

FEEDBACK

JUNE 2010



COMMENTS

This month you will find several items about Fox Hunting, including an article by SM0VPO describing an antenna that he used successfully on his first fox hunt. His description on how to use that kind of device is very clear. There is also an article by a pair of hunters showing the fun that could be had in the hunt. Thanks to John W8JRD, Dave KC8COT and Larry WB8R of the Cold-water club a hunt has been arranged where the beginner can get a feel for how things are done.

Over the last few months, several antennas have been demonstrated. Not only antennas for fox hunts but also some for other uses. This month, an antenna that can be placed on your desk top that would make your HT do better than the rubber ducky will allow it to do. One thing that each of these antenna projects have in common is cost — all have had a minimum cost without having to search for scarce items.

Our technical engineering staff has added one more piece of equipment to our repeater capabilities as describe in the adjoining column. Take a step back and look at what is available through our repeaters. Not only do we have three repeaters operating but the UHF repeaters can be crossbanded resulting a greater use of the 220 repeater which has Echolink and APRS functions.

The use of our calls

has been sloppy lately. Remember that the last thing heard from you is your call and that when you are using the radio (any ham radio) you are required to identify at no more than 10 minute intervals. Sometimes we get so wound up in our conversations that we forget the rules of the game.

In this month, as usual the last full weekend will be the time for Field Day. Hopefully all hams will take part in the action. There will be a space for anyone interested in operating and all are welcome. Just remember to operate within the license limits of your ticket. Carry that ticket with you. There also is a need for grunt work. Towers being erected, trailers being moved, setup tables and

W8DF-5 WEATHER STATION

A WMR968 weather observation station from Oregon Scientific has been installed at SMARS repeater site. This unit measures wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, barometric pressure and rainfall. Installed software accumulates the data and supplies it to APRS on the internet. The data is also transmitted on 144.39 MHz and is passed around via digipeaters.

Want to see the reports? Log on to www.aprs.fi. You are presented with a map. In the upper right corner, enter W8DF-5 in the search box then click on search. A blue WX symbol appears at the location of W8DF with a word balloon. The first line is the date and time of the beacon. The second line is the time of the observation. The rest is self explanatory.

Notice the third line and shows weather charts. Click here and a page of charts appears. These charts provide a 48 hour history of rain, wind, temperature, barometer and other tidbits of information. Want to know how hard it rained when it woke you last night? It is here. Sorry about the barometer in millibars. Software won't allow reports in in.Hg.

As long as you are on the map page, play around with it. Just above the Search box, click on show all and see all the APRS stuff. Point at a vehicle icon and learn who it is. Click on it and learn more. You can drag the map around by holding the left mouse button and moving the mouse. The scroll wheel will zoom in or out. See your house by clicking Satellite View in upper right corner.

W8RVT

VETS SALUTE

The proper salute for vets regardless if you are covered or not is the hand to the forehead as it was back in service days. The non-vet still places the hand over the heart. Senate Bill 1877 establishes this as the proper way. A vet need not uncover to salute.

FIELD DAY



THE THUMB

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

Let's consider the thumb for a moment. The thumb's ability to work with all the fingers on the hand makes it very important to humans. The opposable thumb separates humans (and primates) from other animals and is responsible for most human accomplishments. Because thumbs give us dexterity and allow us to use tools, we have been able to build many wondrous things. Some of these things are as small and intricate as a Swiss watch and as grandiose as skyscrapers and vehicles that allow us to explore beyond our planet. It is absolutely amazing that if not for the opposable thumb and the human brain that controls it, pretty much everything in our world would not be possible.

There is a lot of power in the thumb. Pointed downward a thumb could send a gladiator to his death. Hung out along a roadway the thumb can stop a car. Authorities keep subordinates under their thumb to maintain control. The thumb lets us know when we've done a good job, calls out baseball players, gives an artist perspective, counts money and can pacify a crying baby. The thumb also has a sinister side. We can thumb our nose at people, card cheats use the thumb to deal from the bottom of the deck or mark cards with a thumbnail, and the dishonest butcher has been known to place his heavy thumb on the scale.

