



# FEEDBACK

September 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:

*President*  
Kyle Brown, W8KDB  
[w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdb@arrl.net)

*Vice President*  
Thomas Goodson, WR8G  
[thomas.goodson@omega-link.com](mailto:thomas.goodson@omega-link.com)

*Secretary*  
John Davidson, W8JRD  
[w8jrd@arrl.net](mailto:w8jrd@arrl.net)

*Treasurer*  
Jan Goodson, W8JKG  
[janice.goodson@omega-link.com](mailto:janice.goodson@omega-link.com)

*Member At Large*  
Glenn "Smokey" McCray, N5MKY  
[n5mky@arrl.net](mailto: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

## 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! We do need to fill the positions to be a club.

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.

## 62<sup>nd</sup> ARRL JOTA

Bob AC8QM, District Commissioner for the Scouts, stopped by at the last club meeting and asked if the club would be interested in bring a trailer out to the Scouts Jamboree in October. The members attending the August meeting agreed it would be a good idea and the board has also agreed to take a trailer out to the event. The Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) allows us to run different modes and bands, so the plan is to have a couple of our antenna's and radios available for different modes and bands.

For those who do not know what JOTA is, here is what ARRL's has to say:

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than a million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). During the 2014 event, worldwide Scouting participation included 1.1 million Boy Scouts and 200,000 Girl Guides/Girls Scouts, for a total participation of over 1.3 million--the largest Scouting event in the world.

Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home. JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made

## 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  
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)

### Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters  
Mode: Phone  
Date: 11/16 - 11/18/2019  
URL: [www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

### EME - 50 to 1296 MHz

Bands: Above 50 MHz (6 Meters)  
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital  
Date: 11/16 - 11/17/2019  
URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### 160 Meters

Bands: 160 Meters  
Mode: CW  
Date: 12/6 - 12/8/2019  
URL: [www.arrl.org/160-meter](http://www.arrl.org/160-meter)

during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. With no restrictions on age or on the number of participants, and at little or no expense, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other by ham radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications.

(Courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>)

This event will happen on October 19-20. We are still planning when we will set up (possibly late on the 18<sup>th</sup>), we will be operating on the 19<sup>th</sup> and possibly the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Other News

# FCC Proposes to Make All Universal Licensing System Filings Electronic

The FCC is seeking comment on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that is part of an overall plan to transition completely to electronic filing, licenses, authorizations, and correspondence. The notice proposes to make all filings to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) completely electronic, expand electronic filing and correspondence elements for related systems, and require applicants to provide an email address on the FCC Forms related to these systems. Although much of the FCC's ULS filings are already electronic, the changes suggested in the NPRM (in WT Docket No. 19-212) would require all Amateur Radio Service applications to be filed electronically. Under current rules, Amateur Radio applications may still be filed manually, with the exception of those filed by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs).

"Given the drastic changes that have occurred with regard to the ubiquity of the internet and increased personal computer access, we find it unlikely that electronic filing remains infeasible or cost-prohibitive for the previously exempted types of filers, or that they lack resources to file electronically," the FCC said in the NPRM, which was released on September 6. "We therefore propose to eliminate Section 1.913's exemptions to mandatory electronic filing."

The FCC said that while the vast majority of ULS applications today are submitted electronically, some are still manually filed, largely from exempted filers, such as radio amateurs. Last year, the FCC received some 5,000 manually filed applications out of a total of some 425,000 applications. Among other aspects, the FCC is seeking comment on whether its underlying assumptions about the ease of electronic filing for previously exempted filers are valid.

This NPRM also seeks comment on additional rule changes that would further expand the use of electronic filing and electronic service.

## 10 Meter

Bands: 10 Meters

Mode: SSB, CW

Date: 12/14 - 12/15/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://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](http://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>*

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

### 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](#)

### 10/20/2019

Hamfest & Amateur Radio Swap and Shop

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio

Club & Southwest MI Amateur Radio

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

### 11/16/2019

Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur

Radio Technical Society

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

“Together, these proposals will facilitate the remaining steps to transition these systems from paper to electronic, reducing regulatory burdens and environmental waste, and making interaction with these systems more accessible and efficient for those who rely on them,” the FCC said.

