



FEEDBACK

June 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.

Board of Directors:

President

Kyle Brown, W8KDB
w8kdb@arrl.net

Vice President

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

Secretary

John Davidson, W8JRD
w8jrd@arrl.net

Treasurer

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

Member At Large

Glenn "Smokey" McCray, N5MKY
n5mky@arrl.net

Inside this issue:

Lead article.....	1
Upcoming Radio Contests.....	2
Supplemental article.....	2
Meeting Minutes	5
Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions.....	3
Club Repeaters.....	6
Nets & Upcoming Events.....	7

Club News

Field Day

We have come to that time of the year, ARRL Field Day. Field Day happens on the 4th full weekend, which happens to be June 22nd and 23rd this year, starting Saturday at 2 PM Eastern Time. SMARS will be setting up on Friday at 3 PM over at the Riding Arena in Fort Custer (same location as last year and for the MSPOTA). A reminder that a park pass is required to get into [Fort Custer Recreation Area](#), they are available at the entrance if you do not have one and are good until your plates expire.

Club members are invited to gather at the Field Day site for dinner Saturday evening, courtesy of [OT's Up-N-Smoke BBQ](#) and N8ARR. Field Day is a family friendly event and the public is invited to drop to observe HAMS in action or get on the air. All who are available to assist with set-up and tear-down are encouraged to turn out and lend a hand. We look forward to seeing you and many more this weekend!

Other News

Ham Radio Satellites to Deploy from ISS

Three [BIRDS-3](#) satellites with Amateur Radio payloads are scheduled to be deployed from the International Space Station on Monday, June 17. The BIRDS-3 constellation includes CubeSats from three countries: They are Nepal's first satellite, NepaliSat-1; Uguisu from Japan, and Sri Lanka's first satellite, Raavana-1.

The primary mission of the BIRDS constellation is to provide ciphered short messages via its 435.375 MHz beacon, giving the opportunity for the Amateur Radio community to decipher the messages using a publicly available key on the [BIRDS-3 website](#).

Operators able to successfully decipher the message will be recognized on the BIRDS-3 website and receive a BIRDS-3 QSL card.

[Live streaming](#) of the deployment starts at 0835 UTC. An April 11 Cygnus resupply mission to the ISS delivered the three BIRDS-3 CubeSats and three other CubeSats.

Article courtesy of (<http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-satellites-to-deploy-from-iss>)

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Field Day

Bands: Any Band Except 60, 30, 17, or 12 Meters
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Dates: 6/22 - 6/23/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/field-day

IARU HF Championship

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters
Mode: CW, Phone
Dates: 7/13 - 7/14/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship

222 Mhz and Up Distance Contests

Bands: All authorized UHF and between 222 Mhz and 241 Ghz
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Dates: 8/3 - 8/4/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest

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

Rookie Roundups

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: RTTY
Date: 8/18/2019
URL: 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

School Club Roundup

Bands: All Except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Date: 9/21 - 9/25/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

EME Contest

Bands: 13 Centimeters and Up
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Date: 9/21 - 9/22/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

**A more thorough listing of upcoming*

Where is emcomm technology going?

A couple of days ago, an interesting article popped up on reddit's [/r/amateurradio: 20 reasons why intelligent radios like Gotenna Mesh / Pro have some serious advantages over Tactical Ham / walkieTalkies for short range tactical unlicensed volunteer use in disaster zones \(in concert w HF\): #ares #races #cert #redcross #arrl #ham #amateu](#). This post linked to an article on Medium.

A couple of the 20 reasons include:

1. Gotenna Mesh is the only radio asset capable of encrypting and transmitting encrypted private medical information and thus being technically legal for hospital to shelter or Emergency Operations Center HIPAA health-related transmissions.
2. Gotenna is the ONLY radio asset that any civilian, loved one, or volunteers without an FCC ham license may legally use.
3. Gotenna provides out of the box offline TEAM map integration, aprs, ctak, civtak, atak, gps and SMS message sharing with confirmation of receipt.
4. Gotenna is the only radio asset that provides 100% auditable record keeping, information sharing, and situational awareness / handoff for DHS / FEMA Incident Control ICS National Incident Management NIMS purposes. Showing all Tx / Rx and confirmations.

The reddit post contains some interesting comments defending ham radio. The bulk of the comments seemed to say something along the lines of "Well, we have all this functionality, too," and then go on to bash the proprietary nature of the devices. While this may be true, I think that these commenters are missing the point that this system can be used with little or no training and configuration.

I'm not really qualified to comment on the technical arguments here, but it does seem to me that the Gotenna Mesh/Pro does have some advantages over what hams currently use for emergency communications. What we offer is really not good enough anymore. I have said this before, but what we need in amateur radio is someone to drive the technology for emcomm. If someone doesn't do that, then we're just going to get further and further behind and less and less relevant.