For as much as the thumb has done to enhance our lives it seems that the index finger has been getting a lot of exercise recently. The index finger is very good at pointing however, a pointing finger has not really accomplished as many positive things as the thumb has. Sure the index finger may dial a telephone, but without the thumb the telephone would never have been built. Pointing fingers send people away, poke-out eyes and blame others for our condition. In every aspect of our lives we see people pointing the finger of blame rather than accepting responsibility. A kid fails in school not because the teacher taught the lesson poorly, but because he failed to study. A lady scalds herself with hot coffee not because the restaurant did not label the cup--she was scalded because she put hot coffee in her lap. People find it easier to point a finger instead of planting their thumb in their chest and saying "I am the one who will make a difference." If you ever feel the need to point a finger remember the thumb and all that is possible because of it. Let's metaphorically use our opposable thumbs to grip the rope and pull in the same direction.

A HISTORY LESSON

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.'

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair...and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'

You're going to love the Dad's reply:

---- his father replied,

'Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?'

THINGS TO DO

Did you miss an episode of your favorite TV program? — Fancast.com — might have it.

How about a review of a 440 yagi beam. Check — Clint's HomeBrew Page.com — read "Review of 440 Yagi Beam Antenna sold by Electronicsales425" (on Ebay).

.Have a question? Try — <http://www.wolframalpha.com/>

Read — "The Lexicon of Intentionally Ambiguous Recommendations by Robert J Thornton" — .

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ENERGY

LIVERMORE, Calif. With thousands in attendance, the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was officially dedicated today, setting into motion the next chapter of one of the country's greatest scientific assets. NIF, the world's highest-energy laser system, consists of 192 laser beams that will focus nearly two million joules of energy and create temperatures and pressures that exist in the cores of stars and giant planets. By harnessing the massive power generated by its lasers, NIF will be able to create conditions and conduct a wide range of experiments never before possible on earth.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, construction of NIF began in 1997 with three scientific missions in mind. Its first mission is to serve as a key component of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Stockpile Stewardship Program to ensure the safety and reliability of the nation's nuclear deterrent without the need for nuclear testing.

Along with this vital national security mission, NIF also offers the possibility of groundbreaking scientific discoveries in planetary science and astrophysics. By creating the conditions that exist in supernovas, in the event horizons of black holes and in the cores of giant planets, NIF will help unlock the secrets of the cosmos.

It is NIF's third mission "energy independence" that has generated the most excitement. Global energy demand, driven by population growth and the aspirations of the developing world, already is straining the planets existing energy resources.

NOTE: The newspaper could have given better information. Two million Joules of energy is not much on a per-week basis, that is only 3.3 watts, but if it is per micro-second, that is really something, 2 trillion watts :) they talk about high power but don't know how to characterize it (like newspapers everywhere :))

Alan G3NOQ

Fox Hunt

July 10, 2010

On Friday June 4, Dave KC8COT and myself met with Larry Camp WB8R about setting up a Fox Hunt here in the Battle Creek area. We were all in agreement about having it after the July 4 holiday. Details still remain to work out, but the fox will be one of the Branch county gang. This will be a competitive hunt with every team for themselves. It won't be terribly difficult, not the first time out anyways. We're planning to have a walking hunt, tentatively at Riverside Elementary about 9:30 or so.

Stay tuned for more details.

73

John W8JRD

[MichiganFoxHunter]

It was a dark and stormy night.

Ok, it was very sunny afternoon. A group of hunters and hunter wannabees gathered at the main gate at 1PM at the Hudsonville Fairgrounds. Right at 1pm, K8AJ and K8TB fired up a 25 year old box of silicon, set it to oscillate a little more than 145 million times a second, and began a 1 min on, 2 min off sequence of taunting the hunters.

The "hidden" location? A county park? A large shopping mall? Nestled in a residential neighborhood?

Nope, Sheila and Tom found some county dirt roads that service some old gravel pits, located on the east side of Jenison, within flying distance of the Jenison International Airport. 12th Avenue is the name of road. Long, dirt poor and a major port for tanker sized mosquitoes. One had to cut across 6 or 7 miles of the dense Jenison residential neighborhoods to even get close to this perverted location..

