a modern software-defined radio for amateur use.

The ARRL website has a [page on SDR](#), but unfortunately, most of the links are to articles published from 1998 to 2002.

this page should really be updated. It

does include a few good links, though, including one to the [BORES Signal Processing DSP course – Introduction to DSP](#).

Other good resources that I found include:

- [An Introduction to HF Software-Defined Radio](#), by Andrew Barron, ZL3DW. This is a book on the topic in PDF form. Actually, I’m not really sure if this is a legal copy, as a [print version is available on Amazon for \\$20](#)
- [New to SDR?](#)
- [RTL-SDR.COM](#). This site is all about using DVB-T TV tuner dongles based on the RTL2832U chipset as software-defined radios. These dongles are very inexpensive and a cheap way to get into SDR.

If a beginner asked you this question, how would you respond? What are some resources that you have found useful?

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



## Elves at OF9X Bring the Spirit of Christmas to Ham Radio



12/07/2016

As in past years, Santa Claus will be spreading the spirit of Christmas via Amateur Radio, but this year the elves are taking over the show. Twelve elves are operating OF9X (“Old-Father-Nine-Christmas”) for the entire month of December, each with a 3-letter identification. Radio amateurs can work OF9X on all bands and modes, from 630 meters (where authorized) to 70 centimeters. Each contact is worth 1 point for stations in Europe and 2 points for stations outside Europe. The elves provide the multiplier — up to 12 — to determine your final score. Only contacts made in 2016 are valid. **Logs** are available on ClubLog, and the log will indicate which elf was worked, in case you miss the ID.

The elves on the air and their 3-letter IDs are: Arto, OH2KW (ART); Arttu, OH2FB (ATU); Jyri, OH2KM (JYR); Martti, OH2BH (MAR); Niko, OH2GEK (NIK); Pauli, OH5BQ (PAU); Pekka, OH2TA (PEK); Pertti, OH2BEE (PER); Raimo, OH2BCI (RAI); Tom, OH6VDA (TOM); Pertti, OH2PM (SIM), and Erik, OH2LAK (LAK).

Three awards are available: SKC Award (Santa is King of Christmas) — at least 50 points; WMC Award (Warm and Memorable Christmas) — at least 35 points, and RNS Award (Remember those Red Nose Elves) — at least 20 points.

**E-mail** your log and your point calculation by January 5, 2017. Full-color award certificates will be sent via return mail. Include the name to be printed on the award and your e-mail address.

High-scoring operators and their children on each continent will be offered an opportunity to speak with Santa during Christmas week. Details will be available on the OF9X QRZ.com profile page.

This year’s OF9X activity will commemorate ARRL President Emeritus Jim Haynie, W5JBP (SK), who conceived of “The Big Project” to get Amateur Radio into classrooms. The project became the present-day ARRL Education & Technology Program. The OF9X Santa Activity patron is Finland’s Prime Minister Juha Sipilä, who has said that “using the latest technology to promote Santa is valuable support for Finland and helps make this Christmas a special one.” The OF9X activity is supported by the Finnish Telecommunications Regulatory Authority and the Finnish Amateur Radio Association (SRAL), and is organized by Radio Club of Pusula, OH9W, with Radio Arcala, OH8X, of Oulu in the frozen North.



## SMARS Meeting Minutes 11/17/2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions

**Officers present:** Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Tom WR8G, Jay N8ARR.  
19 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report was accepted.  
Treasurer's report was accepted.

### Committee reports:

Hamfest 2017 – Working on vendor notification. Tom and Jay will converse about what to tell vendors in notice. Suggest that we ask vendors to consider bringing their own chairs as we were very short of chairs last year since vendors showed up with more than one helper. Only offered two chairs per vendor.  
Flyers delivered to Fort Wayne by Terry N8LN. Thanks to Terry for doing that for us.  
Also, Jay will contact Emilie about getting access to more tables, hoping we will sell them.

### SKYWARN:

Group was approved for 501c3 operation. CERT event at Calhoun Fairground; a good turnout which leads to plans for another next year.  
NWS in GR has installed Build 17 for storm detection which will allow better decisions to be made about storms.  
Recent siren test had 100% successful operation  
A HAM Camp is planned for April 2017 with Smokey N5MKY acting as liaison between SMARS and the camp. Location to be announced later. This sounds like what was done a couple years ago at FCSRA.  
No meetings will be held Dec/Jan/Feb.  
Commence in Mar 2017. It is hoped that a severe weather webinar can be created for Dec this year. Thanks to Bret KD8RHB for providing this information.

