



# FEEDBACK

DECEMBER 2009



## 2009 WASN'T A BAD YEAR

Some times members feel that there has been little accomplished by SMARS. But that really is not true. Let's look at the record.

With the leadership of Stephanie, W8AEZ, we had a very successful Hamfest last March. Many pitched in and as a result, the club could continue support of three repeaters as well as other activities such as ----

Bob, KC8PRL, chaired our annual Field Day in June with good results. Again, success depended upon members participation.

Later in the year, Dave, AB8HK, climbed and installed the antenna for the UHF repeater which was now at the same site as the other club repeaters.

When Marshall had a Fly-In at their airport, John, then KC8WMM, and now W8JRD, led the effort to set up a SMARS station during that Fly-In.

Technically, SMARS has not been inactive. Instead, to encourage the use of the 220 repeater, Echolink was installed on that repeater by Don, W8RVT. Thus, using only a computer, 220 was available to any ham who now could talk to other hams all over the world. And Don, W8RVT and Dave, AB8HK, have enabled

a link allowing 440 repeater to use the 220 for Echolink.

The usage of the 2 meter repeater was expanded by establishing an APRS digipeater and lgate at the site by Don.

Several names have been mentioned. Let's also recognize others whose help has been of the most critical at times (feeding times.) Nancy, N8TIA, who prepared nourishment for the workers at the Hamfest and Lou, WB8WXS, of Mousemobile fame who did the same on the Field Day site. As we also fed ourselves during club meetings, Dave, KC8NZY, and Walt, K8AEM, maintained a supply of cookies and coffee and other drinks for the members.

There was Larry, W8VVG, who got the generator working after a fuel problem. How about the Georges, K8GG and W8UVZ, working the CW section on Field Day? There was Paul, WD8JOM, on his stomach, with screwdriver working at the base of the Battle Creek Special. With his vision problems, that was a very difficult thing to do. There was Erv, N8YEA, using his truck to move our Field Day trailers.

Yes, much has been accomplished this last year. As always, the members of SMARS were the ones that got things done.

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR  
SMARS MEMBERSHIP  
IT'S CHEAPER THAN TWO PACKS OF  
CIGARETTES AND IT'S BETTER FOR YOU!**



## WEAVER SPEAKS

### Amateur Radio: An Emergency Communication Service?

FCC's statement that Amateur Radio is not an emergency communication service created furor among a number of amateurs. They heatedly insist Amateur Radio is an emergency communication service. I understand what they are saying, but I disagree with them. To call the great service we love and enjoy an EmComm service short changes it. Ham radio is much more than an EmComm service.

The basis and purpose of Amateur Radio as the FCC lists them in Part 97 are:

"97.1 Basis and purpose . . . fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

"(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary, non-commercial communications service particularly with respect in providing emergency communications.

"(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

"(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

"(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

"(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

Section 97.1 identifies four purposes for Amateur Radio. Only one of these relates to EmComm. By definition, Amateur Radio is more than an EmComm service. Realizing this fact does not detract from ham radio as an important provider of emergency communication support to the public. It merely allows us to realize the broader value FCC places on our service.

ARRL Great Lakes Division  
Director Jim Weaver K8JE

## SENATE BILL 1755

S. 1755 Reported from Committee

The US Senate version of The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 was reported by voice vote from the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The next step is the Senate floor.

Stand by for information on how you can help move this bill forward through the full Senate. S. 1755 and companion bill HR 2160 in the US House are the first steps toward overcoming excessively-restrictive codes, covenants and restrictions (CC&Rs) in real estate contracts. These CC&Rs ban amateurs from erecting antennas in ever-increasing numbers of private housing developments in the US.

HR 2160 still needs our support. Please write to your representative in the US House of Representatives urging him to support this bill.

