



FEEDBACK

June 2016

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (ac8ps@arrl.net) and get it published in FEEDBACK.

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

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Design Advances Make Portable Operation Easier, More Fun

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I've just returned from the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton was a blast as usual, and if there's one thing I took away from this year's event it's that portable operation is not only becoming more popular, but more sophisticated as well. In fact, it's a virtuous circle. More sophisticated portable equipment is making portable operation more popular, which is spurring manufacturers to make more sophisticated equipment, which is making portable operation even more popular, and around we go.

This is perhaps most easily seen in the evolution of the Elecraft products. One of their first rigs was the K1, a small rig that was frequently toted out into the field, even though it wasn't really designed for that purpose. It had a small form factor, but had a conventional front panel layout.

The next evolution was the KX1. This CW-only radio was designed specifically for field work. It originally only covered 40m and 80m, and had a very limited front panel, but its built-in battery pack and KXPD1 paddle made it a great choice for portable operators when it was introduced in 2004.

A big leap forward was made when they introduced the KX3 in 2012. This radio combined a bunch of features never before found in a portable rig. The KX3 features an SDR architecture and covers all modes, including (SSB, CW, Data, FM, AM); used the same full-sized LCD display as the K3; has advanced DSP features; and can be connected to a computer via USB for firmware upgrades and for use with other ham radio software. The KX3 is so full-featured that many operators use it as their main rig with a suitable linear amplifier.

At Dayton 2016, Elecraft took this concept even further and introduced the KX2. It's about half the size of the KX3, but yet has almost all of the features of the KX3. There was a tremendous amount of buzz over this radio at Dayton among portable operation aficionados. The base price of the KX2 is \$750, and with options, will cost you about \$1,000.

Of course, Elecraft isn't the only company competing in this market. LNR Precision sells a radio called the LD-5, and at Dayton, they introduced the LD-11, which like the KX3 and KX2 features an SDR architecture and covers 160m - 6m. This radio goes for about \$800, and has also proven to be popular among portable operators.

Dayton also had a number of exhibitors that supplied products other than radios to aid portable operation. There were several portable antenna manufacturers, including Buddipole (buddipole.com) and PackTenna (packtenna.com), and BiEnno Power (biennopower.com) was also there, showing off their new lithium-iron batteries,

While radios like the KX2 and LD-11, at relatively low prices, allow operators to easily get out into the field, portable operation would not be as popular as it is without organized activities. Programs like the Summits on the Air (SOTA, www.sota.org.uk, na.sota.org) and the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA, npota.arrl.org) make portable operation even more fun. These programs do this by providing a structure in which operators can find one another and gain awards for operating. SOTA did not have a booth at Dayton, but NPOTA was a big part of the ARRL section there.

If you aren't already a portable operator, you should give it a try! You don't have to invest a bunch of money in a rig to just try it. KX1s have been had for less than \$400, and simpler QRP rigs cost a lot less. Getting outside and operating in the fresh air is a lot of fun and could give you a whole new perspective on amateur radio.

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. Listen for him operating his KX1 from the park or beach this summer.

SMARS Meeting Minutes 05/19/2016

Meeting called to order at 19:00
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present – Steph W8AEZ, Brian W8BDM, Janice W8JKG

13 members in attendance

Secretary's report accepted as published in the "Feedback" and as passed around.

Treasurer's report accepted as circulated.

Committee reports:

Skywarn: 22 people attended Tuesday meeting. There was discussion about the Treasury role and Terry N8LN volunteered to take over. The Simulation Emergency went well and they are expecting some good points. One short fall was identified, being that they don't have an operation manual. There was also discussion about getting county grid maps to make things easier. Also some talk about another J-Pole

class and Jim W8JMZ is working to setup a meeting with Channel 3 .

Field Day: We have a verbal approval to use the airport for field day. Still waiting for the actual paperwork. The Port-a-Potty is on order. We will wait a while longer to put in order for Hog-Zilla.

VE Sessions: 2 sessions conducted: (1) SMARS and (2) Public Works. Upcoming session in June.

Hamfest Report: 617 Tickets Sold. Profit was just over \$2,000. Discussed needing help to start next year's event already.

Old Business: None

New Business: Potentially a Win2000 Demo or "Battle Creek Special - DX Expedition" Presentation at next meeting.

Presentation:

· None

Quote of the Meeting: "Where'd he go ... never mind!"

Closed: 19:44

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

SMARS Board Meeting Minutes 06/07/2016

Meeting called to order at 17:15

Attendees –
Gary Williams N8QC (President)
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ (Vice-President)
Brian Marsh W8BDM (Secretary)
Janice Goodson W8JKG (Treasurer)
Tom Goodson WR8G
Beverly Williams KA8CXS
Jay Jarrett N8ARR
Kyle Brown W8KDB

Treasurer's report was not available. (Or I didn't see it while I was there because I was 15 minutes late to meeting.)

Business:

One motion was made and voted upon

(1) Purchase 4 New Tires and Rims for Trailer. Old tires will be used as spares. Brian took action to go and purchase. (Total \$233.20 with tax)

General Reports:

Jay and Brian have been working on trailers. Trailer #2 is in bad shape.

Meeting adjourned at 17:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

Attachment:

Customer copy of receipt for tires – attached at the last page of the newsletter.

Silent Key

A longtime SMARS member Mr. Eric Talbot, W8LTJ, passed away on Sunday June 5th, 2016. Thoughts and prayers going out to his family and friends.

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

- 2M Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 2M DStar 146.79MHz, -600KHz offset
- 70cm Repeater 443.95MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 1.25M Repeater 224.24MHz, -1.6MHz offset
- APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39MHz

70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via echolink.

Other Repeaters

- 2M Repeater 147.12MHz, +600KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2Hz
- 70cm Repeater 442.35MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

<p>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>SMARS Nets: Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: July 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: July 7th @ 11:30am Siren Test: July 2nd @ 1:00pm Skywarn Coffee: Immediately after Siren Test SMARS Breakfast: July 9th @ 8:30am</p>
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