



# FEEDBACK

March 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.

You don't have to be a professional writer, or even a writer at all. If you're comfortable with writing, great! If not, relate the story in the fashion that you are comfortable with and let the editor do the rest.

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

Please take special note of the date: March 14, 2015 at 9:26:53. Why, consider that  $PI = 3.141592653 \dots$

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## VE Notes 03/02/2014

The VE team has been active since the last report. Surprising those of us who thought noone would come out on the date after Christmas, we had seven candidates show up to try for their Technician licenses and one trying for his Extra. Everybody left with smiles and new licenses. The January 25th session held in conjunction with the Skywarn Club "Ham in a Day" had four new Technicians tested. The session held on February 27th was a busy one with eleven candidates. Nine new Techs, a General, and a new Extra successfully tested that evening.

Many thanks go out to the VEs who came out on sometimes really bad weather for these sessions. I'd thank each of them individually, but with my memory I'd miss somebody, so I'll give a group thanks.

Speaking of the VE team members, the SMARS sponsored VE sessions are blessed with an abundance of VEs, including an all YL VE squad consisting of:



(Left to Right)  
**Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ**  
**Janice Goodson, W8JKG**  
**Beverly Williams, KA8CXS**  
**Rosemary Davidson, WA8VXE**

The next VE session will be at the Crossroads Hamfest 10am on March 15, 2014.

Until the next time,  
 73, W8JRD  
 John Davidson  
 SMARS VE Team Liaison



### Board of Directors

#### President

Gary Williams, N8QC  
n8qc@arrl.net

#### Vice President

Dave "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY

#### Secretary

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR  
n8arr@hughes.net

#### Treasurer

Don Larkin, W8RVT  
w8rvt@arrl.net

#### Member At Large

Tom Goodson, WR8G  
wr8g@arrl.net

### Club Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month  
Maple United Methodist Church  
342 Capital Avenue NE  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

#### Next Meeting

March 20th @ 7 PM

### SKYWARN Coffee

1st Saturday of every month  
Immediately after Siren Test  
Coney Island, N.E. Capital  
Battle Creek, MI

#### Next Meeting

April 5th

### BLB Luncheon

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

#### Next meeting

March 13th, April 10th @ 11:30  
AM

### SMARS Breakfast

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

#### Next Meeting

April 12th @ 8:30 AM

## Meeting Minutes 02/20/2014

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. 30 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report accepted.

Treasurer's report accepted, with \$0.11 correction.

Committee reports:

SKYWARN – Doc made a short presentation about the most recent meeting and invited others to attend. Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Emmett Township Hall on Cliff St. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

Dave W8RDX mentioned that he would like to hold an antenna building class to build a dual band J-Pole using a kit from Arrow. Each kit will cost \$40.00 and can be assembled with simple hand tools.

Field Day – We need to do some maintenance on the trailers before Field Day occurs. There is much cleaning that has to happen and some repairs have to be made. Perhaps if there is ever another warm weekend, we can gather to get this to happen.

VE session – Next session is February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Maple Methodist Church. 8 to 10 candidates are expected. There will also be another session at the Hamfest on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: The DStar controller is due in on Tuesday. It should be on the air around Friday the 28<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: John W8JRD has forms for the Ann Arbor radio club's bus trip to Dayton Hamvention.

Don W8RVT suggested all hams check out the video about the ARRL Centennial. This video is about 25 minutes long and is reported to be worth watching. It can also be found on You Tube.

Dave W8RDX inquired as to how many in attendance would be interested in another fox hunt. There was some interest. Dave also inquired as to how many would be interested in a class to make directional antennas for same. Again, there was some interest. This will be pursued later.

(Continued on page 4)

### Hamfests

03/08/2014: Terre Haute Hamfest & Computer Expo  
 Terre Haute, IN  
 Wabash Valley ARA  
<http://www.w9uuu.org>

**03/15/2014: Crossroads Hamfest**  
**Marshall, MI**  
**Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society**  
<http://www.w8df.com>

03/16/2014: HAMFEST 2014  
 Jefferson, WI  
 Tri-County ARC (W9MQB)  
<http://www.w9mqb.org>

03/16/2014: TMRA Hamfest & Computer Fair  
 Perrysburg, OH  
 Toledo Mobile Radio Association  
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

03/22/2014: MOVARC's Hamfest  
 Gallipolis, OH  
 Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club  
<https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>

03/29/2014: 31st Annual Columbus ARC Hamfest  
 Columbus, IN  
 Columbus Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.carcnet.org>

04/05/2014: AES Superfest 2014  
 Milwaukee, WI  
 Amateur Electronic Supply  
<http://www.aesham.com>

04/05/2014: Portsmouth Radio Club Hamfest  
 Portsmouth, OH  
 Portsmouth Radio Club  
<http://www.portsmouthradioclub.org>

04/12/2014: Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 60th Annual Hamfest  
 Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
 Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2014.php>

