



FEEDBACK

November 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:

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Club News

SMARS Christmas Party!

Join us **Saturday, December 14, 2019** at **Coney Island** from **6:00 – 8:00 PM** for our annual holiday celebration!

As a reminder, each member will be responsible for their own check paid directly to Coney Island. Coney Island is located at 962 Capital Ave NE in Battle Creek Michigan.

Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange are asked to bring a gift (less than \$20), labeling it "for a man" or "for a lady." Our end of year cash prize 50/50 drawing will also take place.

[Come and celebrate the holiday season with us!](#)

SMARS Hamfest

Several members have indicated that they would like to still put on the Hamfest even though we can't get the date that we would like. We have explored different locations, but they have proven difficult to find (give requirements that we have for the Hamfest).

Tom, WR8G, has checked with Wings Event Center and the alternative date that we talked about is now taken. This leaves March 7th or April 11th as open dates for the Hamfest. However in order for the Hamfest to be green lite by the board, we need someone to step up and be the Hamfest chair person. Several people joining the Hamfest committee is also recommended to help with manage the event.

If we use Wing Event Center, most of the hard work is done since we have a preset layout that works. All that is needed is coordination between SMARS and Wings Event Center, handling communication with vendors, getting tickets and fliers printed, and some other minor details. Tom (WR8G) can provide information on how the event has been ran in previous years to help setup the 2020 Crossroads Hamfest.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

160 Meters

Bands: 160 Meters

Mode: CW

Date: 12/6 - 12/8/2019

URL: www.arrl.org/160-meter

10 Meter

Bands: 10 Meters

Mode: SSB, CW

Date: 12/14 - 12/15/2019

URL: www.arrl.org/10-meter

Rookie Roundup – CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 12/22/2019

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 New

Your friendly neighborhood radio shop lives.....at least in Kalamazoo.

On the way back from the Kalamazoo Hamfest a couple of weeks ago, Ralph, AA8RK, and I passed these two fine establishments: The DX Shoppe and Ken's Electronics (in the background). We got about a block or two past them, when Ralph said, "I gotta take a picture of that." So, we turned around, and he took this shot.



Your friendly neighborhood radio shop lives.....in Kalamazoo, anyway. (Click on the image for a larger size photo.) Credit: Ralph, AA8RK.

The DX Shoppe doesn't look like it's been open for a while, but Ken's is still in business. In fact, Ken uses the building for storage.

Ralph says, "Maybe I told you, maybe not. I left my folder of papers at the swap, and went back the next week to get it. Ken sold me a 10' piece of antenna mast out of the CB shop, which I put under our amplified TV antenna. Reception is definitely better. The 5' section that had been there is now under my 220 MHz mast; haven't tested reception yet."

I'm thinking that the improved reception is due as much to the good karma he garnered by buying local as it is to the additional height.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/your-friendly-neighborhood-radio-shop-lives-at-least-in-kalamazoo/>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

12/07/2019

Fulton County ARC Winterfest

Location: Delta, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

<http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

02/22/2020

La Porte County Amateur Radio Hamfest

Location: La Porte, IN

Sponsor: La Porte County Amateur Radio Club

<http://lpcarc.org/>

02/23/2020

50th Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

Maine Radio Amateurs Helping to Deploy AM Band Public Information Radio Service

Waldo County, Maine, is implementing the nation's first county-wide emergency AM radio station with the help of radio amateurs.

"We realized that the last option [in emergencies] most people have for getting information is by broadcast radio," said [Waldo County Emergency Management Agency](#) Director Dale Rowley, KC1LKI. He recalled an ice storm a few years ago that took down the power grid for a week. "We established an emergency shelter, but could not get the word to residents that the shelter was open. They couldn't watch TV, and their smartphone batteries were dead," he said.

Rowley's agency learned about emergency radio advisory stations and determined that they could be a solution. The RadioSAFE Wide Area Emergency Broadcast System is by [Information Station Specialists](#), which has provided a similar station for Dayton Hamvention visitors. The company developed a compact, center-loaded whip antenna with a small ground plane that will cover the mostly rural coastal county.

Brit Rothrock, AB1KI, and Robert Hoey, W1EBA, with the Waldo County Emergency Management Agency are handling system planning and will install the new service at the county's tower site. The 530 kHz channel is designated exclusively for Travelers' Information Station (TIS) services. — *Thanks to Information Station Specialists*

Article courtesy of <http://arrl.org/news/maine-radio-amateurs-helping-to-deploy-am-band-public-information-radio-service>

Meeting Minutes 10/17/2019

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings to new members: none this month

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback:
Motion Jay N8ARR Second Tom WR8G Approved

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

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: Nothing to report
- ARES/RACES: No meetings until February. Dave W8RDX did a fox hound presentation.
- Field Day: Winter Field Day set for January if the snow is not too deep. Trailer 2 needs brake work, the parts are already in hand. The baluns need repair.
- VE Testing: Next session October 24. A HIAD is set for October 26 at the Public Works building from 10-3 with testing at 3pm.
- Technical Engineer: The repeaters needed minor repairs with some components being swapped out, repaired and then replaced.

Old Business:

- JOTA: Set for October 19. Setup on Friday 3pm until done. Operate maybe Friday evening and Saturday as requested by the Scout leaders. Teardown either Saturday night or Sunday depending on activity.
- Satellite Communications: Tom KE8GDN, Paul KE8MOI, W8RVT, and Rich KE8LSB expressed interest.

New Business:

- SK: Bill Sidney WB8JZN
- Christmas Party set for December 14 6-8pm. Coney is owed a deposit check.
- Jay N8ARR brought a box of fans needing new homes.

Presentation: Dave W8RDX recapped his fox hunting display.

Elections:

Kyle W8KDB President

Tom KE8GDN Vice President
Ivan W8IDR Treasurer
John W8JRD Secretary
Smokey N5MKY Member at Large

Elected unanimously. Duties start Jan 1.

Adjourned: 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 11/05/2019

Called to Order: 5:35 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD
Smokey N5MKY Jan W8JKG
Incoming: Ivan W8IDR Tom KE8GDN

Others: Jay N8ARR Don W8RVT

Topics:

- Don W8RVT repaid for Kenwood 440 repair parts.
- Christmas Party room fee is paid and the date reserved.
- Results from both the SMARS VE session and the HIAD have been posted.
- There are still efforts to save the Hamfest next year. Checking to see if Wings available on March 20.
- JOTA was a success. There were problems connecting to the DStar node and HF bands were busy, but contacts were made to other troops and even some DX. Many scouts tried their hands at HF and even some leaders were interested. They plan to try this again next year, hopefully with as nice of weather as this year.
- Trailers need some work, though this probably won't happen until spring. Trailer #1 still needs a power supply.
- There is planning for the next statewide SET to be done on VHF simplex. More details later.

Adjourned: 6:15 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>
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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: Nov 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: Dec 5th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: Dec 3rd @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: Dec 14th @ 8:30am X-Mas Party: Dec 14th @ 6:00pm VE Session: Dec 26th @ 7:00pm</p>
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