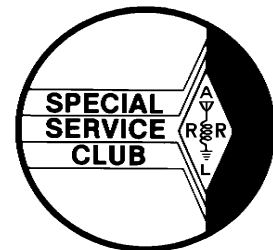


FEEDBACK

NOVEMBER 2008



KEITH ADAMS W8BAY SK

Keith passed away on Oct 13, 2008 at the age of 92, after a brief illness. Keith was a life long resident of Battle Creek where he graduated from high school. He worked for the Post Office for 41 years in various roles and after his retirement he maintained his relations with other postal employees by serving as an officer in the retired post office employees organization. He could be found nearly daily at the Continental Bakery having a cup of coffee with friends. Keith was a gentleman in the truest sense and will be missed.

COMMENTS

We're coming to the end of another year and can tell of success in some things and failure in others. Since the year is ending, leadership for SMARS is needed for the coming year and hopefully people will step forward to take on the responsibilities.

A big responsibility is the recruiting of members both new and old. What happened to those who disappeared? Do we get them back and active? As we look around at various other groups, they all seem to have similar problems. Some join and disappear, some join and sit on their hands, some get offended by trivialities and some just bellyache. And of course there are the many activities that we all get involved in that take important time away from the things that we'd like to do. Conundrums!

For those who want to help in times of trouble, this month "FEEDBACK" discusses where study materials can be found that will prepare the volunteer for useful participation during times of need. As was noted during the Gulf hurricanes, there were plenty of volunteers. Many were not useful for lack of training and knowledge. These study courses are one way to be useful when needed.

DUES

It's that time of year again. The membership dues for SMARS run from January 1 to December 31. For a measly \$10 you get to support three repeaters and a chance to participate in the activities of one of the oldest clubs in Michigan. It can chase its history back into the thirties while changing its name and call sign.

If you have other family members that live with you and are or want to become hams, they can join for an additional \$1 per member.

Now that's a bargain!

SMARS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Renee has arranged with The Old Country Buffet for reserved space on the main floor for 40 people at our annual Christmas party.

Plan on starting the dinner at about 6:00 on December 13. There will be a table for the exchange of gifts as in the past. Ladies to bring a gift for ladies and men to bring gifts for men. Suggested amounts to be under ten dollars or so.

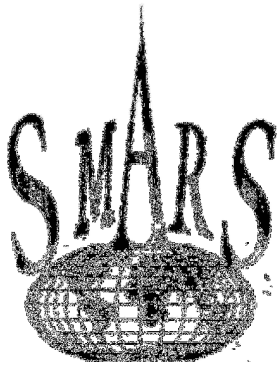
Let Renee know if you are coming and how many in your group in case she needs to reserve additional room.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

It's never a bad time to check your homeowner's or renter's insurance for coverage of "auxiliary" or "external" structures as it applies to ham radio towers and antennas. After the storm is a bad time to find out that there is an exclusion for such things.

Automobile insurance may have restrictions on mobile antennas and radio's, too. With policies being frequently updated, it's not a bad idea to check your coverage. The ARRL administers an "all risk" ham equipment insurance program for just these reasons.

*Only in America.....
do drugstores make the sick
walk all the way
to the back of the store
to get their prescriptions while
healthy people can buy
cigarettes at the front.*



Board of Directors

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Sqjumper@aol.com

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Wb4bko@arrl.net

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QUICK CHARGE INFO

Is it best to recharge batteries slowly? Will Quick charging NiMH batteries will reduce their life?

Not true.

For practical purposes with batteries that are designed to be quick charged, for example, Sanyo, GP, Tenergy, that is not true. It is important to use a battery charger that has been specifically designed to rapid charge NiMH cells.

Actually there is a much greater likely hood of reducing the life of a NiMH battery by using an "overnight" charger than by using a smart fast charger. Overnight chargers rely on the fact that you will unplug them after a number of hours. If you forget to unplug them they can continue to charge the batteries longer than they should. Overcharging WILL reduce the life of batteries.

From a strictly technical sense, a battery that is always slow charged will likely last a little longer than one that is always rapid charged. However, the difference is so small that it is not likely to be noticeable for most users.

info@all-battery.com
1292 Kifer Road, Unit 807
Sunnyvale, CA 94086 USA

ECHOLINKS

W8DF 224.24 repeater shows 116 echolink connections for October. As usual, some of these were "just testing", but others were interesting. A couple of times Thomas, DA0AD, a city bus driver in central Germany has showed up. Seems he is working on his English and doing a pretty good job at it.

