



FEEDBACK

MARCH



COMMENTS

Nearly all of this issue is composed of material originally written by ARRL personnel. The material on Senate Bill 1755 is from a newsletter from our Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver. And the PRB-1 note in the next column is sourced from our Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams. The material on this page is so important to the amateur community that must be given front page visibility.

Remember, to get the electrons moving off your antennas, use a good grade of antenna wax!

PRB-1 UPDATE

Please check the PRB1 web page <http://www.prb1michigan.org> for updates. We are asking all Michigan hams to write to your State Representative to encourage support for HB5556. Your letters are vital to the success of the legislation. Sample letters are available on the web page.

You can download one of these and tailor it to your specific situation. Many clubs are teaming to send letters from their entire membership recommending support. Thanks also to several Michigan Clubs and individuals who are financially supporting this effort.

SENATE BILL 1755

ARRL Requests Support for Senate Bill 1755 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 introduced in October 2009 by Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) -- has unanimously passed the US Senate and has been sent to the US House of Representatives for consideration and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The ARRL is asking its membership to contact the leadership of the Energy and Commerce committee, requesting support and action on moving S 1755 through the committee. S 1755 accomplishes the same things as HR 2160; HR 2160 was introduced in April 2009 by Rep Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). Since S 1755 has already been approved by the Senate, moving it forward in the House will simplify the process.

S 1755 points out that "[there is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

If enacted into law, S 1755 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study -- and report its findings to Congress within 180 days -- on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

The study shall:

Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.

Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.

Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations, and make recommendations regarding such impediments.

Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)). Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose, in residential areas. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including Amateur Radio, emergency response and disaster communications.

Please contact Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA-30) and Ranking Member Joe Barton (R-TX-6), urging them to send this bipartisan bill to the House floor for adoption. A sample letter can be found here. Send your letters urging consideration of S 1755 by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to Rep Waxman via fax at 202-225-2525, and to Rep Barton via fax at 202-225-1919. Also, please fax a copy of your letters to the ARRL's Washington representative, Chwat & Co at 703-684-7594.

For more information on S 1755, please visit the ARRL Government Relations Web page.



SMARTY PANTS NEEDED

The Great Lakes Division is seeking a computer programmer who is willing to donate effort to develop or modify a program that can be used to personalize and print letters from stored files. Some files would be on the local computer; others would be available on line. We have a program that will perform the necessary functions on a limited basis. It will be very helpful if this program can be upgraded to provide increased flexibility or if a replacement program is written.

If you would like to learn more about this project, please let me know when I can call you. We are an equal opportunity beggar.

The pay? A lot of gratitude.

Tnx, 73,

Jim

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
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Mason, OH 45040
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MICHIGAN HAS NEW TRAFFIC NET

from DALE WA8EFK

The Michigan Digital Traffic Net (MIDTN) was called for the first time Feb 9, 2010. Mode: Olivia 500 Hz / 8 tones -Frequency within the Waterfall of 3583 USB. The schedule: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2100 hrs local. At the present time, the net is operating in a training phase. The mid range goal is to join QMN, MACS, MiTN and GLETN as a Section Level NTS Net. To do will complete a threesome of CW, Voice and Digital as means to provide public service communications. It is always nice to have all the tools in one's toolbox.

Olivia is a robust mode that is able to survive in conditions when voice traffic is at times a "no go". During the training phase other modes may be explored such as MT63. Larry KB8GT is acting as the initial Net Control. He also has an e-mail list of stations active or interested in the Net. If you would like to be added to that list, send an e-mail to larry@kb8gt.com.

If you have ever operated PSK31, you will find that Olivia is quite similar. It is a tad wider and of course sounds different. There are no changes in the keyboard. Thus, dust off your "interface", configure for Olivia at 500/8 and come to 3583 USB at 2100 hrs Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday evening. Oh by the way, dust off your "copy/paste" as well and move to a file or transmit buffer techniques. The net is started by an "idle" (in an open space of the Waterfall) - the Net call-up provides the check in procedure. Upon request, Larry can also provide a current procedure to handle the traffic. Most importantly - the net is training to handle traffic. So bring a piece of traffic and join the fun.

ANNIVERSARY Speaking of nets, the Michigan Traffic Net, (MiTN) will celebrate its 23rd anniversary on Saturday February 20. Our congratulations to those who foresaw the need for this premier net and those who strongly support Michigan's traffic handling nets. Did you ever notice the play on words? The nets abbreviation, MiTN, not only represents the net, it also says "Mitten" representing Michigan.

WORKING MONEY

It's a slow day in a small Vermont town and streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody is living on credit. A rich tourist drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night.

