



# FEEDBACK

March 2019

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor [w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdb@arrl.net) and get it published in **FEEDBACK!**

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell, purchase or swap amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.

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### Club News

## Crossroads Hamfest

The Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap is coming up this weekend March 16<sup>th</sup>. Things are looking good for the table reservations so we will need people to help with ticket sales, setup (on Friday), tear down, and various tasks throughout the Hamfest. We will also have an Exam Session starting at 10:00 AM (VE's are needed) in the upper level conference room.

For more information, please visit the Crossroads Hamfes website <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest>.

### Other News

## "Tyro" License Proposal Now Open for Public Comment

The same day that the FCC put ARRL's Technician Enhancement petition on public notice, it also invited comments on another [proposal](#), designated RM-11829, asking the FCC to create a "Tyro" license class that would require a minimal online examination as well as mentoring by an Amateur Radio licensee of Technician class or higher. A "tyro" is a novice or a beginner. The petition was filed in August of 2017 by Gary A. Hampton, AD0WU, of Longmont, Colorado.

Tyro licensees would earn operating privileges 99 channels in a 70-centimeter "TyroSubBand." Applicants would have to be at least 11 years old. Hampton said in his petition that one goal would be "reliable, nationwide 70-centimeter interoperability" in the exclusive 430 – 440 MHz segment of the band.

"The Tyro license is exceptionally important to FEMA's CERT program," Hampton's petition asserts. "It allows ARES to solve CERT's communication problems. The TyroSubBand technical specifications easily double the capacity of typical 70-centimeter repeaters..."

Hampton maintained in his petition that Amateur Radio also "should be used to further scientific research that is published and quickly placed in the public domain."

Hampton expressed the belief that institution of the Tyro license would

## Upcoming Radio Contests

Looking for a little action on the airwaves? You might want to check out these upcoming contests!

### International DX

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Dates: 3/2 - 3/3/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/arrl-dx](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)

### Future Rookie Roundups!

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: SSB

Dates: 4/14/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

### June VHF

Bands: All authorized freq. above 50 MHz (6 Meters)

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Dates: 6/8 - 6/10/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/june-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf)

### Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Dates: 6/15

URL: [www.arrl.org/kids-day](http://www.arrl.org/kids-day)

### Field Day

Bands: Any Band Except 60, 30, 17, or 12 Meters

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Dates: 6/22 - 6/23/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)

### IARU HF Championship

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters

Mode: CW, Phone

Dates: 7/13 - 7/14/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship](http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship)

*\*A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

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## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**03/16/2019**

2019 Michigan Crossroads Hamfest

spawn growth within Amateur Radio, making entry into the hobby nearly as simple as obtaining a General Mobile Radio Service ([GMRS](#)) license.

The window for comments on the Tyro license petition will be open for 30 days.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/tyro-license-proposal-now-open-for-public-comment>

# FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Technician Enhancement Proposal

The FCC has invited public comments on ARRL's 2018 [Petition for Rule Making](#), now designated as RM-11828, which asks the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. Interested parties have 30 days to comment. The Technician enhancement proposals stemmed from the recommendations of the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its Petition. "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees — both present and future — with:

- phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz
- RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under ARRL's proposal.

ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a "periodic rebalancing" between those two objectives, ARRL maintained in his proposal. The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

## & Radio Swap

Location: Kalamazoo, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Southern Michigan  
Amateur Radio Society  
[www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest](http://www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest)

### 03/17/2019

Hamfest and Computer Fair  
Location: Perrysburg, OH  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio  
Association  
[www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org)

### 06/01/2019

FCARC Summer Swap  
Location: Wauseon, OH  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur  
Radio Club  
[k8bxq.org/hamfest](http://k8bxq.org/hamfest)

### 06/16/2019

Monroe Hamfest  
Location: Monroe, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Monroe County radio  
Comm Assoc  
[mcrca.org](http://mcrca.org)

### 09/15/2019

Adrian Hamfest  
Location: Adrian, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club  
[w8tqe.com](http://w8tqe.com)

### 10/19/2019

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest  
Location: Muskegon, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Muskegon County  
Emergency Communication  
Services, Inc.  
[mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf](http://mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf)

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic, which includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses. "The Committee's analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago," ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 384,500, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL stressed in its petition the urgency of making the license more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service."

ARRL said its proposal is critical to develop improved operating skills, increasing emergency preparedness participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-invites-comments-on-arrl-technician-enhancement-proposal>

## Celebrate a century of radio

With the end of World War I, the United States government lifted restrictions that had been placed on harnessing the electromagnetic energy around us to make radio transmissions.

By 1920 KDKA in Pittsburgh became the first licensed broadcast commercial radio station in the US.

One hundred years later, Bethlehem's National Museum of Industrial History presents the exhibit "Don't Touch That Dial: 100 Years of Radio," which traces the history of the radio industry from the days when stations went by call signs like 2XG all the way up to the debut of the iPod.

You can check it out through Nov. 3.

In a press release NMIH president and CEO Kara Mohsinger said: "The historical impact of radio is immeasurable. It has the power to elect political figures, influence consumers, spread news and bring pleasure to audiences all over the world. We are excited to engage

visitors of all ages with this hands-on, interactive exhibit and a full slate of companion programming.”

“Don’t Touch That Dial” features more than 100 historic radios and radio components, including rare pieces from the Bethlehem Radio Corporation, ephemera from defunct Lehigh Valley station WKAP-AM, artifacts from Bell Labs and more. You can also listen to recordings of early broadcasts, see an amateur radio operator’s station in action, try your hand at creating radio sound effects using the art of foley, and craft messages using morse code.

