

FEEDBACK

OCTOBER 2000



IDEAS

A large amount of space this month is spent on a document occurring on the Michigan PRB1 bulletin board. Please read and take action as suggested in the article.

Many of our local hams are directly affected by the lack of PRB-1 legislation in Michigan. At least two of our nearby townships have tower limitations severely limiting antenna heights, Pennfield and Leroy. Some amateurs lucked in with grandfather clauses, but the newer amateurs don't have that privilege. At least one of our local hams wants to erect a tower of moderate size but is unable to because of this restriction.

Known limitations present a 35 foot height as a maximum as well as requiring in one case of clearance of absurd distances from the tower. The generally accepted height by states that have adopted a variation of the FCC's PRB seems to be 75 feet .

Another concern amateurs have is the recent widely spread laws enacted by legislative bodies on the use of cell phones while driving. Included this month is an article on how a ham handled this problem. His defense might be useable according to how the law is written in the locality where a problem occurs.

Its getting close to the time for SMARS members to choose new officers for the new year. It's also time to start taking care of dues as they all expire on the last day of December. Dues of \$10 bucks a year are a bargain that few clubs can offer.

ARES AT 75

AR ES® is celebrating its 75th anniversary from September through December 2010. ARRL's ARES program has provided emergency communications for agencies such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, countless Emergency Operations Centers and others in the worst of times. In events from ice storms to Hurricane Katrina, when normal communications systems were down or overloaded, the Amateur Radio operators of the ARES programs responded to requests for communications aid.

Over the years the equipment has changed, but the decentralized communications nets that ARES can create to blanket regions without the need for other infrastructure remain critical in emergency planning. Recognition of this capability has led to renewed formal agreements with DHS, FEMA, NOAA and other federal agencies. With over 20,000 of the country's 680,000+ Amateur Radio operators involved in ARES--all of them truly "amateur" and providing their time, services, knowledge and equipment totally uncompensated--they are more than worthy of recognition for their 75 years of community services in the worst of times.

You can find more information about ARES at:

<http://www.arrl.org/public-service>

Information about the anniversary is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/ares-anniversary>

Click for more information on celebration plans and resources.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) *No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats..*
- 2) *When your Mom is mad at your Dad,
don't let her brush your hair.*
- 3) *If your sister hits you, don't hit her back.
They always catch the second person.*
- 4) *Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.*
- 5) *You can't trust dogs to watch your food..*
- 6) *Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair..*
- 7) *Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.*
- 8) *You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.*
- 9) *Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.*
- 10) *The best place to be when you're sad
is Grandma's lap.*



THE QMN:

A Celebration of the First Traffic Net.

The year 2010 will mark an important anniversary in the History of Amateur Radio: The birth of the first public service net and it happened here in Michigan.

Before the implementation of a net concept, radiogram traffic and emergency communications activity was conducted on a system of schedules and random contacts. Radiogram traffic moved across the country on "Trunk Line" networks staffed on a daily basis by "iron man" traffic handlers. From these key stations, traffic was routed to its destination via individual schedules, directional "CQ" requests, and similar techniques. The ARRL "Amateur Radio Emergency Corps," "National Traffic System," and similar programs had not yet emerged.

This all changed during the autumn of 1935 when members of the Detroit Amateur Radio Association (DARA) formed the Michigan Net and adopted the net call "QMN." The plan was simple and elegant in concept. Using the relatively new technology of crystal control, radio amateurs from throughout the State of Michigan would gather on a single "spot frequency" to exchange radiogram traffic and coordinate emergency communications response to disasters. A QMN Committee standardized the procedures and created the familiar "QN-Signals" so familiar to generations of traffic handlers. With the creation of QMN, the modern traffic net was born.

This year, QMN will celebrate its Diamond Anniversary with a very special event! A 75th Anniversary Banquet will be held at Owosso, Michigan on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Activities include: * A special event station on 7055 KHz and 3563 KHz using the call K8QMN. This special event station will use vintage equipment from the 1930s and '40s. Visitors will have an opportunity to sit down at the key and experience QSOs using 1930s era receivers.

* A presentation entitled "An Early History of Radio" will be featured along with a talk on the history of QMN.

* Long-time members will reminisce about their experiences in Amateur Radio.

* Vintage radio equipment will be on display for all to enjoy.

* A working Morse Telegraph Circuit will be available on site for those who would like to see land-line telegraphy and American Morse Code in use.

* A special commemorative booklet will be provided to each attendee. This commemorative booklet will include an excellent history of QMN written by the Don Devendorf, W8EGI (SK), along with an introduction covering the early history of Amateur Radio.