04/12/2014: Madison Hamfest  
 Stoughton, WI  
 Madison Area Repeater Association  
<http://www.qsl.net/mara>

### Income and Expense Statement

2/1/14 Through 2/28/14

Category Description	2/1/14- 2/28/14
<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations	10.00
Dues:	
2014	163.00
<b>TOTAL Dues</b>	<b>163.00</b>
Hamfest Inc:	
Electric	45.00
Tables	610.00
<b>TOTAL Hamfest Inc</b>	<b>655.00</b>
Sales:	
Equipment	75.00
<b>TOTAL Sales</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>903.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	0.00
Hamfest:	
Facility	600.00
<b>TOTAL Hamfest</b>	<b>600.00</b>
Meetings:	
Refreshments	21.57
<b>TOTAL Meetings</b>	<b>21.57</b>
Utilities:	
Telephone	84.11
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<b>84.11</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>705.68</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>197.32</b>

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

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

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

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.

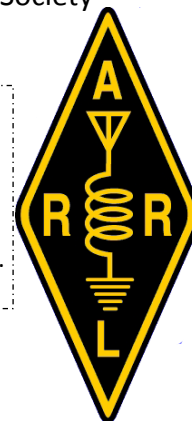
W8DF-5 144.39Mhz Digipeater/Igate  
 Find it on [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi)

#### Other Area Repeaters:

#### Skywarn/ARES/RACES (WX8BTL)

2 Meter: 147.12, +600KHz offset, PL 186.2

70cm: 442.350, +5MHz offset, PL 94.8



*(Continued from page 2)*

Hamfest 2014 – Tickets are being bundled. 62 tables have been sold to date. 6 people are needed on the front door for ticket sales. Volunteers step up for kitchen help. Also going to pursue a hand stamp for those leaving and re-entering.

Setup will begin a 2:00 p.m. on Friday. Someone has to be found to run the PA system. Don will check for the location of the WOWO board and markers. It may have been left at the MAC. Volunteers are requested to bring handcarts if they have any.

Meeting adjourned at 1940.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

## **W8DF/R 146.79/19**

I am reluctant to submit this article to FEEDBACK because when I asked at last months meeting how many read the article, only **TWO** hands went up. Guess Ill do it anyway to see what got published.

The **W8DR/R 146.79/19 Digital/D-Star** repeater came to life at 1:30 AM Wed, Feb 26. As expected, antenna location produces limited range and duplexer tuning issues surfaced. The gateway appears to be setup properly and allows any connection to anywhere in the world, both incoming and outgoing. Significant range improvement is expected in the very near future. Kudos to N8LN and KQ8N for getting us here!

Don-W8RVT

## **Board Meeting 03/04/2014**

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR, Tom WR8G, Stephanie W8AEZ, John W8JRD, Bev WA8CXS.

Treasurer's report was passed around.

A motion was put forth to provide \$2,000 for ticket sellers. Passed.

Hamfest 2014 – Tom mentioned that last year some

attendees had requested chips be available from the kitchen. He and Jan will pick up some boxes of mixed chips to have them available this year. Don has visited the MAC and made the last payment and looked at the parking lot situation. The paved area has been well cleared and some of the east grassy area has also been plowed. He talked with Dan Strubel, manager of the MAC about further plowing and an agreement was reached that more can be plowed if the club picks up half the added cost. (Post meeting, Jay spoke with Dan Strubel regarding the plowing and Dan agreed to try to get the NW corner plowed for trailer parking, although he said it might be difficult because of the height of the snow already there, but he will work on it. Also, Dan said that he is working on access to the parking lot next door, west of the MAC, but there isn't a good path between the two sites. We might park the club members there and shuttle them? Dan suggested that we might bring some shovels and create a walking path between the two lots. Anyone interested?)

Digital repeater – The cavities need to be tuned. The repeater works well at low power but when raised to high power (25W) it isn't very sensitive. Don will look into this soon. The gateway and everything else is working fine. We have received reports that the Charlotte node is having troubles connecting.

Meeting adjourned at 1745.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

## **Calhoun County SKYWARN Club meeting 02/18/14.**

Called to order at 1845. Ken K8QNQ presiding.

Financial report – the last HIAD brought \$175 income. Out of that, \$38.76 was spent on lunch, \$90.00 spent for VE attendance, and \$8.75 supplies. There is \$726.18 in the account.

HAM101 – there was a good turnout at the Emmett Twp. Hall for the most recent gathering and very positive feedback was received from the attendees.

HIAD – 4 new Technician licenses granted and 1 upgrade. The next HIAD is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>. There have

been 89 new Technicians and 13 General upgrades through HIAD since the beginning 2 years ago.

SKYWARN101 – March 29<sup>th</sup> at Lakeview Middle School. A plan was proposed that would offer SKYWARN identity cards after the training. Something will be designed using VistaPrint online. Some help is requested for registration.