Anyway, the rules state "he/she who drives the least number of miles"... wins. That would belong to James, K8JHR and Chuck AJ8W. They clocked in at 1 hour and ten minutes, but at only 9.9 miles. Just 2 minutes before them was Laryn, K8TVZ, however, due to his smaller sized tires, Laryn clocked 10.3 miles :)

Up for third is father and son team, Jim, KB8ZGK and Mike, KB8ZGL. They showed up with 1 hour and 27 minutes, with a mileage of 10.7 miles. This is only their second hunt. That indicates a stunning performance. In fourth place, we had Bob, N8UYC and Lee, KD8IUI at 1 hour and 45 minutes with 18.3 miles. Bob said something like, "This is fun, I'll be back".

We had two other teams that did not find the fox after the two hour time limit. That means we had a six car hunt, not bad at all.

Special thanks goes to Mike, W8DER for hosting the IRA swap Fox Hunt. Mike gave a talk to the a group just preceding the "tip off" time. Of note, this hunt was sponsored by the IRA, and as such, James and Chuck get to find and transmit from a hidden location at next year's swap.

We are looking forward to it.

vy 73 de Sheila K8AJ and Tom K8TB

FOX HUNTING

MichiganFoxHunter@yahoogroups.com Please mark your calendars and sharpen your beams:

On Tuesday, June 15, at 7pm, the Holland ARC will host a Fox Hunt starting at the clubhouse.

On Wednesday, July 21, the GRARA group will have a hunt at 7pm, starting at the Kent County Red Cross on Fuller avenue.

More details will be posted.

For both of these events, you do not have to be club members to participate.

If you do not have any equipment, you are still invited to show up and see if there is space for you in any car going out. The more the merrier kind of thing applies here.

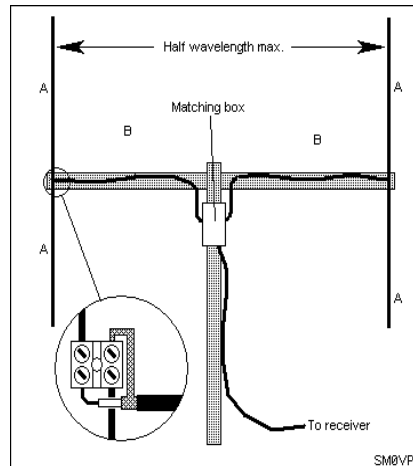
So we have two more hunts just in West Michigan in the few weeks.

tom k8tb

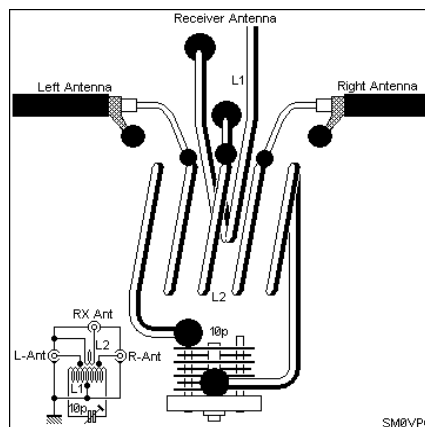
VHF DF ANTENNA

by Harry Lythall - SM0VPO

Here is a VERY narrow nulling VHF Direction Finding (DF) antenna that can be folded up in the back of the car, then you can leap out, assemble it and take a 'fix' in something like 10 seconds. DF antennas come in all shapes and sizes, yet at most VHF foxhunts one mainly sees the old loop antenna and compass. The first foxhunt I was ever involved in was with the Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Society. I won it. The antenna I used was a pair of 1/2-wave verticals (A + A) spaced 1/2-wavelength apart. These were mounted on a wooden T shaped frame and the antenna elements fixed with simple household cable connector blocks, often referred to as 'chocolate block' connectors.



The two antennas are each fed into a tuned circuit via UR67 (B) cut to $0.66 \times 1/2$ -wavelength. The centre-tap of the tuned circuit is grounded and each antenna is coupled to + and - one turn. This effectively cancels out the received signal only when the two incoming signals are in phase. The two signals are only in phase when the two antennas are equal distance from the target transmitter; the T mount is at right-angles to the direction to the transmitter. The tuned circuit is tuned for the part of the band you are interested in.