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## CALL SIGNS

If you're an American ham, chances are that your call sign was issued by the Federal Communications Commission. A "no brainer," right? Well, if you're an American ham who happens to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay or at one of the US bases in the Antarctic, your call sign is not issued by the FCC -- it's issued by the base commander. Guantanamo Bay (or Gitmo as it's commonly called) uses the KG4 prefix, followed by a two-letter suffix; this block is reserved exclusively for American hams at Gitmo. As for Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty, signed on December 1, 1959 (and entered into force on June 23, 1961), established the legal framework for the management of Antarctica, including allocation of amateur call signs; the National Science Foundation received their block on July 1, 1959. US military hams in Japan and Korea are also issued special call signs:

KA2AA-KA9ZZ -- reserved for US Army-authorized amateur stations in Japan.

KC4AAA-KC4AAF -- reserved for the National Science Foundation's use at the South Pole.

KC4USA-KC4USZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations

at their Antarctic bases.

KG4AA-KG4ZZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at Guantanamo Bay).

KL9KAA -- KL9KHZ -- reserved for assignment to US personnel stationed in Korea.

The 40 call signs having the first two letters AF, KF, NF or WF and the letters "EMA" following a numeral are available to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FCC once issued call signs to hams who lived in the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands. Even though these entities -- former United Nations Trust Territories -- now have their own sovereignty (and DXCC prefixes), the FCC will not issue call signs in the following blocks:

KC6AA-KC6ZZ -- KC6 was two DXCC entities: The Eastern Caroline Islands and the Western Caroline Islands. The Eastern Carolines became the Federated States of Micronesia (V6) and the Western Carolines became the Republic of Palau (T8).

KX6AA-KX6ZZ -- the former Marshall Islands, now the Republic of the Marshall Islands (V73).

## MOBILE HAMS IN CANADA

In looking into the impact of the new Ontario law that requires operation of mobile, two-way radios to be hands free, it was learned that Quebec also has a law that impacts Amateur Radio. In Quebec, driving while holding a hand-held device with a "telephone function" is outlawed. This is true even though the telephone function is not being used. There is no exemption for amateurs.

In Ontario, the new, hands-free law applies immediately to non-residents. Ontario residents are granted a 3-year grace period before the law is enforced. These new laws appear to be consistent with Canadian-US treaty regarding Amateur Radio.

Finally, Manitoba has passed a hands-free law that is not yet in force. Enforcement will begin only after detailed regulations have been completed.

Thanks to Marsha Fleming, N8FE of Oak Park, MI for obtaining much of this information from Richard Ferch, VE3KI of Ontario. Rich is Vice President, Regulatory Affairs of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). The RAC is the national organization for radio amateurs in Canada.

## I DON'T DO THIS

Do you ever do this? It seems that this is what is happening in our legislative branches both nationally and at the state level.

Fallacy: Straw Man

Description of Straw Man The Straw Man fallacy is committed when a person simply ignores a person's actual position and substitutes a distorted, exaggerated or misrepresented version of that position. This sort of "reasoning" has the following pattern:

Person A has position X.  
Person B presents position Y  
(which is a distorted version of X).  
Person B attacks position Y.  
Therefore X is false/incorrect/flawed.

This sort of "reasoning" is fallacious because attacking a distorted version of a position simply does not constitute an attack on the position itself. One might as well expect an attack on a poor drawing of a person to hurt the person.

Examples of Straw Man

Prof. Jones: "The university just cut our yearly budget by \$10,000."

Prof. Smith: "What are we going to do?"

Prof. Brown: "I think we should eliminate one of the teaching assistant positions. That would take care of it."

Prof. Jones: "We could reduce our scheduled raises instead."

Prof. Brown: "I can't understand why you want to bleed us dry like that, Jones."

"Senator Jones says that we should not fund the attack submarine program. I disagree entirely. I can't understand why he wants to leave us defenseless like that."

Bill and Jill are arguing about cleaning out their closets:

Jill: "We should clean out the closets. They are getting a bit messy."

Bill: "Why, we just went through those closets last year. Do we have to clean them out every day?"

Jill: "I never said anything about cleaning them out every day. You just want to keep all your junk forever, which is just ridiculous."

