



FEEDBACK

MAY 2010



JERALD (JERRY) LONGMAN

W8FOK SK

Jerry passed away on April 30 while at Borgess Hospital. Jerry was a Marine with active service during the Korean conflict and had worked the last 19 years at Kellogg Co. troubleshooting and installing advanced equipment.

Jerry was always pitching in to help others especially hams. His work with newer members eased their entry into the hobby of Amateur Radio, repairing equipment, erecting antennas and being an Elmer to hams in general.

Jerry's wife Charlotte of 54 years survives as well as two children and many grandchildren. He will be missed by many people who had met and enjoyed him in his many activities.

COMMENT

On the cover sheet of Feedback, every month brief schedules of activities for ham are listed. One of these schedules list the Hamfests that might be of interest to members. It also includes date for club activities noting not only the date of meetings of the club and its board but also giving the Before Lunch Bunch Lunch and the Morning Breakfast schedules.

The Morning Breakfast always occurs on the first Saturday of the month and at the present time meets at the Homespun Restaurant. This breakfast is probably the oldest activity of the club. The breakfast is actually much older than SMARS. This breakfast traces itself back to the Queen City Radio Club, an ancestor to SMARS. Originally, in the days when the XYLs of members needed an activity that related to the club, they met on the first Saturday for a ladies breakfast. Over the years, society has changed and at present any and all members and their wives can share a relaxed meal together.

Also, on the cover page, a schedule of nets is listed. This month there have been changes made in that listing. The 220 net has had its time changed from 7:30 to 8:00 on the same night Monday. Further changes should also be noted. The 440 nets have been closed down for lack of activity. None of the members have stepped forward to get things going.

We need members to step up and take on some of these roles such as a net control. It's is simple and doesn't require any great effort.

It sure beats setting back and asking when the "NET" is going to start. Pick up the mike and announce that you'll be the net control for the session. No one will feel hurt, or cheated out of an opportunity. Many of the usual net controllers or coordinators would feel relieved that some one steps up when they are running around trying to get things done and feel pressed for time.

Don, W8RVT, at the last meeting presented a variation of an antenna described in a recent QST. Much interest was expressed in making duplicates. This month instructions on how to make the antenna are included within Feedback. Also, with members wanting to experiment with dipoles or not having the required space for a full sized dipole, details are given on an old standby, the Double Bazooka which is reasonably portable as its construction doesn't snarl up as much as plain wire.

A new HT being built by the Chinese will be introduced at Dayton this year. This is much like the one shown by Don, W8RVT a couple of meetings ago. This announcement has been a long time coming. The manufacturer also produces some brand name equipment. A little research will surprise you. Along with this is the start of manufacturing of a radio in Cuba. American hams for a long time have had regular QSOs with Cubans operating whatever equipment they have been able to scrounge up. More power to them! A country that has operated under a stable government for half a century and is still not recognized by our government. Many of the nations that our government helps and loans money to are far less stable. Aren't we glad that hams are not as stupid as our government?



POLITICAL ACTION

On the Senate side of Capitol Hill, S 1755 -- also called The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- cleared the Senate by unanimous consent in December 2009 and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Has your Representative heard from you with regard to HR 2160?

NEW RADIO IN CUBA

Cuba is going into the ham radio transceiver business. At least domestically. This is a prototype of new Caiguaran low cost 1.8 MHz transceiver and was presented at the 8th Congress of the Cuban Ham Radio Federation.

The prototype transceiver was manufactured at one of the factories controlled by the Cuban Ministry of Informatics and Communications. It is designed to put out 20 watts on 160 meters but with additional hardware it can also operate on the 80 and 40 meter bands.

The Chair of the Cuban Ham Radio Federation is Pedro Rodriguez, CO2RP. He told the Cuban News Agency that the first 600 units are ready for delivery to Cuban amateur radio operators. The radios primary purpose is to help to support emergency communication in Cuba. (Southgate)

CHINESE BUILT HT

(Ed. Note: This is similar to the handheld that Don, W8RVT showed the club a few months ago.)

