



FEEDBACK

AUGUST 2009



COMMENTS

Isn't it interesting to note the immense time in the news media spent on Michael Jackson when it was barely noted that Walter Cronkite KB2GSD had died.

The article by Ted Hartson WA8ULG in the inquirer on July 12 was very interesting. Ted, as many know was a member of SMARS when the name SMARS was adopted for our club. He is noted as one of top experts in the cable television field and is a very successful inventor.

This is the IYA (International Year of Astronomy.) It's been 400 years since Galileo first used a telescope to validate the Copernican concept of a heliocentric local universe as opposed to the church supported geocentric universe. His support of Copernicus and the resultant attacks by the Rush Limbaugh's of his time caused much grief on his part.

Today, we have more ham satellites in the sky than ever before. In addition to the FunCube and BlueSat, four others, Castor, Pullux, Bevo-1 and AggieSat2 have taken their place in orbit. All are aimed at the amateur community interests. Some like ARISS attempt to get the young involved in ham radio, others are to improve communications. Amateurs are more than carrying a hand held in search of "the great event."

Most of us lack talent and skills to take on the construction and launching of a satellite, so we reduce our goals to something that appears to be more attainable. Building various items that belong in a ham shack often seems more difficult than we want to get involved with, so we look for an item that is obviously easy to understand and make --- the antenna! How can anything so obviously simple be hard to do? The antenna is the easiest part of ham radio to modify and the information available is almost limitless, ---- the misinformation is also limitless.

Here's a puzzle -- 1,2,6,42,1806,3263442, how do you find the next number?

APRS

As mentioned in a previous edition of Feedback, APRS is Automatic Packet Reporting System.. It's function is to pass packets of data through the amateur digipeater system until an Igate forwards that packet to an APRS server on the internet. What happens then seems to be a bit of magic.

One internet site, www.aprs.fi uses data from that packet to plot its position on a map. Continuing reports from that same station result in a track of that station, which could be an automobile, an airplane, a boat or an experimental high altitude balloon. Many amateurs have set up weather stations that supply data to the APRS system.

The APRS system supports text messages. With proper equipment, one can send and receive short text messages. Take a little time on your computer. Log onto www.aprs.fi and play around. You will probably get a map centered on Grand Rapids and it will have a number of call signs displayed with a variety of icons associated with them. Click on an icon and see what you learn. You can click on the map and drag it around. When you get Battle Creek centered, you will likely see some familiar call signs.

Experiment with stuff in the upper right corner. You won't break anything, but you will learn how to use [aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi). The Show Last box has 1 Hour as default. Click the down arrow and you have a choice of time. Looking for someone? Enter his callsign (with SSID) and click Search. If he is transmitting beacons, you will find him, no matter where in the world. You can choose the map view or a satellite view. Drag the map around, zoom in/out and find your house. See those little dots along the track of a station? Each dot is a beacon transmitted by that station. When you use your mouse to point at that dot, you see his call sign. Click on it and see what you learn.

You can expect a program on APRS at an upcoming club meeting.

Don W8RVT

NEWS ITEM

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

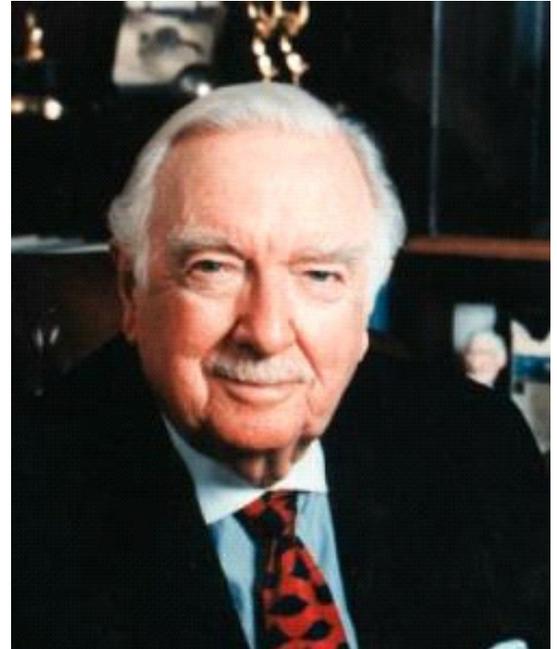
See if that works any better than a fair trial!



WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD (SK)

Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo XI lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Begin-Sadat peace accords.

Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur RadioToday" (<http://www.arrl.org/ARToday/>). Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-hams, focusing on ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, ham radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emer-



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SCOTT REDD, K0DQ: THE BIGGEST GUN OF ALL

Vice Admiral John Scott Redd, K0DQ (US Navy, retired) has, throughout his 36 year military career, helped to make the world a safer place. From postings in Uruguay to Iraq to serving as Commander of the Navy's Fifth Fleet as a naval officer, to becoming Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Redd has served his country with distinction. Earlier this year, President George W. Bush presented him with the National Security Medal in a White House ceremony for "his more than 40 years of exceptional service to the Nation, strengthening its intelligence capabilities and improving national security." President Bush called Redd "an innovator, a strategic thinker, an inspirational leader and a dedicated servant to the Nation, respected for his vision, courage and integrity."

But intermingled in his Navy career was Amateur Radio. This year, Redd, an active DXer and contester, became the first person ever to win all six of the major HF contests:
(A) ARRL International DX Contests (SSB and CW),
(B) CQ World Wide Contests (SSB and CW)
(C) CQ Worked All Prefix (WPX) Contests (SSB and CW).

500 KHZ

In the 500 kHz Experiment <<http://www.500kc.com/>> quarterly report for the period ending May 2009, Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, reported that 21 stations are currently active. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology granted the WD2XSH experimental license to the ARRL in September 2006. In this quarter, the FCC only issued one new experimental license for 500 kHz, WF2XAU to Roy Croston, AB4OM. The FCC renewed WD2XGI to Mike Reid, WE0H.

In the spring of 2009, hams in the WD2XSH experimental group made one contact, bringing the total number of contacts to 336. Almost 500 reports were made to the 500 kHz Experiment's Web site, documenting 1051 hours of activity. Raab said more than 34,000 hours of activity has been logged on the Web site since the experiment's inception. Stations do not have to be members of the experimental team to post reception reports.

Raab said that due to increasing noise levels, activity has slowed some on the band, but "propagation conditions have remained generally good with a number of long distance receptions." He said that most of the quarter's activity came from WD2XSH/6, run by Pat Hamel, W5THT, of Long Beach, Mississippi, and WD2XSH/12, run by Mike Mussler, A18Z, of Nederland, Colorado.

Individuals in nine other countries hold licenses to experiment in the 500 kHz band: Sweden, Germany, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, Norway, Romania and Denmark.

Find out more information on the ARRL's 500 kHz Experiment in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <<http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>>.

DIGITAL W1AW

W1AW to add new digital modes to its transmitting schedule.

After a survey of W1AW-listeners, W1AW will begin using two different modes on August 17, 2009.

On August 17, 2009, W1AW will replace its AMTOR and ASCII transmissions with PSK31 and MFSK16, respectively.

RTTY (Baudot) will continue to be the first digital mode used in the transmission schedule.

The frequencies used by W1AW for all its digital transmissions will remain the same.

All regular 6 PM and 9 PM eastern time digital transmissions will begin with RTTY. PSK31 and MFSK16 will be sent as time allows.

The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will be sent using RTTY and PSK31.

The W1AW operating schedule -- complete with times and frequencies -- can be found on the ARRLWeb page at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>.

NEWS ITEM

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Now that's taking things a bit far!

OHIO QSO PARTY

The Ohio QSO Party (OQP) will be August 22. The emphasis in the Party is for out-of-state amateurs to contact Ohio amateurs. Ohio amateurs may contact other Ohio amateurs as well as out-of-state amateurs. Contacts may be made on 80 meters through 10 meters excluding the WARC bands. Entries are open to single operators as well as multiple operators.

The OQP being as 12 noon and ends at 12 midnight EDT. Entry categories include DX, US outside Ohio and inside Ohio, low-power, high-power and QRP, fixed and mobile, and single and multiple operations.

For further details on the rules as well as logging requirements, see www.ohqp.org. Winners in the 13 scoring categories in 2008 and prior Parties are also available at this site.

The OQP has been sponsored by the Mad River RC for several years.

TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

When splicing coaxial cables, Chet N8RA credits AA7FV for the following technique of creating an electrically and mechanically sound joint. Start by trimming your coax pieces to expose at least 1/2-inch of center conductor while stripping and folding back the jacket and shield braid, but not removing them. This leaves enough braid to connect across the splice. Connect the center conductors by soldering a short length of brass hobby tubing over them. Next, use a piece of the coax dielectric material obtained during cable trimming to fill the gap - slit it lengthwise so that it will slip over the soldered center conductor. Make one wrap of electrical tape to hold the dielectric in place. Overlap and solder the shield braids from each piece of cable. Return the jackets and trim so that their ends meet without overlap. Double-wrap the whole joint with electrical tape. Finally, lay a long finishing nail across the joint and wrap again. The nail keeps the cable from being flexed or kinked at the relatively fragile splice.