We saw a few connections from the Boy Scout Jamboree, also. Speaking of the Jamboree, the VERY FEW club members that supported the event were kept quite busy with the scouts and created a bit of interest in amateur radio. Echolink proved to be a very valuable tools when working with the scouts. They were able to communicate with some exotic places like Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Thailand.

One lad was an immigrant from Russia and very much wanted to speak to anyone there. Unfortunately, several connections failed to raise a contact.

The October logbook for W8DF-R is available on w8df.com. It tells all that happened for the month.

Don-W8RVT

KNOWING WHEN TO STOP

When I was a tech thrashing the novice bands trying to achieve 13 wpm I used to participate in roundtable discussions in CW. There were six or eight of us. We even had one who took time to swear in CW. What guy!

The rule was that we would continue non stop until someone could wait no longer to visit the bathroom. And when they did the contest was over. Anyone was allowed to take roll at anytime to guard against someone sneaking off while no one was "looking."

The Q signal was QJR which stood for: Quick John Run.

What fun it was.

72 de Scott/n7net/ qrp

*Only in America.....
do people order
double cheeseburgers,
large fries,
and a diet coke.*

STICKY TAPE X-RAYS

Did you ever peel off some Scotch tape from your finger in a dark room? If you did you might have noticed some light emerging from the tape.

Try this: stick some tape Scotch or otherwise to one of your fingers. Get in a dark place, maybe a closet with the door shut, and look carefully at the tape as you pull it off. You should see light emitting from that tape finger junction.

Guess what! You've just taken an XRay of you finger! Scientists have found that doing the peeling in a vacuum would generate enough X Rays that you really could take an XRay of your finger. The closet experiment didn't make that strong of an XRay but should have been visible.

Scenes from Jamboree



Trees are shade



Some talk



Some make coffee



It was tall



Long day

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

Ten year Celebration

The 10th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008. SRD is co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and the ARRL. SKYWARN Recognition Day is a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping keep their communities safe. During the 24-hour special event, Amateur Radio operators visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

2008 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC December 6th. Last year contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries during the 24 hour event. If you haven't joined in the fun, 2008 is your year! To learn more, check out our Web site:

<<http://hamradio.noaa.gov>>. -- David Floyd, N5DBZ, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Goodland, Kansas, <david.l.floyd@noaa.gov>

JAMBOREE

SMARS was invited to participate in the Boy Scout Jamboree On

The Air this fall. SMARS set up a station using one of the club trailers at the Wilder Creek Conservation Club facility south of Marshall. The young scouts were introduced to amateur radio use of VHF repeaters by the wide area link system of west Michigan and also the Echolink (VOLP) worldwide communication capability.

Many scouts qualified for their radio merit badges and several expressed interest in becoming amateur radio operators. Special thanks should go to the SMARS members

taking part in the event: Stephanie W8AEZ, Don W8RVT, John

KC8WMM and Marion WA8MFL. Others helping out at various

times were Walt K8AEM, Lou WB8WXS, Bob KA8LUQ and Bob KC8PRL.

As a follow up to the Jamboree, several scouts were at camp

north of Battle Creek on the weekend of November 8 and 9 and

invited Stephanie to demonstrate amateur radio. Don W8RVT,

John KC8WMM and Stephanie W8AEZ spent several hour on a cold

windy day initiating the scout troop to amateur radio.

W1AW 2008/2009 Winter Operating Schedule

SWAP FESTS

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the November 2008 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

15-16 Nov Fort Wayne, IN
Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo) at the Allen County Memorial Coliseum, 400 Parnell Road. Presented by the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society. Talk-In 146.88.

Contact:
James Boyer, KB9IH
260-579-2196,
chairman@FortWayneHamfest.com

7 Dec Mount Clemens, MI
Amateur Radio Computer Swap, L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club at the L'Anse Creuse High School, 38495 L'Anse Creuse Street. Talk-In 147.08 + 600 (PL 100).

