



# FEEDBACK

October 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.

### Board of Directors:

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### Club News

## SMARS Officers Nominations for 2020-2021

Elections for club officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) will be held at the October 15<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.

## Cornoavirus (COVID-19) Update

We are still on schedule for our normal meeting this month. The church is still open and no new restrictions have been put in place to prevent us from meeting. As always, please remember to wear a face mask (church rules) and tables need to be wiped down after the meeting. BLB Luncheon, SMARS Breakfast, and Board Meetings are still going on at Coney Island (as far as I am aware), but may be limited based on the number of people in the restaurant or at the table. Please keep this in mind when planning to attend these events. Face mask is also required to enter, but can be removed for eating and drinking.

This week we will also be having our Exam Session on October 22<sup>nd</sup> upstairs at the church. I have only been contacted by one or two people, but if more show up then we will move to the basement to allow social distancing and everything.

The Auxcomm (Skywarn) group is changing meeting locations due to issues with scheduling at the old location. The new location will be at the American Legion Post 257. The address is 7475 B Dr. N Battle Creek, MI 49014 (this is the corner of B Dr N and Beadle Lake Rd. where a church use to be). Meeting time will be the same (6:30 PM on the Third Tuesday of the Month).

The Livonia Amateur Radio Repeater Group is planning to put on an Outdoor Swap N Shop in the Ford Field Parking Lot in Livonia Michigan (Farmington and Strake Roads) on November 8<sup>th</sup> (November 15<sup>th</sup> rain date) 8 AM to 12 PM. Anyone who is interested in being a vendor, please contact James Keller at (734) 674-2866. Masks and social distancing requested. More information can be found on their Facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/2392995587672556](https://facebook.com/groups/2392995587672556)).

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### School Club Roundup

Bands: All Authorized Bands, excluding 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters  
Mode: Phone, CW  
Date: 10/19 – 10/23  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

### EME Contest

Bands: All Authorized Bands above 6 Meters  
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW  
Date: 10/10 – 10/11  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

### ARRL November Sweepstakes

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters  
Mode: CW  
Date: 11/7 – 11/9  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

### ARRL November Sweepstakes

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters  
Mode: Phone  
Date: 11/21 – 11/23  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

### EME Contest

Bands: All Authorized Bands above 6 Meters  
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW  
Date: 10/10 – 10/11  
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

*\*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

# British Columbia Radio Amateur Hears Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

According to a [Spaceweather.com](http://Spaceweather.com) report, Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, in British Columbia, Canada, received a signal from the NASA Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO), flying just 274 kilometers (about 170 miles) above the red planet's surface. The signal was an X-band carrier containing no data or telemetry.



*Tilley's home-brew microwave dish used to hear the MRO signal.*

"Its purpose is to allow for Doppler tracking," Tilley explained. "The rapid change in pitch of the signal is caused by the relative motion of the satellite and the observer." He used a homemade satellite dish to hear the orbiter.

Tilley enjoys tracking down signals from "dead" satellites, zombie satellites, and spy satellites, but the MRO was a first for him. "MRO's signal is weak, but it is one of the louder signals in Mars orbit," he said. "The spacecraft has a large dish antenna it uses as a relay for other Mars missions. With the proximity of Mars these days, it was the perfect time to try."

In 2018, Tilley saw the "signature" of the Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration (IMAGE), a NASA spacecraft believed to have died in 2005. That [discovery](http://discovery.com) delighted space scientists.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/british-columbia-radio-amateur-hears-mars-reconnaissance-orbiter>

## FCC Orders Amateur Access to 3.5 GHz Band to "Sunset"

Despite vigorous and continuing opposition from ARRL and others, the FCC has ordered the "sunsetting" of the 3.3 – 3.5-GHz amateur radio secondary spectrum allocation, effective on November 9. The decision allows current amateur activity on the band to continue, "grandfathering" the amateur operations subject to a later decision. The FCC proposed two deadlines for amateur operations to cease on the band. The first would apply to the 3.4 – 3.5 GHz segment, the second to 3.3 – 3.4 GHz. The FCC will establish the dates once it reviews additional comments.

"We adopt our proposal from the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to remove the amateur allocation from the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz band," the FCC said in its Report and Order ([R&O](http://www.fcc.gov)) and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WT Docket No. 19-348, adopted on September 30 and

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**\*NOTE\*** - All ARRL Hamfest in November and December (the November one below is not an ARRL Hamfest, just one that was emailed to me) near our location have been Cancelled. There is a possibility that future Hamfest listed here might also be cancelled. Please remember to make sure to verify that the Hamfest hasn't been cancelled before traveling to a Hamfest.

**10/18/2020**

St. Joseph Co MI ARC Trunk Sale  
Location: Centerville, MI  
Sponsor: St Joseph Co MI ARC  
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/st-joseph-co-mi-arc-trunk-sale>

**11/8/2020**

Outdoor Swap N Shop  
Location: Livonia, MI  
Sponsor: The Livonia Amateur Radio Repeater Group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2392995587672556>

[published](#) October 9 in The Federal Register, R&O. “[W]e adopt changes to our rules today that provide for the sunset of the secondary amateur allocation in the band, but allow continued use of the band for amateur operations, pending resolution of the issues raised in the Further Notice.”

The September 30 R&O followed a 2019 FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in which the FCC proposed re-allocating 3.45 – 3.55 GHz for “flexible-use service” and auctioning the desirable “mid-band” spectrum (generally defined as between 1 GHz and 6 GHz) to 5G providers. These and other recent spectrum-repurposing actions stem from the MOBILE NOW Act, enacted in 2018, in which Congress directed the Commission to make additional spectrum available to auction for mobile and fixed wireless broadband. The FCC action is consistent with worldwide allocations adopted by the ITU for these frequencies.

