



FEEDBACK

June 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 Shelter in Place orders being lifted and Michigan starting to return back to normal, so will the W8DF meetings. This month (June) on the 18th at 7 PM, we will be having our normal face to face meeting at Maple United Methodist Church. The church says we are good to resume the meetings, they just ask that we disinfect the room once we are done (they will be providing supplies for this). Please still practice social distancing while at the meeting and, if you are not medically restricted, we ask that you please wear a mask (for now at least). Other meetings are also available (BLB Luncheon and SMARS Breakfast) based on Coney Island availability.

The Skywarn group (WX8BTL) has also reported that they will resume normal meetings as well. The first one is this Tuesday (June 16th) at the usual place and time (6:30 PM at Emmett PD).

This month is also the month of Field Day. As been reported, Fort Custer is not accepting any reservations for camping or other areas of the park. Because of this, we cannot have Field Day at our normal location. So, we are teaming up with WX8BTL for Field Day. They have secured a location at the American Legion Post 257 which is located at the light at Beadle Lake Rd and B Drive North. They will also have a couple generators and access to the restrooms at Post 257. The post is also planning to have a garage sale that day as well, so hopefully this will help bring more people in. W8DF will be supply two trailers (HF2 and VHF3) due to limited space. I am told a Butternut will also be brought out to Field Day by Scott. With the 2 trailers, our class will change a little. We will still operate in the A class as a Club, but the number of radios is unknown at this time (we will figure that out once we get the equipment on site). Setup will be on Friday (June 26th) around 3 PM. More information will be discussed at the Club Meeting this month.

Also this month is the Testing Session. We are planning to have the testing session this month (June 25th) at Maple United Methodist Church around 7 PM. The only difference is that we will be doing the test down in the Fellowship Hall (where we normally have the meetings) as this will give us space to work with. I know I have had several people ask about the testing session this month, so we will need the space to spread out. I have requested that people who are not medically restricted to wear a mask to help keep everyone save. I will also ask the same of the VEs.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

2020 ARRL Field Day

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters + 50 MHz and above

Mode: Phone

Date: 06/27 – 06/28

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

IARU HF World Championship

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Date: 07/11 – 07/12

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

Bands: All authorized UHF and Above

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 08/01 - 08/02

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest>

10 GHz & Up

Bands: 10 GHz and Above

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 08/15 - 08/16

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

Rookie Roundup

Bands: 80, 60, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters

Mode: RTTY

Date: 08/16

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

**A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](#).*

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

Other News

Volunteer Monitor Program Recognizes Good Operators

[Volunteer Monitor Program](#) Coordinator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, said the program has recognized numerous radio amateurs with Good Operator Notices.

“One facet of the ARRL and FCC agreement that set up the Volunteer Monitor Program calls for ARRL to recognize especially good amateur radio behavior, in order to encourage compliance with FCC rules and further the efficiency of the Amateur Radio Service,” Hollingsworth said. “Seventeen operators in 15 states received Good Operator Notices in the first quarter of 2020. The Good Operator Notices went to veteran operators as well as newcomers, including a 13-year-old in North Carolina for CW operation during the Youth on the Air Special Event, and a 14-year-old in Wyoming for SSB operation.”

Hollingsworth also said that a 2-meter repeater operator received a Good Operator Report for establishing and managing a COVID-19 net in Pennsylvania, while other operators of various license classes received notices for everyday SSB and CW operation on the HF bands. Recipients were nominated on the basis of operation observed by Volunteer Monitors.

According to Hollingsworth, Volunteer Monitors reported 2,035 hours monitoring on HF monitoring, and 2,856 hours monitoring on VHF/UHF and other frequencies during May. Two cases were referred to FCC.

After kicking off on January 1, the new Volunteer Monitor Program ramped up to operational status earlier this spring, starting with a “soft rollout” that started on February 1, designed to familiarize Volunteer Monitors (VMs) with issues on the bands and to put into practice what to report — and what to ignore, based on their training.