MORE BATTERY TIPS

Battery Charging

Nickel Zinc batteries tend to want to be charged at high rates. For example they can be charged at C/2 for 2.5 hours. This indicates a charge efficiency of 80% at this charge rate. After charging at C/2 for 2.5 hours a 5 minute rest is included in the algorithm. The voltage is then set at 2.05 volts per cell, allowing the current to taper, and thus top off the battery.

The termination voltage is a strong function of temperature. It is possible to eliminate the top-off portion of the charge, since it only adds about 5% to the total capacity. Undercharging will not damage this battery.

all-battery.com
436 Kato Terrace
Fremont, CA 94086 USA

GREAT LAKES DIVISION SYMPOSIUM

September 12 is approaching more rapidly than we may realize. This means you'll hear more about the Great Lakes Division Symposium that is on the 12th. Here is the current run down:

Highlights of the program include a presentation by former astronaut Tony England, W0ORE. Tying in with the presence of England will be a discussion by Charles Sufana, AJ9N on the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Charlie is an ARISS.

The remainder of the program is still being developed; however, a few more program highlights are:

- QRP -- A remote audio/video presentation by G3RJV
- New Designs for Getting Started on VHF -- a remote audio/video presentation by KK7B
- QSLing -- 8th Area QSL Bureau Manager, K4ZLE
- A Successful Radio Merit Badge Class for Boy Scouts by KD8AVT
- Emergency Communications -- N8IJ
- Radio Clubs -- WB8LCD

There is no registration fee; however, attendees will be requested to sign up in advance so the Symposium team can obtain an estimate of the attendance.

Lunch will be available at a modest price or attendees may go to nearby restaurants. A chicken barbeque is planned for Saturday evening. The cost will be announced later.

The Symposium will be at the Findlay Center for Business and Technology, 1700 Fostoria Ave., Findlay, Ohio. The Business Center has tremendous facilities for our symposium. It is only 1.9 miles from the site of the Findlay Hamfest the following day.

The Business Center is located on the corner of Fostoria Ave. (Ohio S.R. 12) at Plaza St. The Findlay Hamfest is at the Hancock County Fairgrounds, 1017 E. Sandusky St. in Findlay the following day, September 13.

RADIO LAW: US SENATE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT SPECTRUM IS IN USE

The United States Senate Commerce Committee wants Congress to get an inventory of how the nation's spectrum is being used and managed. To accomplish this the committee has passed a measure backed by Communications Subcommittee Chairman to have the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration report to Congress how much spectrum is used in each band and how. This includes what portions require a license for use and what portions allow unlicensed use.

The measure has now been sent to the full Senate though it's unclear if or when it would get on the calendar for a vote. According to several news sources the administration supports the measure as officials consider the lack of available wireless airwaves a barrier to widespread mobile Internet access which is a priority for President Barack Obama. A companion bill was introduced in the House of Representatives two weeks ago as

FEES

Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10. On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40.

Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees. These fees are expected to recover a total of \$341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

NEWS ITEM

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

No, really? Ya think?

FIVE THINGS

(I haven't tried these -- they sound a little hokey.)

Five Things You Never Knew Your Cell Phone Could Do.

Here are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life-saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

Emergency

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobiles is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Also, dialing *77 is a direct line to your closest state trooper!

Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone! If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. This saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other "remote" for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

Hidden Battery Power

Imagine your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370# Your cell will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will recharge the next time you charge your cell phone.

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * # 0 6 # A 15 The digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone get stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

Free Directory Service for Cells

Cell phone companies are charging \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial: (800) FREE 411, or (800) 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all. Program this into your cell phone now.

!

ARES / RACES Report for June 2009 in Calhoun County

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

10 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 123 People = 123hrs
1 Field Day 6 People @ 8 hrs = 48hrs
Total 171hrs

Public Service Events

Siren Test 18 People@ 1hrs each= 18 hrs
18 hrs Total

Administration Hours, 30hrs Total

Emergency Operations 30 People @ 2hrs Each= 60hrs Total

Equipment Hours People @ 66.7 hrs Each=200hrs Total

Travel Hours 4 hrs Total

Expenses- Out of Pocket \$200.00 Total

Travel Miles 110 Miles Total

Members 34

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

ARES / RACES Report for June 2009 in Calhoun County

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

8 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 118 People = 118hrs
Total 118hrs