QMN members both past and present are invited to attend, as are all radio amateurs with an interest in the history of Amateur Radio and the history of public service communications. Those wishing to attend this event should request a registration form from James Wades, WB8SIW at the following e-mail: james-wades@gmail.com You don't want to miss this celebration to be held on October 23, 2010 at the Comstock Inn, Owosso, Michigan.

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PRB-1 IN MICHIGAN

PRB-1 cited as "Amateur Radio Preemption, 101 FCC 2d 952 (1985)," is a limited preemption of local zoning ordinances. It delineates **three rules** for local municipalities to follow in regulating antenna structures: (1) state and local regulations that operate to preclude amateur communications are in **direct conflict** with federal objectives and **must be preempted**; (2) local regulations that involve placement, screening or height of antennas based on health, safety or aesthetic considerations must be crafted to **reasonably accommodate** amateur communications; and (3) such local regulations must represent the **minimum practicable regulation** to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose. The heart of PRB-1 is codified in the FCC Rules [97.15(e)]. Of course, what is "reasonable" depends on the circumstances.

History

Since PRB-1 was passed by the FCC, Radio Amateurs have found that the zoning boards of local municipalities do **not** give adequate consideration to FCC Regulations in making zoning decisions. So beginning in the 1990's, amateurs began lobbying for legislation that would place PRB-1 type language into their State Laws. So far, 27 States have passed PRB-1 legislation.

The time has come for Michigan to pass PRB-1 legislation. Your interest, action & motivation will assure its passage in 2009.

The Problem

The proliferation of cell phone towers built since the 1980's has caused many county and city governments to pass zoning laws that unintentionally restrict the ability of radio amateurs to install effective antenna systems. In 1985, at the ARRL's request, the Federal Communications Commission issued Memorandum Opinion and Order PRB-1. In PRB-1 the FCC pre-empted local zoning

laws that did not make "reasonable accommodation" for amateur radio stations regarding antenna restrictions, radio frequency power limits, etc. The PRB-1 preemption has been used effectively to change zoning laws all over the country, but it has required significant effort on the part of radio amateurs who have had to deal with this issue one jurisdiction at a time. Many local zoning boards do not give FCC regulations adequate consideration when making zoning decisions, and across the country amateurs have found that state laws are a more effective tool for influencing local zoning regulations. So beginning in the 1990's, amateurs began lobbying for legislation that would place PRB-1-type language into their state laws. Today 27 states have passed PRB-1 type legislation. We need to work hard to get the PRB-1 legislation passed in Michigan. Your support is crucial to this effort. **Please help by being prepared to write to your Michigan State representatives. We will notify you when the timing is right.**

THE SOLUTION:

WRITE YOUR STATE SENATOR!!!!

If they are not aware that there is grass root support for this bill they will be complacent. Make sure they know that you are voter and will look favorably upon them in the next election if they vote to support the bill, you know politicians, they love the voter. Please download the sample letter located on the left navigation. **HB #5556 has been drafted and sent to committee. Please write your Representative and urge him/her to support our initiative. Join our e-mail list, and we will notify you when it is time to write to your Senator and State Representative in support of this effort.**

FOX

Several SMARS club members tried their hand at fox-hunting on a recent Saturday. Due to the event being published on the Michigan Foxhunting site some members of the Branch County Amateur club took part as well as a couple from Grand Rapids.

The hunt was developed by Dave KC8COT making a fox in an surplus ammunition can and a elevated antenna. A co-conspirator was John W8JRD.

It seemed odd that more members and other local hams didn't take part. It was fun — a mixture of frustration and success. It was an excellent training exercise. This was the place to practice on a skill that an amateur may be called on at sometime. The need to find a blocking signal is a skill that has been assumed that amateurs have. And you don't if you don't practice.

--- In MichiganFoxHunter@yahoo.com, K8TB <k8tb@...> wrote:

It was a gas. This was only the second hunt held by the SMARS W8DF club. And they did a great job. This was a collaborative hunt, with the hidden transmitter was really a hidden transmitter. I'm guessing there were about 6 cars in the hunt, and most cars showed up within 20 minutes of each other.

There are some pictures on the Michigan Fox Hunter web site at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MichiganFoxHunter/photos/album/0/list>

It is apparent that this is a very enthusiastic group, and they will be having more fun and more fox hunts in the future. As an added bonus, Sheila and I stopped at a McDonald's on the way out of town, and by coincidence, ACE DF'ers Larry, WB8R and Arnie, NS8T from Coldwater stopped in also. We all sat down and had a great time.

Of interest to me was the gentleman who was using a TDOA antenna system. Very interesting antenna and cleverly built.

Folks, plan on a state wide hunt this time next year, probably just north of Lansing. Michigan is getting ready.

