



FEEDBACK



May 2018

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (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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MSPOTA Activation at Fort Custer



Don Prosser, KB9IAR, making a few QSO's

By Smokey (Glenn) McCray, N5MKY

Despite a lack of operators for the [Michigan State Parks on the Air](#) event at Fort Custer Recreation area, we managed get 41 QSO's. Seven QSO's were DX with 4 countries. The rest of the contacts were from 19 states, many from the New England area which we don't hear much of, but might have been because of the New England QSO Party going on at the same time as the activation. The top two states were NH and NY with 5 QSO's from each. There was one 40 meter contact, three on 80 meters, and 37 on 20 meters. All were SSB except for six PSK31 contacts. Jay N8ARR was the heavy hitting operator talking to little boys and girls who were operating from Scouts on the Air stations.



Jay N8ARR, making one of many contacts on 20 meters

Many thanks to all who helped with setting up, operating, and tearing down. Your efforts were key to making our May 4th-5th MSPOTA activation a success!

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Feld Hell Sprint - Dig

5/19/2018

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

Baltic Contest – CW, Ph

5/19 – 5/20/2018

<http://lrsf.lt/bcontest/english>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest –CW

5/21/2018

<http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/>

RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship – CW

5/24/2018

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf>

CQ WW WPX Contest – CW

5/26 – 5/27/2018

<http://www.cqwpw.com/>

June VHF Contest – CW, Ph, Dig

6/09 – 6/11/2018

<http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

ARRL Kids Day

6/06/2018 & 6/16/2018

<http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

ARRL Field Day – CW, Ph, Dig

6/23 – 6/24/2018

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship - Ph

6/28/2018

www.rsgbcc.org/hf

Feld Hell Sprint – Dig

6/30/2018

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

**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>



PROSPECTIVE TECHS READY TO HIT THE BOOKS!!

By Mike Russell, K8QN

After a short period of time off, another Technician license class gets under way Thursday, May 10, 2018. This will be the last class that will be offered during the 2014-2018 licensing period. A new group of questions goes into effect on July 1, 2018 for a period of four years. Mike, KQ8N, and Terry, N8LN, will be presenting the class on Thursday nights (except for Hamvention week), leading up to the SMARS exam session on Thursday June 28, 2018. Six students have signed up as of this writing and we have high hopes for them!

Mike and Terry's first class graduated in January of 2014. Including that class, 32 students have successfully passed the Technician class licensing exam (100% pass rate so far!). Mike and Terry credit the success to the students commitment to completing the class. Every class has been using the [Gordon West Technician Class Study Guide](#), which provides information to help understand the right answer without getting too complicated.

Also used is an on-line testing site (typically [QRZ.com](#)) that gets the students used to seeing the questions several times over. Many hands-on items are also brought in to help with understanding. The class has never meant to be a college level course, but is more than a ham-in-a-day type class, for those who feel they need more information or encouragement. Our hope is to have all of the students come out of the class a licensed amateur, ready to get on the air!

If you know someone who may be interested in attending this session or a future session, have them get in touch with calhoun.hamclass@gmail.com .

Meeting Minutes 04/19/2018

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Gary N8QC, Jan W8JKG. 15 members in attendance total.
Secretary's report was accepted.
Treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee reports:

HAMFEST 2018 – Tom WR8G reported 656 in ticket sales – much better than last year. All tables were sold. A time-lapse video taken by Kyle W8KDB has been posted on the SMARS Facebook page

SKYWARN – Smokey N5MKY reported changes to ARES and RACES are in beta-testing on the East side of the state. Three tiers of ICS courses are now required. Not all are available online. SET test will occur in June after the siren test. The June siren test will be via simplex. Volunteers were being sought for the Barry-Roubaix bike race on April 21st.

VE Session – Per VE Liaison John W8JRD, there were 13 candidates at Hamfest session. Thank-you to all the VE's who assisted at the session, and a special shout-out to Kalamazoo VE John Tucker WB8ZVV for his assistance. Next VE Session will be April 26th. Terry N8LN and Mike KQ8N will be running a Technician class on Thursday evenings beginning May 7th. The current Technician question pool will expire June 30th this year.

Repeaters – Don W8RVT reported that the power supply in the computer at the repeater site had to be replaced.

Field Day – Smokey N5MKY confirmed that the Ft. Custer location has been reserved. We will be running 100 watts this year, using batteries for the first contacts.

MSPOTA – Per N5MKY, setup will be Friday, May 4th around 3pm, same location at Ft. Custer as last year. Calhoun Co. Emergency Services will supply a generator and lights. Operation will be for one day, with tear-down Saturday, May 5th.