As soon as he walks upstairs, the owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher. The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Farmer's Co-op. The guy at the Farmer's Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit.

The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the Hotel owner. The hotel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the rich traveler will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves town.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more Optimism.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how the United States Government is conducting business today.

WALL WARTS

Have you had a wall wart give up on you? If you are like many other hams, you probably didn't throw the little thing away but, rather tossed it into a box or container of some sort with the idea that maybe you might try to repair it some time in the future. You, as many others, probably tried to open the case with a knife or maybe a Dremel tool but got discouraged and tossed the darn thing into the corner for future efforts.

With all of the above frustrated progress needing to be calmed, a hint about a successful way to tackle the problem was noted in a web page. Since the wall wart's case is usually glued or otherwise stuck together about a seam, we can use that to our advantage. Place the wall wart in a vise, clamping opposite corners and tighten the vise until the case cracks at that seam. Don't keep tightening, as you've gone far enough. You might need to try the remaining opposite corners for a complete separation.

With the circuitry now exposed, a repair should be fairly easy. Usually a diode or two will have gone west and need to be replaced. Diodes in the 4000 series will work and are cheap.

HAMFESTS

20 Mar 2010 MARSHALL, MI
50th Annual Michigan Crossroads Hamfest
Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society
Marshall Activities Center
15325 West Michigan Avenue
Marshall MI
<http://w8df.com/hamfest.html>
Talk-in: 146.660 MHz (PL 94.8)
Contact: Joh Davidson, W8JDR
c/o SMARS Marshall Hamfest
PO Box 934
Battle Creek, MI 49016
Phon: 269-962-7145
Email: hamfest@w8df.com

21 Mar 2010 PERRYSBURG, OH
TMRA Hamfest and Computer Fair
Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA)
Perrysburg, OH
Owens Community College
30335 Oregon Road
<http://tmrahamradio.org>
Talk-In: 147.27+
Contact: Brian J. Harrington, WD8MXR
4463 Holly Hill Drive
Toledo, OH 43614
Phone: 419-385-5624
Email: brian.harrington@utoledo.edu

3 Apr 2010 LOWELL, MI
Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell (ARGYL)
Lowell, MI
Lowell High School
11700 Vergennes Street
<http://www.argyl.org>
Talk-In: 145.270 & 146.620 (PL 94.8)
Contact: Al Eckman, WW8WW
725 Bowes Road, Apt. K6
Lowell, MI 49331
Phone: 616-450-4332
Email: al.eckman@sbcglobal.net

NET

The FCC requires amateurs to identify themselves at the end of their transmission. Don't do it at both ends, that's a waste of time. (Less likely to qualify for the Purple Crystal Award.) As the net control operator, once a member of the net has had a turn, don't respond unless there was an immediate response needed. Save your comments until everyone has had a turn, then take your turn to talk.

ARES / RACES Report for FEBRUARY, 2010 in Calhoun County

EVENTS FOR MARCH/ APRIL

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

8 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 141 People = Total 141 hrs
 1 RACES Meeting 1.5 hrs each @ 14 People = Total 21 hrs
 Public Service Events Total 0hrs
 Administration Hours, Total 28hrs
 Emergency Operations Total 0hrs
 Equipment Hours Total 4.0hrs
 Travel Hours 3.1 hrs Total
 Expenses- Out of Pocket \$ 65.00 Total
 Travel Miles 52 Miles Total

Members

35

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

WARNING SIRENS TEST RESULTS

1st. Saturday of the Month, 1:00pm (13:00)
 147.120 Repeater, Date 03-06-10 (March)

<u>Site Locations to be Monitored</u>	<u>Monitoring Station</u>
1: General Foods, Cliff St. Paul ALL MODES OPERATED	WD8JOM
2: Trans American Tower, Down Town Marion ALL MODES OPERATED	WA8MFL
3: Verona School, N.E. Captial Ave. Kelly ALL MODES OPERATED	KD8LPL
4: Washington School, N. Wash. (NEW) Paul ALL MODES OPERATED	KC8MQU
5: Urbandale School, Bedford Rd. Jack ALL MODES OPERATED	N8LS
6: Riverside School, Riverside Dr Jim H ALL MODES OPERATED	KD8MNQ
7: Water Tower, Eldrid St. (NEW) Gary SEE NOTE #1	N8QC
8: West Lake School, 24 th St. Dave ALL MODES OPERATED (Net Control)	KC8COT
9: I-94/East of Helmer Rd. (Rest Area) (NEW) John ALL MODES OPERATED	W8JRD
10: Beckley Rd. and Captial Ave. Water Tower (NEW) Jim and Donna ALL MODES OPERATED	W8SXT KD8BME
11: Bedford Village, M-37 Fire Station Tony ALL MODES OPERATED	N8WJQ

