



FEEDBACK

MAY 2011



COMMENTS

Over the many years I have attempted to write a monthly newsletter for SMARS. I felt that each issue should contain information on Amateur radio and the political world, information on technical possibilities for hams and some humor. I have found it more difficult to get my mind on developing such and during the last week I have been so far under the weather that it has been painful to assemble and write the Newsletter "FEEDBACK." As a result, I'm forced to quit serving as Editor. SMARS will need to find a new editor who can write in what ever shape chosen. To give the SMARS a little more time I will attempt to prepare the June copy and that will be the last paper from me.

While the ham media has been working on the 607 problem with a unusual reaction from the amateur community several other things have been happening of concern. The column Surfin' at the ARRL website is repeated in this issue discussing these fears. The unusual reaction by hams? Think about the howling from hams when they lost 11 meters as a band (I understand that only 3 hams wrote at that time in protest prior to that loss. Today As this newsletter is being written, essentially 9000 hams have responded with written letters concerning the 607 program.

GIVEAWAYS

During the last month attendees were surprised by a

The giving away of a new handheld transmitter. SMARS plans to give some sort of radio equipment each month to members attending the meeting. The prize given last month was a KG-UVD1P Wouxon dual band hand held. Another of these will be given this month. Entrants to the drawing must be at the meeting, must be a member in good standing and have a valid amateur license.

Each month SMARS plans to continue a similar drawing.

RICHARD (DOPEY) HILLYER, WA8DOP, SK

We lost another of the older club member on the 7th of June. Richard HILLYER, WA8DOP, Dopey was an active member of SMARS for many years. After he retired from his job here in Battle Creek, he became an active retiree. For a few years he led caravans of a manufacture to various camps around the country.



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Surfin': Got GPS? Maybe Not For Long!

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU

Contributing Editor

This week, your Surfin' conductor wears a worry-wart about losing a reliable friend.

GPS (Global Positioning System) has become an integral part of ham radio, as well as our culture. In the good old days, GPS was a stand-alone unit that we carried in our backpacks and purses, or mounted on our dashboards. My first GPS was a Garmin portable dash-mountable unit that I used for APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) hiking and mobiling. Like me, lots of hams became acquainted with GPS via the APRS route.

Today, GPS is built right into our ham radios, as well as our portable phones, vehicles and just about everything else. GPS is no longer limited to use by techies; "everyone" is using GPS and everyone has a huge investment in the technology.

So along comes something that may wreck havoc on our trusty friend, the GPS. A new nationwide broadband wireless network has received the "okay" from the FCC to begin building a system that will use the airwaves next to those used for GPS.

GPS manufacturers believe that strong signals from this new system could jam GPS and make it next to useless for navigation. A fix could cost billions and no one has figured out who will be responsible for paying for that fix. Meanwhile, the FCC claims that it will block the implementation of the new network unless there are assurances that it will not interfere with GPS.

Since the FCC has already let the horse out of the barn, I am not getting warm fuzzies that all will end well. So stayed tuned!

I have read about this potential threat all over the Internet. Tom Barron, K6JRA, sent me this link to an in-a-nutshell article on the subject that the Connecticut Post recently published. Here is GPS World's recent take on the matter and here's another.

Until next time, keep on surfin'!

Editor's note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, is worried. To contact Stan, send e-mail or add comments to the WA1LOU blog.

The Fall Thru Index

The Fall Thru Index (TFI) was developed after several years of study and needs to be included with weather reports and forecasts. This is very important as it directly affects public safety. The index ranges from zero to ten with zero being very safe and ten very dangerous.

We here in Michigan are quite fortunate as the index is normally very low, usually zero. Residents in desert climates are at the other extreme.

How does it work? Clouds are designed to prevent humans from falling thru the otherwise space above. The danger increases when clouds develop holes, or worse, become non-existent. Should one of these holes be over a human, that person will fall thru the hole to be never seen again. Just think of people you haven't seen for some time. They probably were victims of fall thru.

