



FEEDBACK

May 2015

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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What Would You Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

For the past three or four years, I've been threatening to buy a new radio to replace my ICOM IC-746PRO. The IC-746PRO is a great rig, though, and I've had trouble pulling the trigger on a \$3k – \$5k or more purchase. The radio that I've had my eye on is the Elecraft K3. Without a doubt the K3 is a better rig than the 746PRO, and it's certainly worth the price that Elecraft is asking. The question I keep asking myself, though, is, "Am I going to have \$5,000 more fun with a K3?"

To put it another way, the question is, assuming that I have a \$5,000 budget to spend on amateur radio gear over the next year or two or three, what's the best way to spend it? How can I maximize my purchases so that I have the most fun?

At this point, I think that I've decided not to buy that new rig and instead buy equipment that will help me make my own rigs. Some of the items that I have my eye on include:

- * Aoyue 968A+ SMD Digital Hot Air Rework Station (I have actually already purchased this unit.)
- * Rigol DS1102E 100MHz, Dual Channel, 1 GSa/s Digital Oscilloscope
- * Rigol DSA815-TG Spectrum Analyzer
- * A more professional workbench to replace the folding table that I'm currently using.
- * Peaberry SDR V2 Kit
- * More keys! I'd love to get a fancy Begali or N3ZN paddle, and the other day someone told me about the UR5CDX keys, which look like great deals.

Even if I purchased everything on this list, I'll have spent less than \$5,000.

One consequence of going this route is that I'll have less time for operating. I'm betting (hoping?) that the extra time spent on tinkering will be just as much fun, or even more fun than I'm having now.

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It also means that I'll be going to Dayton with a much different mindset than I have the past couple of years. Instead of spending my time configuring the perfect K3 in my head, I'll be looking for kits and scouring the flea market looking for parts.

I may be overthinking this, but like most amateurs, I have a limited budget to spend on amateur radio. That being the case, making conscious decisions about how to spend that money should help me have more fun with ham radio, and that's the goal, isn't it?

What do you think? Is this the right way to go, or am I going to regret this decision? If you've made a similar decision, I'd love to hear from you.

When not making crucial decisions about his amateur radio career, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Board Meeting 5/05/2015

Attendees: Steph W8AEZ, Jay N8ARR, Gary N8QC, Brian W8BDM, Tom WR8G, Diane KD8WXA
Officers absent: John W8JRD, Don W8RVT

Called to order at 1700.

Treasurer's report was not available.

Repeater – Regarding the Yaesu DR-1 digital/FM repeaters, the first one(2m) is here and is being given to Don for checkout.

Field Day (June 27th and 28th) – Application for Field Day has been submitted. Still need to contact Hog-Zilla and order a Pot-a-Potty. Plan is to setup on Friday afternoon with Hot Dog and Hamburgers in the evening. Saturday the plan is for Cold-Cuts for Lunch and Pork for Dinner. Sunday we are on our own for meals. And our course, the plan is to make as many contacts as possible.

VE session – Next session (June 25th) is going to be right before Field Day.

Quote of the meeting: "If we were smart, we would prac-

tice our Morse code before field day"

Meeting adjourned at 1735.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Marsh
W8BDM

FOR SALE

KENWOOD TS450SAT Has Internal Auto-tuner \$450
KENWOOD TS440SAT Has Internal Auto-tuner \$425
KENWOOD TS440S No internal Auto-tuner \$325

Contact W8RVT-Don
269 963-7797
w8rvt@arrl.net

Income and Expense Statement 4/1/2015 Through 4/30/2015 (Accrual Basis)

Category Description	4/1/2015-4/30/2015
EXPENSES	
Hamfest	
Administration	513.79
Facility	1,420.00
TOTAL Hamfest	1,933.79
Utilities	
Internet	30.00
Telephone	36.47
TOTAL Utilities	66.47
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,000.26
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,000.26

Meeting Minutes 4/16/15

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions
Officers present – Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Brian W8BDM, Diane KD8WXA
24 members in attendance total.
Secretary's report was accepted, as read.
Treasurer's report was not available.

Committee reports:

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- Hamfest 2015 – Nothing to report
- SKYWARN – Testing that occurred today (4/16) went very well.
- Field Day 2015 – Jay (N8ARR) planning to go to city hall on Tuesday 4/21 to make arrangements/reservations for Field Day.
- VE session –This month’s testing session will be on Thursday April 23rd at 7pm.

Old Business: It was reported that the 440 repeater was ordered. Nothing new to report on the 2m repeater that is also on order. A decision was made that we will not be participating in the Kingman Museum event.

New Business: Discussed inviting the Young Marines group to participate in Field Day to give them the exposure to Amateur Radio that they requested. They are Ages 8-18.

Presentation: None – Adjourned (very) early

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

Hamfests

06/06/2015: Fulton County ARC Hamfest
Tedrow, OH
Fulton County Amateur Radio Club
<http://k8bxq.org>

06/06/2015: Independent Repeater Association (W8IRA/R) Hamfest
Hudsonville, MI
Independent Repeater Association
<http://www.w8ira.org>

06/07/2015: Chelsea Radio Swap 'n Shop
Chelsea, MI
Chelsea Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.wd8iel.com>

06/07/2015: Starved Rock Radio Club's (W9MKS) 2015 Hamfest
Princeton, IL

Starved Rock Radio Club
<http://www.w9mks.org>

06/20/2015: Midland Hamfest
Midland, MI
Midland Amateur Radio Club
<http://w8kea.org/>

06/20/2015: MILFORD HAMFEST
Milford, OH
Milford Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.w8mrc.com>

06/21/2015: Monroe Hamfest
Monroe, MI
Monroe County Radio Communications Association
<http://www.mcrca.org>

06/21/2015: Six Meter Club of Chicago
Wheaton, IL
Six Meter Club of Chicago
<http://k9ona.com>

07/11/2015: 20/9 Hamfest and Tailgate 2015
Austintown, OH
20/9 Amateur Radio Club
<http://20over9.org>

07/11/2015: Indianapolis Hamfest
Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.indyhamfest.com>

07/11/2015: Swapfest '15
Oak Creek, WI
South Milwaukee ARC
<http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe>

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



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: May 21st @ 7:00 PM

Siren test: June 6th @ 1:00 PM

SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test

SMARS Breakfast: June 13th @ 8:30 AM

BLB Lunch: June 11th @ 11:30 AM

Field Day: June 26 (setup), 27, 28