



# FEEDBACK

March 2020

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.

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### Club News

## SMARS Hamfest Canceled

I know a lot of people were looking forward to the Hamfest given we went back and forth as to weather we should have it or not due to the date not being available. We were on track to have a pretty good Hamfest with a good chunk of tables sold with the alternative date. However, due to COVID-19 being in the United States and the Governor already restricting large gatherings, an Emergency Board Meeting was called by the Hamfest Committee Chair to discuss if the Hamfest should go on or be canceled.

We had received an emails prior to the meeting. One was from a Doctor and Ham from Grand Rapids who suggested we look at postponing the Hamfest until the COVID-19 has run it course and isn't a threat any more. This coupled with questions from people who planned to travel a long distance to come to the Hamfest, we had decided to cancel the Hamfest due to health safety. While the ban is only scheduled to the weekend just before the Hamfest, the board felt it was best to cancel early to keep everyone safe.

A refund will be available for people who bought a table and/or ticket to the Hamfest (prof of ticket purchased is required for a refund).

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As mentioned in the SMARS Hamfest Cancel, Michigan has gone into a State of Emergency as several people have tested positive for COVID-19. As a result, the governor has banned large gatherings (above 250 people) in events or shared space. This excludes industrial or manufacturing work, mass transit, or the purchasing of groceries or consumer goods. It is also recommended to follow preventive procedures to reduce the chance on getting the COVID-19.

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.
- Replace handshakes with elbow bumps.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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>

At the time of writing this newsletter, we are still planning to have the club meeting Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2020. Skywarn is also planning to have their meeting (as far as I am aware) on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Info provided by <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163-521596--,00.html>

## Other News

# COMMITTEE CANCELS HAMVENTION 2020

The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health Departments. It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year. This decision is extremely difficult for us but with around two months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary. More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted here. Thank you for your understanding in this time of International Crisis.

Jack Gerbs  
General Chairman HV2020  
[JackWB8SCT@gmail.com](mailto:JackWB8SCT@gmail.com)

Article courtesy of <https://hamvention.org/committee-cancels-hamvention-2020/>

# FCC to hire agents to capture pirates

[InsideRadio reports](#) that the FCC plans to hire a substantial number of agents to step up pirate radio enforcement. According to the report:

*"The Federal Communications Commission estimates it will cost the agency at least \$11 million to enforce the newly-adopted law that requires it to step up pirate radio enforcement. "Specifically, in order to combat the problem of illegal radio operations, the statute requires a sweeping process that will require new equipment and a substantial number of additional field agents to implement fully," FCC Chair Ajit Pai told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee during a hearing on Tuesday. Pai said he hoped congressional budget writers would determine a "reasonable funding level" for the FCC that reflects that added cost, suggesting the agency's budget for the upcoming fiscal year should be raised to \$354 million."*

The Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act, or "PIRATE" Act ([S.1228](#)) was unanimously approved by both the Senate and House and signed into law last month. The new law raises fines on unlicensed station operators to \$100,000 per day per violation, up to a maximum of \$2 million. In addition to tougher fines on violators, the law

## 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/>

also requires the FCC to conduct sweeps in the five cities where pirate radio is the biggest problem—New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco and Dallas—at least once a year.

Less than five years ago, the [FCC scaled back operations](#) at many of its field offices. Perhaps it was a bit too hasty. One interesting thought is that perhaps these new agents could also be used to find amateur radio scofflaws.

Pirate radio in Detroit

I guess that pirate radio isn't such a big deal here in the Detroit area. I googled "Detroit pirate radio," and found [one story](#) of a legal, low-power FM (LPFM) station in Ferndale. There's also a Facebook page for something called Pirate Radio of Michigan, but the latest post to this page was in September 2015. Perhaps the closest thing that we have to pirate radio here in Ann Arbor is [WCBN](#), the University of Michigan student-run station.

Spectrum license fee?

There was another interesting tidbit in the story. It says:

*"The Trump administration is also reviving a proposal that the FCC charge the industries it regulates a spectrum license fee in addition to the annual regulatory fees. If adopted, the spectrum fee would be phased-in over time. If they begin in 2021, the FCC estimates it would bring in \$4 billion through 2030. The White House tried a similar move [a year ago](#) in what has become an annual proposal that has never gained traction. Groups like the National Association of Broadcasters have successfully convinced lawmakers that it would threaten the ability of local radio and television stations to serve the public."*

It seems to me that broadcasters want it both ways. Public-service regulations have been loosened to the point of non-existence, so perhaps a license fee is in order. I don't really know much about broadcasting to say for sure, though.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/fcc-to-hire-agents-to-capture-pirates/>

## Meeting Minutes 02/20/2020

**Called to Order:** 7:05 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 Jay N8ARR Second Smokey N5MKY Approved

**Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:** Motion Jay N8ARR Terry N8LN Approved

### Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: The insurance rider has been received. Tom G WR8G has the contract. Flyers have been sent out and tickets are now on sale. There will be a volunteer signup sheet at the March meeting. As usual, setup will be Friday afternoon at 3pm.
- ARES/RACES: There is a HIAD scheduled for May 2. A NWS weather training session for Calhoun County will not occur this year, Keith Thompson from Channel 3 will give a talk, scheduled for March 20, venue TBA. There was some explanation of AUX COMM and how it fits with ARES/RACES, skywarn, etc..
- Field Day: Contract delivered to Kyle.
- VE Testing: Next session is February 27. There will be needed a reader for one of the candidates at Hamfest.
- Tech Engineer: The repeaters are working. Don W8RVT only lacks crystals to have a spare repeater on hand.

### Old Business:

- The MFJ noise finder has been purchased.

### New Business:

- Kyle announced that there is a phishing scam involving his name. Do not open these messages.
- Tom KE8GDN has been working on a list of possible topics for presentations in the new year and looking for speakers on these topics.
- Rich KE8LSB brought in his satellite antenna.

**Adjourned:** 8:17 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

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## Board Meeting Minutes 03/03/2020

**Called to Order:** 5:32 PM

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

**Others:** Jay N8ARR

### Topics:

- Hamfest: The contract for the Wings Event Center has been signed and returned. Jay has purchased several items for doorprizes, although donations are welcome. Vendors who do not attend due to tax reasons have been approached for door prizes. The VE session will have at least one sight impaired candidate, so some accommodations are needed.
- Field Day: When the weather improves, there will be work needed on the trailers, including brakes, screens, and hopefully new cabinetry and countertops.
- Presentations: Tom W. has lined up presentations for the next 3 months. Terry N8LN will explain D-Star, Ed Fong will remotely discuss his antenna, and Don W8RVT will explain echolink.

**Adjourned:** 6:09 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

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## Special Board Meeting 03/12/2020

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KDB, Ivan W8IDR, John W8JRD, Smokey N5MKY

**Others:** Terry N8LN

**Called to Order:** 5:27pm

Terry requested a special board meeting to discuss Hamfest. The board debated on postponing or cancelling Hamfest. Wings Event Center was contacted by Kyle to see about their cancellation policy. A two week notice is all that is required. The Board decided that cancellation was the prudent choice for the health of our vendors and the attendees. Those that have sent money in already will be refunded.

**Adjourned:** 6:01pm

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><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: March 15th @ 7:00pm  BLB Luncheon: April 2nd @ 11:30am  Board Meeting: April 7th @ 5:30pm  Club Breakfast: April 11th @ 8:30am  VE Session: April 23rd @ 7:00pm</p>
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