



FEEDBACK

NOVEMBER 2010



COMMENTS

When I first became an amateur radio operator, certain rules were given to me. These rules are of the kind that are never written but are understood.

It is understood that the radio spectrum is desired by many various groups of people and the only organization defending our use is the ARRL. It is my responsibility as an amateur to support the ARRL and the most direct way is by joining the ARRL.

At the local level some organization is needed to keep amateurs informed about problems locally or nationally that may affect their use of amateur radio. Thus your membership in that local club serves to not only keep you up to date but a place to find help and answers when needed.

Since repeaters are such an important part of the local amateur life and since these repeaters are costly to build and maintain, those who use them are expected to help pay for their usage. When someone uses more than one repeater, he should support the one he most uses.

Your editor is running short on material for Feedback and as a result much material has been listed from ARRL sources which is unfortunate. Why? If the reader was truly interested in Amateur Radio, he would have read this material already.

de WA8MFL

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Lou, WB8WXS has again arranged for the Christmas party at the Old Country Buffet on Dec 11 at 6:00 P.M.

All amateurs are invited. A gift exchange will take place for any that want to take part. Usual ideas of identifying YL or OM gift and keep the price down. There can be a lot of fun in what the gift is and who gets it.

DUES

It's that time of year again. SMARS must choose new leadership and collect the necessary money from members. The election of a group to lead SMARS takes place in December following a presentations of a slate in November.

The annual dues are a miserly \$10 per member with a bargain rate for any other family member(s) living in the same household of \$1. The full membership requires that the member be an amateur thus having voting rights. If the member is not an amateur they will considered an associate with all rights other than voting. The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. Lifetime members may choose not to pay dues but must notify the officers in writing of this choice.

A QSO PARTY

Kentucky takes its turn for a QSO party. This is a nice way to get in on a new way to meet people that you haven't meet before. Those that took part in the Michigan QSO party remember the fun they had and here's a chance to get involved with another party.

The 2010 running of the Kentucky QSO Party will be from 1400 UTC Saturday, November 13 through 0200 UTC Sunday, November 14. The object for stations in the Commonwealth is to contact as many stations in any location as possible. Stations outside Kentucky contact as many stations inside the Commonwealth as possible. The full rules and additional information are at <http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/>. Click on 2010 Ky QSO Party Rules at left of page.

The KYQP is sponsored by the Western KY DX Association.

AMSAT-UK ANNOUNCES



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AMSAT-UK has announced a new amateur satellite project – FUNcube – that features a 435 to 145 MHz Linear Transponder for SSB/CW operation. The project has received major initial funding from the Radio Communications Foundation (RCF) and is being developed in collaboration with ISIS-Innovative Solutions in Space BV.

FUNcube is an educational single cubesat project with the goal of enthusing and educating young people about radio, space, physics and electronics.

It will support the educational Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) initiatives and provide an additional resource for the GB4FUN Mobile Communications Centre.

The target audience consists of primary and secondary school pupils and FUNcube will feature a 145 MHz telemetry beacon that will provide a strong signal for the pupils to receive.

A simple receiver board is also being developed. It is intended that this will be connected to the USB port of a laptop to display telemetry and messages in an interesting way.

The satellite will contain a materials science experiment, from which the school students can receive telemetry data which they can compare to the results they obtained from similar reference experiments in the classroom.

FUNcube is the first cubesat designed to benefit this group and is expected to be the first UK cubesat to reach space.

It is anticipated FUNcube will be launched into a Sun Synchronous Low Earth Orbit about 600-700km above the

earth using one of the many launch opportunities that exist for Cubesat missions. In such an orbit the satellite passes over Europe approximately 3 times in the morning, and 3 in the evening, every day, perhaps allowing the morning passes to be used for educational purposes and the evening passes for Amateur Radio communications.

FUNcube will carry a UHF to VHF linear transponder that will have up to 1 watt and which can be used by Radio Amateurs worldwide for SSB and CW communications.

Measuring just 10 x 10 x 10 cm, and with a mass of less than 1kg, it will be the smallest ever satellite to carry a linear transponder and the choice of frequencies will enable Radio Amateurs to use their existing VO-52, DO-64, HO68 and similar stations.

A key feature of the satellite is the absence of an On-Board Computer. A micro-controller will be used instead. For reliability and maximum power efficiency, the design has been kept as straightforward as possible with satellite control being achieved using simple commands.

AMSAT-UK has more than 350 individual members and is one of more than 20 such groups worldwide. AMSAT-UK teams have provided hardware for more than 10 satellites over the past 35+ years including SSETI Express in 2005.

They are presently involved with the development of hardware and software for a number of satellite projects including the European Student Earth Orbiter (ESEO), P3E, ARRISat-1, the Columbus module on the ISS and also the GENSO Ground station network.

