



FEEDBACK

November 2013

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 look for the pictures from the 1st annual ham camp through out this edition of the Feedback. Pictures provided by Jay Jarrett, N8ARR

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In the news

- The SMARS Breakfast has been moved from the 1st Saturday to the 2nd Saturday of the month. There were a few people who didn't get the notice and showed up on the 1st Saturday. Attendance at the 2nd Saturday was moderate, so pass the word about the new date. The time is 8:30 AM as always and the location is at the Coney Island on N.E. Capital (near Bailey park).
- Another Ham-In-a-Day has be set for Saturday, January 4, 2014. Watch the web site for additional details.
- A "HAM 101" class is being planned. Instructors include Terry Tassos and Jim Zoss. Dates, times and subject matter to be announced. Watch the web site for updates.
- **THE SMARS CRISTMAS PARTY** is going to be held on December 14th at Old Country Buffet on Beckley Rd. All are invited to attend and bring your family members. There will be an optional gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift (OMs please bring a gift for an OM and YLs please bring a gift for a YL). Please label your gift as being for a OM or YL.
- The Ohio Section Manager, **Frank Piper, KI8GW**, will step down from his position on January 1, 2014. Increasing job and family commitments were cited as the reason. **Scott Yonally, N8SY**, will fill the remainder of the term, which expires September 30, 2014.
- An all Ham Contingent Carries Olympic Torch to ISS. Among the members are NASA's **Richard Mastracchio, KC5ZTE**, Russia's **Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT**, and Japan's **Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA** . They arrived on the ISS on November 7th. The torch will be used to light the Olympic flame in Sochi, Russia for the 2014 Winter Games.

Time to renew

Yes, it is once again that time of year. It's time to renew your membership in SMARS. The fee is a very low \$10 for the year and just \$1 for additional family members residing in the same household. Please bring your money to the next meeting. Exact change is always helpful.

Elections

Club elections will be held at the December 19th meeting. Nominations for Officers and member at large are due at the November 21st meeting. As of this time, all current board members will be on the ballet, however, fresh talent is welcome to put their hat into the ring. Please remember that most of the current board has served for several years.



Board of Directors

President

Gary Williams, N8QC
n8qc@arrl.net

Vice President

Dave "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY

Secretary

Jay Jarrett, KD8OXR
kd8oxr@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

November 21st @ 7 PM

SKYWARN Coffee

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

Next Meeting

December 7th

BLB Luncheon

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

Next meeting

December 12th @ 11:30 AM

SMARS Breakfast

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

Next Meeting

December 14th @ 8:30 AM

FULL MOON

As many of you are aware, I play a lot of Cribbage. I am in a local club that is part of a national organization, the **American Cribbage Congress**. We have a weekly tournament Thursday evenings and occasionally another on weekends. Cribbage, like most card games, requires some amount of skill and luck getting cards to work with. I frequently fall short in the luck department, sometimes lasting for weeks.

During one of these extended unlucky periods, I spent time trying to figure out the reason. One possibility I came up with was a Cribbage Goddess that loves to pick on me. The thing I decided was the problem, beyond a shadow of a doubt, is the **FULL MOON**.

The clues are that a wolf will howl at the full moon. Ocean waters rise and look what happens when a man and woman spend an evening under a full moon. I did a lot of on-line research on the relationship of natural disasters and the full moon. These disasters included earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, blizzards and other disasters. I concluded, **beyond a shadow of a doubt**, this all occurs within a two week period of a **FULL MOON!**

Bottom line is, consult a lunar chart when planning any activity.

