



FEEDBACK

May 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

MSPOTA Activation at Fort Custer

This is the last year for the Michigan States Parks on the Air (MSPOTA) so we activated Fort Custer on April 20th during the Michigan QSO Party. I want to thank everyone who came out to help with setup and tear down, and who was out to operate. While this is the last year for MSPOTA, if we wish to get the trailers out and active Fort Custer again, or setup for a QSO party, that an option as well. Just because the MSPOTA is done, doesn't mean we can't get out there and have some fun. If anyone has any ideas for activation or a QSO party that will be fun to operate from Fort Custer or other locations (within reason) please let us know.

Field Day

Field day is just around the corner (next month, June 22nd-23rd) and there will be the June meeting just before Field Day. We are planning to operate at Fort Custer as we did last year and at full power. The trailers will be arranged a little different to help prevent interference between the trailers.

As a reminder, a Park Pass is required to enter Fort Custer. If you are going to renew your plates soon, I suggest getting the Park Pass. It will get you into all of the State Parks, the fee for the Park Pass (\$11 when you renew your plates) goes towards the State Parks, and is good for a year (when you have to renew again). Park Passes are available at Fort Custer, but an extra fee will be added to the \$11 price (that fee is \$5).

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

June VHF

Bands: All authorized freq. above 50 MHz (6 Meters)
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Dates: 6/8 - 6/10/2019
URL: www.arrl.org/june-vhf

Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters
Mode: Phone
Dates: 6/15
URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

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

**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>*

Other News

A reader asks: Should I be worried about losing my license?

Yesterday, I got the following email from a reader:

Hi Dan,

I recently joined the Neighborhood Watch here. They use rebranded Baofeng BF888s radios on channel 5 to communicate. This radio is pre-programmed by the factory, and as far as I can see, using channel 5 is not really legal. Channels 6 and 7 are FRS/GMRS frequencies, so they should be OK, but the rest are not according to web searches I made while trying to find out about these radios. Here are the channels and frequencies that I'm talking about:

CH5: 462.525 CTCSS 114.8

CH6: 462.625 CTCSS 127.3

CH7: 462.725 CTCSS 136.5

This presents a dilemma for me, as I am the only licensed ham in this Neighborhood Watch group, and I was not in on the decision to use channel 5. Can I lose my amateur radio license if I program my own Baofeng UV5-RV2+ radio to 462.525 MHz?

Should I tell the Neighborhood Watch folks that they need to use a different channel, or should I leave well enough alone? These folks are not tech savvy and will not likely understand what the frequencies are, or what CTCSS means, much less what is legal versus illegal for their radios. I don't want to lose my license over this, though, so I am asking What Would Dan Do?

Signed,

Nervous in Neighborhood Watch

I replied:

If I were you, I'd strongly suggest to them that they use channels 6 and 7, rather than Channel 5. The reason for this is that I think interference is more likely to be reported by users on Channel 5, which is used by the Industrial/Business Radio Service and the Public Safety Radio Service. (See <https://fccid.io/frequency-explorer.php?lower=450&upper=462.575>).

Also, be aware that operations on those frequencies may not be strictly legal. Power output for FRS radios is restricted to 2 W.

Could you have your amateur radio license revoked for using

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

06/01/2019

FCARC Summer Swap

Location: Wauseon, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

k8bxq.org/hamfest

06/16/2019

Monroe Hamfest

Location: Monroe, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Monroe County radio Comm Assoc

mcrca.org

09/15/2019

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

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

those frequencies? Possibly, but your group would certainly be given a warning first before such a drastic action was taken.

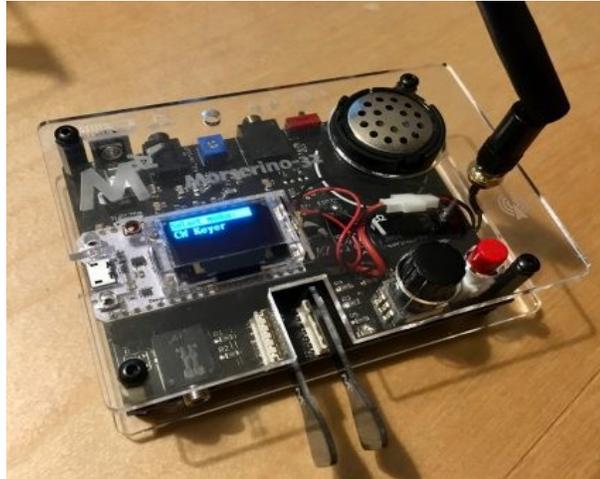
Was that good advice? How would you have replied?