## LATE NEWS

The 224.24 and 443.95 repeaters now have the ability to be linked together. When the repeaters are linked, inputs from either repeater are transmitted on both repeaters. When linked, 443.95 has all features of the 224.24 repeater. This includes Echolink. Echolink contacts can be monitored, initiated and terminated on 443.95 as well as 224.24. The command to link the repeaters MUST be initiated on 224.24 with a 4401 DTMF code. The command to unlink is 4400 and can be done from input to either repeater. It is expected that the repeaters will normally be linked.

Wanna get on 220? You can now do it with your UHFrige! Remember PL 94.8 is required. Give it a try on Monday evenings at 7:30 and check in the 220 net.

Don W8RVT

## STAND BY

Some last minute problems have caused the temporary shutdown of this 440-220 link. Keep your ears open for the link operating in the near future.

### ARES / RACES Report for NOV.. 2009 in Calhoun County

#### RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

10 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 160 People = Total 160 hrs

#### Public Service Events

1 Siren Test 1hr each @ 10 People = Total 10 hrs

#### Administration Hours,

Total 30hrs

#### Emergency Operations

0 People @ 0hrs Each= 0hrs Total

#### Equipment Hours

2 People @ 6 hrs Each=12 hrs Total

#### Travel Hours

4 hrs Total

#### Expenses- Out of Pocket

\$80.00 Total

#### Travel Miles

50 Miles Total

#### Members

34

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

SMARS Board Meeting November 2, 2009

Called to Order: 6:11 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL Don W8RVT John W8JRD

Topics:

Repeaters: All up. Don W8RVT and Dave AB8HK are working on linking the 220 and 440 repeaters together to maximize usage on both.

Christmas Dinner: December 12 at 6 PM at Old Country Buffet. Drawings will be from the 50/50 funds collected this year with \$50 to go to one winner and the remainder to be split among several present at the dinner.

Financials: Table rentals and dues should be greatly increasing in December.

Hamfest: Several suggestions were made for different vendors to approach. Comparisons were made with other Hamfests' table rentals. Planning is starting for bad weather.

Past President: Since Bob KC8PRL is likely to be re-elected, this position will have to be filled by nomination. Several names were discussed to fill what really is a Member-At-Large position.

Adjourned: 6:55 PM  
Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

**Income & Expense Statement**  
11/1/09 Through 11/30/09

Category Description	11/1/09-11/30/09
<b>INCOME</b>	
50 50	5.00
Dues	113.00
Interest Inc: Checking	0.45
<b>TOTAL Interest Inc</b>	<b>0.45</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>118.45</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration: Supplies	12.15
<b>TOTAL Administration</b>	<b>12.15</b>
Meetings: Refreshments	18.31
<b>TOTAL Meetings</b>	<b>18.31</b>
Utilities: Telephone	63.67
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<b>63.67</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>94.13</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>24.32</b>

SMARS Club Meeting November 19, 2009

Called To Order: 7:02 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL Don W8RVT John KC8WMM

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: Getting inquiries about tables. The word is getting out.

Field Day: Scores published in QST. Construction appears to be starting at the Field day site. Next year needs more participation.

ARES/RACES: No report.

Technical Engineer: The 2 meter antenna was replaced.

Coverage on 440 as good as 2 meter, except to the north. VE Testing: No test in December.

Business:

Nominations: Names were placed for nomination for election:

Bob Kingsbury for President

John Davidson for Secretary

Jim Heckman for Vice President

no names were placed for Treasurer

Nominations will stay open until the December Meeting

PRB-1: Has progressed to committee with more sponsors on board.

APRS: Don W8RVT showed screenshots from his trip to Colorado.

Christmas Dinner: December 12 at 6pm at Old Country Buffet. Gifts will be exchanged (limit \$5-\$10)

Radio Tags: Lou WB8WXS showed radio repair tags from an old radio he had.

Club Archives: Lou WB8WXS has the club photos going back decades and they need to find a new home.

Ebay: The Club is looking for someone to possibly buy the old 440 repeater.

Drawing: Won by Marion WA8MFL

Adjourned: 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

# FEEDBACK



DECEMBER 2009

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 7:30 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 DEC 17  
SMARS BOARD JAN 4  
SMARS BREAKFAST JAN 9  
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH JAN 14  
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING JAN21