Old Business
None.

New Business

Tom KA8GDN asked if maintenance work needed to be done on the club trailers. Jay N8ARR confirmed that maintenance work is needed and had been delayed due to poor weather.

Tom WR8G has two IBM computers available. Anyone interested should contact him.

50/50 Drawing Winner – N5MKY

Meeting adjourned @ 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ, Vice President
(for Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary)

Board Meeting 5/01/2018

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR.
Others present: Gary N8QC, Tom WR8G, Smokey N5MKY, Terry N8LN.

Called to order at 1730.

Hamfest – We made enough money to continue with operations and to plan on another one next year. It was suggested that we increase the gate from \$5 to \$7 to help defray increased expenses associated with Hamfest. The board gave tentative agreement.

Ms. Holden has accepted our \$500 offer for the TenTec receiver. Due to illness, Jay has not gotten a check yet. Jan will cut a check as soon as she gets Linda's full name. That will be done very soon and we will continue the conversation. Jay will attempt to make a trip to pick up the radio and deliver the check.

Board Meeting 5/01/2018 (continued)

MSPOTA – May 5th, Saturday. Setup will begin on Friday at 1500 at the equestrian form-up area just as last year. One trailer will be used and the BCES generator and light stand will be used. Volunteers will be needed to help with the setup and operators will all be welcomed, again with open arms! Lets have a great turnout and make this a successful outing. Not sure if the drone for photos will be available. The current plan calls for teardown to begin around 1600 on Saturday, unless there are so many volunteers who wish to operate that it will be delayed. In any case, no plans exist to operate over night on Saturday.

D-STAR – A discussion was held concerning support for the D-STAR Internet charges. Terry showed the Comcast bill that included the current charges, \$49.95/month. The board discussed funding and agreed to fund the entire monthly amount, paid quarterly, beginning with the quarter that began April 1st.

Another proposal brought up was to consider increasing annual club dues to \$20. This requires a change to the Constitution and requires a 30 day notice to club members, and this announcement via publication in the newsletter begins that 30 day notice.

Meeting adjourned at 1820

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

**Amateur Radio Parity Act Language
Inserted in National Defense
Authorization Act**

05/11/2018

ARRL is praising the work of US Representatives Joe Courtney (D-CT), Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), and Mike Rogers (R-AL) for their successful efforts in securing language in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019 that aids in the survival and growth of Amateur Radio by giving radio amateurs the right to install an outdoor antenna at their residences with the approval of their homeowners associations.

This language — text from the proposed Amateur Radio Parity Act (HR 555) — formed the basis for the Courtney-Hartzler-Rogers Amendment to the NDAA.

The amendment, offered by the bipartisan trio and accepted by the House Armed Services Committee by voice vote, will ensure that Amateur Radio operators will continue to play a vital role in disaster communication, when called upon. Amateur Radio has long-standing relationships with the Department of Defense through both the Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) as well as spectrum sharing.

The Armed Services Committee passed the NDAA by a 60-to-1 voice vote after a 14-hour markup that ran well into the night. The bill now awaits House floor action. The Senate will begin its markup of the NDAA during the week of May 21.

Representatives Courtney and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) spearheaded the effort to include the Parity Act language in the NDAA. Both are cosponsors of the Parity Act, which has passed the House by voice vote twice in the past 2 years.

Recognizing the long-standing relationship between Amateur Radio and the Department of Defense, Congressman Kinzinger — who served multiple tours for the USAF as a fighter pilot and is still a Major in the Air National Guard, and Courtney have been champions of the legislation in Congress.

“The steadfast support of the Amateur Radio community continually demonstrated by Congressmen Kinzinger and Courtney has been a godsend,” said Hudson Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB. “The Parity Act wouldn’t be anywhere close to this stage without their strong support, and our organization is extremely grateful.”

Lisenco, who serves as Chairman of the ARRL Board’s Legislative Advocacy Committee, also recognized other promoters of Amateur Radio, including House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-TX). “We are deeply grateful for their continued understanding and support,” Lisenco said.

ARRL will continue to press for support to enact the Amateur Radio Parity Act throughout the legislative process.

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>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, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>SMARS Nets: 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>Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Club Breakfast: May 12th @ 8:30am Club Meeting: May 17th @ 7:00pm *Dayton Hamvention (Xenia): May 18th-20th Board Meeting: June 5th @ 5:30pm BLB Luncheon: June 7th @ 11:30am Club Breakfast: June 9th @ 8:30am Club Meeting: June 21st @ 7:00pm *ARRL Field Day: June 23rd-24th VE Session: June 28th @ 7:00pm</p>
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