If the information on the Hamvention Yahoogroups Reflector is correct, then there is a new player in town to rival Alinco, Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu in the dual band handheld radio competition for your dollar. The new company is called Wouxon dot US and their first radio for the United States market is their new model KG-UVD1P 2 meter and 70 centimeter Dual-Band HT will be available at the Dayton Hamvention.

In a news release, Wouxon.US says that it will be at booth #172, just inside the North Hall entrance and to the right. The company says that it will have 100 units plus accessories packed up and ready to go at a special Hamvention price. The news release did not specify what that price will be, but from Hong Kong dealers advertising on eBay, these radios, complete with a rechargeable battery, desktop drop-in charger, auxiliary earphone and a belt clip seem to sell for an average of around \$80 plus \$40 shipping to the United States. That said, few expect the price to be that low in a retail environment such as Hamvention or your favorite radio store.

The home company is Quanzhou Wouxun Electronics Co. Ltd. of Fujian, China. It says that the new ham radio dual bander has received FCC certification. It's approved as FCC ID: WVTWOUXUN04. More on the new radio is online at www.Wouxun.US (Hamvention Yahoogroups, Wouxon.US Web page)

CAYMAN ISLANDS NEW HAM REGULATIONS

The Cayman Islands Governor in Cabinet has adopted a set of regulations to govern that nation's amateur radio service. The effect of the new law will be to create a plan for the issuance of amateur radio licenses by the Cayman Islands Information and Communications Technology Authority to persons who have satisfied the certification process by way of examination of their knowledge and competence with respect to electricity and radio, including amateur radio apparatus.

The new rules also allow for the recognition of licenses issued by the United Kingdom and other countries which have agreed to grant, with respect to the Cayman Islands, reciprocal amateur radio operating privileges. Also they will ensure compliance with international standards, including the requirement that amateur radios be operated without any financial interest and at the same time minimize the likelihood of interference caused by, and suffered by, amateur radio operators.

These new regulations were developed in collaboration with the Cayman Amateur Radio Society. As an Information and Communications Technology Authority agent, the society will administer the examination for license applicants. The new regulations came into effect following their publication in the Cayman Islands Gazette on March 29th. (Via e-mail)

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THE W8RVT COAXIAL DIPOLE

(A variation on W6NBC'S July 2009 dipole.)

This vertical dipole is a half-wave radiator and has the same gain as a J-pole. It is simple to construct at a cost \$10-\$15.

Parts List

- Driven Element (see text)
- PL-259
- SO-239 (chassis mount)
- 15' RG-58 or RG-8X coax
- 1" copper pipe cap
- 1" type M copper pipe 19.25" long
- 10' 3/4" PVC pipe
- 3 3/4" PVC tee
- 3 3/4" PVC cap
- 1 3/4" PVC coupling

