



FEEDBACK

June 2026

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (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

Membership Renewals

Just a friendly reminder that Membership Dues are due. These can be paid at a Club Meeting (on the 3rd Thursday of every month) or sent in to the Club's PO Box. The amount has increased a little this year. For 1 year it is \$20, for 5 years it is \$75, for 10 years it is \$145, for 20 years it is \$280, and for Lifetime it is \$500. For the 1 year, each additional Family Member is an additional \$5. Dues are due January 1st of each year. Newly licensed members get a year free. Donations to the club can also be sent into the PO Box or taken care of at the Club Meeting.

SMARS

P.O. Box 934

Battle Creek, MI 49016

W8DF Field Day

The ARRL Field Day is just around the corner. The final details will be discussed at the meeting this week, but the basics of it is we plan to be at the same location as we were last year, the Calhoun County Fairgrounds in Marshall (720 Fair St, Marshall, MI 49068). Last discussion is we will run our known 4A for Field Day, but as mentioned final prep for Field Day will be discussed at the meeting this week. Field Day this year is June 27th through the 28th. We are planning to setup on Friday June 26th after 3 PM, although details will be discussed at the meeting and times may be adjusted. Depending on weather, we may setup Saturday the 27th before the start of Field Day. Stop out with the family or any friends who might be interested in Ham Radio.

Other News

Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026

It's not too early to gear up and get ready for ARRL Field Day! Field Day 2026 takes place June 27 – 28 and will bring together more than 30,000 amateur radio operators for one of the most popular on-the-air events in the US and Canada.

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the [ARRL Year of the Club](#), it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Kids Day

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 06/20

URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

Field Day

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters and 50 MHz and above

Mode: Digital, Phone, SSB CW

Date: 06/27 – 06/28

URL: www.arrl.org/field-day

IARU HF World Championship

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

Mode: Phone and CW

Date: 07/11 – 07/12

URL: www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-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>*

All of the information you need to get started can be found on the [Field Day](#) web page, including how to join the [ARRL Field Day Facebook Group](#), where you can share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day.

The overall objective for Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands above 50 MHz, and to learn to operate in less than optimal conditions. Many clubs choose to set up in camp-style fashion with portable equipment, temporary antennas, and off-grid power sources.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2 (North and South America). DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

Also check out the [Field Day site locator page](#) to help find participating stations near you. As an added incentive for anyone participating in ARRL's yearlong America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award, contacts made with ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs all year, including during Field Day, will count toward your America250 WAS Affiliated Club Endorsement. Check out those details at www.arrl.org/america250-was.

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org/field-day.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/start-planning-for-arrl-field-day-2026>

Washington Governor Highlights Amateur Radio Volunteers Ahead of ARRL Field Day

Washington Governor Bob Ferguson has issued a video message recognizing the important role Amateur Radio Operators play in supporting communities across the state and encouraging public awareness of Amateur Radio as [ARRL Field Day](#) approaches later this month. In the video, Governor Ferguson highlights the critical service radio amateurs provide with communications support during emergencies and natural disasters when traditional communications systems may be disrupted.

Watch the video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhBR9z7Q14k

The Governor's message comes as Amateur Radio Operators across the United States and Canada prepare for ARRL Field Day, June 27 – 28, 2026, the largest annual on-the-air operating event in North America. Organized by ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®, Field Day has been held annually since 1933 and demonstrates amateur radio's ability to

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

06/20/2026

Midland Amateur Radio Club Swap

Location: Midland, MI

Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club Inc

Site: <http://www.w8kea.org>

06/21/2026

Monroe Hamfest

Location: Monroe, MI

Sponsor: Monroe County Radio Communications Association

Site: <http://mcra.org>

06/27/2026

W8ACW-Trunk Sale/Field Day

Location: Grand Blanc, MI

Sponsor: Genesee County Radio Club Inc

Site: <http://w8acw.org>

07/18/2026

Auburn Hamfest

Location: Auburn, IN

Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

Site: <http://w9ou.org>

07/18/2026

LaPorte Tailgate Hamfest

Location: LaPorte, IN

Sponsor: LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club

Site: <http://www.lpcarc.org>

08/01/2026

Elkhart East Hamfest

Location: Elkhart, IN

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network

Site: <http://www.elkharthamfest.com>

establish reliable communications under a wide range of conditions.

“During emergencies and natural disasters in Washington state, [hams] may provide one of the only forms of available communications,” said Governor Ferguson. “Field Day is a day for the public to see this communication in action with presentations and activities for all ages.”

