



FEEDBACK

October 2017

Board of Directors:

President

Gary Williams, N8QC
n8qc@arrl.net

Vice President

Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ
w8aez@arrl.net

Secretary

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR
n8arr@arrl.net

Treasurer

Jan Goodson, W8JKG
janice.goodson@omega-link.com

Member At Large

Thomas Goodson, WR8G
thomas.goodson@omega-link.com

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Annual Club Officer Elections!

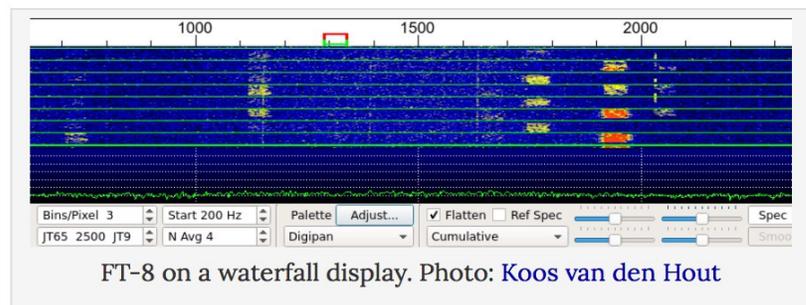
A gentle reminder that elections of club officers will take place on **October 19th** during our regular club meeting. The ballot will also contain a write-in section to accommodate any last-minute candidates for office. We encourage all members to come to the meeting and place their vote!



Are digital modes the future of HF?

October 10, 2017
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

My friend, and fellow ham radio blogger, Jeff, KE9V, recently wrote about the latest digital mode, **FT-8**. Since its introduction this summer, it has become very popular. Part of the reason for this is that it offers many of the advantages of JT65 and JT9, but contacts are four times faster.



Jeff's blog post, "[Look No Further Than the Waterfall](#)," describes how he—a die-hard CW man—has become enchanted with the mode and how it's opened his eyes to a part of the hobby he hadn't really been aware of. As the title implies, you only have to look at a waterfall display to see how popular digital modes have become. Not only that, Jeff notes, "A high percentage of these [FT-8 operators] are younger than average operators and many of them also happen to be relative newcomers to hobby radio."

One of the reasons for this popularity is obvious. You don't need crazy big antennas to operate FT-8 on HF. FT-8 allows you to make contacts with very weak signals. W6LG has even made FT-8 contacts, [using](#)

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

ARRL School Club Roundup - CW, Phone
10/16 – 10/20/2017
www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

Telephone Pioneers QSO Party – CW, Phone, Digital
10/16 – 10/17/2017
www.tpqso.com

RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Data
10/18/2017
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/>

10-10 International Fall Contest - CW
10/21 – 10/22/2017
www.ten-ten.org

New York QSO Party – CW, Phone, Digital
10/21 – 10/22/2017
www.nyqp.org

South Dakota QSO Party – CW, Phone, Digital
10/21 – 10/22/2017
www.kb0sw.com/SDQP

Feld Hell Sprint - Digital
10/21 – 10/22/2017
sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub

Illinois QSO Party - Phone
10/22 – 10/23/2017
www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html

**A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [Contest Calendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

two light bulbs for an antenna.

While I can appreciate the cool technology behind this, and I can see myself playing around with this a little, I can't see myself becoming an avid FT-8 operator. It's just too impersonal. That's the same reason I'm not an avid tester. Contests are fun to play around with once in a while, but I'm definitely not an every weekend tester.

What I think would be cool is for this technology to somehow allow more information exchange than just IDs and signal reports. Might this be possible? If it was possible, what kind of information could be exchanged? Does it even make sense to suggest this? If you've been working FT-8, I'd love to hear your opinions on this.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Update: Great Lakes HamCon 2017

The inaugural Great Lakes HamCon is now "in the log!" Those from our club who traveled to the event reported the event was fairly well attended despite the MSU vs. U of M football game being played the same weekend close by in Ann Arbor. Many thanks to Larry Camp WB8R, Kyle Brown W8KDB, and others who volunteered their time to make this event a reality!

You're never too young...to be a HAM!



Meet nine year old KC3JPR (A.K.A. EX24UR), Bhoom Tansirimas, from Bangkok, Thailand. He's a second generation HAM – his father being E24XUS –and [posts videos of his adventures in amateur radio](#) on his QRZ page, including this one in which he's participating in the [All Asia SSB contest](#). This young man's operating skills go well beyond his years!