Article courtesy of (<https://www.kb6nu.com/where-is-emcomm-technology-going/>)

Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](#), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

07/20/2019

Auburn Hamfest
Location: Auburn, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association
w9ou.org

08/10/2019

Angola Hamfest
Location: Angola, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Land of Lakes Amateur Radio Club

09/07/2019

CNARC Hamfest
Location: Okemos, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club
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

09/08/2019

Findlay Hamfest
Location: Findlay, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club
www.findlayradioclub.org

09/15/2019

Adrian Hamfest
Location: Adrian, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club
w8tqe.com

Should Xenia be the permanent home of Hamvention?

A friend of mine recently pointed me towards Anthony, K3NG's latest blog post, "It's Not About Hara." In this post, he says:

"What bothers me is that some dismiss any commentary or criticism of the Xenia location as merely Hara Arena fanatics sore over the loss of Hara, or simply as complainers. That's not the case. I'll acknowledge that Xenia was likely the best choice out of a few choices at the time, but it's just not well suited long term for the Hamvention. There's a lack of major highways and hotels nearby. The mud pit parking has become legendary. The buildings are more suited to host livestock than technology. The flea market is in the grassy track center, because, well, there's no where else to put it. And last, the venue doesn't feel like the largest amateur radio gathering in the western hemisphere. It feels like a county fair with amateur radio."

While I must say that the Greene County Fairgrounds (I hesitate to call it an "expo center") is a much better venue for Hamvention than the crumbling Hara Arena, and I have very much enjoyed the past three years there, Anthony's points are well-taken (by me, at least). The first year, the flea market was absolutely impossible. Last year, the addition of the crushed asphalt made the flea market pathways passable, but I'm glad that I wasn't trying to sell stuff there. This year was much better, but only because we didn't get much rain. A heavier than normal rainfall will once again turn the flea market and parking lot into a mud bowl.

Anthony notes that the buildings are more suited to livestock than technology, but I really feel for the exhibitors that are relegated to the tents. I spent the first year at a booth in one of them, and while there have been some improvements, they're still not what I'd call "professional" in any way. I noted that many of the booths in the tents were vacant this year.

Another example is the "classroom" that I was assigned for my one-day Tech class. It's an odd, poorly-ventilated room underneath the bleachers, that during the rest of the year is used as a storeroom. I even have to bring my own whiteboard! At least this year, it was moderately clean. Last year, I had to vacuum the rug and clean the dust and dirt off the tables.

So, no, Anthony, I am certainly not dismissing your comments about Hamvention. I don't know what the Hamvention organizers' long-range plans are, but I would also encourage them to think about whether or not Xenia should be the permanent home for Hamvention. It's good

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](https://mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf)

where it is, so think about how much better it could be in a more modern venue.

Article courtesy of (<https://www.kb6nu.com/should-xenia-be-the-permanent-home-of-hamvention/>)

Meeting Minutes 05/16/2019

Called to Order: 7:03 PM

Officers Present: Tom WR8G Jan W8JKG John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings to new members

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback:
Motion Rick W8RCF Second Jay N8ARR
Approved

Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting: Motion Jay N8ARR Second Bev KA8CXS Approved

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: Nothing new to report.
- Field Day: Park is set. Food for Saturday evening from OT's. Bring containers for leftovers. Slightly different trailer arrangement this year.
- VE Testing: Next session is June 27.
- Skywarn: Next meeting is May 21st. All sirens worked in April. Get Your Colon Rollin' is June 1 and the Breakfast Table is June 8.

Old Business:

- The noise finder donated by Jay works fine.

New Business:

- State issues a proclamation that June 18 through June 24 is Amateur Radio Week. Smokey is going to try to do something similar locally.
- Larry W8VVG donated 2 radios to the

club. Some suggestions were to use them as doorprizes, starter radios for new hams, or youths.

Adjourned: 7:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 06/04/2019

Called to Order: 5:36 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KBD John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY Tom WR8G

Others Present: Jay N8ARR

Topics:

- Hamfest: No alternate location yet. Contact with the mall will be made. Table rentals should run about \$7.
- Field Day: The generator needs to be a far away as possible. Power cables need to be checked and repaired. We have trucks to tow the trailers. Lot will need to be mowed. Robert will not be there, so no GOTA station.
- Donated radios: The board decided to give these 2 Baofang to the next 2 youths at the VE sessions who don't have a radio yet.

Adjourned: 6:25 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>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>
---	---	--	---

<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: June 20th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: July 4th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: July 2nd @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: July 13th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 27th @ 7:00pm Field Day Setup: June 21st @ 3:00pm Field Day Start: June 22nd @ 2:00pm</p>
--	---