Public Service Events

None 0 People@ 0 hrs Total
0 hrs Total

Administration Hours, 40hrs Total

Emergency Operations 0 People @ 0hrs Each= 0hrs Total

Equipment Hours 4 People @ 37.5 hrs Each=150hrs Total

Travel Hours 4 hrs Total

Expenses- Out of Pocket \$150.00 Total

Travel Miles 100 Miles Total

Members 34

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

HAMFESTS

16 Aug Lapeer MI
Swap and Shop
Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association
Lapeer County Center Building
425 County Center Drive
<http://www.w8lap.com>
Talk-In 146.620 (PL 200)
Contact: Bill Miller KD8VP
810-797-5329
kd8vp@arrl.net

21-23 Aug La Porte IN
PCARC Campout and Swapmeet
Porter County Amateur Radio Club
All States Amateur Radio Club (W9SAL) Complex
Route 35 and Schultz Road
<http://www.pcard.net>
Talk-In 146.775 (PL 131.8)
Contact: Carl Konefsky W9TAD
219-929-4500
boatguy@hughes.net

22 Aug Owosso MI
SARA Swap and Trunk Sale
Shiawassee Amateur Radio Association
Baker College Welcome Center
1309 South M-52
<http://www.w8qqq.org>
Talk-In 147.02 +600 (PL 100)
Contact: Don Warner WB8GUS
810-266-4897
wb8gus@arrl.net

12 Sep Lowell MI
GRA Hamfest 2009
Grand Rapids ARA
Kent County Fairgrounds
225 South Hudson
<http://www.grahamfest.org>
Talk-In 147.26 (PL 94.8)
Contact: Jack Amelar NY8D
616-897-6885
grhamfest09@w8dc.org

NEWS ITEM

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!

NEWS ITEM

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter

Good Timing!

SMARS Club Meeting

July 16, 2009

Called To Order: 7:01 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL Ned WB4BKO Don W8RVT John KC8WMM

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: Nothing new.

Field Day: Bob reported SMARS points were down this year due to lack of operators, but still a respectable score. He thanked Lou for the food and all those who helped over the weekend. There are now surveyor flags at the Field Day site, may have to move next year.

ARES/RACES: No report.

VE Testing: No report.

Old Business:

Digigate working as expected. Few local hams are using it, but there is traffic from others.

The 440 repeater has been moved to the tower with the other repeaters to test coverage.

New Business:

July 20 marks the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing.

Presentation:

Don displayed pictures of the club repeater site for those who had never been there.

Adjourned: 8:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson KC8WMM
SMARS Secretary

FOR SALE:

48 foot Rohn-Spaulding HDBX free-standing tower. (This is the heavy duty tower which will hold fairly large arrays.) Included in the sale is the rotor mounting plate and base anchor tubes.

Tower has light surface rust, therefore it will need painting. Asking \$75 OBO.

Ned Davis/WB4BKO

tel: 269/965-5942 or e-mail: wb4bko@arrl.net

SMARS Board Meeting

August 3, 2009

Called to Order: 6:06 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL Don W8RVT John KC8WMM Russ N8UU

Others Present: Stephanie W8AEZ

Topics Discussed:

Hamfest: Don mailed the check to Marshall High School and informed Kelly that SMARS would be using the Marshall Activity Center for the 2010 Hamfest. The MAC sent a contract detailing the terms and payment schedule. The layout for the tables will need to be done soon. The hours for the hamfest will be 8-2. No lunch will be served, but have coffee/donuts in the morning. John KC8WMM will act a Chairman with help from others.

Financial Report: Read and approved.

440: Now at the same site as the other repeaters. There are holes in the coverage due to a TV antenna mounted close to the 440 antenna. The 440 antenna will need to be moved and tuned.

Russ updated the location info for MRC. The move is now permanent.

Somebody will contact Abe about the move.

Digigate working better than expected.

Field Day will need to move due to construction at the airport. Some alternate locations were discussed.

Adjourned: 7:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson KC8WMM
SMARS Secretary

Balance Sheet

As of 7/31/09

Acct	7/31/09 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts Checking	2,789.80
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	2,789.80
Other Assets PettyCash S1 Primary Share	60.02 12.94
TOTAL Other Assets	72.96
TOTAL ASSETS	2,862.76
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES EQUITY	0.00 2,862.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,862.76

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



AUGUST 2009

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 LAPEER AUG 16
THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING AUG 20
HAMFEST LA PORTE AUG 21-23
HAMFEST OWOSSO AUG 22
SMARS BOARD AUG 31
SMARS BREAKFAST SEP 5
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH SEP 10
HAMFEST LOWELL (GRA) SEP 12
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING SEP 17