Antenna build class – Dave W8RDX would like to generate interest in an antenna building class to build some J-Pole kits from Arrow. The kits can be purchased for about \$40 each and bolt together to create a dual band portable/fixed antenna. He would like to build on April 26<sup>th</sup> if there is enough interest. Registration for the class is done with a \$40.00 check.

Matt Parker, Calhoun Co. Sheriffs office – Nothing to report.

Judy KD8SHK presented information regarding legislation pending in Lansing (SB493) that would prohibit local zoning boards from restricting Amateur Radio towers on private land.

Mention of the Hamfest March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted, Jay N8ARR.

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**FOR SALE**

- Kenwood TM241 \$85
- Kenwood TM231 \$75
- Kenwood TM231 \$75

All three include Microphone and mounting bracket and function according to spec

- KDK FM2030 \$35
- Kenwood TR7800 \$35

These transceivers are great for APRS They both include an interface cable to plug into a TinyTrak3 or TinyTrak4. Also included is a Mic. The radios do not produce a CTCSS tone which is not used for APRS.

2 each Kenwood TS440SAT  
 One is very clean (9 of 10) and will go to the hamfest at

\$475. One has a couple scratches (7 of 10) and will go to hamfest at \$465. Both are in excellent operating condition and have the internal auto tuner.

**Contact W8RVT Don on any SMARS repeater or w8rvt@arrl.net or (ugh) 269 963-7797.**

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 Hewlett Packard model HP 8640B Signal Generator, without probes, \$125.00

Ameritron ALS-600 Solid -State no-tune FET Amplifier. 160m through 10m (with add-on module for 12m and 10m on "Aux" frequency setting, \$1,000.00

Yaesu FT-857 HF-VHF-UHF All-mode Transceiver, \$550.00

All of the items have been checked over by a local HAM and have been verified to be in working order. **Please contact W8AEZ at 269-924-9680 or W8JRD at 269-339-1908 if interested.**

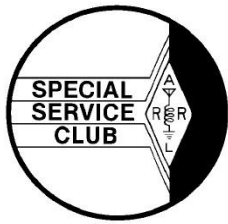
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 2 IBM ThinkCenter PCs with:  
 512MB RAM  
 40GB HD  
 CD-ROM Drive  
 Windows XP with SP1  
 Keyboard & Mouse.  
 \$50 each  
**Call Tom Goodson, WR8G at 269-962-8007**

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 Don Prosser, KB9IAR, sent me the following link:  
<http://www.hamuniverse.com/kd8jzp2mbobtail.html>  
 The link is to an article by John Michael Sadler, KD8JZP, about a "Bobtail" 2 Meter antenna. This is a fairly simple to build alternative when a J-Pole or similar antenna just won't get the job done. This is a directional antenna with a claimed gain of 10db over a standard 1/4 wave antenna. —WR8G



# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

## FEEDBACK



### ARRL membership: Is 25% asking too much?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In the March 2014 issue of QST, ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, makes a big deal of the fact that ARRL membership is now up to 162,200 members and is growing at a rate of about 1% per year. After patting the ARRL on the back about this, WJ1B launches into a discussion of the different programs that WJ1B feels have contributed to the membership growth.

Let's take another look at the numbers, though. As the editorial points out, 10,300 ARRL members are international members, meaning that 151,900 U.S. hams are ARRL members. Another article in the March issue, "New Licenses," notes that the total number of licensed radio amateurs at the end of 2013 was 717,201. If you do the math, you'll find that only slightly more than one in five licensed radio amateurs are ARRL members. I personally don't think that's so hot, and it's certainly not worthy of all the self-congratulation going on in this editorial.

The licensing article also points out that "the amateur radio population in the US grew by slightly more than 1 percent last year." That

being the case, ARRL membership has grown at about the same rate. If all the programs noted in WJ1B's editorial were so effective, wouldn't you expect membership growth to be at least 2%?

I've said this before, and I'll say it again. I think the ARRL should set a goal to enroll at least 25% of licensed radio amateur as members. I think that this is achievable, and it seems to me that any group calling itself "the national organization for amateur radio" should have at least one in four amateur radio licensees as part of its membership.

What do you think? Is reaching 25% asking too much? If you think I'm right, please reach out to your ARRL division director and tell him so. More members would mean that the ARRL could deliver more services and have more clout in Washington. That sounds like a good thing to me.

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When he's not worrying about ARRL membership, 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](http://KB6NU.Com) or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

#### 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:

**BLB Lunch: March 13th @ 11:30 AM**  
**Crossroads Hamfest: March 15th, 8AM - Noon**  
**VE Testing: March 15th @ 10:00 AM**  
**Club meeting: March 20th @ 7:00 PM**  
**Siren test: April 5th @ 1:00 PM**  
**SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test**  
**BLB Lunch: April 10th @ 11:30 AM**  
**SMARS Breakfast: April 12th @ 8:30 AM**