



Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

FEEDBACK

May 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

Coronoavirus (COVID-19) Update

We are still Shelter in Place (per Michigan Executive Order) until at least May 28th (as of writing this). There is a chance it will be extended past that, but we will have to wait and see. Due to the Shelter in Place, we will be doing an On Air Club Meeting for the Month of May 2020. This will be done at the normal meeting time (7:00 PM) on the W8DF 2 Meter repeater. Hopefully the Shelter in Place will be lifted soon so we can resume normal face to face meetings.

Kalamazoo has cancelled their Testing Session for May. At this time, we have not cancelled ours for June. Depending on if the Shelter in Place is extended or not will determine if we will still have the Testing Session in June. Information will be sent out in the June Feedback.

Field Day is also something that is going to be an issue. According to Fort Custer Recreation Area, they cannot take any reservations until the end of June. Since this will be after Field Day, we will not be deploying at Fort Custer Recreation Area (unless something changes). From what I understand, WX8BTL are still planning to have Field Day out at Uncle Larry's, although some of the details about it are a little foggy. Tom (KE8GDN) has offered to setup one of the trailers on his property, but precautions will still need to be taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A thought about setting up at a school (since they are closed) came up, but we would still need permission to setup the trailers on School property (or anywhere else).

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

Special Test Sessions

While we have been cancelling the Test Sessions to help keep everyone safe, we have had a couple special ones. It was bad timing for the Tech Class taught by Terry (N8LN) and Mike (KQ8N) as they finished up a couple weeks after the Shelter in Place went into affect. They took some extra time to study over the Internet using online meeting systems. When they were ready, we had a minimal group of VE's to administrate the test to the small class. Out of the three students, two put forth the effort and managed to walk away with a

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 Meters
Mode: Phone
Date: 06/20
URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

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>

*A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](#),
<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

technician license. All safety procedures were followed to make sure everyone was safe.



At the request of N8LN, a small VE group (the minimal number required) traveled to Ohio to administrate a test for an Ohio resident. All of the clubs in his area had closed off testing and were not willing to administrate the test to him. The test was preformed outside at a rest stop, in somewhat windy conditions. They walked away with a Technician license as well (all three have been issued call signs as of writing this). Again, all safety procedures were followed to make sure everyone was safe.



Other News

HuskySat-1 (HO-107) Transponder is Open

The transponder on [HuskySat-1](#), now designated as HuskySat-OSCAR 107 (HO-107), has been activated and is open for use and testing, AMSAT Vice President – Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, reports.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

06/06/2020

FCARC Summer Hamfest

Location: Wauseon, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

<http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

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

"It's fairly sensitive, and 5 – 10 W is plenty most of the time. There are some fades due to satellite orientation, and some passes are definitely better than others. Strong signals may impact the beacon strength."

HuskySat-1 is the first CubeSat from the Husky Satellite Lab at the University of Washington and the first mission with AMSAT's linear transponder module (LTM-1), a V/u transponder and integrated telemetry beacon and command receiver. University researchers recently completed their Part 5 (Experimental) operations and have opened up the amateur radio transponder, which is available for use in educational CubeSat missions that are willing to enable the transponder for worldwide use.

The HuskySat-1 V/u transponder is inverting, with an uplink passband of 145.910 – 145.940 MHz, and a downlink passband of 435.810 – 435.840 MHz. The 1200-baud BPSK telemetry beacon is at 435.800 MHz.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/husky-sat-1-ho-107-transponder-is-open>

Planning Your ARRL Field Day 2020 Operation

For most of us, ARRL [Field Day](#) 2020 is going to look quite different than it did in past years. Considering the impact of social distancing due to the pandemic, many radio clubs and large groups will not gather in their usual Field Day locations this year. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a Field Day first-timer, there are many questions about how to participate in amateur radio's largest annual on-air event under these unusual circumstances. Here are some tips and suggestions to help you plan this year's operation.

Don't Forget 6 Meters

Remember, Field Day is a non-adjudicated operating event and not a "full speed ahead" contest. It is also not an HF-only event. All amateur radio bands above 50 MHz may be used during the event too.

This includes 6 meters, which often offers significant propagation enhancements in the summer months around Field Day weekend, to help you make contacts. The band is available to amateurs holding a Technician-class license or higher. If you have an HF/VHF/UHF multi-mode transceiver, try making SSB, CW, or digital contacts on 6 meters. You don't need fancy beams or large antenna arrays. A simple vertical or dipole will allow you to experience operating on the "Magic Band."

Activities for Techs

One suggestion for clubs to consider in order to increase participation among their Technician-class members is to schedule specific times where these club members will monitor designated VHF and UHF simplex frequencies for Field Day activity. Keep in mind that the published national FM simplex calling frequencies should be avoided, and the use of repeaters is prohibited for Field Day contacts. This way, members who have equipment capable of VHF/UHF-only operation may be able to participate from their homes or vehicles. Your club can choose a list of frequencies and scheduled times in advance, and publish them in the club newsletter, or via email or other electronic means before the start of the event.

