



# FEEDBACK

August 2019

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor ([w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto: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.

### Board of Directors:

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### Club News

## SMARS Officers Nominations for 2019-2020

Elections for club officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) will be held at the October 17<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The requirements for holding office are few: any current SMARS club member may run for office, and no prior experience is necessary!

If you are interested in running for one of the club officer positions, please email Kyle at [w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdb@arrl.net) with your name and the office for which you would like to run so that you may be added to the ballot.

### Other News

## ARRL Dayton Hamvention Videos Available

Video recordings of presentations made by several ARRL officials at the 2019 Dayton Hamvention® and ARRL National Convention are now available for viewing on the ARRL YouTube channel. Most of the videos were shot and edited by ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director Tom Delaney, W8WTD, with assistance from David Vine, WA1EAW, during the ARRL Members Forum and during other ARRL-sponsored forums at Hamvention. Videos include one from the Public Service Communications forum that was produced by Jim Palmer, KB1KQW, and one produced by Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, of ARRL Chief Executive Officer Howard Michel, WB2ITX, at the ARRL Donor Dinner.

Michel is also featured in a video conducting a brief discussion of the status of ARRL as an organization and his vision for its future, recorded at the ARRL Members Forum.

Additional available videos are:

- ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, offering an overview of ARRL activities and challenging ARRL members to help recruit younger people into Amateur Radio and ARRL membership.

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### 10 Ghz & Up

Bands: All Authorized microwave bands  
10 Ghz and Up

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Dates: 8/17 – 8/18/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up](http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up)

### Rookie Roundups

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

Mode: RTTY

Date: 8/18/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

### EME Contest

Bands: 6 Meters and Up

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 8/19 - 8/20/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### 10 Ghz & Up

Bands: All Authorized microwave bands  
10 Ghz and Up

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 9/21 - 9/22/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up](http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up)

### EME Contest

Bands: 13 Centimeters and Up

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 9/21 - 9/22/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### EME - 50 to 1296 MHz

Bands: All Above 6 Meters

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 10/19 - 10/20/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### School Club Roundup

Bands: All Except 60, 30, 17, and 12  
Meters

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 10/21 - 10/25/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup)

### Nov. Sweepstakes - CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 11/2 - 11/4/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

*\*A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](#).*

- ARRL Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, chair of the ARRL Legislative Advisory Committee, discussing the status of the organization's efforts to reassess its strategy for enacting improved Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation.
- Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former FCC enforcement official, outlining the mission of the new joint FCC-ARRL Volunteer Monitor program and how the program will be organized.
- ARRL Roanoke Division Director Bud Hippisley, W2RU, chair of the ARRL's Public Service Enhancement Working Group, discussing ongoing efforts to enhance the ARES program, and other issues related to emergency communication.
- ARRL Teachers Institute instructors Tommy Gober, N5DUX, and Larry Kendall, K6NDL, offering strategies and advice for including Amateur Radio in the classroom.
- A panel of representatives from Amateur Radio's largest organizations active during disasters and emergencies discussing a wide range of topics, including training, partnerships, interoperability, and leadership development.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-dayton-hamvention-videos-available>

## Do we need CW certificate cops?

When I have lunch with my friends Paul, KW1L, and Rick, K8BMA, we inevitably start talking about CW at some point. Yesterday was no exception. After we had eaten our chicken chimichangas and shrimp burritos, somehow the [new ARRL CW code proficiency certificates](#) came up again.

Paul is still baffled as to how one can copy at 20 wpm "by hand," much less at higher speeds. He says that he even went so far as to find a pen with the lowest friction so he could write faster. Alas, 20 wpm proved elusive with the low-friction writing implement, too.

I thought we had answered this question a month ago when the ARRL announced the new awards. At that time, I queried Norm, W3IZ, about this, and he replied that typing the copy was perfectly fine. Paul noted, however, that he can't touch type.

At that point, the conversation took a different tack. We started talking about how one could cheat on the qualifying runs. You could, of course, record them and then play them back at a speed you can copy. You could also edit the copy before you send it in to the ARRL to catch any obvious mistakes. After several minutes of this, I quoted Norm, who said, "It's not a contest but a personal achievement so, if a guy cheats, that's on him." I also noted that this isn't DXCC!

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**09/07/2019**

CNARC Hamfest

Location: Okemos, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amature Radio Club

[centralmiarc.com](http://centralmiarc.com)

**09/07/2019**

GRARA Hamfest 2019

Location: Wyoming, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

[w8dc.org/file/club/2019GRAHamFestFlyer.pdf](http://w8dc.org/file/club/2019GRAHamFestFlyer.pdf)

**09/08/2019**

Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

[www.findlayradioclub.org](http://www.findlayradioclub.org)

**09/15/2019**

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

[w8tqe.com](http://w8tqe.com)

**10/19/2019**

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

[mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf](http://mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf)

**10/20/2019**

Hamfest & Amateur Radio Swap and Shop

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club & Southwest MI Amateur Radio Team

Not being satisfied with that answer, one of us proposed that recipients of the code proficiency certificates should be randomly tested to ensure that they really can copy at 20 wpm, 30 wpm, or whatever speed they claim. To do this random testing, we will need to add this to the duties of the current Volunteer Examiner corps, or, as I proposed, set up a new CW Police Force (CWPF). Conceptually, the job of these CW cops will be to randomly choose and test recipients of the CW Proficiency Certificates, and should the recipient fail the check test, require the recipient to return the certificate or endorsements.

This proposal is not without its own challenges. For example, how will we ensure that the CWPF members are actually qualified to give the test? And, how will the CWPF retrieve CW proficiency certificates and endorsements if the cheaters don't voluntarily give them up? It's highly doubtful that any judge would issue a search warrant to the CWPF.

