



# FEEDBACK



June 2018

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor ([w8aez@arrl.net](mailto:w8aez@arrl.net)) and get it published in FEEDBACK!

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell, purchase or swap amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.

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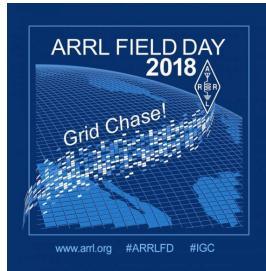
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## ARRL Field Day 2018 June 23rd-24<sup>th</sup>

### Come Join the Fun!

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held each year on the fourth weekend in June in the United States and Canada. It's estimated that over 35,000 radio amateurs participate with clubs, in small groups, or individually in this event. Field Day is not only a time for HAMS to showcase their talents and practice their emergency response capabilities, but it is also a time for camaraderie and friendly competition!

The S.M.A.R.S. club will hold this year's Field Day event at the [Fort Custer Recreation Area](#) – the same location as last year's event. Set-up will begin Friday, June 22nd at 3:00pm. Operations will begin at 2:00pm on Saturday and continue until 2:00pm Sunday. Club members are invited to gather at the Field Day site for dinner Saturday evening, courtesy of [OT's Up-N-Smoke BBQ](#) and N8ARR.

Field Day is a family friendly event and the public is invited to drop to observe HAMS in action or get on the air. Robert KI4OZJ is expected to bring his new trailer to run the GOTA (Get On The Air) station.

All who are available to assist with set-up and tear-down are encouraged to turn out and lend a hand. We look forward to seeing you and many more this weekend!



Smokey N5MKY and Max KD8TWB on the air at SMARS Field Day 2017

## Upcoming Radio Contests

Looking for a little action on the airwaves? You might want to check out these upcoming contests!

**RAC Canada Day Contest** – CW, Dig  
7/01/2018  
<http://wp.rac.ca/>

**10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party** – CW, Ph, Dig  
7/02 – 7/08/2018  
<http://www.ten-ten.org/>

**IQRP Quarterly Marathon**–CW,Ph,Dig  
7/02 – 7/08-2018  
<http://arimontebelluna.it/>

**RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship** – CW  
7/02/2018  
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf>

**NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest** – CW,Ph, Dig  
7/05/2018  
<http://nrau.net/activity-contests>

**Venezuelan Independence Day Contest** – CW, Ph, Dig  
7/07/2018  
<http://yv5rcv.org/reglasindep.aspx>

**Marconi Memorial HF Contest** - CW  
7/07 – 7/08/2018  
<http://www.arifano.it/>

**4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint**– CW, Ph  
7/09/2018  
<http://www.4sqrp.com/>

**RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship** - Ph  
6/28/2018  
[www.rsgbcc.org/hf](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf)

**IARU HF World Championship** – CW, Dig  
7/14 – 7/15/2018  
<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

*\*A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*



## Operating Notes: FIFA on the Air, calling weak stations

june 16, 2018 by dan kb6nu

Last night on 30m, I worked four different World Cup special event stations:

- SE18FWC
- R18TUN
- RU18WC
- DJ9FWC

When you add YW18FWC that I worked a couple of days ago, that makes five different World Cup special event stations so far. It's too bad that they didn't all get together somehow and offer a special certificate for working a certain number of them.

### Calling weak stations

About a month ago, I asked on Twitter:



@kb6nu

If #hamradio propagation wasn't that good, but you were calling CQ anyway, would you want someone to answer even though they were weak and you had to really work at copying them?

Most of the 22 replies were in the affirmative:

"Any QSO is worth chasing. I would appreciate someone working to pull me out of the mud so I should make the same efforts."

"100% yes, definitely. Patience and perseverance are very important parts of the ham spirit."

"Absolutely, this is exactly the fun part of #hamradio. Otherwise we may as well all use Skype ;)"

"Weak signal beats no signal anytime."

One guy was a little less enthusiastic, but even he said:

"Yes. But, it drives me nuts to have someone running QRP make me struggle when he is not struggling."

What do you think?

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Meeting Minutes 05/17/2018

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

**Officers present** – Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Jay N8ARR, Jan W8JKG. 16 members in attendance total, basically due to many members attending Hamvention in Dayton/Xenia.

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

### Committee reports

**HAMFEST 2019** – The Wings Event Center has been retained for the March 16th event. A chairperson must be found soon. Also have to make a decision about changing the entry fee for attendees. It has been suggested the ticket price should be increased to \$7.00. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

**SKYWARN** – The next siren test will be handled using the Simplex frequency of 146.440. This will replace the planned SET. Jim W8JMJZ presented information about storm radar apps and computer software. Please refer to the SKYWARN minutes for details

**VE Report** – April session had several successful candidates who traveled from South Bend, Grand Rapids and Lansing. The next session for us will be in June on the 28th. **This will be the last session before the change to the Tech question pool.** Kalamazoo will have a session on May 19th.