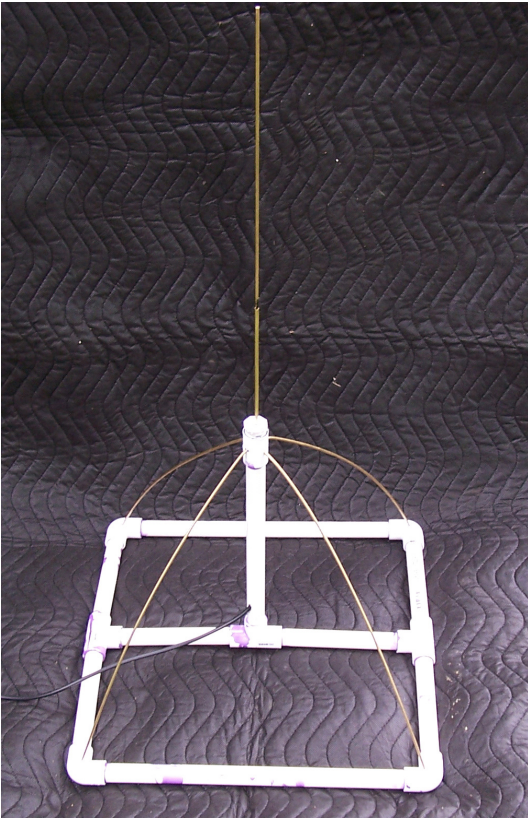


The tuning capacitor is something like 10 pF and the coil is 5 turns 2.5 cm (one inch) DIA. although this is not at all critical.

All the phasing bits can be mounted in a tobacco tin, throat lozenge tin, mustard tin etc. To set it up, tune into a strong signal and rotate the antenna for a DIP in the receiver S-meter (guess-meter?) and adjust the antenna tapings on the coil for a minimum. Minor adjustments can be obtained by moving the RX loop a little. It should be possible to get a dip of 60-80 dB with this antenna, but when you get close to your target transmitter the dip will become so narrow that it is hard to see. It is almost impossible to hold the antenna still to keep it in the dip. As you get VERY close to the target transmitter it may be an advantage to use attenuators to reduce the signal strength.

Take one direction bearing then rotate the antenna through 180 degrees and take a second. The true heading is midway between the two. This will remove any directional error that may occur with the antenna. With two bearings you will see where they cross, do not go there for your third bearing, but go to one side of the target transmitters suspected position, you can then use this bearing and the last bearing to triangulate the target transmitter. You should aim to 'zoom in' on the target in an ever decreasing spiral.

It may not be a good idea to transmit into this antenna, but it will take it and the VSWR is not too bad. The 10 pf tuning cap may arc or sparkalate if you use too much power.



ROOKIE ANTENNA PROJECT

by John W8JRD

The basic design for this desktop antenna came from an article written by Bob Hejl W2IK. The biggest variation came in attaching the feedline.

Bob's suggestion to attach the braid directly to the radials and the center conductor to an automotive bullet connector did not seem practical to me. I attached the braid to a jumper wire and the center conductor to a jumper wire soldered to a short piece of brass tubing. The brass tube was then epoxied into the cap. This modification enables the antenna to be quickly changed from a 2 meter to a 70cm antenna.

Overall, this was a relatively easy first project and makes a pretty good replacement for a rubber ducky on a handheld..

Original plans at:

http://www.w2ik.com/W2IK_ANTENNAS.html

The field deployable VHF antenna looks interesting, maybe that'll be next.

73

John W8JRD

OH WELL!

Natural Born Citizens Beware!

In a Purdue University classroom, they were discussing the qualifications to be President of the United States.

It was pretty simple: the candidate must be a natural born citizen of at least 35 years of age. However, one girl in the class immediately started in on how unfair was the requirement to be a natural born citizen. In short, her opinion was that this requirement prevented many capable individuals from becoming president.