**VE session:** Coming up Dec 22nd at 7:00 at Maple United Methodist Church.

**Field Day:** Somehow we didn't make the QST

## Board Meeting Minutes 12/06/2016

Officers present: Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR, Tom WR8G.  
Others present: Smokey N5MKY.

Called to order at 1700.

**Christmas Party** – There are four choices on the menu; Chicken Hawaiian, Sirloin steak, Fettucini Alfredo and Lasagna. The charge will be just over \$21.00 per meal except for an additional \$3.00 upcharge for the sirloin steak. Payment can be made at the General Meeting on the 15th in cash or check or at the dinner on Saturday the 17th. A \$20 limit has been set for the gift exchange. Be sure to mark your package for Man or Woman.

**MIS Hamfest** – The board voted to support the October 2017 ARRL Hamfest at Michigan International Speedway to a maximum of \$400 from the treasury. It was suggested that private donations could be solicited and accepted beyond that figure.

**MSPOTA** – Smokey has been in touch with the director at Custer Rec Area and the two of them have begun discussions regarding the upcoming Michigan State Parks on the Air which will begin in 2017. There are several locations that are offered to us for setup, one of them being the overlook at the top of the hill. There are covered pavilions as well as high, open ground for antenna use. There isn't any power available but we can use generators and will operate full power. Only one trailer will be used and which one will be determined later. Camping either on the hill or in the campground will facilitate operators. The date chosen, at this time, will be May 5, 6 & 7, 2017. This weekend is the only one that does not clash with Dayton, Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekend. Mark your calendars; we will need operators!! Smokey was nominated to be the lead for this project while the club will sponsor the Rec Area which means some administrative work (QSL cards, logging, etc.).

**Hamfest** – A new cover letter to go out to vendors was created. It should be going out soon. (Update – Jay has received a call already

Field Day listings. Tom announced that the information was submitted. He will contact someone to see why we weren't in the scoring. Luckily, the majority of us weren't in it just for points but to have a good time, which we had!

**Christmas party:** Group is booked into Clara's for Saturday December 17th beginning at 6:00 pm.

Steph distributed a menu list for members to select from. She will compile what four are most desired and that will decide what we can choose. It will be just a bit over \$20 per person. A \$10-20 limit is suggested for gift exchange.

#### **Old Business:**

John W8JRD announced he is donating two sets of tire covers for use with the trailers which are in storage. Thanks to John.

Dues are now due \$10. "The best bargain in town!"

#### **New Business:**

Larry Camp WB8R of ARRL, presented information for the upcoming Irish Hills Hamfest to be held Oct. 7-8, 2017 at Michigan International Speedway. This is a very complex plan that will, hopefully, rival Dayton as a regional/national Amateur Radio gathering. Initially, the group is looking for local clubs to donate \$250 to the fund to get things rolling. Much more information will be forthcoming! Stay tuned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR

that mentioned the email about the dates and reservations should be received soon.)

ARRL Special Service Club information needs to be checked for current status. Secretary will look into this and update if required.

**Trailer work** – It would be very nice to have a cleanup day on whichever trailer will be used at Custer before the May 5 setup date. This will be pursued in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 17:56

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR

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### **Upcoming Radio Contests**

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

**ARRL 10-Meter Contest** - 12/10-12/11/2016

[www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter)

**International Naval Contest** - 12/10-12/11/2016

[www.marinefunker.de](http://www.marinefunker.de)

**AWA Bruce Kelly 1929 QSO Party** –  
12/10-12/18/2016

<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub>

**Russian 160-Meter Contest** –  
12/16-12/17/2016

[qrz.ru/contest/detail/90.html](http://qrz.ru/contest/detail/90.html)

**Feld Hell Sprint** - 12/17/2016

[sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub](http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub)

**ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW** – 12/18/2016

[www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

**DARC Christmas Contest** – 12/26/2016

[darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en/rules](http://darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en/rules)

\*A more thorough listing of December 2016 Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page Contest Calendar, <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

<p><b>Club Meeting</b> 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b> 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>BLB Luncheon</b> 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b> 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p><b>SMARS Nets:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p><b>2016</b> SMARS Breakfast: Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am Club Meeting: Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm <b>*SMARS Christmas Party:</b> Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm Clara's on the River – Banquet room SMARS VE Session: Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00pm Maple United Methodist Church, Battle Creek</p> <p><b>2017</b> BLB Luncheon: Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am SMARS Breakfast: Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am</p>
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