The video was developed and produced by the [Olympia Amateur Radio Society](#) (OARS), an ARRL Special Service Club serving the Olympia and Thurston County area. Club leaders said the goal was to create a message that radio clubs throughout Washington can use to help educate the public about Amateur Radio and encourage participation in Field Day activities.

“Several months ago, we set out to partner with Governor Bob Ferguson to produce a short but meaningful video highlighting the vital contributions Amateur Radio Operators make to Washington residents every day,” said Doug Grover, N7POV, Director of Marketing and Communications for OARS. “We believe Field Day provides an excellent opportunity to amplify the message of Amateur Radio and emergency communications across our state.”

OARS will host its 2026 ARRL Field Day operation at Market Depot Park in Lacey, Washington, where hams will demonstrate emergency communications capabilities, offer hands-on activities for visitors, conduct license examinations, and showcase the technical and public service aspects of Amateur Radio.

The Governor's message underscores the continuing importance of Amateur Radio as a volunteer-driven communications resource that serves communities before, during, and after emergencies. As clubs nationwide prepare for Field Day 2026, the video offers another opportunity to highlight Amateur Radio's longstanding tradition of public service, technical innovation, and community engagement.

For information about the Olympia Amateur Radio Society, visit www.olyham.org/.

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org/field-day.

ARRL also encourages Amateur Radio Operators to participate in the letter writing campaign, located at Send-A-Letter.org/HOA, supporting the bipartisan [Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act](#). The national legislation seeks to ensure that Amateur Radio Operators can install and maintain effective outdoor antennas at residences where private land-use restrictions might otherwise prohibit them, helping communities maintain resilient emergency communications capabilities during disasters.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/washington-governor-highlights-amateur-radio-volunteers-ahead-of-arrl-field-day>

Meeting Minutes 05/21/2026

Meeting Called to order at 1900

21 members in attendance

Secretary's Report: Motion made to accept, Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made to accept, Motion was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – It was not a great year for Hamfest. We were in the hole \$955 after it was all said and done. The rental was around \$2,000. Need to discuss some ideas for future Hamfest or if we plan to have future Hamfest.
- Skywarn – Skywarn meeting was postponed this month due to weather. See Matt Woodman for information on the app called BAND it is the new Text com looking for this to be our secondary communication for a club.
- Field Day – One more meeting before field day. Two trailers for Field Day this year and we will be using band filters. Field Day will be held at Calhoun County Fairgrounds passed the grandstands pass the comfort center.
- Repeaters – We received reports the receiver side is not running correctly 146.660. Talk about getting it checked out. Seems like it needs repair. Repairs motion to purchase a mobile for repeater. Echo link 2 m computer is dead. Recovered data, but computer is a no. Dan can donate a computer for the echo link.
- VE – We had 2 people go for Tech, both passed and one walked away with General. We had 3 people for Hamfest VE. One upgraded to General, another to Extra, and one attempted Extra but did not pass. Next Test Session in June.
- POTA – POTA report 37 achievements awarded to our POTA. Parks on the air meets Saturday 8 AM at Cafetal on West Michigan for breakfast and then Whitford Lake Fort Custer for Contacts.

Joining the fun, even if you don't get on the air. You can log or just hang out.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Nothing to discuss that wasn't already covered by Committee Reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Hamvention (Dayton, Ohio) report lots of people new XO 26 prototype radio comes out this summer replacing 7100 lots of cool stuff if you ever get a chance to go check it out.

PRESENTATION:

- None

Meeting Adjourned around 2015 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 06/04/2026

FINANCES:

- Checking \$3,058.86
- Savings \$3,005.19
- Cash on hand \$230.00
- Total \$6,294.30

Monthly board meeting is held at the American Legion on 20th St. at 6:30 PM.

In attendance tonight, Dan Whipple Dan P, Matt Woodman, Tracy, Woodman and Melanie Lake.

Working on computers for trailers getting ready for field day.

Ham fest was a bust, except for the sale of our silent key donations.

Still have raffle tickets for sale we will be drying on the 27th during our field day see Mel for tickets.

Matt Woodman is working on poster boards for field day to track our points.

Kelly to see items left in trailer maybe sell on Facebook marketplace or some other platform thank you, Kelly.

Field day again, June 26 set up Saturday morning 9 AM food at noon drawing at four contacts contacts contacts.

Next to HAM meeting June 18.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS 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, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

APRS Digipeater/Igate, 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.

All repeaters are available via EchoLink (70cm and 1.25m are W8DF-R; 2m is W8DF-L)

Other Repeaters

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

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI
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SMARS Nets: 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 Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz <i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i>	Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: June 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: July 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: July 2nd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: July 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 25th @ 7:00pm Field Day Setup: June 26th @ 3:00pm Field Day: June 27th thru June 28th @ 2:00pm
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