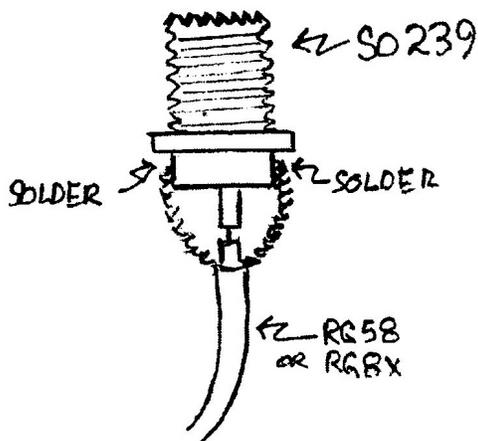
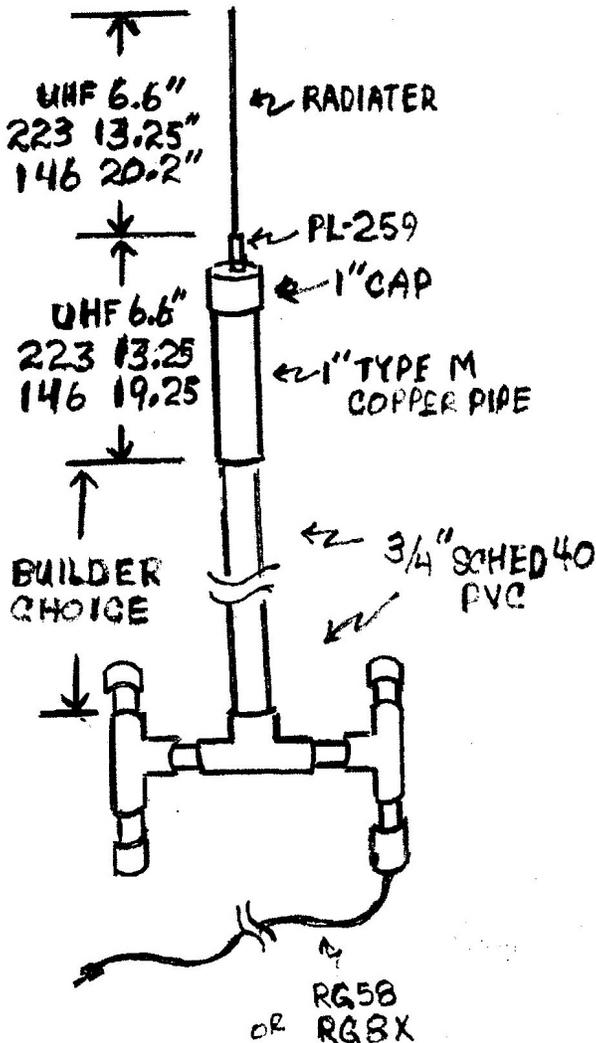
The Driven Element can be made a couple different ways. Do you have a CB mag-mount antenna you don't want to use anymore? Remove the coax from the antenna base and use it here. Cut the whip 21&1/4" from the tip. This piece will fit into the PL-259. Yes, the stainless steel whip will solder in the tip of the PL-259. You may need to use acid core solder. If so, neutralize the completed joint with baking soda. The shell end of the PL-259 can be filled with silicon adhesive.

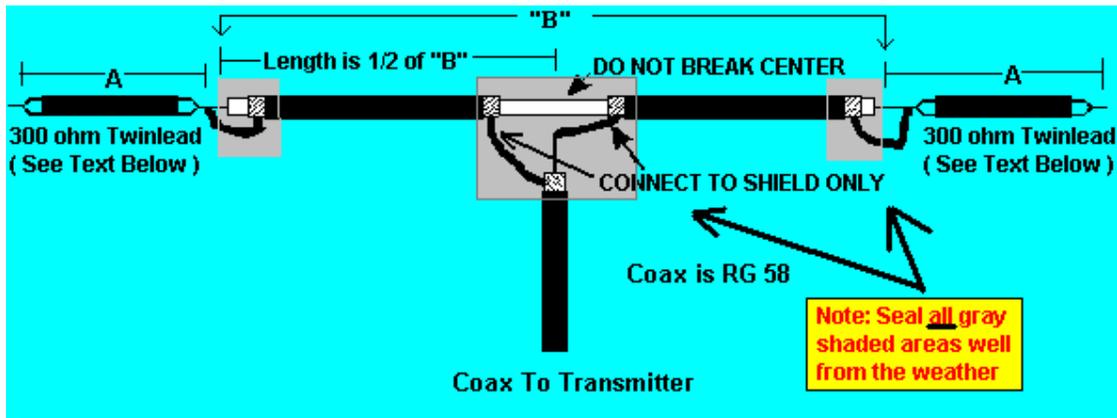
Another option for the Driven Element is 1/8" and 3/16" brass tubing available in 12" lengths. Cut 2" off the 3/16" tube. Slide this piece into the 1/8" tube leaving 7/8" exposed and solder the junction. Insert the 7/8" end into the PL-259 and solder. Use care to ensure the 1/8" tube is centered coming out of the PL-259. Fill the PL-259 with silicon adhesive. Insert the remaining 3/16" tube into the 1/8" tube so that the radiator is 20.2" long and solder the joint. Note: if you want to play with SWR, use a small piece of tape until you are satisfied with length. This feedpoint has a feedpoint impedance of about 70 ohms and a 1.2 SWR should be expected.

