



FEEDBACK

January 2019

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

New Hams from Tech Training

Terry Tassos (N8LN) and Mike Russell (KQ8N) had put on a tech training class towards the end of 2018. On the day of the testing, December 27th 2018, four of the students who had put forth the time and studying attempted the tech test. We are happy to report that all four of the students walked away with a Ham Radio License, and one even walked away with a General License. Help me congratulate the following new Ham Radio Operators:

- Tom Lowe KE8LEJ – Tech
- Gary Edwards KE8LEK – Tech
- Mark Bissot KE8LEM – General
- Diana Pease-Boze KE8LEO – Tech

Other News

Stuff I Found on reddit: SDR basics, signal ID, DRM with a PC

SDR basics

This is a talk to the Refreshing Memories conference put on by the the Chaos Computer Club e. V. (CCC), Europe's largest association of hackers. I think it does a pretty good job of explaining SDR, although it's not for complete beginners.

What the \$%*#@\$\$ (is that?)

Now, that panadapters have become all the rage, we're all seeing weird things on our waterfalls. The last couple of evenings, for example, I've been seeing something weird down around 3520 kHz. If you've ever seen something weird on your waterfall, you might want to head over to the Signal Identification Guide. This wiki includes both audio and waterfall images to help you identify a signal. Be aware that the images may not be exactly what you seen on your waterfall. At right is the wiki's image for RTTY. RTTY does not look like that on my IC-7300. The reason is that I have my display set up differently. Even so, this is a very useful website.

DRM with only a PC

DRM, or Digital Radio Mondiale, is a digital radio standard that is supposed to be a high quality replacement for current analog radio broadcasting in the AM, HF, and FM/VHF bands. It never really caught

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

January VHF

Bands: All Frequencies above 6 Meters
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Dates: 1/19 - 1/21/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/january-vhf

School Club Roundup

Bands: All Except 60, 30, 17, 12 Meters
Mode: CW, Phone
Dates: 2/11 - 2/15/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

International DX

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: CW
Dates: 2/16 - 2/17/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

International DX

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: Phone
Dates: 3/2 - 3/3/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

Future Rookie Roundups!

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: SSB
Dates: 4/14/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

**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>*

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

02/17/2019

Livonia ARC's 49th Annual Swap & Shop
Location: Livonia, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club
www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop

on for many reasons, but there are some international broadcasters who have scheduled DRM broadcasts. One of the reasons it hasn't caught on is because you need a special DRM receiver to decode the digital transmissions. This video, however, shows how to use a PC to listen to DRM broadcasts.

Article courtesy of www.kb6nu.com/stuff-i-found-on-reddit-sdr-basics-signal-id-drm-with-a-pc/

Amateur Radio Applications in Limbo as Partial Shutdown Continues

The FCC is not processing any Amateur Radio applications as the partial government shutdown approaches its fourth week. The FCC suspended "most operations" at mid-day on Thursday, January 3, although an appearance of activity continues. For radio amateurs, the shutdown means that while the Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) continues to accept applications for all valid purposes, the FCC will not review or act upon them until the funding stalemate is resolved. This includes Volunteer Examiner Coordinator test session batch files as well as modification, renewal, and vanity call sign applications filed by individual licensees. Amateur Radio newcomers who have passed the required examinations will have to wait until the shutdown concludes to receive a call sign and authorization to operate. License upgrade applications are also on hold.

For those already holding a current FCC-issued Amateur Radio license, a valid upgrade *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination* (CSCE) validates temporary operation using the new privileges earned.

"Due to a lapse in funding, the operations of the Federal Communications Commission will be limited with no system support. We regret any inconvenience," the FCC says on the ULS home page. This means very limited human intervention while the shutdown continues, and if a system breaks down, it may not be repaired until after employees back on the payroll. At this point, 262 of 1,437 FCC employees (excepting contractors) remain on the job, as are FCC Commissioners.