The class was taking it in and letting her rant, and not many jaws hit the floor when she wrapped up her argument by stating "What makes a natural born citizen any more qualified to lead this country than one born by c-section?"

Yep, these are the same kind of 18-year-olds that just voted in our last election!

They breed and they walk Among US ...

THINKING IS DANGEROUS

(An original thought from Yahoo)

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener. I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think. (Not sure what that one means.)

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'

I have gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!

I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency.' I think you should write, 'A Good Doctor!'

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do... write to these men? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they deliver the mail? Or better yet, arrest them while they are taking their pictures!

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me, they were cramming for their finals. As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve.

ARES / RACES Report for MAY, 2010 in Calhoun County

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

10 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 182 People = 182 hrs
1 RACES Meeting 2 hrs each @ 20 People = 40 hrs
Total 222hrs

Public Service Events

1 Siren Test 1hrs each @ 15 People = 15hrs
1 Family Safety Days 5 hrs each @ 15 People = 75 hrs
Total 87hrs

Administration Hours

Emergency Operations
2 Server Weather Nets 3hrs each @25 People = **Total 75hrs**

Equipment Hours

RACES Trailer Maintenance 2hrs @ 1 Person = **Total 2hrs**

Travel Hours =

Total 3.5 hrs

Expenses- Out of Pocket =

Total \$70.00

Travel Miles =

Total 52 Miles

Members (ARES / RACES) =

Total 35

Dave Smith
KC8COT
E-12
City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County
RACES, Emergency Coordinator

HAMFESTS

Midland Amateur Radio Club
06/19/2010
Location: Salvation Army Building
330 Waldo Avenue
Midland, MI 48640
Website: <http://www.w8kea.org>
Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club
Talk-In: 147.00+
Public Contact: Keith Johnson , KB8SOE
c/o Midland Hamfest PO Box 1049 Midland, MI 48641
Phone: 989-488-4337
Email: kb8soe@arrl.net

Monroe County Radio Communications Association
06/20/2010
Location: Monroe County Fairgrounds
3775 South Custer Road
Monroe, MI 48161
Website: <http://www.mcrcra.org>
Sponsor: Monroe County Radio Communications Association
Talk-In: 146.72/12
Public Contact: Fred VanDaele , KA8EBI
4 Carl Drive Monroe, MI 48162
Phone: 734-242-9487
Email: ka8ebi@yahoo.com

EVENTS for JULY / AUGUST **ARES/RACES/SKYWARN**

EVENTS for JULY

EVENT: Monthly Siren Test
DATE: Saturday, JULY 3rd 2010
Time: 1:00PM (13:00hrs)

EVENT: Monthly RACES Meeting
PROGRAM: (Damage Assessment Training)
DATE: Tuesday JULY 20th, 2010
TIME 18:30 (6:30PM)
LOCATION BCPD Line Up Room

EVENTS for AUGUST

EVENT: Monthly Siren Test
DATE: Saturday, AUGUST 7th 2010
Time: 1:00PM (13:00hrs)

EVENT: Monthly RACES Meeting
PROGRAM: (Damage Assessment Training)
DATE: Tuesday AUGUST 17th, 2010
TIME 18:30 (6:30PM)
LOCATION BCPD Line Up Room

NOTICE

**THIS DEPARTMENT REQUIRES NO
PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM.**

**EVERYONE GETS ENOUGH EXERCISE
JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, FLYING
OFF THE HANDLE, RUNNING DOWN
THE BOSS, KNIFING FRIENDS IN THE
BACK, DODGING RESPONSIBILITY,
AND PUSHING THEIR LUCK.**

*I was always taught to respect my elders, but it
keeps getting harder to find one.*

SMARS Club Meeting

May 18, 2010

Called To Order: 7:07 PM

Officers Present: Bob AC8GL Don W8RVT John W8JRD Jim KD8MNQ

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Secretary's Report: approved as published in Feedback.

Treasurer's Report: approved as reported at the Club Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Hamfest: No report.

Field Day: Still waiting for a response from the airport. Food needs to be decided.

