



FEEDBACK

August 2021

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.

Board of Directors:

President

Kyle Brown, W8KDB
w8kdb@arrl.net

Vice President

Thomas Worthington, KE8GDN
tomcworth@aol.com

Secretary

Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ
w8aez@arrl.net

Treasurer

Ivan Rhodes, W8IDR
idrhomdes@aol.com

Member At Large

Glenn "Smokey" McCray, N5MKY
n5mky@arrl.net

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Club News

Membership Renewals

There has been some questions about membership renewals given the board has decided to do On Air meetings in order to save money until we can have a hamfest again. Membership fees can be sent to the club's PO Box (check preferred and made out to Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society), or you can reach out to Ivan W8IDR to arrange paying the membership fee. Below is the Clubs PO Box:

SMARS
P.O. Box 934
Battle Creek, MI 49016

The membership fee is still \$15.00 and cards will be mailed out after fee has been received. Donations to the club can also be sent to the same address.

Small Hamfest

Many people have suggested having a small Hamfest in a parking lot or something like that. The board is behind this idea, but we need someone to step forward to plan the event, present it to the board, and run the event. Some of the requirements of the board are that where ever it is planned to have the event, we need permission to be there. The event also needs to follow CDC and State guide lines for gatherings outside.

If you are interested in setting up the small Hamfest for W8DF, please contact a member of the board. We are planning to resume our normal Hamfest in 2022 and will need someone to be the chair person for that.

Future Club Meeting

We are planning to do an in person meeting starting in September. Please keep that in October we will be voting for the board members. I do not plan to run for Club President. I will keep posting this reminder (as well as the Membership Renewals) each month until the October Club Meeting.

For this month, we are going to try and meet out at Bailey Park at the Blue Pavilion in back (by the boat launch). This will be based on weather, so we will keep an eye on the weather and if it looks like it will be rainy then we will make an announcement on the Club Repeater (most likely the 2 Meter or both) on if we will be doing an in person meeting outside or on the air. This announcement will be made around 5 PM the day of the club meeting. If the weather is good, we will plan on meeting at Bailey Park.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

10 GHz and Up

Bands: Authorized Frequencies 10 GHz and Up

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 08/21 – 08/22

URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

Rookie Roundup

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

Mode: RTTY

Date: 08/22

URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

September VHF

Bands: Authorized Frequencies 50 Mhz and Up

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 09/11 – 09/13

URL: www.arrl.org/september-vhf

10 GHz and Up

Bands: Authorized Frequencies 10 GHz and Up

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 09/18 – 09/19

URL: 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), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

Membership Changes Purposed

It was brought up during the board meeting about adding in a multi year membership and even a life membership. Given that this will be a change to membership cost, it is being posted in the Feedback and will be discussed at the General meeting to be voted on. What we are looking at is \$125 for 10-year membership, \$250 for a 20-year membership, or \$300 for a life membership. Once again, these will be voted on (at an in person meeting) and take affect at the start of the new year (when it is time for membership renewal).

Other News

Intrepid-DX Group Takes Itself Out of the Running to Activate Bouvet Island

In a brief statement this week, Intrepid-DX Group President Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said his team is pulling out of the race to activate Bouvet Island and looking elsewhere.

“We now find ourselves the number three team in line to go to Bouvet,” the announcement said. “This recent development is not comfortable for us, so we are now re-examining the top 10 most-wanted DXCC entities, with a plan to redirect our efforts to an activation that will be most beneficial for everyone... We plan to activate a different rare and much-needed entity in January/February 2023. That is now our focus. Watch for more updates on this exciting new project. We wish our former 3Y0J teammates a safe and productive journey to Bouvet.” — Thanks to [The Daily DX](http://www.thedailydx.com)

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/intrepid-dx-group-takes-itself-out-of-the-running-to-activate-bouvet-island>

Following Earthquake in Haiti, Radio Amateurs Asked to Keep Frequencies Clear

In a statement received by ARRL on August 14, 2021, Region 2 of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU-R2) has requested that radio amateurs in the Americas keep the following frequencies clear to support emergency communications in Haiti following an earthquake this morning: 3750 kHz, 7150 kHz and 14330 kHz. The statement came from IARU-R2 Emergency Coordinator (EMCOR) Carlos Alberto Santamaría González, CO2JC.

