



FEEDBACK

June 2017

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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Growing the Ranks vs. Growing the Enjoyment

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Because I teach amateur radio classes and publish a series of popular amateur radio license study guides www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/, I often get kudos for "growing the ranks." In fact, Gordon West, WB6NOA, told me this just last week, when he stopped by the booth I was in at the Dayton Hamvention. I'm paraphrasing a little, but after telling me that he's heard good things about my study guides, he said something like, "You're doing good work in helping get more people into ham radio."

People say that as if this is—or should be—the ultimate goal of teaching a license class. While this may be one of the goals, if that's your primary goal, I think that you're barking up the wrong tree.

In a way, creating more hams is selfish. If there are more licensed amateur radio operators, they say, then amateur radio will have more political clout with the FCC and with Congress, making it easier to pass legislation like the Amateur Radio Parity Act. While this may certainly help the new ham down the line, its main thrust is to reduce restrictions on those who are currently hams.

My goal in teaching amateur radio classes isn't to create more hams. Instead, my goal is to help more people have fun with ham radio. The first step in helping people have fun with ham radio is, of course, helping them get their license. I do that by publishing my study guides and teaching ham classes.

The next step, and I'm only really getting started on this right now, is to help people learn what they need to know to become better ham radio operators. That's why I got a little excited when I saw the article, "Making a Good hobby Better Through Post-Licensing Enrichment" by Tim Busch, N0CKR in the latest issue of Radio Waves, the ARRL's email newsletter for amateur radio instructors.

In the article, Tim describes several activities that his club encourages, including a "new ham net" and the Field Day GOTA station, but he also details a program of "mini classes" that will teach specific skills related to ham radio. These include:

- * Programming Radios and Getting on the Air
- * Soldering 101
- * Multimeter 101
- * Build and Use a Roll-Up J-Pole Antenna
- * Build and Use a Satellite Antenna
- * Foxhunts
- * Operating Digital Modes: IRLP, AllStar, D-Star, EchoLink, etc.
- * Remote Operation

- * Software-Defined Radios
- * Transitioning from VHF/UHF to HF Operating
- * Chasing Awards
- * Learn CW
- * Contesting

Tim writes, "Each class is intended to be no more than two hours at a sitting, so they can be held before a monthly club meeting. The variety of subject matter allows many club members to get involved in leading a topic. Materials kits are prepared in advance, so students walk away with practical items they can use at home."

I think this is a great set of classes, and I plan to try some of these in the fall. A couple of other topics that occur to me are:

- * Power Supplies 101
- * Mobile Operation 101
- * ARRL 101
- * RFI/TVI 101

Helping new hams—and old hams—have more fun with amateur radio is a lot more satisfying to me than just "growing the ranks." It would be nice to say that we have a million licensed radio amateurs in the U.S., but I think it would be a lot more valuable to the hobby to say that a larger percentage of licensed hams were active and enjoying ham radio. I know that, for me, increasing the number of active, engaged hams would be more personally satisfying than simply creating a lot of new licensees.

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When he's not working on helping new hams, Dan operates CW on the HF bands and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. If you have a good idea for a new ham "mini class," e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Meeting Minutes 05/18/2017

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

Officers present – Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay N8ARR. Gary & Tom in Xenia for Hamvention. 24 members in attendance total.

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

Committee reports:

Field Day – Members were presented with Ft. Custer as the location for this year's FD and no objections were heard. Paperwork has been submitted by Smokey.

SKYWARN – There was 100% coverage of all sirens. One siren did not rotate as it should have. The upcoming ham needs include the Breakfast Table on June 9th and 10th.

Russ' equipment auction will be held July 8th at 10:00 at 6931 S. Dorsey in Baldwin. Photos of equipment can be found on the website of Stanton-Auctions.com. There are 142 pictures of what is up for auction!

MSPOTA – There were 22 people who signed in to help with 6 operators who got 111 contacts in 29 states. A great time was had by all.

New Business:

Repeater – The phone pole came down at some time in the past. Don called ATT who claimed it wasn't their pole. They then agreed to bury the cable and that was done 5/15. The computer power supply needs to be changed out soon. Don will handle.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

Calhoun County SKYWARN Club meeting 05/16/17.

Called to order at 1830. Brett KD8RHB presiding. 14 in attendance total.

No treasurer's report but nothing has changed from last meeting.

Siren Test – 100% coverage of sirens and one siren did not rotate as it should have.

Brett is working on getting our next meeting to be held at Channel 3 weather station with Keith Thompson. All members will be notified by email regarding his success. That meeting will be on June 20th.

As there was no set agenda, we went around the room to see if anyone had anything to offer.

Don KB9IAR mentioned that the Great Lakes Emergency Traffic net is on each night @ 8:30 on 3932. On Mondays only the SATERN net is held (no

info on frequency).

Smokey N5MKY reported that MSPOTA was successful with 111 contacts in 29 states! Thanks to all who helped set up and tear down and to those who made the contacts.

Jim W8JMZ reported that the Radar 88 software is always being updated.

Terry N8LN reported that an antenna and coax are ready in Summerville, just awaiting frequency co-ordination.

Max KD8TWB reported that FD at Uncle Larry's will have trailers hauled out. Also the week of Calhoun County Fair (Aug 13th) will require operators for usual communications work.

Jay N8ARR reported that SMARS is planning to have FD at the equestrian area as MSPOTA. Paperwork has been submitted to Custer for approval.

Tracy KE8EBY introduced herself.

Meeting adjourned at 1912.

Respectfully submitted, Jay N8ARR, SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting 06/06/2017

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

Others present: Kyle W8KDB, Scott AC8PS, Don W8RVT.

Called to order at 1730.

Treasurer's report by statement: \$5809 and change.

Field Day – Need heavy trucks for trailer delivery. Kyle can deliver on Friday but is not available for retrieval on Sunday. A food list is being prepared by Jay and he will acquire the majority of the needs. Catering for Saturday afternoon will be handled through The Dig In Café in Augusta. Jay will make arrangements.

Those who wish to attend who do not have a current State Park Passport can purchase one from the Headquarters Office.

Meeting adjourned at 1807.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

Treasurers Report

May-17 Income and Expenses

Dividend

0.05

Income

20.00
dues

Expenses

69.00
ATT

20.00
refreshments

Total Expenses
89.00

Net
-68.95

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

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 443.95MHz, +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

<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: Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 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 Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: June 15th @ 7:30pm Field Day: June 24th - 25th Board Meeting: July 4th @ 5:30pm BLB Luncheon: July 6th @ 11:30am SMARS Breakfast: July 8th @ 8:30am</p>
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