ARES/RACES: Details of activity as published in Feedback. Siren test June 5, damage assessment class June 15.

VE Testing: June 24 is the next exam session.

Technical Engineer: TNC issue was due to thunderstorms.

Old Business:

Membership cards need to be obtained,

New Business:

A motion to see if the membership would be interested in a Fox Hunt. 10-12 individuals expressed interest in having one after July 4.

Jim KD8MNQ resigned as Vice President due to lack of time. Gary N8QC volunteered and was elected by acclamation.

Don W8RVT discussed whether a weather station would be useful to the membership and explained how the information would be displayed. The membership expressed approval and the station will be obtained.

There is a Public Safety Demo on May 22. See Jim KD8MNQ for details.

Gary W8USU asked for a donation from the club to help with heating costs at the Masonic Center.

Presentation: Sonia Elinchev from the American Red Cross displayed disaster readiness kits and how to be prepared for emergencies.

Adjourned: 8:23 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

SMARS Board Meeting

May 31, 2010

Called to Order: 6:03 PM

Officers Present: Bob AC8GL Don W8RVT John W8JRD Gary N8QC

Topics:

Field Day: SMARS has ok from airport to use a section east of last year's site, permit from the city still needed. Food at FD may consist of a light Saturday night meal with beverages for the whole weekend and a budget of \$150. A volunteer may be asked to stay Friday night. A mobile toilet needs to be rented. Logging software needs to be decided. All computers and monitors need to be checked. Maybe find somewhere where the trailers could be washed.

The weather station has been ordered and received. It still needs to be installed at the repeater site.

June entertainment will mainly be about Field Day, with Arnie WA8VRA asked to move to another month.

Gary W8USU relayed that the Masonic Center is looking for a donation to help offset fuel costs. The board authorized a one-time payment of \$50.

Adjourned: 7:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

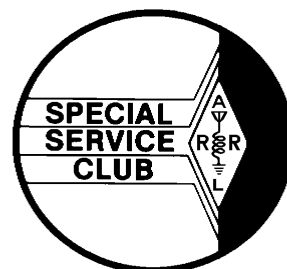
Profit & Loss Statement

5/1/10 Through 5/31/10

Category Description	5/1/10- 5/31/10
INCOME	
50 50 Interest Inc	10.00 0.86
TOTAL INCOME	10.86
EXPENSES	
Feedack: Postage Printing	26.40 43.25
TOTAL Feedback	69.65
Insurance: Liability	320.00
TOTAL Insurance	320.00
Meetings: Refreshments	6.00
TOTAL Meetings	6.00
Utilities: Internet Telephone	69.99 66.02
TOTAL Utilities	136.01
TOTAL EXPENSES	531.66
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-520.80

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

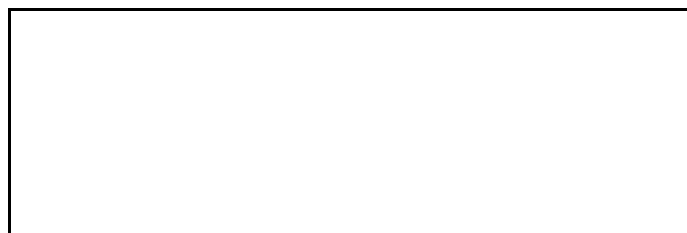
FEEDBACK



JUNE 2010

SMARS
P.O. BOX 934
BATTLE CREEK MI 49016

FIRST CLASS MAIL



SMARS NETS

Before Lunch Bunch
Monday-Friday 11:30 A.M.
146.66

Sunday Evening 8:00 P.M.
146.66

Monday 7:30 P.M.
224.24

Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
443.95 *NEEDS LEADER*

Wednesday 8:00 P.M.
28.365

Saturday 8:00 P.M.
443.95 *NEEDS LEADER*

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN.NET
Monday 7:00 P.M. 147.12

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING JUN 17
HAMFEST MIDLAND JUN 19
HAMFEST MONROE JUN 20
FIELD DAY JUN 26-27
SMARS BOARD JUN 28
SMARS BREAKFAST JUL 3
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH JUL 8
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING JUL 15