As if that weren't enough, as we were leaving the restaurant, another issue came up. Paul said, "You know what. In all this talk about verifying whether or not someone can copy proficiently enough to earn a certificate, we haven't discussed another very important issue."

"What's that?" I said.

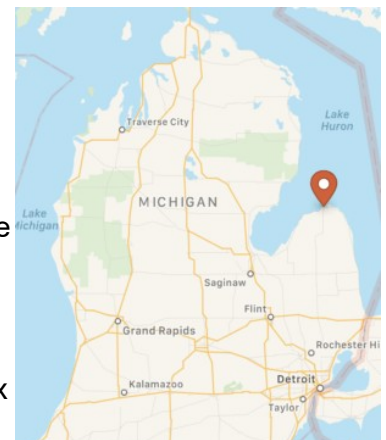
"We haven't said anything about whether or not someone can send proficiently," he replied. After having a good laugh at that, we decided to table the motion, got in our cars, and went our merry ways. No doubt this will come up again when we next meet for chips and salsa.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/do-we-need-cw-certificate-cops/>

## Activated my first lighthouse!

Although I've been a member of the [Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society](http://www.amateurradio.org) for nearly a year now, this weekend, I finally got around to activating my first lighthouse: the [Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse](http://www.pointeauxbarques.org). All I can say is that it was a blast.

Pointe aux Barques is at the tip of Michigan's "Thumb." The lighthouse was built in 1848 and is still an active aid to navigation, making Pointe aux Barques one of the oldest continuously operating Lights on the Great Lakes. While the lighthouse is automatically operated these days, the keeper's house, which is now a museum, and the associated buildings are maintained by the Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse Society. I joined the Society last summer after visiting the lighthouse and becoming



[KalamazooHamFest.com](http://KalamazooHamFest.com)

**11/16/2019**

Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo, ARRL Indiana Section Convention

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur

Radio Technical Society

[www.fortwaynehamfest.com](http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com)

enthused by it.my

Here's the view from my operating position:



My operations this weekend almost got off to a bad start. After I'd hung my doublet up in the tree, I found that I was missing the BNC-binding post adapter that I use to connect the twisted-pair feedline to the Kx3. After searching everywhere for it—and doing a little cursing—I came up with what I thought was a pretty creative solution.

What I did was to stick one the conductors into the center contact of the BNC connector and screwed the other conductor under one of the screws holding down the case. See the photo below.



The amazing thing that it actually worked! When I hit the ATU button, the wonderful antenna tuner in the KX3 tuned it right up.

To make a long story short, I made 25 contacts over the weekend, signing W8L, a special-event callsign. Perhaps the most memorable contact I made was one with WW0SS, who was operating near Grand Marais, MN. He was also operating QRP from a spot overlooking the lake. In his case, that lake was Lake Superior. I joked with him that we must have been taking advantage of lake propagation.

It really was a great weekend. The weather was perfect, and aside from not having the right adapter, my equipment worked perfectly. It was great fun.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/activated-my-first-lighthouse/>



## Meeting Minutes 07/18/2019

**Called to Order:** 7:08 PM

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KDB Tom WR8G Jan W8JKG John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings to new members

### **Secretary's Report as published in Feedback:**

Motion Bret KD8RHB Second Dave W8RDX  
Approved

### **Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:**

Motion Rick W8RCF Second Smokey N5MKY  
Approved

### **Committee Reports:**

- Hamfest: Still looking for a venue for next year. Zuka's was approached, but no certain plans for that location. Looking at openings for the 3rd Saturday. There may be loss of vendors, but possibility of being able to find a location.
- ARES/RACES: 16 attended the meeting and got their RACES cards signed. Looking for volunteers for the fair. Must be RACES accredited. There will be a SET on September 28 using WinLink. BCEMS and CERT opened 4 cooling centers during the heat wave.
- Field Day: There were good band conditions. PSK31 worked well, FT8 did not. The Club should look into redoing the other 2 trailers like the VHF trailer.
- VE Testing: All but one got new licenses or upgrades at the June session.
- Technical Engineer: There were some heat related issues with the repeater.

### **Old Business:**

- Updates on Willy AB8WD and Val (YL of Arnie WA8VRA). Both are doing well.

### **New Business:**

- Next HIAD will be October 26 9 to 5 at the Public Works building.
- CERT training will be October 11 and 12. CERT Ecomms training TBA

**Adjourned:** 7:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

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## Board Meeting Minutes 08/09/2019

**Called to Order:** 5:30 PM

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KBD Tom WR8G John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY

**Others Present:** Jay N8ARR Don W8RVT

### **Topics:**

- Hamfest: Tom is going to survey vendors about being on a different weekend from Toledo. There will be a strong need to communicate with attendees no matter what happens to keep the 2021 Hamfest strong.
- Don W8RVT replaced the 220 repeater PA and a spare was authorized.
- No progress on the trailers.
- Still need to purchase a power supply for one of the trailers.

**Adjourned:** 6:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
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

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><b>Club Meeting</b>  3rd Thursday of every month  Maple United Methodist Church  342 Capital Avenue NE  Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b>  1st Saturday of every month  Immediately after Siren Test  Coney Island, N.E. Capital  Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>BLB Luncheon</b>  1st Thursday of every month  Coney Island, 962 Capital  Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b>  2nd Saturday of every month  Coney Island, 962 Capital  Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p><b>SMARS Nets:</b>  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><b>Other Nets:</b>  Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p>Club Meeting: August 15th @ 7:00pm  BLB Luncheon: September 5th @ 11:30am  Board Meeting: September 3rd @ 5:30pm  Club Breakfast: September 14th @ 8:30am  VE Session: August 22nd @ 7:00pm</p>
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