



# FEEDBACK

January 2015

### 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.

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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n8qc@arrl.net

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## How do we promote better operating practices?

A lament that I often hear is that many amateur radio operators either don't seem to understand the importance of good operating practices or just don't care about them. Just this morning, a reader sent me an e-mail saying, "I think there are too many hams out there that don't know how to call a station on split frequency. It's amazing that we have so many dummies out there."

I wrote back, saying, "Maybe we need another type of Official Observer, called the Operating Observer. This group would note when operators aren't following good operating procedures and send people gentle reminders." Of course, as soon as I hit Send, I knew this wasn't a very good idea. As my reader noted, this would be a thankless job, and chances are the poor operators would simply ignore the notices, anyway.

Even so, there must be some way to encourage good operating procedures. One effort to promote better operating procedures is the DX Code of Conduct (<http://www.dx-code.org/>). This is a list of 13 suggestions to make DX operation, particularly pileups, less chaotic. The website includes a small image that you're supposed to post to your website to show that you support the Code. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, I wish there was something that we could do to be more proactive in improving operating practices.

There is, of course, the ARRL Operating Manual. This publication is now in its tenth edition and is a valuable source of information about how to operate properly. The problem is only a fraction of the amateur radio operators on the air have a copy, much less read it.

Another attempt at promoting good operating practice is the ARRL's A-1 Operator's Club (<http://www.arrl.org/a-1-op>). While a noble effort, I think that this program really requires more promotion. In addition to being more aggressive about finding A-1 operators and bringing them into this "club," the ARRL should use it to promote better operation. Perhaps a series of videos with the A-1 Ops logo showing how to operate split or how to properly call CQ would help improve operating

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practices overall.

Talking about videos, I'd be surprised if there weren't already some YouTube videos that illustrate good operating practices. If you know of any, please e-mail me. It would be great to have a list of really good ones that I can send to people who want information on how to operate better.

What do you think? Do we need to be more proactive about encouraging hams to use good operating practices? If so, how do we go about it? What do you do to encourage better operating practices?

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When not worrying about the state of amateur radio operating practices, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

**Board Meeting 01/06/2015**

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G, Jan W8JKG, John W8JRD, Steph W8AEZ, Diane KD8WXA, Don, Brian W8BDM.

Called to order at 1705.

Treasurer's report was passed around.

Hamfest 2015 – Two reservations have been received so far. Tom working to find someone to fulfil QSL checking for event. Larry Camp will be attending.

Skywarn – Planning is underway for Skywarn training sometime in February or March. Board voted to allow Skywarn to have one table at Hamfest provided they are just promoting Skywarn.

Repeater – No further work has been done on getting PL added to the 220 repeater

Meeting Room - Gary is working to renew contract for the meeting rooms. Cost may increase slightly but is still a bargain.

PBR1 Bill - Passed the house and senate and is awaiting signature of governor.

Community – Brian suggested that we participate at a local school's (Kellogg Elementary School, near Gull Lake) Math and Science Expo on February 26<sup>th</sup> to promote club and ham radio. Steph will head-up this activity and Brian will submit paperwork and entry fee.

Meeting adjourned at 1814.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Brian Marsh, W8BDM, Secretary  
 W8BDM@arrl.net

**Income and Expense Statement**  
 12/1/2014 Through 12/31/2014 (Accrual Basis)

Category Description	12/1/2014- 12/31/2014
<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations	120.00
Dues	
2015	213.00
TOTAL Dues	213.00
Hamfest Inc	
Tables	10.00
Tickets	10.00
TOTAL Hamfest Inc	20.00
Interest Inc	
Checking	0.20
TOTAL Interest Inc	0.20
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>353.20</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	
PO BOX	31.00
TOTAL Administration	31.00
Meetings	
Refreshments	25.80
TOTAL Meetings	25.80
Utilities	
Internet	30.00
Telephone	36.34
TOTAL Utilities	66.34
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>123.14</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>230.06</b>

**Hamfests**

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/n8lc/>

01/10/2015 | 43rd Annual Midwinter Swapfest

Location: Waukesha, WI

Sponsor: West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Website: <http://www.warac.org/swap/index.htm>

01/11/2015 | Hazel Park ARC Swap

Location: Hazel Park, MI

Sponsor: Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://hparc.org>

01/18/2015 | S.C.A.R.F Hamfest

Location: Nelsonville, OH

Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation

Website: <http://www.scarfarc.com>

01/18/2015 | WCRA's 48th Annual Mid-Winter Hamfest

Location: St. Charles, IL

Sponsor: Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Website: <http://wheatonhamfest.org>

02/01/2015 | NOARS Winter Hamfest & Computer Show

Location: Elyria, OH

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.noars.net/>

02/14/2015 | 42nd Annual Amateur Radio Swap & Shop

Location: Traverse City, MI

Sponsor: Cherryland Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.cherrylandarc.com>

02/14/2015 | Hendricks County Hamfest

Location: Brownsburg, IN

Sponsor: Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.hcars.org/>

02/14/2015 | MRAC & MAARS Mid Winter Interclub Swapfest

Location: Brookfield, WI

Sponsor: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club & Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.w9rh.org>

02/15/2015 | Livonia ARC Swap-N-Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

02/15/2015 | Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest

Location: Mansfield, OH

Sponsor: InterCity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.W8WE.org>

02/28/2015 | DARC Hamfest

Location: Dugger, IN

Sponsor: Dugger ARC

03/14/2015 | Michigan Crossroads Hamfest and Radio Swap

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest>

03/28/2015 | MOVARC HamFest

Location: Gallipolis, OH

Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley ARC

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>

04/11/2015 | Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 61st Annual Hamfest

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php>

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

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

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

2 Meter Digital/DStar 146.79/19 (-600KHz Offset)

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



# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

Meeting Minutes 12/19/2014

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G. 22 members in attendance total.

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

Committee reports:

Hamfest 2015 – Not much new to report. Two applications received so far but hopes are high. Information regarding the Hamfest has been submitted to ARRL and they have sanctioned with word from Larry Camp that he will be in attendance.

SKYWARN – No report.

Field Day 2015 – Still a ways away so nothing to report.

VE session – The last session had no applicants so the VEs left at 8:00 p.m. There was a good turnout of VEs though. Thanks to all who showed up.

Repeater – The interference on the input that brought about this desire has eased and isn't presently considered to be enough of a problem. No other work is being pursued.

Old Business: No old business brought up.

New Business: Elections were held. The following changes are made to the board: President, Gary N8QC; Vice President, Stephanie W8AEZ; Treasurer, John W8JRD; Secretary, Brian W8BDM, Member at Large, Diane KD8WXA. Congratulations to all the incoming members and thanks to the outgoing members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

## **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**

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

## **SMARS Breakfast**

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

## **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:**

**Club meeting: January 15th @ 7:00 PM**

**Siren test: February 7th @ 1:00 PM**

**SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test**

**SMARS Breakfast: February 14th @ 8:30 AM**

**BLB Lunch: February 12th @ 11:30 AM**