On the HF bands, Technician-class licensees have CW privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, as well as RTTY/data and SSB phone privileges on 10 meters. If you aren't a CW operator, try calling CQ on 10-meter SSB in the late afternoon and early evening on Saturday and see if conditions are favorable for long-distance communications. Try experimenting with a simple wire antenna for 10 meters. You might discover that the band can offer plenty of unexpected propagation.

Get Set Up for Digital Modes

You might want to explore one of the newer FT4/FT8 digital modes on 10 meters, 6 meters, or even the VHF/UHF bands. These modes offer an opportunity to make weak-signal contacts when band conditions often do not support voice communication. There have been reports of some great 6-meter openings in recent weeks, and these are likely to occur more frequently as the summer months approach. If you've never experimented with digital modes, perhaps this year is an opportunity to give them a try.

Setup is relatively straightforward. You'll need a computer and a digital interface to connect the radio to the computer, and you'll need to download one of the digital mode software packages such as the free [WSJT-X](#) suite, which incorporates FT8 and FT4. Many modern transceivers have built-in support for digital modes, so in those cases, all you'll need is the proper cable to connect the radio to the computer's USB port. You'll need software that supports the ARRL Field Day exchange (WSJT-X version 2.0 or later, for example). ARRL's book *Get on the Air with HF Digital* (2nd Edition) is also a great primer for anyone beginning to explore the digital modes.

The Excitement of Ham Satellites

Another area you might wish to explore is operating via one of the amateur radio satellites, or "birds," as they're often called. Many hams have had success making contacts via the FM satellites by using a VHF/UHF handheld radio and a small handheld directional antenna, or a multi-mode VHF/UHF transceiver for the linear (SSB and CW) satellites. You'll only be able to work the satellites when they are overhead, so you'll need to know when they will be visible at your operating location. Visit AMSAT's [Online Satellite Pass Prediction](#) page to see which ones will be orbiting overhead, and at what times they'll be visible. You can find many satellite operating tips and resources on the [AMSAT website](#) too.

An Opportunity for Learning

ARRL Field Day 2020 may be the year you decide to participate solo, or with other members of your household. You may want to focus on expanding your knowledge base and experiment with new modes or bands that you never thought of using before. If you're a mentor to a newer ham, Field Day can be an opportunity to share some of your knowledge, and for you to expand your own operating horizons. This might be the year to leave your Field Day comfort zone and try something new!

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/planning-your-arrrl-field-day-2020-operation>

Meeting Minutes 04/16/2020

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 Jay N8ARR Approved

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

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest W8KDB: Hamfest for 202 had been cancelled. The only expenses were for flyers, tickets, and door prizes. Ivan W8IDR reported that he had sent refunds to all that asked and had to buy stamps.
- ARES/RACES KD8RHB: The April meeting is cancelled. The siren vendor has been contacted about the non-functioning sirens, but due to the statewide shutdown, no date for repair has been set.
- Field Day W8KDB: Plans are on hold due to the shelter in place orders and when that may expire. The paperwork is all in place, but Fort Custer is closed as of now. The state may extend the stay at home until the end of May.
- Tech Engineer W8RVT: Some minor repairs/modifications were made. Don added a pre-amp to the 220 and repaired a power connector on the controller.
- VE W8KDB: The April session is cancelled. May's session in Kalamazoo so far is still happening.

Old Business:

- KE8GDN: The presentation by Ed Fong scheduled for the April meeting has been postponed.

New Business:

- N5MKY: Michigan QSO Party is scheduled for this weekend with changed rules for more single operators to be able to count their results as a club effort.
- W8RVT: Has plans and pictures for a 2 meter Moxon antenna for anyone interested.

Adjourned: 7:22 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 05/05/2020

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

Officers Present: Kyle W8KBD John W8JRD Ivan W8IDR Tom W. KE8GDN

Others: Craig N1CEW

Topics:

- The May club meeting was voted to be on the air again. Possibly the June meeting could be a physical meeting.
- Field Day. Fort Custer is not accepting reservations until the end of June. Kyle did contact Jim W8JMZ about combining the SMARS Field Day with the Skywarn group at Uncle Larry's. He had had no response by meeting time. Tom W. said we could set up a trailer at his place, but with all the uncertainties, discussion was tabled for now.

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

Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI
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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 Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz <i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i>	Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: May 21st (On Air) @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: June Cancelled? Board Meeting: June 7th (On Air) @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: June Cancelled? VE Session: June 25th @ 7:00pm BLB Lunchon and Club Breakfest might be cancelled due to Coney Island open for takeout only. VE Session remains to be determined if it is cancelled or not (check in future Feedback)