VMs not only look for operating discrepancies, but for examples of good operating. Hollingsworth is using a system called VMTRAC — developed by a VM — to measure the work of VMs and determine instances that qualify for good operator or discrepancy notices, referral to the FCC, or follow-up with FCC requests to the VM program. — Thanks to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/volunteer-monitor-program-recognizes-good-operators>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

06/21/2020

Monroe Hamfest
Location: Monroe, MI
Sponsor: Monroe County Radio
Communications Association
<http://mcrca.org/>

07/11/2020

Auburn's Classic City Hamfest
Location: Auburn (DeKalb County),
IN
Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana
Amateur Radio Assoc.
<http://w9ou.org/>

07/11/2020

Summer Eat, Great and Swap meet
Location: Temperance, MI
Sponsor: Northwest Ohio
BlackSwamp Radio Society

08/08/2020

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

08/08/2020

Elkhart East Hamfest
Location: Elkhart, IN
Sponsor: Northern Indiana Repeater
Group
<http://elkharteasthamfest.com/>

Awwww. How cute!

Yesterday, I got this press release from James Hannibal, KH2SR, the proprietor of QuirkyQRP:



Finger Morse Straight Key

For portable CW opera-ng

Finger Morse is a fun, inexpensive, & ultra lightweight Morse code straight key that allows you to easily stay on the air making CW QSO's with your QRP rig while you are walking.

It's a great option for staying on the air while hiking to/from your next SOTA/POTA activation location or while on a backpacking trip.

It's also nice to have as an inexpensive backup straight key incase you forget your main straight key/paddle, or if your main key/paddle happens to fail while you are in the backcountry.

No more being stuck sitting down while operating. Go for a walk, get some exercise and keep making CW contacts!

With the Finger Morse CW Straight Key by QuirkyQRP Ham Radios, you can finally try operating QRP pedestrian portable.

I have no idea how well this thing actually works, but it's cute, isn't it? I also like the company name: QuirkyQRP. :)

If you make or sell ham radio products, please be sure to send me a press release when you introduce new products. If you include a sample, I'll even do a more in-depth review.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/awwww-how-cute/>

Meeting Minutes (On Air) 05/22/2020

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 Tom W KE8GDN Second Smokey N5MKY Approved

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

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest is cancelled along with many others.
- Skywarn meeting is cancelled. There will be a net.
- Field Day: We can't use Fort Custer. Kyle is still working with the WX8BTL group to hold a joint exercise. Don suggests trying to use the Emmett Township fire station where the D-Star repeater is located.
- A small VE session was held for 3 candidates. The June session is still not certain. A trip was made to Ohio for a special session.
- Don reports that he has not had to visit the repeater site for more than a month. He reports there is some interference on the 220/440 repeater and a hum on the 2 meter. The echolink computer was down but is now up again.

Old Business:

- Tom W. reports the presentations scheduled for the next few months have been postponed. He is still trying to organize a fox hunt.

New Business:

- Smokey reports there are 5 new sirens in Pennfield and Marshall. He will be looking for people to cover these.

Adjourned: 7:24 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 06/02/2020

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

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

Others: Tom G WR8G Don W8RVT Jim KD8MA

Topics: (this is not a complete listing, but to the best of my recollection)

- Field Day: Fort Custer is still not accepting reservations. Kyle is working with the WX8BTL Skywarn group to hold a joint Field Day. The rules have been changed this year to allow individuals to contribute to their club's score from their home QTH. Don suggested that we investigate the Emmett Township fire station where the D-Star repeater is located as a possible site.
- The WX8BTL Skywarn group has 5 new sirens to cover in Pennfield and Marshall.
- Depending on Gov Whitmer's lifting on social gatherings, there will either be a net or a face to face meeting this month.
- The same applies to the June club meeting. It will either be an on air meeting or a face to face meeting.

Adjourned: 5:42 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: June 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: July 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: July 7th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: July 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 25th @ 7:00pm</p> <p>BLB Luncheon and Club Breakfast will be based on Coney Island availability and occupancy limits.</p>
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