Contact:
Marty Folz K8HVI
k8hvi@arrl.net

7ARES / RACES Report for October in Calhoun County

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training
4 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 71 People = 71hrs
1 Set Training Exercise 4 hr each @ 15 people = 60hrs
Total NETS and Training Seminars, 86 People =130hrs
Public Service Events
Total Public Service Events, 0 People 0hrs
Emergency Operations Total = 0 People 0 hrs
Administration Hours, Total for Oct. Total = 35hrs
Travel Hours for Oct. Total = 10 hrs
Expenses- Out of Pocket Total = \$125.00
Travel Miles for Oct. Total = 150 Miles
Members 34

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

THE RED CROSS AND YOU

(a discussion by Jim Weaver K8JE,
Great Lakes ARRL Director)

Red Cross is demanding Intellectual Property agreements

Red Cross appears to be expanding its legal agreement demands. This time, a few chapters in Ohio are demanding radio amateur volunteers to sign away their rights to intellectual property developed while a Red Cross volunteer. The local chapters say this is another requirement of American Red Cross at the national level.

Signing away ones intellectual rights -- rights to inventions or written "product" any of us develop -- is a potentially serious action. Many of us sign intellectual property agreements with employers. They pay us and deserve to receive the rewards of inventions we develop at work and in some instances when we are not at work. But signing away our ownership rights for innovations we develop just because we operate a radio to help our community in an emergency? This seems to be going just a bit overboard.

If you are asked to sign an intellectual rights agreement, I encourage you to evaluate the agreement thoroughly before you sign it. Having it reviewed by an attorney either on your personal behalf or the behalf of your ARES unit or club would be a good idea. Depending on the wording of the agreement the agreement just might require you to surrender the rights to a "better mousetrap" over to Red Cross if you happen to develop one.

ARRL does not recommend you refuse to sign an intellectual property agreement with the RC. What we suggest is that you review carefully a request by anyone to sign your rights over to them. Personally, I would graciously decline to sign any of my rights away if doing this is not in my families' or my own best interest.

FEMA COURSES

FEMA's Independent Study Program offers courses that support the nine mission areas identified by the National Preparedness Goal: Incident Management, Operational Planning, Disaster Logistics, Emergency Communications, Service to Disaster Victims, Continuity Programs, Public Disaster Communications, Integrated Preparedness, and Hazard Mitigation.

Education in all of these should be ARES training goals. Here is what Dennis Dura, K2DCD, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, recently told the nation's Section Managers in re the ESF#2 Communications course: "Many of you may already be aware of this course (IS-802), or have taken it. It is a relatively new FEMA on-line independent study course that presents the concepts of Emergency Support Function #2-Communications. For those that have heard my presentations around the country, I strongly encourage integrating ARES in the local, county, regional or state government emergency operations plans, of which ESF #2 is a part. This presents us a variety of mission options, not behold to any one specific group, and we become more aligned with the emergency management structure. The course will take approximately 30 minutes to complete."

If you haven't looked at the independent study programs of FEMA's Emergency Management Institute lately, do yourself a favor and click on: <<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>> Many new courses have been added, and a few of the classic original courses have been revised. Some of the newer courses that struck me as significant for ARES members include:

IS-102 Deployment Basics for FEMA Response Partners (New 9/9/2008)

IS-802 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) #2 - Communications (New 8/6/2008)

IS-775 EOC Management and Operations (New 8/6/2008)

IS-100.a Introduction to Incident Command System (Revised 7/28/2008)

IS-200.a ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (Revised 7/28/2008)

IS-809 Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 - Search and Rescue (5/21/2008)

IS-808 Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 - Public Health and Medical Services (4/11/2008)

IS-800.B National Response Framework, An Introduction (2/4/2008)

*Only in America.....
do banks leave
both doors open and then
chain the pens to the counters.*

SMARS General Club Meeting

October 16, 2008

Called To Order: 7:01pm

Officers Present: Rene KC8SLI John KC8WMM Bill KD8CDS Lou WB8WXS

Secretary's Report: as published in Feedback, approved

Treasurer's Report: as published in Feedback, approved

Announcement:

SMARS annual Christmas dinner will be December 13, 2008 6pm at the Old Country Buffet on Beckley Road, There will be a gift exchange for those interested, guys for guys and gals for gals, with a \$10 limit.

Committee Reports:

Field Day: Bob reports there is construction by Duncan Aviation, but doesn't know if it will effect our Field Day site. Results from the 08 Field Day are still pending.

