



FEEDBACK

September 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

Other News

Entrepreneur and Amateur Radio Operator Invests in the Next Generation of Problem Solvers

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® announced today a historic and transformational \$1 million gift from Dr. James M. Galm, W8WTS. An entrepreneur and amateur radio operator who spent his career solving complex energy and engineering challenges, Galm is now investing in the next generation of problem solvers through his support of ARRL.

The gift will directly support ARRL programs and activities, including the ARRL STEM education initiative within the Education and Technology Program, and ARRL's work defending access to amateur radio spectrum through the Spectrum Defense Fund. He didn't stop there, however. Dr. Galm expressed how important ARRL is to the future of amateur radio by designating a significant portion of his gift as unrestricted support to the ARRL Diamond Club, which supports ARRL's general fund, and the Second Century Fund, ARRL's unrestricted endowment fund, which will be invested and support ARRL operations in perpetuity.

James M. Galm, Ph.D., W8WTS, is from Chardon, Ohio and is a 50-year ARRL member, a member of the ARRL Legacy Circle,

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

10 GHz & Up – Round 2

Bands: 10 GHz & Up
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 09/19 – 09/21
URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

School Club Roundup

Bands: All Bands, Except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters
Mode: Phone, CW
Date: 10/19 – 10/23
URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

EME – 50 to 1296 MHz

Bands: 50 to 1296 MHz
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 10/31 – 11/01
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

Nov Sweepstakes-CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: CW
Date: 11/07 – 11/09
URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

Nov Sweepstakes-Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: Phone
Date: 11/21 – 11/23
URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

EME – 50 to 1296 MHz

Bands: 50 to 1296 MHz
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 11/28 – 11/29
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

**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>*

and an accomplished amateur radio contester. He frequently operates from PJ2T and has served as President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium, PJ2T. He also operates a popular and reliable DX Cluster at dxc.w8wts.net with both ARC 6 and CC Cluster nodes.

With his transformational gift, Dr. Galm will be inducted into the ARRL Maxim Society at the Millennium Class. He joins Margaret Valentine at this extremely generous level of giving. Valentine, along with her late husband Michael Valentine, W8MM (SK), made the first pledge of \$1 million to ARRL during the Second Century Campaign.

First licensed as WN8WTS in 1975, Dr. Galm has more than 40 years of experience in engineering, research, manufacturing and product development. He holds nine patents and has published many scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals.

In 2001, Galm co-founded LayerZero Power Systems, Inc., which grew to become the world leader in ultra-reliable AC power management equipment for mission-critical applications, including AI and machine learning, hyperscale computing data centers, semiconductor manufacturing, and financial transaction processing. The two owners sold a majority interest in LayerZero to a global private equity firm in 2025.

Dr. Galm holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics, and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics from Case Western Reserve University. He is a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Ohio. Now retired, Dr. Galm serves on boards of directors for LayerZero and Type One Energy.

Galm's gift represents a significant investment in ARRL's mission by supporting initiatives that help develop students as innovators, protecting the future of amateur radio spectrum, and strengthening the organization for generations to come.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/entrepreneur-and-amateur-radio-operator-invests-in-the-next-generation-of-problem-solvers>

You know POTA. You know SOTA. How about BOTA?



A couple of days ago, I got an email from Rem, K6BBQ. He writes:

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

09/19/2026

BARA Trunk Swap

Location: Berrien Center, MI

Sponsor: Blossomland Amateur Radio Association

Site:

<https://www.w8mai.org/index.php/club-information/bara-trunk-swap>

09/20/2026

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

Site: <http://w8tqe.com>

10/03/2026

Kalamazoo Hamfest and Vintage Electronic Expo

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club, Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team, Vintage Electronics Expo

Site:

<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.org>

10/10/2026

Williams County ARA Hamfest

Location: Montpelier, OH

Sponsor: WCARA

Site: <http://ka8ofe.weebly.com>

10/17/2026

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

Site:

<https://mcecs.net/old-site/Hamfest.htm>

11/21/2026

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, Inc.

Site:

<https://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

I am the national representative for the US Bunkers On The Air (USBOTA) program. I want to share with you what BOTA is and how ham radio is part of this.

Worldwide Bunkers On The Air (WWBOTA) consists of over 20 member countries and is an amateur radio awards scheme (like POTA and SOTA) focused on activating and hunting (chasing) bunkers. Some BOTA sites are also in POTA sites which some activators might find of interest.

The USBOTA program started earlier this year and needs hams to help it grow. The US bunker locations can be seen on this worldwide map.

From coastal fortifications and anti-aircraft emplacements to Cold War command centers, Nike missile sites and civil defense shelters they are silent witnesses to moments of national and international significance. WWBOTA exists to promote interest in them as part of our collective heritage and to connect the amateur radio community with these sites of history.

We invite you to join us — and to know a little about the bunker you visit, not just its reference number.

Sounds like fun to me, but unfortunately, just as there are summits near me in the flat Midwest, there are no bunkers near me, either. At least there are none currently. In a subsequent email, Rem mentioned that Civil Defense sites, such as fallout shelters, qualify as BOTA sites. He writes:

One other thing included is Civil Defense sites, including fallout shelters. These have been the greatest number of sites I've added. I don't want to send hunters to a place without a fallout sign so I do ask for a photo that can be found from Google Street View or webpage.

There are some websites that claim to list shelter locations but these are only names of places (schools, city hall, fire station.). It's too vague. Other sites will be more specific with a photo of the sign and building.

I see you live in Ann Arbor so I decided to check there. I found this. [This page mentions that many University of Michigan building may have fallout shelters....Dan] Unfortunately, what I found was too vague to be included. To have a site included, you need a description of the location and a photo.

To add a site, you need to make an account on the USBOTA site and then go to the submit a new location page.

I often go walking on campus. I just might scout around and see if I can find any that might still exist and are marked.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/you-know-pota-you-know-sota-how-about-bota>

Meeting Minutes 08/20/2026

Meeting Called to order at 1900

14 in attendance for today's meeting

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – No new updates.
- Skywarn – October 3 emergency test Simplex testing 10 AM to 12 PM. See Matt or Brent for details. Washington school siren now back online 94 needs new. Urbandale is still out.
- Field Day –
- Repeaters – Old 2m Motorola has been retired and replaced. Thank you Dan. Repeater report low audio through input side tweaked it will adjust it a little more to get it up to par. VPN type software to check it from home Dan get rid of Windows XP and thanks again Dan.
- VE – The next VE session, August 27, Maple United Methodist Church at 7 PM first test with new question pool.
- POTA – POTA meets at Whitford Lake Fort Custer on Saturday's at 9 AM. Breakfast at Café Tal at 8 AM followed by set up in Contacts. POTA POTA contacts are at 29,080.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Net attendance is down nets are posted on w8df.com and Facebook please join us on the radio.
- D-star site may be lost building was sold looking to find out who bought it. Do we need to remove our equipment?
- September 26 club cookout last Saturday of September Whitford Lake pavilion 2:49 PM bring a dish to pass. Band has page content for cookout.
- And all our trailers are at Tom's behind

the barn thank you Tom for always hosting our storage for our trailers.

- Kalamazoo Hamfest is October 3rd. Dan, Kevin, and Kelly will have a table. Kelly will be selling silent key items for the club.

PRESENTATION:

- None

Meeting Adjourned around 200 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 09/03/2026

FINANCES:

- Checking \$3,238.68
- Savings \$3,005.40
- Cash on hand \$100.00
- Total \$6,344.08

Board Meeting was canceled this month.

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: September 17th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: October 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: October 1st @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: October 10th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 22nd @ 7:00pm
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