Tech Talk: If the input impedance of an antenna is other than 50 ohms non reactive ($50R + j0$), any length of coax inserted between the antenna, and the antenna analyzer (or SWR bridge), will skew the readout results. The amount of skew depends on the magnitude of the mismatch, and the length of the coax in question. For this reason, antenna analyzer measurements should be taken as close to the antenna as possible; inches, not feet!

First Antarctic VE Session

ARRL VEC Manager, Maria Somma

October 8, 2010 was one of those gorgeous early fall days we in New England get to enjoy from time to time: Sunny, highs in the mid-70s and not a cloud in the sky. Although her department coordinates thousands of VE sessions each year, Maria Somma, AB1FM, was particularly excited about the one that began at 5 PM last Friday: The first VE session from Antarctica. As it happens, the temperature outside Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station was also in the mid-70s – with the addition of a minus sign!

A total of eight candidates took the Technician exam, and all eight are now licensed amateurs. As of Monday, a couple have even created pileups while making their first contacts! The point of contact “way down under” was Ernie Gray, W1MRQ. Ernie also served as an examiner. The other two were in the ARRL VEC office in Newington – Penny Harts, N1NAG, and Steve Ewald, WV1X.

It was the first VE exam on the Antarctic continent, and no doubt the coldest exam session in history.

Ernie told the ARRL that the process began last year, but didn't get too far until this past winter (summer in the Northern Hemisphere), when “they were in my face asking how we can make this happen.” He continued: “A meeting was held in May and about a third of the 47 winterovers attended....The idea of an exam session came up almost right away.”

“We are all contract workers for Raytheon Polar Services Co of Centennial, Colorado....They have been exposed to ham radio through the permanent ham stations here on the ice and some wanted to be hams for years, just didn't know how to go about it....The South Pole winter crew has been isolated here since February and I have been giving talks and demonstrations about Amateur Ra-

dio and even made some contacts from my shack. We do try to fight isolation from all the things at home and the boredom from being sequestered inside this steel cocoon. I knew at that moment that I had to make this happen, I was going to make this happen.”

Somma provided this report: “On Friday, October 8, 2010 at 5 PM, we gathered in the VEC office to start the video conference exam session. At the South Pole it was already 10 AM Saturday. Everyone there was in their conference room with each candidate's laptop logged onto the ARRL VEC examination Web site. All three participating ARRL VEs were able to observe and communicate before, during and after the session. Participating VEs filled in all forms related to the session via the Web. Three different interactive online Tech exams were available so Ernie could randomly assign different versions to the candidates and they could all take the exam at the same time. The results were reported to the candidates within a few minutes of electronic submission to the VEC and VE team. All eight had passed!”

Gray reported: “I had a couple in the KC4AAA ham shack and they had a short QSO on 40 SSB this past weekend. I hope to have them all through before we depart for home [starting in November].”

IT support was provided by Andy Shefrin and Hugh Brower, KB1NFI at ARRL HQ and by Marc Stavale at Amundsen-Scott.

Somma was pleased with the way the historic session turned out: “During my 25 year tenure at the ARRL, this has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever been involved in. It was very gratifying to help them achieve their goal!”

Gray agreed, commenting: “Nothing I have ever done previously and probably nothing I will ever do again will give me as much satisfaction as what has been accomplished by these eight individuals down here this winter. This is the highpoint of my ham radio experience and I hope I still have a few more good years to go!”

QSL Field Checkers Available

Note from the ARRL Contest News

This is just a reminder that most QSL cards can be checked in the field without sending them to HQ. There are several volunteers in this Division who can check cards for you. These fall into three different categories. The categories are:

- ARRL DXCC QSL Field Checker (see <http://www.arrl.org/card-checkers>).

These volunteers can check cards for DXCC, WAS, VUCC and WAC

- ARRL HF Awards Manager (see <http://www.arrl.org/card-checkers>): HF Awards Managers can check WAS QSLs.

- ARRL VHF/UHF Awards Manager (see <http://www.arrl.org/card-checkers>). These managers can check VUCC cards.

I have contacted each DXCC Card Checker and have learned each of them is available to come to hamfests to check cards. They also are available to meet with amateurs individually to do this. The same should be true of most HF and VHF/UHF Awards Managers.

ARES / RACES Report for October, 2010 in Calhoun County

Income and Expense Statement

10/1/10 Through 10/31/10

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

1 RACES Meeting 2.0 hrs each @ 19 People Total 38 hrs
 Four Nets 91 People@ 1 Hr Total 91 hrs

Public Service Events

1 Siren Test 1hrs each @ 0 People = 0hrs
 Oktober Fest(Fort Custer ST. PK.
 Two day Special Event station N8O 8 operators Total 112 hrs
 Womens Coop 11 participants Total 28