Meeting Minutes 09/21/2017

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present: Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G. 24 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report was accepted.
Treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee reports:

HAMFEST 2018 – A meeting is scheduled with Emilie at Wings Event Center on Friday the 22nd. Since Emilie is leaving Kalamazoo it will be a chance to say good bye to her and to be introduced to her replacement, Melissa. We will discuss advertising, parking, tables, electrical, all the things we require.

HAMCON – Scheduled for October 7th and 8th at MIS in Brooklyn, Michigan. Some members are planning to attend and some are offering to volunteer services. This is the same Saturday as the next siren test so there may be siren locations that aren't covered. Time will tell after the upcoming SKYWARN net on Tuesday the 3rd of October. Side note: Kalamazoo HAMFEST is Oct 22nd at Expo Center.

SKYWARN – Calhoun County SKYWARN club is planning a county-wide SET on November 4th (also a siren Saturday). The plan is to station 13 operators around the county, operating on simplex, with net control to be at the fairgrounds in Marshall. One task will be to issue a certain message to one location and have it passed around the county and then back to net control. The test will be considered a success if the message is passed around without error or omission. The final plans will be discussed at the regular meeting in October. In addition, there will be a state-wide SET on September 30th. Details from Bret White.

HIAD – Next is scheduled for October 14th at the DPW on Kendall. VEs will be needed, at least 9!

VE Session – 1 General, 1 Extra and several Techs were successful.

Board Meeting 09/05/2017

Officers present: Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR, Tom WR8G.

Others present: Kyle W8KDB, Smokey N5MKY

Called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Hamfest – Jay brought a copy of the new contract for the Hamfest. The new contract charges the club \$2400, a \$200 reduction from past rent and we won't owe a down payment. This is thanks to Rob Underwood and our consistent good faith and conduct at the past Hamfests. The management at Wings likes us! Also, Tom mentioned that the flyer for next year has been updated and it just needs a proofreading. Jay asked Tom to forward the form to him and he will proofread and get to the printer as soon as possible. It was mentioned that we want to have flyers set out at the Kalamazoo Hamfest on the 22nd of October. It isn't known if the new ones can be ready by that date but there are many left over from last year and, with a little correction/modification, they can be left at the Expo Center since only the date and the anniversary number need to be changed. Jay will see that it can happen. We also want to send some to Fort Wayne for that Hamfest on the 18th/19th of November. Hopefully we can find someone who will be travelling there to carry them.

HIAD – Next one on the 14th of October and several VEs will be needed. At this time we believe that there are 10-12 signed up. There may be a need for VEs for the Kalamazoo Hamfest but no request has been heard yet.

HamCom – Kyle mentioned that he is planning on attending and volunteering at MIS the weekend of the 7th. Thanks, Kyle!

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary



Old business:

Nominations for officers – No one stepped forward from the general attendance and the only name placed in nomination was that of Tom for the post of President. Steph has agreed to stand as VP again this year and Jay and Jan will probably change offices. Nominations were closed for this meeting. Nominations will again be open at the next meeting just before the election.

Battle Creek Hams Larry Payne and Larry Lash both became Silent Keys recently. Some of the club members remembered them fondly.

New Business:

Tom introduced some minor changes to the Constitution, mostly in corrected grammar and an addition to describe under what conditions the club could/would be dissolved. The Constitution and the changes can be found on the W8DF.com website. After being posted for 30 days, the changes can be voted on. The next regular meeting will be 30 days so along with elections, there will be a vote to accept the changes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary



Silent Key Notice

We are saddened to hear of the passing of two former SMARS members:

Larry Lash KA8PZM (DOB 11/27/1938) passed away on September 17, 2017 in Marshall, Michigan on

Larry Payne W8RZY (DOB 08/29/1933) passed away September 16, 2017 at Glen Arbor Hospice in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Let's keep their family and friends in our thoughts during this difficult time.

Ham Humor

For all of those heading to the woods in search of that trophy buck...



"I think I could have done better in a Fox Hunt!"

-Courtesy of <http://www.hamuniverse.com/hunting.html>



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

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, and also available via Echolink.

Other Repeaters

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

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

<p>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>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</p> <p>Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events: SMARS Breakfast: Oct. 14th @ 8:30am Club Meeting & Elections: Oct. 19th @ 7:00pm VE Session: Oct. 26th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: Nov. 2nd @ 11:30am *Board Meeting: Nov. 7th @ 5:30pm Coney Island Cafe, 962 Capital Ave NE SMARS Breakfast: Nov. 11th @ 8:30am Club Meeting: Nov. 19th @ 7:00pm</p> <p>*Note the change in the meeting time (effective February 7, 2017)</p>