The [Antideficiency Act](#) prohibits FCC and other federal employees from working until funds are available to pay them; they may not even volunteer, check their email, or attend meetings. While the law doesn't directly affect FCC automated filing databases, some of these cannot operate without regular human intervention.

The Commission has emphasized that it will undertake any activities necessary for the protection of life and property during the funding lapse. That includes the High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) Center in Maryland, considered essential.

The FCC website remains up, and the FCC Daily Digest of its activity

02/23/2019

La Porte County Amateur Radio Hamfest

Location: La Porte, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: La Porte County Amateur Radio Club

lpcarc.org

03/16/2019

2019 Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest

03/17/2019

Hamfest and Computer Fair

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

www.tmrahamradio.org

06/01/2019

FCARC Summer Swap

Location: Wauseon, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

k8bxq.org/hamfest

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

continues to be posted, but the website is not being updated, and the only items in the Daily Digest are those related to spectrum auctions, activity that is funded through auction proceeds, not government funds. The Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)) also will accept posts, but filings will not be reviewed or processed until after normal operations return.

The FCC spelled out the overall impact of the funding lapse in a January 2 [Public Notice](#). Using available funds, the agency was able to maintain a business-as-usual posture until that date. The FCC released an updated [Plan for Orderly Shutdown Due to Lapse of Congressional Appropriations](#) on January 9. The resumption of normal operations will also be announced on the FCC's website.

Article courtesy of www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-applications-in-limbo-as-partial-shutdown-continues

Meeting Minutes 12/20/2018

Meeting called to order at 1905.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present – Kyle W8KDB, Tom WR8G, Jan W8JKG. 13 members in attendance total.

Officers absent – John W8JRD

Secretary's report was accepted.
Treasurer's report handed out and accepted.

Committee reports:

HAMFEST 2019 – One table reservation has been received through the mail. Smokey N5MKY the PIO has been spreading the word through many local nets as well as some HF opportunities. An email blast is still in the works and vendor emails will be worked on over the weekend.

SKYWARN – Meetings suspended until February. Nets and siren assignments will continue as usual. Next siren assignment net will be on Tuesday January 1st.

Winter FD – The last weekend of January will see a gathering of the SKYWARN group for winter FD at Uncle Larry's barn outside of Battle Creek. The Kalamazoo club is planning on operating out of Ft. Custer in one of the cabins. Very little is known about this operation.

VE Session – Our next will be on 12/27 in the Babcock Room at the church. Could be 7 to 8 candidates.

Repeaters – No problems reported other than occasional noise heard on the VHF repeater. Thinking is that it might be from a distant repeater. It is not considered a big deal.

Old Business

Christmas party – Those in attendance thought it was a success although some complaints were stated that it was very "cozy". An idea was put forth that next year we should take a survey to attempt to determine how many will plan on attending. Also, next year the party should be advertised as the "club member Christmas party" so that listeners to the

nets will understand that it is for those who have paid dues to the club. Also, many thanks from the members to Steph W8AEZ for making the arrangements to make it a great success.

New Business

Meeting adjourned at 1935.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Temporary Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 01/08/2019

Called to Order: 5:24 PM

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

Others Present: Stephanie W8AEZ Jay N8ARR Gary N8QC

Topics:

Coney Island refunded \$50 in gift cards from the Christmas Party. They will be given out as a second prize in the monthly 50/50 drawing.

Added to the monthly General Meeting agenda is an acknowledgement of new or visiting members.

The Club will try to have another MSPOTA activation this summer, not on the first Saturday of the month. Date is TBA.

Emails have gone out to vendors for the Crossroads Hamfest. Emails have gone out to local media. Registration with CQ Magazine has been completed.

VE Session results from 12/27 have been posted. The Federal Government shutdown has put future sessions in limbo.

Adjourned: 5:55 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/lgate, 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:</p> <p>Club Meeting: Jan 17th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: Feb 7th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: Feb 5th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: Feb 9th @ 8:30am VE Session: Feb 28th @ 7:00pm</p>
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