**Field Day** – The weekend of June 23 and 24. Setup on Friday beginning at 1500. We will need one vehicle to tow the third trailer. We will approach Terry to see if he can provide that vehicle. Smokey is planning on renting a cabin during that weekend if anyone would like to bunk with. The cabin can sleep 4. The food will be provided by OT's Barbeque in Augusta. Plans are for pulled port, baked beans, mac and cheese and cole slaw.

**MSPOTA** – Only one more year of the outings is scheduled. Smokey would like to have the next one coincide with the Michigan QSO party which is the third full weekend of April. In 2019 that means setup on April 19th, operate from noon to midnight on the 21st and teardown on Sunday the 22nd. These dates happen to be the same as Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

### New Business

Tom WR8G brought a couple of things from the estate of K8CIS. Free to new home. All were taken.

Discussion was opened regarding increased dues. It was decided to increase to \$15 instead of \$20. Tom will compose the amendment to the constitution.

Meeting adjourned at 2000.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

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## Board Meeting 6/05/2018

**Officers present** -Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR.

**Others present** -Tom WR8G, Smokey N5MKY, Don W8RVT.

Called to order at 1730.

**Field Day** – Smokey reports that the potholes leading into the FD area should be filled by the weekend. The area should also be mowed just before we need it. We are allowed up to 5 campers on the site. Jay will have his motorhome and Steph may bring her camper. Robert KI4OZJ is expected to bring his new trailer to run the GOTA station.

O.T.'s has been contacted for Saturday night catering and the food has been ordered and paid for. We will pick it up on Saturday afternoon at 4:30 at the Augusta outlet.

## Board Meeting 6/05/2018 (continued)

### Field Day – (continued)

The Generac 1000W generator has been started and it works very well. We need to contact Gary to see if we can borrow his Honda generator to be sure we have enough to power all trailers and radios.

The bad brakes on UHF 3 trailer have been replaced. Only the bad ones have been done, Jay is waiting until after FD since the work can take longer than we might have to accomplish it. Signs will be changed from 4AB to 4A for inside each trailer.

Three tow vehicles have been “secured:” Kyle, Terry and Tom W. have vehicles that can tow the trailers.

There is a general meeting on Thursday just before the setup day on the 22nd.

**Repeater/Echolink problems** – The internet at the repeater site has been down for a while. When Don investigated, it was found that some ATT installation had cut the internet cable to the site. ATT was contacted and they eventually dropped a temporary cable on the ground which returned the operation. However, when they came back to bury the new cable, they somehow cut it, too! It was eventually repaired to our satisfaction. Don also demanded and got a discount because of the downtime.

Don also reported that he would like to find someone who is willing to take over the work he is doing on computer repairs and repeater site management. Here is an opportunity for someone with matching skills.

Meeting adjourned at 1818.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

Are you running out of coax and connectors for that antenna project? Do you have some equipment that you're looking to sell? Maybe you're just looking for a road trip and some camaraderie? Check out these upcoming events!

**06/17/2018**

### Monroe Hamfest

Location: Monroe, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Monroe County Radio Communications Association

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

**07/28/2018**

### Central Michigan ARC Hamfest

Location: Lansing, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

Website:

<http://www.centralmiarc.com/outdoorhamfest.php>

## Ham Humor



Classic Field Day cartoon by  
Philip "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD

# **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 146.79 MHz, -600 KHz offset

\*1.25m Repeater 224.240 MHz, -1.6 MHz offset

APRS Digipeater/igate, 144.39 MHz

\*70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

70cm DStar Repeater 442.7625 MHz, +5 MHz offset

**\*Note:** 70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via Echolink.

## **Other Repeaters**

2m Repeater 147.120 MHz, +600 KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

<p><b>Club Meeting</b>  3rd Thursday of every month  Maple United Methodist Church  342 Capital Avenue NE  Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b>  1st Saturday of every month  Immediately after Siren Test  Coney Island, N.E. Capital  Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>BLB Luncheon</b>  1st Thursday of every month  Coney Island, 962 Capital  Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b>  2nd Saturday of every month  Coney Island, 962 Capital  Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p><b>SMARS Nets:</b>  Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 MHz  Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 MHz  Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz  Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 /443.95 MHz  Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 MHz  Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz</p> <p><b>Other Nets:</b>  Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p>Club Meeting: June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm  *<b>ARRL Field Day</b>: June 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>  VE Session: June 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm  Board Meeting: July 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:30pm  BLB Luncheon: July 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am  Club Breakfast: July 14<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am  Club Meeting: July 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm</p>
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