



# FEEDBACK

January 2014

### 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. This will be your last issue of Feedback if you don't renew.

## Protect your gear from ESD

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test&Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

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### 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

January 16th @ 7 PM

### SKYWARN Coffee

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

### Next Meeting

February 1st

### BLB Luncheon

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

### Next meeting

February 13th @ 11:30 AM

### SMARS Breakfast

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

### Next Meeting

February 8th @ 8:30 AM

(Continued from page 1)

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs ([http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches\\_and\\_Chairs%7CChairs\\_and\\_Accessories%7CCHR-00/](http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/)), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

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When he's not worrying about ESD, Dan, KB6NU enjoys teaching amateur radio classes and working CW on the HF bands. 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](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Board Meeting 01/07/2014

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR, Tom WR8G.

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

Hamfest 2014 – Tickets are in Mike's possession. Tom will print the floor plan for table setup. Doc has a few flyers left for distribution wherever/whenever. We will have to see what is coming up prior to SMARS Hamfest. We need helpers to handle the parking situation, which we hope won't be covered in snow! Question was raised if any club members have a truck with a plow, which begs the question; would we be allowed to plow anyway??

Digital repeater –The plan is coming along nicely. Now we need good weather to put up an antenna, despite the long standing axiom. The controller is expected to be on hand soon and should be up and running in a temporary location by the end of January. Frequency coordination is still pending with OH, IL and IN.

501 (3)c organization. Tom has had a discussion with legal help and the requirements don't appear to favor this right now. Everyone would still like to do this but we aren't large enough at present.

Gary hopes to be able to meet with church officers to discuss continued rental.

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**Hamfests**

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>

01/26/2014: Tusco ARC Hamfest  
Strasburg, OH

Tusco Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.tuscoarc.org>

02/02/2014: WinterHamFest  
Elyria, OH

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society  
<http://NOARS.net>

02/08/2014: 40th Annual Swap & Shop  
Traverse City, MI

Cherryland Amateur Radio Club  
<http://cherrylandarc.com>

02/15/2014: MRAC/MAARS Swapfest  
Brookfield, WI

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club & Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society  
<http://www.w9rh.org>

02/16/2014: Livonia Amateur Radio Club Swap-N-Shop  
Livonia, MI

Livonia Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

02/16/2014: MID-WINTER HAMFEST & COMPUTER SHOW

Mansfield, OH  
InterCity Amateur Radio Club  
<http://W8WE.org>

02/22/2014: Cabin Fever Hamfest  
LaPorte, IN

LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club  
<http://lpcarc.org>

02/22/2014: Third Annual Brownsburg Hamfest  
Brownsburg, IN

Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society  
<http://www.hcars.org/>

03/02/2014: Sterling-Rock Falls ARS's Hamfest  
Sterling, IL  
Sterling-Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society  
<http://w9mep.org>

03/08/2014: Terre Haute Hamfest & Computer Expo  
Terre Haute, IN  
Wabash Valley ARA  
<http://www.w9uuu.org>

**03/15/2014: Crossroads Hamfest  
Marshall, MI  
Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society  
<http://www.w8df.com>**

03/16/2014: HAMFEST 2014  
Jefferson, WI  
Tri-County ARC (W9MQB)  
<http://www.w9mqb.org>

03/16/2014: TMRA Hamfest & Computer Fair  
Perrysburg, OH  
Toledo Mobile Radio Association  
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

03/22/2014: MOVARC's Hamfest  
Gallipolis, OH  
Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club  
<https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>

03/29/2014: 31st Annual Columbus ARC Hamfest  
Columbus, IN  
Columbus Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.carcnet.org>

**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

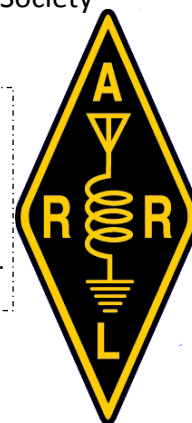
70cm and 1.25 meter repeaters are linked.  
Also available via echolink.

W8DF-5 144.39Mhz Digipeater/Igate  
Find it on [www.aprs.fi](http://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





## FOR SALE

50/50 money – We have to distribute the remaining money, and soon. It was decided that all remaining 50/50 funds will be divided equally 6 ways with each portion placed in an envelope. 6 call signs will be drawn from all of the year's participants to award this money. Any one member may win only once, and they do not have to be present to win. It is fervently hoped that this will occur at the January meeting.

Tom wants to purchase the 2m Cushcraft beam from the trailer and made an offer to the board, which was accepted

Field Day 2014 – It was agreed that we would try to get the same spot at the airport as last year. Plans to use Ft. Custer were just too difficult with the state's requirement for entry. We had enough trouble at Ham Camp and it is expected that FD will bring in more operators (HINT) who would be challenged every time they came to the gate. The airport location provided lots of walk in visitors, which Custer might not. The idea of FD is visibility to the public and the airport fills this requirement well. Doc and Jay will get with Louie to make visits to the airport staff.

HIAD – January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Bedford Township Hall on S. Uldricks Rd. The room is fairly small so there may be some restrictions on the number of VEs we can accommodate. Information will be passed around as it firms up.

Meeting adjourned at 1800.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

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.





### Income and Expense Statement

12/1/13 Through 12/31/13

Category Description	12/1/13- 12/31/13
<b>INCOME</b>	
50 50	7.50
Dues	71.00
Interest Inc: Checking	0.25
<b>TOTAL Interest Inc</b>	<u>0.25</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>78.75</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration: PO BOX	30.00
<b>TOTAL Administration</b>	<u>30.00</u>
Feedback	231.20
Hamfest: Facility	550.00
Tickets	115.21
<b>TOTAL Hamfest</b>	<u>665.21</u>
Meetings: Refreshments	10.00
<b>TOTAL Meetings</b>	<u>10.00</u>
Utilities: Telephone	84.06
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<u>84.06</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>1,020.47</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<u><u>-941.72</u></u>



# 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: February 13th @ 11:30 AM**

**SMARS Breakfast: February 8th @ 8:30 AM**

**Club meeting: January 16th @ 7:00 PM**

**Siren test: February 1st @ 1:00 PM**

**SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test**