The safe way to prevent this tragedy is simply hold on to something. This can be a lawn mower, a golf club, the hand of a significant other or the dog's leash. One important thing to watch for is when you think it is safe outside; wind can blow a hole in the clouds. Should that hole pass overhead, a person can fall thru instantly if they are bare handed.

It is rather simple to determine the index. As are most days, if NO blue is visible, the index is zero and very safe. If NO clouds are visible, the index is ten and very dangerous. Should half the blue be covered by clouds, the index is five. The Fall Thru Index is determined by the percentage of blue covered by clouds.

Don-W8RVT is waiting for the Nobel Prize.

ED NOTE: It should be noted that DON has been noted for the unique discovery that everyone lives within two weeks of a new moon.

TELL YOUR HAM RADIO STORIES

Tell Your Ham Radio Stories on HamRadioStoryProject.Com
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

For a long time, I've had the idea to set up a website to capture ham radio stories. Well, I've finally done it. The Ham Radio Story Project (<http://www.hamradiostoryproject.com>) is now online!

This website was inspired by the Story Corps (<http://storycorps.org/>), which was itself inspired by NPR's National Story Project (<http://www.npr.org/programs/watc/features/1999/991002.storyproject.html>).

The tagline for the site is "capturing the human spirit of amateur radio," and my motivation for setting up the site is to capture personal stories of how amateur radio has touched lives, either the lives of amateur radio operators themselves, or of the people that we serve.

The site has only been online a month, and I already have several good stories. I reposted my story about checking the QSLs of a county hunter, and there are also stories about an international friendship that survived WW II and a story about how an Elmer touched the life of his student. These are exactly the type of stories I want to collect.

If you have a great story about ham radio, I want to hear about it and to publish it on HamRadioStoryProject.Com. If you want to tell the story yourself, let me know, and I'll set up an account for you on the site. If you would like some help, let me know, and I'll contact you and either write the story myself, or find someone else to help you.

I don't want to lose another great story because there isn't a place to tell it. HamRadioStoryProject.Com is the place to tell it.

FITNESS

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, So I got my doctor's permission to Join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, By the time I got my leotards on, The class was over.

ARES/RACES Report for Calhoun County

April 2011

| | | Total |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| <u>RACES/Skywarn Nets and Training</u> | | ----- |
| 2 MEETINGS | 34people | 59 |
| 5th Disstrict meeting | <u>1@2</u> | 2 |
| 4 NETS OF THREE FREQ. | 99 checkins | 99 |
| <u>Public Service Events</u> | | |
| Monthly siren test | 16 PEOPLE@ 1 HR | 16 |
| March of Dimes walk | <u>21@4.5</u> | 94.5 |
| 2 day SAR training | 21 people | 150 |
| <u>Administration Hours</u> | | |
| REPORTS | <u>1PERSON@2 HRS</u> | 2 |
| <u>Emergency Operations</u> | | |
| 1st weather net | <u>26@4.75</u> | 121 |
| 2nd weather net | <u>14@1.5</u> | 21 |
| <u>Equipment Hours</u> | | |
| trailer maintenance | 2 people @ 2 hrs | 4 |
| <u>Travel Hours</u> | | |
| 5TH DIST. MEETING | 1person at 2 hrs | 2 |
| <u>Expenses- Out of Pocket</u> | | \$ 40.00 |
| <u>Travel Miles</u> | | 75 |
| <u>Members (ARES/RACES)</u> | | 35 |
| <u>Total Nets, Events, Sessions</u> | | 13 |
| <u>Total Hours</u> | | 581 |
| <u>Contributed Value</u> | | \$10,702.00 |

Kenneth Nierman

KC8QNQ E-46

City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

MARCH OF DIMES

Thank you all for a great job and a great turn out Saturday. I was proud of the teamwork and organization of our group. YOU did very well.

Danielle was very pleased with our efforts and quick responses to first aid . You all did a spectacular job Thank you all very much.

