



FEEDBACK

July 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.

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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New hams are different

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This is going to be a bit of a ramble, but I need to get some thoughts down about new hams, and maybe get some feedback on these ideas from both new hams and guys that have been around for a while.

Recently, I visited the All Hands Active (AHA) makerspace here in Ann Arbor. Several of the "makers" that use this space have recently gotten their ham licenses—most of them in one of my one-day Tech classes. I was down there trying to get them interested in attending Field Day, and in particular, in operating the GOTA station.

There were four of us sitting around, talking about amateur radio, the projects they were working on, Field Day, and other stuff. In the past, they had also expressed an interest in doing something with WA2HOM, our station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. While it was a great discussion, it was apparent to me that it was going to be difficult to get them out for Field.

It dawned on me that these new radio amateurs were just not interested in the "old" amateur radio. Sitting in front of shortwave radios and exchanging fake signal reports with other guys sitting in front of shortwave radios is just not their idea of a good time. I think that if you take a step back and try to look at it through their eyes, you'll see where they're coming from.

What are they interested in? Well, one guy is having a blast playing around with RTL SDR dongles. He's also trying to figure out a way to rig up wireless link to light a light at bus stops around his house when a bus is approaching. Another is working on a Hinternet-type project. I helped him out a little bit last summer setting up a wireless node at his house.

This is perhaps one reason why there are so many more licensed radio amateurs these days, but yet there seems to be less activity on the HF bands these days. HF is just not where it's at for these new guys.

One consequence of this is that the old amateur radio clubs don't have much to offer the new guys. In fact, one of them told me that the one time that he attended the local club meeting, he got such a hostile response that he decided not to return.

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I'm finding this all quite interesting. I do intend to pursue some kind of joint activities between the All Hands Active maker group and WA2HOM and see where that goes.

They may not be interested in working DX on 20m, but they do seem to be interested in the IRLP node that we're in the process of installing there.

I'm not sure where this is all headed, but what I do know is that these folks have a lot of energy and creativity. If we can couple that with our knowledge and experience, then I think that we'll be a good fit for one another. It's going to take open minds all around, though.

I'm really interested in hearing from all of you about this. Have your clubs made contact with the "makers" in your area? Do any of them have ham radio licenses? Are there any interesting ham radio/maker projects going on in your area?

When he's not thinking about the future of amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. 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.

Meeting Minutes 06/19/2014

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. 32 members in attendance total!

Secretary's report accepted.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Committee reports:

Hamfest 2015 – Jay presented the final information provided by Rob Underwood from Wings and asked for the board to make the final determination. The board agreed to the contract. Next up will be the signing of the contract with forwarding of a \$1300.00 check as down payment.

SKYWARN – No one on hand to make a report.

VE session – The next VE session will be held on June 26th. John will be looking for VEs to help. The next HIAD will be held on July 19th at a location to be determined

later. Apparently there will be quite a large crowd to test and the Emmett Township Training Room won't be large enough. Information will be forthcoming.

John, W8JRD mentioned that some new procedures have been instituted by the FCC regarding re-issue of lapsed licenses. The proposals have been published and will become active in 30 days. Information can be found on the ARRL website.

Field Day – The airport location has been approved by the city so we will proceed with setup starting at around 2:00pm on Friday the 27th with contesting from 2:00pm on Saturday through 2:00pm on Sunday. Help will be needed for all tasks. Port – o – john has been arranged as well as banquet food for Saturday night. Doc, Jay and Bev will work on food for Friday/Sunday.

DStar repeater – The antenna cannot be placed on the WBCK tower but the Dispatch Center has approved installation at the Emmett Township Fire Station #2 tower, which is 190' high. A climber has already been contacted for installation.

Old Business: The loss of Lou WB8WXS and Walt K8AEM will be felt deeply by the club. Information regarding memorial donations will be, hopefully, forthcoming.

New Business: License renewal for the W8DF club call sign is due. John and Don will work together to get it done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

Calhoun County SKYWARN Club meeting 06/17/14.

Called to order at 1833. Ken K8QNQ presiding. 30 in attendance.

Financial report – There is about \$800.00 in the checking account.

HIAD – July 17th at a location to be determined. Expecting a large crowd for this one.

Field Day – Two locations again this year. The SKYWARN group will be at Uncle Larry's near 15 Mile Road and the SMARS group will again be at the airport at the intersection of Territorial and Helmer Roads.

The Monday night SKYWARN net control needs some re-

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Hamfests

07/19/2014: GMARC Trunk Swap
Shelby Township, MI
General Motors Amateur Radio Club
<http://gmarc.org>

07/19/2014: NOARSFEST
Elyria, OH
Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
<http://NOARS.net>

07/20/2014: 27th Annual Van Wert Hamfest
Van Wert, OH
Van Wert Amateur Radio Club
<http://w8fy.org>

07/20/2014: KARSFest
Peotone, IL
Kankakee Area Radio Society
<http://w9az.com/karsfest.html>

07/26/2014: 2014 CMARC OUTDOOR HAMFEST
Lansing, MI
Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club
<http://centralmiarc.com>

07/27/2014: Portage Hamfair '14
Randolph, OH
Portage Amateur Radio Club
<http://Hamfair.com>

08/02/2014: Columbus Hamfest/Ohio Section Conference
Columbus, OH
Voice of Aladdin Amateur Radio Club (W8FEZ)
<http://www.columbushamfest.com>

08/02/2014: UP Hamfest 2014
Escanaba, MI
Delta County Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.dcars.org>

08/02/2014: West Central Illinois Hamfest
Carlinville, IL
Macoupin County ARC & Montgomery County AR Emergency Corp
<http://www.k9mce.org>

08/03/2014: Hamfesters Radio Club's 80th Hamfest
Peotone, IL
Hamfesters Radio Club
<http://hamfesters.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
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

Other Area Repeaters: Skywarn/ARES/RACES (WX8BTL)

2 Meter: 147.12, +600KHz offset, PL 186.2
70cm: 442.350, +5MHz offset, PL 94.8



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lief. The call list has grown and calling on all three frequencies ends up taking nearly an hour to complete. As a first attempt all nets will begin on the 147.120 repeater where all will be directed to which frequency will be used that night. Secondly, any station that has not responded for three weeks will be dropped from the list. Any dropped station can be placed back on the list by calling in at the end of any Monday net.

