



FEEDBACK

January 2016

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (ac8ps@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.

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n8qc@arrl.net

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w8aez@arrl.net

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brianmarsh@yahoo.com

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Inside this issue:

- KB6NU Article
- Meeting Minutes
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- Club Repeaters
- Upcoming events and local nets

What would Wayne (Green) do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Wayne Green was a crackpot...but he was a great one.

For those of you who aren't as old as I am, Wayne Green, W2NSD, was not only the publisher of 73 Magazine, but also the founder of Byte and other PC magazines in the early days of personal computing. In 73, he would write these long, rambling editorials. Often, he would take the ARRL to task, criticizing what he thought to be some lunk-headed policy or another.

Just as often, he'd be encouraging hams to take up some new technology. He was, for example, one of the guys driving hams to set up repeater systems.

He would often exhort hams to get started in their own technology-related business. I remember one column where he urged hams to get involved in the home-security business. And, of course, when personal computers became popular, he wrote that hams should think about getting into that business. His reasoning was that our knowledge of electronics would stand us in good stead in those businesses.

Today, I think that he would be telling us to get more involved in with technologies like the Internet of Things, WiFi, or whatever other wireless technology is coming down the pike. "Wireless" is the key word here. These networking technologies are based on good, old radio, and who better to push these technologies forward than guys like us who understand radio.

This point was brought home to me last week as I was interviewing an executive of a wireless company for an article that I'm writing. He said to me that many of the companies he works with are taking a software-centric view to their wireless products. They simply use the reference designs provided by the wireless chip makers and expect those designs to work flawlessly in their products.

- 1 While they often do, he gave me an example where simply using the
- 2 reference design was a colossal failure. In one case, he said, the company
- 3 mounted the board inside a metal enclosure. Since the antenna was part of
- 3 the printed-circuit board, the enclosure acted like a shield, and of course, the
- 4 device had little or no range.

He went on to say that he thought that there was a real shortage of experienced RF guys in the wireless industry. Does that sound like an opportunity to you? It does to me. So, I'm going to make like Wayne Green here and exhort all you guys to get out there and take advantage of it.

This is not only a business opportunity, but a way for amateur radio operators to fulfill a couple of the "purposes" of amateur radio, as set forth in Part 97.1 of the amateur radio regulations. Part 97.1(b) says that one of the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is "Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." According to Part 97.1(d), another purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is "Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts."

Let's do it!

When he's not ruminating on the latest wireless technologies, KB6NU likes to make use of some vintage wireless technologies by working CW on the HF bands. He's also a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides). If you have a comment or a question, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Meeting Minutes 12/17/2015

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

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, John W8JRD. Board members absent; Brian W8BDM. 21 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report accepted.
Treasurer's report was accepted. Report shows \$1300 down payment made to Wings Event Center for Hamfest rent.

Committee reports:

Hamfest 2015 – ARRL notified for listing in QST and approval from divisional members has been received. CQ magazine has also been contacted for listing in their events section.

SKYWARN –A radio, an antenna and a power supply for the radio were all delivered to Dave W8RDX, now to find someone to run it.

VE session – No VE session this month. Will resume in February 2016.

Field Day – Hogzilla approved for food next year. We will make sure that the pork is finely shredded.

Tech classes – Terry N8LN and Mike KQ8N will be conducting another Technician class beginning on Monday January 18th, 2016. Classes will be 6 weeks at CRT Systems on Columbia (Terry's business). The classes will end just before the February VE session, as usual.

Note from the editor: If you are interested in the Technician classes, please e-mail Terry (N8LN@arrl.net) or Mike (KQ8N@arrl.net) to make reservations; they need to know how many people to accommodate. Thank you!

Old Business:

Thanks to Stephanie for arranging the Christmas party. All who attended had a good time.

Tech Committee – Nothing to report.

New Business:

Requested any other ideas for Field Day location, just in case the airport is not available. One suggestion was Bailey Park, provided there isn't anything else happening that weekend. Hopefully we can get back to airport.

No presentation this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, acting secretary

SMARS Board Meeting Minutes 12/01/15

Meeting called to order at 17:00
Attendees – Stephanie W8AEZ, Brian W8BDM, Gary N8QC, Tom WR8G, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, John W8JRD
Treasurer's report was submitted and reviewed by board

Report:

Hamfest is coming together very nicely. Table reservations are coming in earlier than before. Planning 50/50 for Clara's Event

Not a lot of interest for VE session in December. Planning to cancel this session.

There will be a club meeting this month.
Silent Key: Jerry Bailey WB8FBJ

Quote of the Meeting: "I am going to have a hard time sleeping not knowing where my baby is."

Meeting adjourned at 17:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

Treasurer's Report:

Income and Expense Statement 12/1/2015 Through 12/31/2015 (Accrual Basis)

INCOME

Donations	632.00
Dues 2016	114.00
Hamfest Inc	
Tables	20.00
Tickets	15.00
TOTAL Hamfest Inc	35.00
TOTAL INCOME	781.00

EXPENSES

Administration	
Corp File	20.00
TOTAL Admin.	20.00
Field Day	
PortaJohn	90.00
TOTAL Field Day	90.00
Hamfest	
Misc	225.00
TOTAL Hamfest	225.00
Meetings	
Refreshments	10.00
TOTAL Meetings	10.00
Recreation	535.47
Utilities	
Internet	39.00
TOTAL Utilities	39.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	919.47

OVERALL TOTAL -138.47

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

- 2M Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 2M DStar 146.79MHz, -600KHz offset
- 70cm Repeater 443.59MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 1.25M Repeater 224.24MHz, -1.6MHz offset
- APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39MHz

70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via echolink.

Other Repeaters

- 2M Repeater 147.12MHz, +600KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2Hz
- 70cm Repeater 442.35MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

<p>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>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</p> <p>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</p>	<p>Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: January 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: January 7th @ 11:30am Siren Test: January 2nd @ 1:00pm Skywarn Coffee: Immediately after Siren Test SMARS Breakfast: January 9th @ 8:30am Technician Class: Mondays @ 6:00pm</p>
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