Comments are due within 30 days of the NPRM's release.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-make-all-universal-licensing-system-filings-electronic>

## Operating notes: little operating this week, homebrew shack, N1MM tip

The stars just didn't align this week, and as a result, I only managed to make four contacts Monday through Thursday. The two main contributors to this were poor band conditions and a full schedule, which kept me out of the house in the evenings. The 2019-2020 bowling season has started (Monday nights), our amateur radio club meeting was on Wednesday, and yesterday, we went to the movies with some friends.

I think this weekend is going to be more productive, though. Already this evening, I've made four contacts, and the Texas QSO Party and the Alabama QSO Party are this weekend. That should allow me to get up to par.

Last Sunday, I worked Bill, KB4PPE. When I looked him up on QRZ.Com, I found this wonderful, home-built shack:



Bill writes, “The shack is powered by an off-the-grid electric system consisting of (2) 100 watt photovoltaic modules, which, through a charge control, are connected to (6) deep cycle golf cart batteries (2×3 for 12 volts). Also online is a 1,500 watt sine wave inverter used for

intermittent AC loads such as tools. All radios, lighting, fan, and so on use 12 VDC.”

Finally, Steve, K8QKY, gave us this contesting tip during his talk to the club Wednesday evening. To help him remember what the function keys do while running the N1MM contesting software during a contest, he puts a strip of cloth tape just above the keys on his laptop and writes a mnemonic just above each key. For example, above F4, he might write “K8QKY.”

While it’s kind of difficult to forget what F4 is for, that’s not the case with the lesser-used function keys. Labelling them like this is bound to help you use them more, especially if you’re only an occasional tester, like I am.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-little-operating-this-week-homebrew-shack-n1mm-tip/>

**Meeting Minutes 08/15/2019**

**Called to Order:** 7:05 PM

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD  
Smokey N5MKY

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Introductions**

**Greetings to new members**

**Secretary's Report as published in Feedback:**  
Motion Jay N8ARR Second Don W8RVT Approved

**Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:**  
Motion Jim KD8MA Second Smokey N5MKY  
Approved

**Committee Reports:**

- Hamfest: Survey out to vendors. No other news
- ARES/RACES: Next meeting August 20. HIAD October 20.
- Field Day: There were good band conditions. Good participation, good food and no bugs.
- VE Testing: Next session August 22
- Technical Engineer: Don replaced a power module and was authorized to purchase a spare.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

- Bob AC8QM, District Commissioner for the Boy Scouts, asked if the club would be interested in setting up a station for the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air on October 19-20 at Wilder Park in Marshall. New troops including one from Urbandale and a girls troops will be participating. A show of hands indicated enough interest to go ahead.

**Adjourned:** 7:48 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

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**Board Meeting Minutes 9/10/2019**

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

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

**Others Present:** Jay N8ARR

**Topics:**

- VE: Last VE session candidates have their callsigns.
- Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air: Approached by Bob AC8QM at the last meeting. There seemed to be enough interest to take one of the trailers out and operate on Saturday October 19. We'll need info on where to set up to determine which antenna to use. We would like to do 2 stations on HF. We'll have to determine what equipment from the other trailers and outside sources will be needed. After more info from Bob a decision will be made on setup time.
- HIAD: October 26
- Hamfest: Almost no response to Tom's email to vendors. Still looking at other venues to hold the hamfest.
- Elections: Tom has indicated he will not run, Jan is a maybe. Volunteers? (cricket noise)

**Adjourned:** 6:19 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><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: Sept 19th @ 7:00pm  BLB Luncheon: Oct 3rd @ 11:30am  Board Meeting: Oct 1st @ 5:30pm  Club Breakfast: Oct 12th @ 8:30am  VE Session: Oct 24 @ 7:00pm  JOTA: Oct 19th - 20th @ TBD  HAID: Oct 26th @ 3:00pm</p>
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