



FEEDBACK

April 2020

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

Cornoavirus (COVID-19) Update

With the extension of the Executive Order in Michigan (Shelter in Place) extended until the end of April (at least), the club meeting for the month of April will be another On Air Club Meeting. We will be using the W8DF 2 Meter repeater for the meeting. It is also possible the Board Meeting will also be an On Air Meeting the first Tuesday of the month (May 5th). Depending on if the Shelter in Place is extended into May, we may also do the May Club Meeting On Air as well. Keep an eye out for the May's Feedback for any details.

We have also decided to cancel the Testing Session for April. The Kalamazoo one was cancelled last month and maybe cancelled in May if the Shelter in Place order is extended into May. Keep an eye out on the W8VY website (<https://w8vy.org>) for updates or ARRL Test Location (<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>) for updates on sessions near you.

Remember to stay safe and follow the recommendations from the CDC to protect yourself from COVID-19 (wash your hands often, avoid close contact, mover your mouth and nose when around others, cover coughs and sneezes, and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces).

Cable X-Perts Support

We had received an email from Sam at Cable X-Perts say that they would like to help Ham Clubs due to the issues brought on by COVID-19. Until June 30,2020, they will donate 10% of an order directly to the Radio Club that is mentioned at the time of placing the order. So if you order from Cable X-Perts, please make sure to mentioned the club in your order (W8DF Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society or SMARS) to have them donate 10% of from your order's total to the club.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Future Rookie Roundups!

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

Mode: SSB

Date: 04/19

URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

June VHF

Bands: All Bands Above 6 Meters

Mode: All Modes

Date: 06/13 - 06/15

URL: www.arrl.org/june-vhf

Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Date: 06/20

URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

**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

USA conducts first all-online ham radio exam

The first remote all-online amateur radio Technician license exam was carried out in the United States on March 26, 2020

Marcel Stieber @AI6MS Tweeted:

Yesterday [March 26], our working group ran an "all-virtual" amateur radio technician license exam for the first time in history! Thanks to @W5YI for being supportive of this effort. Stay tuned, we hope to have a scalable solution available for broader use soon!

<https://twitter.com/AI6MS/status/1243772831415988225>

Joseph Talbot sat the exam and his FCC Technician license callsign KJ7NNU was granted on March 27. His entry in the FCC database can be seen at <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/license.jsp?licKey=4267101>

Since 2010 there have been other exams sessions carried out remotely but they have had an in-person proctor present at the exam session. This was the first remote online Technician exam session carried out with everybody online.

On March 15 Sam Hulick had tweeted Ajit Pai, Chairman of the USA's communications regulator FCC, asking:

Please open up amateur radio exams/licensing remotely. People should not be attending physical classes to be able to obtain a license.
<https://twitter.com/SamHulick/status/1239259361932906497>

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai speedily tweeted his reply just 14 minutes later Thanks for the suggestion. Let me look into this—stay tuned
<https://twitter.com/AjitPaiFCC/status/1239262974939971585>

On March 24 Stirling Mann @N0SSC reported Remote Testing Working Group Underway
<http://n0ssc.com/posts/1044-anchorage-vec-remote-testing-results-in-a-new-extra-remote-testing-working-group-underway>

ARRL reports on early remote exams

<http://www.arrl.org/news/the-weather-outside-was-frightful-during-first-antarctic-ve-session>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/kalaupapa-hawaii-is-site-of-second-arrl-remote-ve-testing>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-vec-conducts-remote-exam-session-with-applicants-in-antarctica>

Article courtesy of <http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2020/march/usa-conducts-first-all-online-ham-radio-exam.htm>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

06/06/2020

FCARC Summer Hamfest

Location: Wauseon, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

<http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

06/06/2020

IRA Hudsonville Hamfest

Location: Hudsonville, MI

Sponsor: Independant Repeater Association

<http://www.w8ira.org>

06/21/2020

Monroe Hamfest

Location: Monroe, MI

Sponsor: Monroe County Radio Communications Association

<http://mcrca.org/>

Do you have a Plan B for Field Day?