Don-W8RVT



Hamfests

11/09/2013: All Ohio ARES Conference
Reynoldsburg, OH
ARRL Ohio Section
<http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html>

11/16/2013: Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo)
Fort Wayne, IN
Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

12/08/2013: LCARC Hamfest/Swap
Harrison Township, MI
L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.qsl.net/n8lc/>

01/04/2014: WARAC's 42nd Annual Midwinter Swapfest
Waukesha, WI
West Allis Radio Amateur Club
<http://www.warac.org>

01/19/2014: 47th Annual Mid-Winter Hamfest
St. Charles, IL
Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
<http://wheatonhamfest.org>

01/19/2014: SCARF Hamfest
Nelsonville, OH
Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
<http://www.scarfarc.com>

02/02/2014: WinterHamFest
Elyria, OH
Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
<http://NOARS.net>

02/16/2014: Livonia Amateur Radio Club Swap-N-Shop
Livonia, MI
Livonia Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

06/01/2014: Starved Rock Radio Club's (W9MKS) 2014 Hamfest
Princeton, IL
Starved Rock Radio Club
<http://www.w9mks.org>

07/27/2014: Portage Hamfair '14
Randolph, OH
Portage Amateur Radio Club
<http://Hamfair.com>

10/05/2014: 2014 Conneaut ARC Hamfest
Conneaut, OH
Conneaut Amateur Radio Club & American Legion Auxiliary Cowle 151
<http://qsl.net/w8bhz/>

Well, that's all of the hamfests that ARRL has listed on their site right now. As you can see it is pretty slim pickings through the winter.

Do you know of a amateur radio related event that isn't listed in this news letter? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (WR8G, Thomas Goodson, wr8g@omega-link.com, 269-962-8007) with details and I'll try to get it into the next edition of Feedback.

From the Archives

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Sign in a Philadelphia Business Window:

"WE WOULD RATHER
DO BUSINESS WITH
1000 ALQAEDA TERRORISTS
THAN WITH ONE SINGLE AMERICAN SOLDIER"

This sign was prominently displayed in the window of a business in Philadelphia. You are probably outraged at the thought of such an inflammatory statement. However, we are a society which holds Freedom of speech as perhaps our greatest liberty.

After all, it is just a sign.

You may ask what kind of business would dare post such a sign. Answer: A Funeral Home. Who said that morticians had no sense of humor?

Contributed by **Howard N8EHQ**

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.

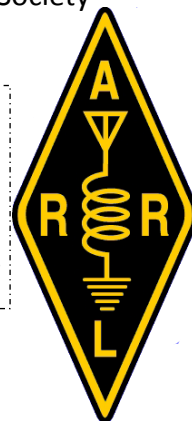
W8DF-5 144.39Mhz Digipeater/Igate
Find it on www.aprs.fi

Other Area Repeaters:

Skywarn/ARES/RACES (WX8BTL)

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

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



Board Meeting 11/05/2013

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR, Tom WR8G.

State Park Operating – Don suggests we check the Ohio State Park On The Air website (OSPOTA.org) We should create our own site to advertise and otherwise spread information. Tom says this can be done very easily and volunteers to undertake the task. Don has spoken with the ARRL section manager and they are “on board” with the idea. MI DNR is also in agreement and they have to give us the approval to use Amateur Licenses for entry to the area/park. This still has to be arranged.

The plan would be to set up on Friday and then operate on Saturday from 10:00 until 6:00 with teardown after 6:00. Need to have at least two trailers. Location at Fort Custer to be determined.

Treasurer’s report was passed around. Things look good.

Hamfest 2014 – Reservations are already coming in! Obviously being downloaded from the website. Chicago Surplus is the first. Don has sent the first payment to the MAC for rental.

Doc brought up the idea that the club might investigate becoming a 501 (3)c organization. We are an educational organization and we do public service. We must find out what accounting requirements are needed as well as tax returns. Tom will talk with an attorney to find out what is involved. This is a subject that would require the approval of the entire membership. More later.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

W8DF takes first place in 4A Battery for Field Day 2013, total points were 3525.

W8DF was also in last place as there was only one entry in 4A Battery. There were a total of five entries in the Battery class; 1A scored 5000, 770 and 535 points. 2A scored 2305 points. Come on next year! -W8RVT



Incom and Expense Statement 10/1/13 Through 10/31/13

Category Description	10/1/13-10/31/13
INCOME	
50 50 Dues:	27.00
2013	10.00
2014	20.00
TOTAL Dues	30.00
Interest Inc: Checking	0.25
TOTAL Interest Inc	0.25
Sales: Equipment	275.00
TOTAL Sales	275.00
TOTAL INCOME	332.25
EXPENSES	
Hamfest: Facility	250.00
TOTAL Hamfest	250.00
Meetings: Refreshments	46.50
TOTAL Meetings	46.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	296.50
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	35.75



Meeting Minutes 10/17/2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Officers present – **Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR.** 24 members in attendance.