Drill a 5/8" hole in the end of the 1" copper cap such that the SO-239 fits. I used a speedi-bit (or step drill.) Mount the cap on the 19.25" pipe. Although not essential, the joint should be soldered. Do so BEFORE the SO-239 is mounted as heat may damage the SO-239. I used a SO-239 connector removed from a CB radio.

Attach the coax cable to the SO-239 as pictured then mount the connector in the end cap. Thread the PL-259 end of the coax through your chosen length of 3/4" PVC pipe then insert the pipe into the 1" copper pipe. A foot or so is sufficient. Thread the PL-259 through a 3/4" tee, nipple, tee, nipple and coupling and assemble the base as pictured. The PVC joints are quite snug and don't need cement if used indoors.

NOTE: If the copper pipe was cut with a tubing cutter, the PVC won't go into the copper. Test fit the PVC before assembly, even with a clean cut as it is a snug fit. Install the radiator on top and you are on the air.





THE MATH	
1. TOTAL LENGTH OF ANTENNA:	$460 / \text{FREQUENCY Mhz}$
2. TOTAL COAX LENGTH (B):	$325 / \text{FREQUENCY Mhz}$
3. TOTAL TWINLEAD LENGTH A + A:	TOTAL ANTENNA LENGTH MINUS TOTAL COAX LENGTH
4. TWINLEAD EACH SIDE	1/2 OF RESULTS IN STEP # 3

- Example:** Double Bazooka cut for 3.800Mhz
1. $460 / 3.8 = 121$ feet total antenna length
 2. $325 / 3.8 = 85.52$ feet total coax length (divide by 2 for each half DO NOT CUT!)
 3. 121 minus 85.52 feet = 35.53 feet
 4. Results of 3 above divided by 2 = 17.76 feet

Allow several inches to a foot or more on each end for any needed swr tuning and tie off of end insulators

N4UJW

THE DOUBLE BAZOOKA ANTENNA

Some hams who have build this antenna say that it removes much of the background noise thus making it easier to copy communications. The ends don't have to be twin lead, all that is needed is sturdy wire, as the antenna is fairly heavy and offers more resistance to the wind than most dipoles. It is a little more portable than many because it doesn't snarl up quite as bad as plain wire does.



That array of equipment reminds many oldtimers of John Quincy Adams hamshack.

ARES / RACES Report
for APRIL, 2010 in Calhoun County

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

8 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 170 People = Total 170 hrs

1 RACES Meeting 2 hrs each @ 18 People = Total 36 hrs

Skywarn Training 3 hrs each @ 30 People = Total 90hrs

Total 296hrs

Public Service Events

1 Siren Test 1hrs each @ 12 People = 12hrs

1 March of Dimes 3hrs each @ 15 People = 45hrs

1 Red Cross Exercise 4hrs each @ 4 People = 16hrs

Total 73hrs

Administration Hours

Total 26hrs

Emergency Operations

1 Server Weather Net 3hrs each @ 15 People = 45hrs Total

Equipment Hours

RACES Trailer Maintenance 2hrs each @ 2 People = 4hrs Total

Travel Hours 3.5 hrs Total

Expenses- Out of Pocket \$60.00 Total

Travel Miles 48 Miles Total

Members 35

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

EVENTS for JUNE / JULY

EVENTS for JUNE

EVENT: Monthly Siren Test

DATE: Saturday, JUNE 5th 2010

Time: 1:00PM (13:00hrs)

EVENT: Monthly RACES Meeting

PROGRAM: (To Be Determined)

DATE: Tuesday JUNE 15th, 2010

TIME 18:30 (6:30PM)

LOCATION BCPD Line Up Room

EVENTS for JULY

EVENT: Monthly Siren Test

DATE: Saturday, JULY 3rd 2010

Time: 1:00PM (13:00hrs)

EVENT: Monthly RACES Meeting

PROGRAM: (To Be Determined)

DATE: Tuesday JULY 20th, 2010

TIME 18:30 (6:30PM)

LOCATION BCPD Line Up Room

A man and his ever-nagging wife went on vacation in Jerusalem . While they were there, the wife passed away. The undertaker told the husband, "You can have her buried here in the Holy Land for \$150 or we can have her shipped back home for \$5000. The husband thought about it and told the undertaker he would have her shipped back home.