Article courtesy of (<https://www.kb6nu.com/a-reader-asks-should-i-be-worried-about-losing-my-license/>)

Learning about batteries

I often say that getting an amateur radio license is as much getting a license to learn as it is getting a license to operate on the amateur radio bands. Lately, I've been learning about batteries, LiPo batteries to be exact.

It all started when I purchased a [Morserino](#). The Morserino is a feature-packed Morse Code learning aid. In addition to helping you learn the characters, it's also supposed to help you learn how to copy in your head. It has a built-in touch keyer function, and a LoRa interface that lets you send and receive code from other Morserino units.



I'll be writing more about the Morserino in a future blog post, but let's get back to batteries. The kit did not come with a battery. Instead, it was suggested that one purchase a 600 mAh LiPo battery commonly used for powering drones. [I found this battery on Amazon](#), and purchased a six pack of them, thinking that I'd find uses for the other five in some project or another.



Well, sooner than expected, I did find another application for one of the batteries. I'm building a little Arduino project for a client, and I reckon that this, or one with more capacity, will make a great power source for the project.

Now, I have two immediate challenges:

Meeting Minutes 04/16/2019

Called to Order: 7:03 PM

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings to new members: Rich and Mike

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback:
After correction to the Field Day dates of June 22 and 23 Motion Jay N8ARR Second Tom KE8GDN Approved

Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:
Motion Jay N8ARR Second Rick W8RCF Approved

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: The Club made money. Due to the conflict on March 14, 2020, other venues are being sought. Some like Kool Family Center and The Rink are not available. There will still to be a new chair for next year.
- ARES/RACES: 14 people went to WWMT on April 16. CERT E-com module training had about 12. There will be a FEMA/CERT crowd control traffic training session on April 27. One siren remains non-functional.
- Field Day: Site at Fort Custer reserved. Food again from OT's. Setup Friday 6-21 at 3pm, operate from 2pm Saturday to 2pm Sunday. Help needed for setup and teardown. There are 5 camping slots at the site.
- MSPOTA. April 20 - 21. Plan is to operate from noon until midnight, with setup at 9am.
- VE Testing: Next session is April 25 at 7pm upstairs.
- Technical Engineer: 2 meter problems traced to dirty connectors and the power amplifier. 220V440 crystal replaced.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

- W8JMZ reported that there is now a weather observation station at Pine Creek Reservation. Results are available on the Davis Weatherlink app with the identifier NHBP.
- Proposal to purchase a noise finder was introduced.

- Proposal to purchase a new briefcase was approved.

A presentation on the NTS traffic Handling System was done by Smokey N5MKY.

Adjourned: 8:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 05/07/2019

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Tom WR8G, Jan W8JKG, Smokey N5MKY. Absent John W8JRD.
Others present: Jay N8ARR.

Called to order at 1730.

Hamfest - Venue still up in the air. Someone has suggested McCamly Place which has enough room but parking would not be free. It was mentioned that there is "event" parking that would only be around \$2 flat fee. Don't know if McCamly would have tables.

Another suggestion was the Pennfield Middle School gym which would have free parking but we don't know how much room is available. These need to be looked into and soon.

DSTAR – We have not paid Terry for his support of the DSTAR repeaters last quarter and since we are into the second quarter it was suggested we pay for two quarters immediately. Board approved and Jan will write a check.

Field Day – A new arrangement for the trailer layout is proposed. Tom has an aerial view of the equestrian staging area and has sketched what he wants done. Paperwork is all approved and on hand for our use.

Also discussed making a donation to Fort Custer SRA to help with the mowing of the equestrian staging area. Board agreed on \$150 and a check was written and delivered to Smokey to deliver to the fort office.

Tom is going to look into costs to have some calling cards printed to hand out at VE sessions and etc. to help promote the club.

Meeting adjourned at 1820

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR

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: May 16th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: June 6th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: June 4th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: June 8th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 27th @ 7:00pm</p>
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