Administration Hours

Total 10hrs

Emergency Operations

Sky warn net 17 People @2hrs 55 min Total 65hrs

Equipment Hours

RACES Trailer Maintenance 2hrs @ 3 Person = Total 6hrs

Travel Hours =

Total 4.0

Expenses- Out of Pocket =

Total \$60.00

Travel Miles =

Total 175

Members (ARES / RACES) =

Total 36

Total Nets,Events, Sessions =6

Total Hours =

354 hrs total

Contributed Value =

\$ 528.00

Kenneth Nerman

KC8QNO E-46

City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County

RACES, Emergency Coordinator

Category Description	10/1/10-10/31/10
INCOME	
50 50	18.00
Dues:	
2011	20.00
TOTAL Dues	20.00
Interest Inc:	
Checking	0.59
TOTAL Interest Inc	0.59
TOTAL INCOME	38.59
EXPENSES	
Administration:	
Membership Cards	0.00
Administration-Other	20.00
TOTAL Administration	20.00
Feedback:	
Postage	52.80
Printing	118.02
TOTAL Feedback	170.82
Hamfest2011:	
Facility	677.00
TOTAL Hamfest2011	677.00
Utilities:	
Telephone	66.03
TOTAL Utilities	66.03
TOTAL EXPENSES	933.85
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-895.26

HAMFESTS

Fort Wayne 11/13 & 11/14
 Indiana State Convention
 (Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo)
 Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society
 Location: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
 4000 Parnell Avenue Fort Wayne, IN 46801
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>
 Talk-In: 146.880(-)
 James D Boyer , KB9IH
 PO Box 10342 Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342
 Phone: 260-579-2196
 Email: chairman@fortwaynehamfest.com

L'Anse Creuse 12/05
 LCARC Amateur Radio Swap/Hamfest
 Sponsor: L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club
 Location: L'Anse Creuse High School
 384955 L'Anse Creuse Street
 Harrison Township, MI 48045
<http://www.N8LC.org>
 Talk-In: 147.08 receive (147.68 transmit) (PL 100)
 Gregg Crump , N8GEO
 29729 South River Road Harrison Township, MI 48045
 Phone: 586-344-7013
 Email: n8geo@arrl.net

SMARS Board Meeting

November 1, 2010

Called to Order: 6:05 PM

Officers Present: John W8JRD Gary N8QC Bob AC8GL

Topics:

VE session: There will be one on December 23, 2010.

Hamfest: As of 11/1 the ARRL has not sanctioned the hamfest. Flyers and announcements are on hold until then. There will be no tables held with out the registration form and payment. Last year, there were about 10 tables held when sales were slow. Since last year turned out to be a sellout, it's

not fair to hold tables. All tables sold on first come first sale. The provision about weapons will be removed. Hamfest will be 8 AM until 12 noon. VE session will be at 9 AM.

Purchase of a new Technician study guide, to be donated to Willard in Jerry W8FOK's memory, was approved.

Materials for a General Class teaching session, to be held early next year, were approved up to \$75 (but expected to be much less).

The Nomination Committee has come up with a roster of names to be presented at the November club meeting. Any one interested in being added contact Gary N8QC.

Dave KC8NZY is asking for someone to take over the refreshments. Bob AC8GL is interested in doing this.

Lou WB8WXS has arranged for the Christmas party at Old Country Buffet on December 11, 6 PM.

Construction at the airport continues. It is not clear where there might be a site for Field Day next year at this time.

Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

SMARS Club Meeting

October 21, 2010

Called To Order: 7:00 PM

Officers Present: Bob AC8GL Don W8RVT John W8JRD Gary N8QC Russ N8UU

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: Approval form submitted to the ARRL.

Field Day: No report.

ARES/RACES: No report.

VE Testing: October 28 is the next SMARS exam session.

Kalamazoo has one at their hamfest on October 17 and Coldwater has one on November 6, in conjunction with a one day class.

Technical Engineer: There was some fine tuning to the repeaters.

Old Business:

Nominees for election will be presented at the November club meeting.

Dave KC8NZY will be traveling and is looking for someone to take over refreshments at the club meetings.

No date set for the Christmas party. Dave K8OLY will check with Lou WB8WXS about status.

New Business:

ARRL club information has been updated.

There will be another Fox Hunt in the spring. Date TBA.

Entertainment: John W8JRD did a short presentation on computer security.

Adjourned: 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

FOR SALE

40 ft Spaulding Tower

Tailtwister Rotator T2X .S1

ICOM 751A

with built in power supply and mike

Call Bev ka8cxs at 269-964-3197

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



NOVEMBER 2010



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 *NEEDS LEADER*

Wednesday 8:00 P.M.
28.365

Saturday 8:00 P.M.
443.95 *NEEDS LEADER*

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN.NET
Monday 7:00 P.M. 147.12

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

HAMFEST FORT WAYNE NOV 13-14

THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING NOV 18

SMARS BOARD NOV 29

NEXT MONTHS SMARS BREAKFAST DEC 4

HAMFEST L'ANSE CREUSE DEC 6

B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH DEC 9

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC 11

NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING DEC 16