The museum's calendar of "Don't Touch That Dial" programs includes live recreations of the "War of the Worlds" and other special events. Here are the ones we know about:

- "Women in Radio" with IHeartRadio's Stephanie Wells and Samantha Layne, 2 p.m. March 16.
- “Music at the Museum: Songs from the Golden Age of Radio” benefit concert with the Corinne Mammana Quartet, 6 p.m. April 6. Tickets: \$30.
- "Engineering Days: How Radios Work and Build Your Own Radio," 1 to 3 p.m. April 20. Registration: \$35 for children 12 and over.
- "Ham Radio Live," 2 p.m. May 18.
- "The History of Broadcasting" with WDIY's Greg Capogna, 2 p.m. June 8.
- "Engineering Days: What's That Sound? How Speakers and Amplifiers Work," 2 p.m. Aug. 17.
- "Museum Day Live: The History of Communication," 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sept. 21.

For more information call (610) 694-6644 or email [info@nmih.org](mailto:info@nmih.org).

Article courtesy of

[https://www.thereporteronline.com/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/celebrate-a-century-of-radio/article\\_44780eb8-33b8-11e9-934b-4fae00ac0e26.html](https://www.thereporteronline.com/arts_and_entertainment/celebrate-a-century-of-radio/article_44780eb8-33b8-11e9-934b-4fae00ac0e26.html)

## Meeting Minutes 03/05/2019

Called to Order: 5:38 PM

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KBD Tom WR8G Jan W8JJKG John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY

**Others Present:** Jay N8ARR

### Topics:

- Hamfest was the main topic. Nearly all tables sold, with no wall tables available.
- There will be chairs on a self-serve basis.
- The need for more change is already in hand.
- The door prizes purchased by the Club have been obtained, plus donations from vendors and the ARRL. Jay will run the PA until 10 when Smokey will take over.
- All door prizes winners must be present to win, except the grand prize which must have clear contact info. Last prize to be drawn at 11am.
- MSPOTA and Field Day paperwork need insurance info to be complete.

**Adjourned:** 6:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

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## Board Meeting Minutes 02/21/2019

**Meeting called to order** at 1912.

**Pledge of Allegiance**  
**Introductions**

**Officers present** – Kyle W8KDB, Tom WR8G, Jan W8JJKG. 20 members in attendance total.

**Officers absent** – John W8JRD

**Secretary's report** was accepted.

**Treasurer's report** handed out and accepted.

### Committee reports:

- **HAMFEST 2019** – Running a bit behind on the table rentals but that is usual at this time. Another email blast went out and responses are coming in from the big vendors. At present we have rented enough to break even so all from now will be profit. Request went out for volunteers to sell tickets, set up tables and run to show vendors where their tables are. Not a lot of immediate response

from members so hope that the will just show up to work. Only the Grand Prize has been acquired so Jay will begin getting other door prizes. Nothing has been received from ARRL as yet.

- **SKYWARN** – Meetings resumed on Feb 19th and will be held on the third Tuesday each month through November. Storm Spotter training will be held on March 2nd from 10am until noon at Lakeview Middle School. Keith Thompson is scheduled to speak. This is also siren Saturday.
- **HIAD** – Next HIAD is scheduled for March 9th from 9am until 3pm at DPW building on Kendall St. VEs will be needed starting at 3pm. The more the merrier!
- **VE Session** – Our next will be on 2/28 in the Babcock Room at the church.
- **CERT training** – Next training session will be on March 22nd and 23rd with follow-up on the 30th. All will be held at the DPW on Kendall St. Information and registration can be found at [www.BCESMI.org](http://www.BCESMI.org).
- **MSPOTA** – Custer Recreation, one trailer only, April 20/21. This is the same weekend as the Michigan QSO Party so we hope we can get more contacts that weekend. By the way, this is the last year for this operation so if you want to get involved, come on out and help setup and operate.
- **Field Day** – Again at Custer Recreation, three trailers, full power operation. June 22/23. Food will be from O.T.'s in Augusta.
- **Repeaters** – There were some interference problems the last month. Don tried swapping out amplifiers but the problem remained. The wonder is if this is some interference from outside, whether intentional or not. The problem has been eased, at least at this time.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** – It was suggested that we contact Custer to see if there is something the club could offer as a stipend to thank them for letting us operate both MSPOTA and FD. It was suggested that monetary donations would probably go straight to the state's coffers so we will ask Smokey to investigate if there is some item or items of material that would be beneficial.

**Meeting adjourned** at 2000.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Temporary Secretary

# **SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK**

## **S.M.A.R.S. W8DF Club Repeaters**

2m Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz

2m DStar 146.79 MHz, -600 KHz offset

\*1.25m Repeater 224.240 MHz, -1.6 MHz offset

APRS Digipeater/lgate, 144.39 MHz

\*70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

70cm DStar Repeater 442.7625 MHz, +5 MHz offset

**\*Note:** 70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via Echolink.

## **Other Repeaters**

2m Repeater 147.120 MHz, +600 KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

<p><b>Club Meeting</b>  3rd Thursday of every month  Maple United Methodist Church  342 Capital Avenue NE  Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b>  1st Saturday of every month  Immediately after Siren Test  Coney Island, N.E. Capital  Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>BLB Luncheon</b>  1st Thursday of every month  Coney Island, 962 Capital  Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b>  2nd Saturday of every month  Coney Island, 962 Capital  Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p><b>SMARS Nets:</b>  Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 MHz  Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 MHz  Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz  Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 /443.95 MHz  Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 MHz  Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz</p> <p><b>Other Nets:</b>  Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p>Club Meeting: March 21st @ 7:00pm  BLB Luncheon: April 4th @ 11:30am  Board Meeting: April 2nd @ 5:30pm  Club Breakfast: April 13th @ 8:30am  VE Session: April 25th @ 7:00pm</p>
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