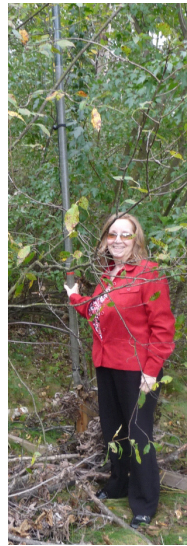
A special thank you to the SMARS group for the hunt and the hospitality.

vy 73 de Sheila K8AJ and Tom K8TB

You are correct....it was a great day for a fox hunt. The guys from BC did a great job and the hunt came off without a hitch. It was a real pleasure to meet up with Sheila and Tom and set down and do what hams do best: chew the fat! For those of you that were not there today, be sure to put their next hunt on your calendar!

Larry, WB8R

The first to find the fox were Sheila and Tom' Sheila holds up the antenna and Tom is pointing out the "fox" in its den.



Don and Gary are show bragging about their second place finish with Don holding his Fox Gun up in the air for all to see.



The entire cast of characters and charlatans had to have a picture taken for posterity showing the entire posse



The fox did very well in this deep spooky forest.



ARES / RACES Report for September, 2010 in Calhoun County

K1CE Rick

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

1 RACES Meeting 2.0 hrs each @ 21 People Total 42 hrs
 Four Nets 86 People@ 1 Hr Total 86 hrs

Public Service Events

1 Siren Test 1hrs each @ 16 People = 16hrs
 1 Formal net First aid 2 vehicles 9 + command
 Corporate Cup 12 personnel 338 communications Total 55 hrs
Administration Hours Total 10hrs

Emergency Operations

Sky warn net 12 People@4hr. Total 48 hrs
Total

Equipment Hours

RACES Trailer Maintenance 3hrs @ 3 Person = Total 9hrs

Travel Hours =

Total 4.0

Expenses- Out of Pocket =

Total \$45.00

Travel Miles =

Total 104

Members (ARES / RACES) =

Total 36

Total Nets, Events, Sessions =7

Total Hours =

254 hrs total

Contributed Value =

\$ 4995.00

Kenneth Nierman
 KC8QNQ E-46
 City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County
 RACES, Emergency Coordinator

Reports that Flagler County emergency management requires volunteers to hold certifications in IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 courses from FEMA.

Here are a few additional courses to consider:

- Introduction to Incident Command System
- ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction
- National Response Framework, An Introduction
- Emergency Support Functions (ESF) #2 - Communications

The above courses are available free of charge from the FEMA Independent Study Web site, conducted by its Emergency Management Institute. These are just a few of the many courses that apply to being better prepared.

Rick noted that during the hurricane season that many different sources were being use by WX4NHC such as the MADIS automated weather stations CWOP, APRS, VoIP, D-STAR in addition to HF and other more common sources. Listening in on EchoLink "WX-Talk" Conference Room (node 7203 can be very informative.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) *Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.*
- 2) *Wrinkles don't hurt.*
- 3) *Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts*
- 4) *Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground...*
- 5) *Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.*
- 6) *Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy..*

FOR SALE

Icom IC-208H Vhf/Uhf Transceiver

Like new—Little used

With Magnet mount antenna

\$275.00

Call W8RZY (Larry Payne)

269-963-6750



HAMFESTS

Oct 16 Holland MI
Great Lakeshore Super Swap, Holland ARC
Location: West Ottawa High School South Campus
3600 152nd Avenue, Holland, MI 49424
Website: <http://hollandarc.org>
Talk-In: 147.06+ (PL 94.8)
Contact: Jeff Ver Hage , KB8QAP
PO Box 2104 Holland, MI 49422
Phone: 616-724-7720
Email: HollandArcSwap@gmail.com

Oct 17 Kalamazoo MI
Kalamazoo ARC & Southwest Michigan AR Team
Location: Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds
2900 Lake Street Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Website: <http://www.KalamazooHamFest.com>
Talk-In: 147.640/147.040 (PL 94.8)
Contact: Ruth BatesHill , WB8VEV
9176 Shade Tree Circle Galesburg, MI 49053
Phone: 269-665-7149 (H); 269-833
Email: Ruth.M.Bates-Hill@Pfizer.com

Oct 24 Sterling Heights MI
25th Annual USECA Swap
Utica Shelby Emergency Communication Association
Location: American Polish Century Club
33204 Maple Lane Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48310
Website: <http://www.USECAARC.com>
Talk-In: 147.180 (PL 100)
Contact: Jeff Johnson , KD8CIA
28527 Adler Drive Warren, MI 48088
Phone: 586-873-9198
Email: KD8CIA@gmail.com

Nov 13-14 Fort Wayne IN
Indiana State Convention
(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)
Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society
Location: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46801
Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>
Talk-In: 146.880(-)
Contact: James D Boyer , KB9IH
PO Box 10342 Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342
Phone: 260-579-2196
Email: chairman@fortwaynehamfest.com

Dec 5 L'Anse Creuse MI
LCARC Amateur Radio Swap/Hamfest
L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club
Location: L'Anse Creuse High School
384955 L'Anse Creuse Street,
Harrison Township, MI 48045
Website: <http://www.N8LC.org>
Sponsor: L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club
Talk-In: 147.08 receive (147.68 transmit) (PL 100)
Contact: Gregg Crump , N8GEO
29729 South River Road Harrison Township, MI 48045
Phone: 586-344-7013
Email: n8geo@arrl.net

TWO OF THE YEAR'S BEST COMEBACK RESPONSES

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defense attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the police officer's credibility

Q: 'Officer --- did you see my client fleeing the scene?'