In the run-up to the Commission’s decision, ARRL met with the FCC’s professional staff to explain its concerns and to answer questions. Subsequently, ARRL met with the wireless advisors to the FCC Chairman and two Commissioners. In those meetings, ARRL reiterated that continued secondary status for amateurs will not impair or devalue use of this spectrum by the primary licensees intending to provide 5G or other service. ARRL noted amateur radio’s long history of successful coexistence with primary users of the 9-centimeter band, sharing this spectrum with the federal government users and secondary, non-federal occupants.

ARRL pointed out that vital links in amateur television and amateur radio high-speed mesh networks using the band have been especially valuable during such emergency situations as the [wildfires](#) currently raging on the west coast. Deleting the amateur secondary allocation will result in lost opportunities for experimentation and public service with no public interest benefit to make up for that.

ARRL argued that deleting the secondary allocation would waste the scarce spectrum resource, particularly in areas where commercial services often do not construct full facilities due to small populations. The FCC action means that amateur radio will lose access to the 3.5-GHz secondary allocation even where commercial operations do not exist. ARRL told the Commission that it should not intentionally allow this spectrum to be vacant and unused, wasting the public resource, when amateurs can use some portion of it in many geographic areas with no detriment to any other licensee, just as it has in the past. ARRL argues that amateur operations should be permitted until and unless an actual potential for interference exists.

Deletion of the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz secondary amateur allocation will become effective on November 9, but amateur radio operation as of that date may continue while the FCC finalizes rules to license spectrum in the 3.45 – 3.55 GHz band and establishes deadlines for amateur operations to cease. The FCC proposed allowing amateur operation in the 3.3 – 3.4 GHz portion of the band to continue “pending further decisions about the future of this portion of the spectrum,” the timing for which is unknown. The Commission proposed to mandate that operations cease in the 3.4 – 3.5 GHz portion when commercial

licensing commences for the new 3.45 – 3.55 GHz “5G” band, which is predicted to begin in the first half of 2022.

“[W]e seek comment on whether it is in the public interest to sunset amateur use in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band in two separate phases, e.g., first above 3.4 GHz, which is the focus of [the R&O] and later in that portion of the band below 3.4 GHz,” the FCC said.

ARRL expressed gratitude to the many members and organizations that joined ARRL in challenging the FCC throughout this nearly year-long proceeding. They included multiple radio clubs, weak signal enthusiasts, moonbounce participants, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN), the Amateur Television Network (ATN), AMSAT, and Open Research Institute (ORI).

ARRL will continue its efforts to preserve secondary amateur radio access to 3.3 – 3.5 GHz. Members are invited to share comments by visiting [www.arrl.org/3-GHz-Band](http://www.arrl.org/3-GHz-Band).

“We recognize that any loss of our privileges will most directly impact radio amateurs who use the frequencies to operate and innovate,” said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. “Such instances only embolden ARRL’s role to protect and advocate for the Amateur Radio Service and Amateur Satellite Service. There will be continued threats to our spectrum. So I urge all amateurs, now more than ever, to strengthen our hold by being ceaseless in our public service, experimenting, and discovery throughout the radio spectrum.”

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-orders-amateur-access-to-3-5-ghz-band-to-sunset>

## Meeting Minutes 09/17/2020

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

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

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Introductions

**Greetings to new members:** none this month

### Secretary's Report as published in Feedback:

Motion Arnold WA8VRA Second Don W8RVT

Approved

### Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting:

Motion Bev KA8CXS Second Rick W8RCF Approved

### Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: No report, but we better have one. It is the main source of funds for the club
- Skywarn: The 9/15 meeting was cancelled. Future meetings will be held at the American Legion post on Beckley Road. The SET on October 10 will be simplex only. The sirens are all working. The failure on October 3 was due to a software update. The siren trigger system will be re-oriented to get better tones.
- FieldDay: Location not yet determined with Fort Custer's status unknown. We may go back to the American Legion post assuming they don't have an event with a speaker aimed into the trailers.
- VE: The August session had 6 candidates who all passed. Mike KQ8N created some handouts with more info on ham radio and some suggested websites. Kalamazoo has a session on September 19. Next SMARS session is October 22.
- Repeaters: Don W8RVT created an Echolink connection for the 2 meter repeater.

### Old Business:

- Tom W. is planning a fox hunt for August 26 at Bailey Park. We are to meet at the Capital Square Mall at 9:00 AM

### New Business:

- Mike W8MTX became a Silent Key
- Elections are next month.
- Bret KD8RHB is trying to organize a HIAD to be held before the end of the year.
- Don W8RVT will do an Echolink demo next month.

**Adjourned:** 8:09 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

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## Board Meeting Minutes 10/06/2020

**Called to Order:** 5:34 PM

**Officers present:** Kyle W8KDB John W8JRD van W8IDR Tom KE8GDN

### Topics:

- The Fox Hunt suffered from a lack of, but those that were there had fun and learned a few tricks. With all the metal fencing signals were bouncing all over the place and not always coming from the direction you expect.
- Another hunt is planned for the 17th, location to be announced.
- Elections are this month and as usual, it is like pulling teeth. Fortunately most of the board is willing to serve again, but would welcome anyone else to run.

**Adjourned:** 5:50 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><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 above for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p>Club Meeting: October 15th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: November 5th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: November 3rd @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: November 14th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 22nd @ 7:00pm</p>
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