The undertaker asked him, "why would you spend \$5000 to have her shipped home when you could have a beautiful burial here, and it would only cost \$150?????"

The husband replied, "A long time ago, a Man died here, He was buried here, and three days later, He rose from the dead. And I just can't take that chance!"

Bill K4FLH

LIFTED FROM THE WEB

(I've lost the source of this story but it's so good, I have to share N9PUZ's experience with the readers.)

My favorite wrist-rocket experience goes back over 30 years, to my college days. My landlord was an English Lit professor, who rented out several rooms in his large house to students. It was a relatively small engineering college (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology), so even though he taught English Lit he got along well with engineers. I asked for and got permission to string a random wire between two trees in the backyard, so I got out a wrist rocket, some lightweight nylon line, and a large steel nut.

I stretched out the line on the ground behind me in a zig-zag pattern, so it would fly out easily as the nut flew toward the tree. I took aim, and released the nut. It flew about ten feet, then stopped abruptly and dropped to the ground.

Did I mention the cats? The professor's family had an unspayed female cat who lived in the yard. Of course, that meant there were always kittens. The current group were almost fully grown, and they had all come over to see what I was doing. While I wasn't looking they had found the string (I said it was "line", but cats don't know the difference between "line", "string", and "cat toy"), so when I turned around to see what had stopped the nut I saw seven or eight cats all holding onto the line. They looked like a feline tug-of-war team.

I shoed the cats away, and tried again. Same result. As soon as I turned my attention to the tree, they had come back. Great fun, for cats. I tried again, with the same result. By this time I felt like I was going Looney Tunes – literally! However, I resisted the urge to order some sort of catapult (no pun intended) from Acme Products, and simply kept trying. After about eight or nine attempts, I finally managed to keep them away long enough to get the line into the tree.

You may have gotten the impression that I don't exactly love the slingshot method. If so, you're right. I've used it, but every time I used it I thought to myself "there has to be a better way". There is.

N9PUZ

I was walking past the mental hospital the other day, and all the patients were shouting, '13....13....13 !!!' The fence was too high to see over, but I saw a little gap in the planks, so I looked through to see what was going on.....

Some jerk poked me in the eye with a stick! Then they all started shouting '14....14....14 !!!'

HAMFESTS

(As listed by the ARRL)

HUDSONVILLE

Independent Repeater Association Hamfest
06/05/2010

Location: Hudsonville Fairgrounds
5235 Park Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426
Website: <http://www.w8hvg.org>
Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association
Talk-In: 147.16 (PL 94.8)
Contact: Don Andrews , K8YES
562 92nd Street SE Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone: 616-532-7769
Email: IRA-Hamfest@w8hvg.org

CHELSEA

Chelsea Amateur Radio Club
06/06/2010
Location: Chelsea Fairgrounds
20501 Old US 12 Highway, Chelsea, MI 48118
Website: <http://www.wd8iel.net>
Sponsor: Chelsea Amateur Radio Club
Talk-In: 145.450 (PL 100)
Contact: Frank Pohs , KD8ABW
636 West Main Street Manchester, MI 48158
Phone: 734-945-1915
Email: frank.pohs@gmail.com

MIDLAND

Midland Amateur Radio Club
06/19/2010
Location: Salvation Army Building
330 Waldo Avenue, Midland, MI 48640
Website: <http://www.w8kea.org>
Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club
Talk-In: 147.00+
Contact: Keith Johnson , KB8SOE
c/o Midland Hamfest PO Box 1049 Midland, MI 48641
Phone: 989-488-4337
Email: kb8soe@arrl.net