Also discussed was the need for slower checkins for active SKYWARN nets. It becomes overwhelming when all stations pile up. Please take extra time to allow net control to log incoming stations. When active nets are running, the first stations to call in should be those who are available for dispatch.

Judy Robinson has been named the new ARRL/ARES Emergency Coordinator for Calhoun County. Congratulations, Judy.

Meeting adjourned at 1919.

Respectfully submitted, Jay N8ARR.

Board Meeting 07/01/2014

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G, Bev KA8CXS, John W8JRD.

Called to order at 1700.

Treasurer's report was passed around.

Field Day 2014 – Estimated 59 participants at FD this year. This number will be submitted to ARRL. 5 of these were under the age of 16 which brings extra points! Next year the trailers will be spotted farther apart to avoid splatter. The “wireless” connection didn't work as well as expected so we will work on a wired interconnection next year.

It would be nice if we could replace the desktop computers with laptops to prevent loss of data due to a sudden loss of AC power. We should try to find some donations.

John suggested that we should be planning some trailer maintenance during the coming year. Things like wheel bearings and tires should be checked and repaired, if necessary.

It was also suggested that we might consider selling the large generator since we didn't need it this year and the Honda 2000 worked very well. The board agreed to the

Income and Expense Statement

6/1/14 Through 6/30/14

| Category Description | 6/1/14- 6/30/14 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | |
| Dues: 2014 | 10.00 |
| TOTAL Dues | 10.00 |
| Interest Inc: Checking | 0.27 |
| TOTAL Interest Inc | 0.27 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 10.27 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Administration: PO BOX | 31.00 |
| TOTAL Administration | 31.00 |
| Equipment: Maintenance | 41.73 |
| TOTAL Equipment | 41.73 |
| Field Day: Fuel | 19.50 |
| Misc | 4.76 |
| Field Day-Other | 0.00 |
| TOTAL Field Day | 24.26 |
| Meetings: Refreshments | 28.31 |
| TOTAL Meetings | 28.31 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 125.30 |
| TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES | -115.03 |

sale of the old generator and a price of \$300 was agreed upon. It will be posted in the Feedback and spread by word of mouth. Another 2000 would cost about \$1000, perhaps less and we should consider the extended fuel system which draws fuel from any size tank. This prevents having to fill the small tank while the generator is running.

Hamfest 2015 – The 50% down payment check was cut and will be delivered to Rob Underwood along with a signed contract. (Update – done on July 2nd.)

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HIAD – July 19th is the scheduled date although no site has been reported yet. There are rumors that some 50 people from the southeast region of Michigan might attend but that is not confirmed.

Chad Hayes has requested a special HIAD just for his AuxComm people in August but this has not been approved or scheduled at this time. John will be out of state for a while and can't organize anyway.

There has also been a request for another HIAD for a group from Barry Co. No other info is available at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 1806.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

Extracted from the Michigan Section News

W1AW/8 is coming back to Michigan!

Following in the footsteps of the successful February operation coordinated by AA8R, I have the distinct privilege to coordinate the second Michigan operation of W1AW/8. This is an opportunity for all Michigan Amateurs to operate from their own station using this special ARRL Centennial callsign.

Operation starts at 0000Z on October 15, 2014 and ends at 2359Z on October 21, 2014. Each Operation/Operator may sign up for as many 2hour slots as they wish. Available modes are CW, SSB, RTTY, & PSK31.

Amateurs from around the world will be using our schedule to determine when they can work us.

This operation is meant to be fun, and to showcase our great state. However, like any other organized operation, there are some guidelines for everyone to follow.

To sign up, each operator must agree to the following:

No paper logs are accepted, only electronic logs in ADIF format using a prescribed naming index within 24 hours of completing your slot(s)

Sign up for operating slots is on-line only

Each operator must only operate for those times/band slots which they have reserved, do not run over your time even if there's a pile up!

If the next slot is open, take a break, reserve the next slot, and start again.

Manage your pile-ups and have fun!

Tom, K8TB, is managing a website where there will be information to assist the operators. There's a link to the online schedule here as well. This is a work in progress, so check back often:

www.k8tb.org/w1aw.htm

In order to obtain a login, please email Dennis, KT8X, at dward8@gmail.com. In the email subject please indicate W1AW/8 Login Request and provide the following information in your email:

Call

First and Last Name

Phone Number where you can be reached while you are operating W1AW/8

Email address

QTH (Town/City & County)

Grid Square (ENxx)

I will do my best to respond in 24 hours with a password you can use to login, log instructions, and link to our W1AW/8 Operators Facebook group. You will also be subscribed to an email listserv we will use to communicate with everyone.

From the editor

I have received complaints about portions of the newsletter being unreadable do to missing characters. In order to diagnose this problem, please let me know if while reading the PDF version of the newsletter you have any missing characters, square boxes in place of a character or any other problems with the print.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

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

Upcoming events:

Club meeting: July 17th @ 7:00 PM

VE Testing: July 19th @ 3:00 PM

Siren test: August 2nd @ 1:00 PM

SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test

SMARS Breakfast: August 9th @ 8:30 AM

BLB Lunch: August 14th @ 11:30 AM