Hamfest: No response from Marshall High School yet. Inquiries are starting to come in. Grand Rental Station can rent chairs to SMARS for \$.85 per chair.

Feedback: no report

Old Business:

Boy Scout Jamboree: Marion, Don and others collected a beam from the HF trailer that hopefully will be more effective than at the last outing. Setup is Friday, October 17 at 4pm. W8DF will operate from 9ish to 5ish. Lou wondered where the Club sandwich board sign had disappeared to.

Tower: Don reports a gift of new equipment for the 440 repeater. There is a problem with the antenna at the 220 repeater site. Don will borrow a telescope to determine the problem. He will check the equipment at the old repeater site.

New Business:

Jackets: Russ inquired if there was sufficient interest in an embroidered jacket with call sign and club id. Most of the members present expressed an interest.

Elections:

Marion, Lou and Russ will serve as an election committee to select candidates for 2009.

Program:

Don W8RVT presented a demonstration of APRS.

Drawing:

WA8MFL was the lucky winner. Several tickets to the Fort Wayne Hamfest were also drawn.

Adjourned: 8:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson KC8WMM
SMARS Secretary

SMARS Board Meeting

November 6, 2008

Called To Order: 7:01pm

Officers Present: Ned WB4BKO Bill KD8CDS Rene KC8SLI John KC8WMM

Others Present: Marion WA8MFL Stephanie W8AEZ Don W8RVT Bob KC8PRL

Topics Discussed:

Program for November Meeting: Ned has no one lined up. Don will try to get his son-in-law to explain the internet.

Election of Officers: Ned will re-run for VP and John will re-run for Secretary. Others are still being asked to run.

Tower: The feedline appears to be OK. The position of the antenna on the North side of the tower is not optimal. The antenna will need to be re-tuned. It will take about 3 hours to re-tune the antenna. It will have to be lowered to the ground, re-tuned, and re-mounted in a different position on the tower. There is a TV antenna that interferes with its current location. Whatever is done will have to be coordinated with the tower owners.

Boy Scout Jamboree: Went pretty well, despite continuing problems with equipment and a very light SMARS turnout. Stephanie made several contacts on 2 meters, and Don made numerous contacts using Echolink.

Hamfest: Stephanie heard from the school. They are expressing some doubts as to the viability of the Hamfest. Stephanie and Marion will meet with the school next week. The date of the Hamfest is to be changed to mesh with Maumee, and will be March 14, 2009.

Field Day: Bob reports there is a snow fence around the Field Day site and wondered about airport construction. Lou will check with the airport authorities and get our Field Day site reserved early. Still nothing in QST about '08 results.

Boy Scout Event: There will be one for Barry County scouts on November 8. Don will take an Echolink setup. John is preparing a handout and needs a picture of hams operating. Scouts are setting up Friday and are expecting 15 -17 to try for a Radio Merit Badge.

Adjourned: 7:53pm

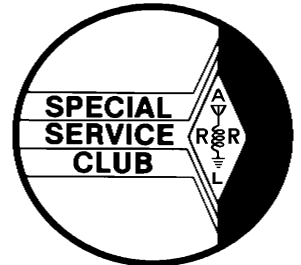
Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson KC8WMM
SMARS Secretary

*Only in America.....
do we leave cars worth
thousands of
dollars in the driveway
and put our useless junk in the
garage.*

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

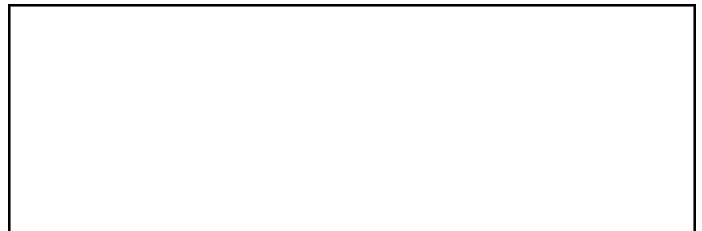
FEEDBACK



NOVEMBER 2008

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

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

HAMFEST FORT WAYNE NOV 15-16
THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING NOV 20
SMARS BOARD DEC 4
SMARS BREAKFAST DEC 6
HAMFEST L'ANSE CREUSE DEC 7
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH DEC 11
CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC 13
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING DEC 18