MONROE

Monroe County Radio Communications Association
06/20/2010
Location: Monroe County Fairgrounds
3775 South Custer Road, Monroe, MI 48161
Website: <http://www.mcrca.org>
Sponsor: Monroe County Radio Communications Association
Talk-In: 146.72/12 Contact: Fred VanDaele , KA8EBI
4 Carl Drive Monroe, MI 48162
Phone: 734-242-9487
Email: ka8ebi@yahoo.com

HINT

If your tower uses galvanized hardware, DON'T drill out the holes to make it easier to insert the bolts or screw them in. Use a taper or drift pin punch to open the hole until the bolt just fits, preserving the galvanizing on the hole. Drilling out the hole or using the screw threads to open the hole removes or damages the galvanizing, leading to rust problems. A taper pin punch can also be used to line up the holes when connecting section, so be sure to keep one in your tower tool kit! Roger K8RI

Income & Expense Statement

4/1/10 Through 4/30/10

Category Description	4/1/10- 4/30/10
INCOME	
50 50	13.00
Dues	50.00
Hamfest Inc:	
Snacks	25.30
TOTAL Hamfest Inc	25.30
Interest Inc:	
Checking	0.74
TOTAL Interest Inc	0.74
TOTAL INCOME	89.04
EXPENSES	
Equipment	42.99
Feedback:	
Postage	26.40
Printing	56.35
TOTAL Feedback	82.75
Field Day:	
Food	0.00
Misc	0.00
Field Day-Other	0.00
TOTAL Field Day	0.00
Hamfest 2010:	
Facility	165.00
Food	341.20
TOTAL Hamfest 2010	506.20
Maintenance:	
Repeaters	179.30
TOTAL Maintenance	179.30
Meetings:	
Refreshments	7.00
TOTAL Meetings	7.00
Utilities:	
Telephone	66.04
TOTAL Utilities	66.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	884.28
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-795.24

SMARS Club Meeting

April 15, 2010

Called To Order: 7:02 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL Don W8RVT John W8JRD Jim KD8MNQ

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: There were some problems with the hamfest, most notably parking and the crowd inside. Both of these were anticipated and there are some ideas to improve things next year. The hamfest was one of the most profitable events in years.

Field Day: Lou hasn't heard back from the airport.

ARES/RACES: Details of last month's activities were presented. April 17 is the March of Dimes walk. Next ARES/RACES meeting is April 20. Siren test on May 1.

VE Testing: April 25 is the next exam session.

Technical Engineer: The UPS at the repeater site needs to be replaced. Still trying to find the interference on 2 meters.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

There were some ideas tossed out about recruiting new members of the club, including a mass mailing.

Presentation: Don W8RVT displayed a new antenna project. Plans in the May Feedback.

Adjourned: 8:36 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD

SMARS Secretary

SMARS Board Meeting

May 3, 2010

Called to Order: 6:01 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL Don W8RVT John W8JRD Jim KD8MNQ

Topics:

Bob will not be able to run May meeting.

The American Red Cross will present a program at the May meeting.

Don presented the final hamfest financial report.

The club info at the ARRL web site has been updated.

A donation to Willard Library in W8FOK's name was discussed.

The date for next year's hamfest will be reserved at the MAC.

A location for this year's Field still needs to be secured. Various alternatives to the airport were discussed.

New membership cards need to be printed.

A suggestion was made to add a page on the club website to buy/sell for club members.

Don is looking into adding a weather station at the repeater site.

Adjourned: 7:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD

SMARS Secretary

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



MAY 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 8:00 P.M.
224.24
Wednesday 8:00 P.M.
28.365

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN.NET
Monday 7:00 P.M. 147.12

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING MAY 20
SMARS BOARD MAY 31 (?)
SMARS BREAKFAST JUN 5
HAMFEST HUDSONVILLE JUN 5
HAMFEST CHELSEA JUN 6
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH JUN 10
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING JUN 17
HAMFEST MIDLAND JUN 19
HAMFEST MONROE JUN 20
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING JUN 17