It's beginning to look like Field Day is going to be a lot different this year. Even though it's still more than two and a half months away, I'm beginning to think that there will still be restrictions on large gatherings, at least here in Michigan.

A week or so ago, the ARRL offered some guidance on this. [They suggest](#) that you:

- Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Use the club's repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.
- I plan on operating from solar power here at my QTH. I will probably set up my GOTA antenna, which is a 20m/40m fan dipole that I support with a surplus military mast, and operate from my front deck.

Other suggestions

Bob, K0NR, suggested on Twitter, "Encourage everyone to do a single op FD entry, provide award(s) for working other club members, provide award(s) for best FD score among club members and promote operating on 2m/70cm FM so that everyone can participate." My response was to give a prize for the coolest emergency power/alternative power setup, although I realize this might be a bit subjective.

Matt, WD5ACR, suggested, "Zoom between shacks? Not as much fun unless you have emergency power." Nigel, G8IFF, said, "Set up a mesh network between your shacks and install cameras and telephones and perhaps a web server so you can look at each other's log books."

Let's not let this situation destroy the fun we all have on Field Day. So, my question to you is, "What's your Plan B for this year's FD?"

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/do-you-have-a-plan-b-for-field-day/>

Meeting Minutes 03/18/2020 (Held on the Air)

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY Ivan W8IDR Tom W. KE8GDN

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings to new members: none this month

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback: Motion Ivan W8IDR Second Tom G. WR8G Approved

Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting: not available at this time.

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest N8LN: Hamfest is cancelled. Those with reservations were contacted. Some requested refunds, others donated the money to SMARS. Wings Event Center is not charging a fee for the cancellation. Fresh news is that the Dayton Hamvention has just been cancelled.
- ARES/RACES N5MKY: The March meeting was cancelled. There was a net instead with good turnout. There is a prediction for storms tonight. W8JMZ reports the storms are predicted for midnight to 4am. Spotters may be needed.
- Field Day W8KDB: Contract had some corrections needed. This has been re-submitted to Fort Custer. Waiting for good weather for the needed trailer repairs.
- Tech Engineer W8RVT: The repeaters are working. Don W8RVT is working to have a spare repeater on hand.

Old Business:

- KE8GDN: Ed Fong is still lined up for the April meeting. The digital presentation scheduled for March is postponed. The proposed Fox Hunt is still to be determined.

New Business:

- N8LN: The date for next years Hamfest has been reserved.
- KD8MA: Asked about refunds for tickets already purchased for Hamfest. N8LN said new tickets will be purchased for next year. Refunds will be issued for tickets.
- WR8G: Asked about the VE session at the Hamfest. W8KDB has already cancelled this on the ARRL calendar.

Adjourned: 7:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 04/07/2020 (Held on the Air)

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY Ivan W8IDR Tom W. KE8GDN

Others: Tom WR8G

Topics:

- VE Session April 23, 2020. Kyle asked about cancelling this session. The Board voted to cancel. June's session will be discussed later. Kyle will notify the ARRL to remove the April session from the calendar.
- Field Day in June. The paperwork is done, but if Fort Custer is closed, Field Day may have to be cancelled. It's a wait and see situation.
- Church room rental. Kyle asked about donating the rental fees to the church for the days we have had to cancel. The Board approved.
- The April Club meeting will have to be held on the air. Last month's meeting went well, with 23 participants.
- Tom W. will contact Ed Fong about rescheduling his antenna discussion to a later date.

Adjourned: 5:41 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 186.2 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: April 16th (On Air) @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: April Cancelled Board Meeting: May 5th (On Air) @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: April Cancelled VE Session: April Cancelled</p> <p>Note: Face to face events are cancelled until farther notice, aside from the Club Meeting and Board Meeting which will be at the normal date and time on W8DF 2 Meter Repeater (146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz)</p>
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