A: 'No sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away.'

Q: 'Officer -- who provided this description?'

A: 'The officer who responded to the scene.'

Q: 'A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?'

A: 'Yes, sir. With my life.'

Q: 'With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?'

A: 'Yes sir, we do!'

Q: 'And do you have a locker in the room?'

A: 'Yes, sir, ... I do.'

Q: 'And do you have a lock on your locker?'

A: 'Yes, sir.'

Q: 'Now, ... why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?'

A: 'You see, sir -- we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room.'

The courtroom EXPLODED with laughter, and a prompt recess was called. The officer on the stand has been nominated for this year's 'Best Comeback' line -- and we think he'll win.

Number 2:

Now We Know Why He Was a General

In an recent interview, General Norman Schwarzkopf was asked if he thought there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harbored and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America.

His answer was classic Schwarzkopf. The General said, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function ... OUR job is to arrange the meeting."

You got to love them both!

Income and Expense Statement

9/1/10 Through 9/30/10

Category Description	9/1/10- 9/30/10
INCOME	
50 50	4.50
Dues	35.00
Interest Inc: Checking	0.65
TOTAL Interest Inc	0.65
TOTAL INCOME	40.15
EXPENSES	
Maintenance: 220 Repeater	58.75
TOTAL Maintenance	58.75
Utilities: Telephone	66.14
TOTAL Utilities	66.14
TOTAL EXPENSES	124.89
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-84.74

SMARS Board Meeting

October 4, 2010

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Officers Present: Don W8RVT John W8JRD Gary N8QC Bob AC8GL

Topics:

An Election Committee has been formed consisting of Gary N8QC, Marion WA8MFL, and John W8JRD. Candidates are to be presented at the November club meeting.

The Trustee position within SMARS will have to be filled. Discussion of the duties and responsibilities of the Trustee. Further action on filling the Trustee position was tabled.

Issues with the Hamfest were discussed, including lighting, signs, vendor talk-in, and how to better use the space available. The ARRL has been in contact with SMARS about possibly hosting a Convention at Marshall.

Minor repairs needed to be made to the 220 repeater.

There will be a VE session at the 2011 Hamfest.

Further discussion about hosting a license class. SMARS has a place available and needs to come up with teaching materials.

Adjourned: 7:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

SMARS Club Meeting

September 16, 2010

Called To Order: 7:02 PM

Officers Present: Bob AC8GL Don W8RVT John W8JRD Gary N8QC

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: No report.

ARES/RACES: There will be a Fox Hunt on September 25, starting in the Battle Creek Police Department at 9:45 for a briefing and the cooperative hunt starting at 10.

VE Testing: October 28 is the next SMARS exam session. Kalamazoo has one at their hamfest on October 17 and Coldwater has one on November 6, in conjunction with a one day class.

Technical Engineer: There were some on going repairs to the 220 repeater.

Old Business:

The club website is in need of updating its layout. The SMARS logo is in rough shape also.

New Business:

An Election Committee needs to be formed. The Vice President normally heads this. Candidates will be presented at the November club meeting.

Lou will secure a place for the annual Christmas party.

Russ N8UU has purchased property near Baldwin and will eventually resign from the Trustee position and will need to be replaced.

Adjourned: 8:08 PM

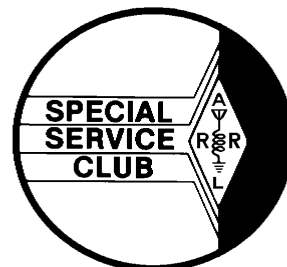
Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



OCTOBER 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 8:00 P.M.
224.24

Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
443.95

Wednesday 8:00 P.M.
28.365

Saturday 8:00 P.M.
443.95

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

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH OCT 14
HAMFEST HOLLAND OCT 16
HAMFEST KALAMAZOO OCT 17
THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING OCT 21
HAMFEST STERLING HEIGHTS OCT 24
SMARS BOARD NOV 1
SMARS BREAKFAST NOV 6
HAMFEST FORT WAYNE NOV 13-14
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING NOV 18
HAMFEST L'ANSE CREUSE DEC 5