NOTE #1: Water Tower, Eldrid St. Wail Tone,
 AUDIO OK Rotation OK
 Attact Tone, AUDIO Started OK But Cut OFF after 1 or 2 Seconds.
 Rotation was OK

Dave Smith
 E-12
 WARNING SIRENS TEST RESULTS 03-06-10
 KC8COT
 City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County
 RACES, Emergency Coordinator

EVENTS FOR MARCH

EVENT: Safety Day

DATE: March 12th Friday, 2010
 Time: 9:00AM to 9:00PM
 Location: CEDAR CREST BANQUET CENTER,
 872 E. Michigan, Marshall, MI. 49068

EVENT: Mounly RACES Meeting

Program: BCES, Jim Zoss E-1
 DATE March 16, 2010, Tuesday
 TIME 18:30 (6:30PM)
 LOCATION BCPD Line Up Room

EVENT: Michigan Crossroads HAMFEST

Sponsored By:
 Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society
 DATE: Saturday March 20th 2010
 LOCATION: Marshall Activity Center,
 Marshall Michigan
 TIME: 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

EVENT: Annual Severe Weather Workshop / Training

DATE March 27th 2010, Saturday
 TIME 9:00am to Noon
 LOCATION Lakeview Middle School,
 300 S 28th Street, Battle Creek

APRIL EVENTS

EVENT: Monthly Siren Test

DATE: Saturday April 3rd, 2010
 Time: 1:00PM (13:00 hrs)

EVENT: Monthly RACES Meeting

PROGRAM: (To Be Determined)
 DATE: Tuesday April 21st 2010
 TIME 18:30 (6:30PM)
 LOCATION BCPD Line Up Room

EVENT: March of Dimes, March for Babies

DATE: Saturday, April 17, 2010
 TIME: 9:00AM
 LOCATION: Battle Creek Health Systems

Dave Smith
 KC8COT
 E-12
 City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County
 RACES Emergency Coordinator
 E-Mail: kc8cotham@aol.com
 Tx: (269) 317-8440

Income & Expense Statement

2/1/10 Through 2/28/10

SMARS Club Meeting

February 18, 2010

Category Description	2/1/10- 2/28/10
INCOME	
50 50	13.00
Donations	30.00
Dues	82.00
Hamfest Inc:	
Tables	930.00
Tickets	370.00
TOTAL Hamfest Inc	1,300.00
Interest Inc:	
Checking	0.24
TOTAL Interest Inc	0.24
TOTAL INCOME	1,425.24
EXPENSES	
Hamfest2010:	
Facility	627.00
TOTAL Hamfest2010	627.00
Utilities:	
Telephone	67.01
TOTAL Utilities	67.01
TOTAL EXPENSES	694.01
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	731.23

SMARS Board Meeting

March 1, 2010

Called to Order: 6:11 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL, Don W8RVT, John W8JRD, Jim KD8MNQ, Russ N8UU

Topics:

Hamfest: This was the only topic discussed. Tables sales are brisk and approaching sold out status. The type of refreshments was discussed. Russ had ideas about the parking situation. The door prize price limit was set. Don and John will go to the MAC for a final table and chair tally and discuss with them about room rates and what to display on the marquee. There will be an additional board meeting on March 15 for any last minute hamfest discussion.

Adjourned: 7:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Called To Order: 7:05 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL, Don W8RVT, John KC8WMM, Jim KD8MNQ, Russ N8UU

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Secretary's Report: approved as published in Feedback.

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

Committee Reports:

Field Day: Tabled until after Hamfest

ARES/RACES: Details of last month's activities were presented. March 27 is the Skywarn training session.

VE Testing: Next test is February 25, 2010 and there will be a session at the hamfest.

Technical Engineer: All 3 repeaters working well. Several new Echolink users are connecting.

Old Business:

Dave KC8NZY discussed the results of his refreshment survey. A new coffee pot will need to be purchased. Money was donated to buy a new pot.

New Business:

None.

Break

Entertainment consisted of discussion about Hamfest. A volunteer sheet was passed around. A group of VE's volunteered to run the VE session. Questions were raised about parking and refreshments.

Adjourned: 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



MARCH 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

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

THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING MAR 18
MARSHALL HAMFEST MAR 20
TOLEDO HAMFEST MAR 21
SMARS BOARD MAR 29
LOWELL HAMFEST APR 3
SMARS BREAKFAST APR 3
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH APR 8
MARCH SMARS CLUB MEETING APR 16