--

Ken Nierman E46 KC8QNQ

City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County: A.R.E.S./ R.A.C.E.S./ Skywarn Emergency Coordinator & Southwest Michigan Emergency Response Team/ Search and Rescue

THE OLDER CROWD

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. Is it true,' she wanted to know, that the medication You prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life? Yes, I'm afraid so, the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence. Before the senior lady replied, I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition. Because this prescription is marked

'NO REFILLS'

CLASSIC HAM RADIO GEAR FOR SALE

By: K8HLQ
Bert Schulz
(269)965-8208

XYL says we have too much stuff, so I'm offering these items priced to sell. All items work with cabinets and panels in good shape:

COLLINS: 75S-1

HALLICRAFTERS: S-40A, SX-100 with speaker, SX-99, HT-37.

NATIONAL: NC-300 with speaker, SW-54

KENWOOD: R-1000

HAMMARLUND: HQ129X

HEATHKIT: DX-100, DX-40, HW-16 with VFO, HW101 with P/S and speaker

WRL : Globe Trotter

CENTRALAB: 10-B Exciter with BC458 VFO.

Income and Expense Statement

4/1/11 Through 4/30/11

SMARS Club Meeting

April 21, 2011

| Category Description | 4/1/11- 4/30/11 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | |
| 50 50 | 17.00 |
| Dues | 22.00 |
| Interest Inc: | |
| Checking | 0.42 |
| TOTAL Interest Inc | 0.42 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 39.42 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Feedback: | |
| Postage | 8.80 |
| Printing | 59.68 |
| TOTAL Feedback | 68.48 |
| Hamfest2011: | |
| Facility | 69.00 |
| Postage | 0.00 |
| TOTAL Hamfest2011 | 69.00 |
| Meetings: | |
| Door Prize | 209.23 |
| TOTAL Meetings | 209.23 |
| Utilities: | |
| Telephone | 55.06 |
| TOTAL Utilities | 55.06 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 401.77 |
| TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES | -362.35 |

HAMFESTS

Hudsonville
HAMFEST/CONVENTION
06/04/2011
Website: <http://w8ira.org>

Midland
HAMFEST/CONVENTION
06/18/2011
Website: <http://www.w8kea.org/hamfest>

Monroe
HAMFEST/CONVENTION
06/19/2011
Website: <http://www.mcrca.org>

Called To Order: 7:00 PM
Officers Present: Gary N8QC Doc K8OLY Don W8RVT
John W8JRD Bob AC8GL
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions
Secretary's Report: approved as published in Feedback.
Treasurer's Report: approved as reported at the Club Meeting.
Committee Reports:
ARES/RACES: New Rep for 5th District Karl
Want to have picnic/fox hunt. Branch County in May.
concern about 440 re-allocation to emergency services
Still working on PRB-1 bills
confirmed date for next year's hamfest 3/17/2012
Some mention of typo's in Feedback (somebody
looking to take this over?????)
Program: Don W8RVT discussed APRS

Adjourned: 8:23 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

SMARS Board Meeting

May 2, 2011

Called to Order: 5:20PM
Officers Present: Gary N8QC Doc K8OLY John W8JRD Don
W8RVT Bob AC8GL

Topics:
Hamfest volunteer: AB8HK first refusal on Wauxon hand held
Hamfest numbers: not sure what all happened, but final numbers all in.
Reserved 3/17/2012 for hamfest
Bus going to Dayton, both K'zoo and Ann Arbor clubs doing this
Field Day: this year ARRL says have fun
May have to move trailers to K8OLY's location
N8UU moving to the north country, may have to get a new trustee.
Would like to get a picnic/fox hunt going (maybe August???)
K8OLY and W8VVG working on a code class
some interest in a Tech class
Looking for a new editor for Feedback, WA8MFL is looking to resign this post.
digipeater is working fine

Adjourned: 6:18 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



MAY 2011



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 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 MAY 19
HAMFEST HUDSONVILLE JUNE 4
SMARS BREAKFAST JUNE 4
SMARS BOARD JUNE 9
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH JUNE 10
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING JUNE 16
HAMFEST MIDLAND JUNE 18
HAMFEST MONROE JUN19