Secretary's report accepted.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Committee reports:

Hamfest 2014 – Flyers and tickets have been printed and can be picked up. Doc will handle. Reminder that the Kalamazoo Hamfest is on the 20th. Also, the Fort Wayne Hamfest is coming up on November 16th and 17th. Erv volunteered to take some flyers.

Field Day 2014 – We will run QRP again with three trailers at either the airport location or at Fort Custer Recreation Area. Many details for Fort Custer have to be ironed out with Michigan DNR regarding passes to operate. Stay tuned.

RACES – The Hamcamp was considered to be a success with approximately 80 people showing up and were very interested. Many of them were young ones! We hope that this will become an annual event, a thought that has the DNR accepting, at this time. As with Field Day above, plans have to be made to accommodate entrance to the area without a passport. Work continues on that front.

State Park Operation – We would also like to have an outing at State Parks to coincide with Ohio and Indiana State Park contests. This would be the Saturday after Labor Day. Again, entrance to the area must be arranged. This has to be coordinated with DNR as well as regional ARRL. More information will be forthcoming.

Ham In A Day – Held at Lakeview Middle School. 6 attempted, two passed Technician, two upgraded to General.

VE session – The next scheduled testing will be the 4th Thursday in October at the Maple Methodist Church in the Babcock Room. Newly certified VEs: Bev, KA8CXS and Rosemary, WA8VXE.

Other – Christmas Party. We have reserved the main dining room for December 14th at OCB in BC.

Old Business: Constitution – The membership voted to accept the new constitution as posted on the website.

New Business: The club breakfast will be moved to the second Saturday of the month beginning in November.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

APRS

Ham Camp early in September produced some interest in APRS. If you wish to explore APRS, go to **www.aprs.fi** on the internet. Pointing anyplace on the map you can hold the left mouse button and drag the map around. Zoom in and out using the scroll wheel. Spend time getting familiar with it.

Due to this increased interest, I have made an effort to gather VHF transceivers useful for trackers. These transceivers operate on 144.390 MHZ and do not use CTCSS tones which older equipment does not have, thus makes them inexpensive. I currently have a Kenwood TR7730 and a TR7800 (Already sold a second TR7730). They are available for \$40 and include an interface cable for a TinyTrak.

In addition to the transceiver, a tracker is needed. By far, the most common is a **TinyTrak3**, available from **www.byonics.com**. The TinyTrak3 Combo includes a GPS receiver which looks like a miniature hockey puck on a four or five foot cable with a DB9 connector to plug into the TinyTrak. The combo can be had for \$98 as a kit or \$107 built and tested. The kit is easy to build but does require good soldering skill. The TinyTrak needs to be configured using a free configuration program from Byonics.

If anyone is interested in one of these transceivers for \$40. let me know.

Don-W8RVT

From the Archives

MILEAGE

A recent study found the average American walks about 900 miles per year.

Another study found American drink on average 22 gallons of beer per year.

That means on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon. Kind of makes you proud to be an American, doesn't it?

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



SMARS

P.O. Box 934

Battle Creek, MI 49016

FIRST CLASS MAIL

«CALL»
«NAME»
«ST_ADDRESS»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

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:

SMARS Breakfast: November 9th @ 8:30 AM
BLB Lunch: November 14th @ 11:30 AM
Club meeting: November 21st @ 7:00 PM
Siren test: December 7th @ 1:00 PM
SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test
BLB Lunch: December 12th @ 11:30 AM
SMARS Breakfast: December 14th @ 8:30 AM
SMARS CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 14th @ 7:00 PM
Club meeting: December 19th @ 7:00 PM
VE testing: December 26th @ 7:00 PM