According to preliminary information from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on August 14, 2021 at 1229 UTC, about 12 kilometers northeast of Saint-Louis-du-Sud and 33 kilometers to the east-northeast of Les Cayes, Haiti; 18.352 degrees north and 73.4801 degrees west at a depth of 10 km.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

09/11/2021

GRAHamfest 2021

Location: Wyoming, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

URL: <http://www.w8dc.org>

09/12/2021

Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

URL:

<http://www.findlayradioclub.org/hamfest>

09/18/2021

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

Location: Okemos, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

09/19/2021

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://w8tqe.com>

10/16/2021

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

URL: <http://mcecs.net/Hamfest.htm>

10/17/2021

Kalamazoo Hamfest & Amateur Radio Swap and Shop

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club and Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team

URL: <http://KalamazooHamFest.com>

Mr. Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR, President of the Radio Club of Haiti, reported significant structural damage.

International news reports fear high casualties.

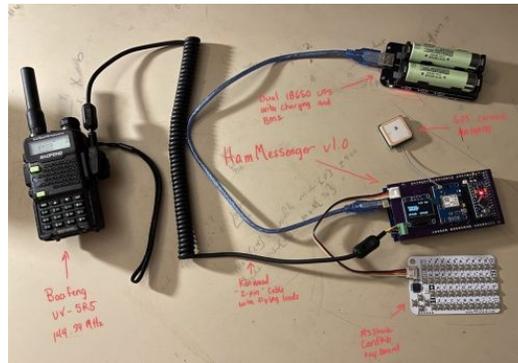
Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/following-earthquake-in-haiti-radio-amateurs-asked-to-keep-frequencies-clear>

HamMessenger brings text messaging to amateur radio

I've often thought that a killer app for amateur radio would be a way to send text messages on the ham bands. Well, I've just found out that another ham, Dale Thomas, KN4UAH, shares my enthusiasm. He's the guy behind [HamMessenger](#), which is:

“a portable, battery powered device that runs on a microcontroller and interfaces with an inexpensive ham radio to send and receive text messages and provide position updates using the APRS protocol. Messages and position updates sent via HamMessenger can be viewed on sites such as aprs.fi. HamMessenger messages are NOT encrypted!”

It's still being developed, but you can get the gist of it by looking at the figure below. It uses a low-cost HT to send and receive text messages with some Arduino-based hardware.



The [github page](#) also notes:

“At the core of the the project is the [MicroAPRS](#) modem created by [markqvist](#). The primary controller is an Arduino Mega 2560 with the MicroAPRS Modem running on an Arduino Pro Mini. HamMessenger includes GPS functionality supplied by a Neo-6M GPS radio. For peripherals, an M5Stack CardKB keyboard is used for input and an SSD1106 OLED display for output.”

I think this is a cool project. I've just emailed Dale to get more info on it and ask how I might be able to help him, perhaps with documentation or by just publicizing it.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/hammessenger-brings-text-messaging-to-amateur-radio/>

Meeting Minutes 07/15/2021

Meeting was held over-the-air on the 146.660 MHz repeater and called to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present – President Kyle W8KDB, W8IDR Ivan, Member-at-Large Smokey N5MKY, Vice President Tom KE8GDN, Secretary Stephanie W8AEZ

Others in attendance: WD8DCA Leo, KD8MA Jim, KD8VJL Wayne, KD8VJN Sue, KE8MOI Paul, W8RVT Don, KD8RHB Bret

Secretary's Report: Motion was made to accept the Secretary's Report as published in the Feedback. No objection was voiced and the report was accepted with no further discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Per Treasurer Ivan W8IDR the month's starting balance was \$1366.59. Dues paid: \$30.00, plus \$6.00 donation was received.. Expenses: \$35.00 to Maple United Methodist Church (October) and an upcoming AT&T bill \$46.24. After these expenses the club account total will be \$1,321.35. No objection was raised and no further discussion. The report was accepted with no further discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - The board has agreed to have a small hamfest provided that someone steps forward to plan one. Caveats: SMARS must have permission to use the location and any applicable CDC guidelines must be followed. Persons interested in planning and hosting a small hamfest are asked to contact Kyle at w8kdb@arrl.net. Kyle contacted Wings Annex and verified that they have Saturday, March 19, 2022 available for our Hamfest. Several local places have hamfests, including the Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club (Saturday, September 18th).
- SKYWARN - Will have an in-person meeting next Tuesday, July 20th, at the American Legion Post. Per Bret KD8RHB, Smokey N5MKY will give a demonstration at that meeting. CERT will cover the Triathlon next Saturday. Bret met with Larry Camp in Branch County. They are working on raising their VHF antenna to get better coverage. They are also working on interoperability through Auxcomm.
- Field Day - Due to the rain, setup was delayed until Saturday. Sunday's weather was sunny. Per Smokey N5MKY, we had 262 QSO points, 70 by digital and 182 by phone. Multiplier of 2 applied due to operating 150 watts of less. Bonus points: emergency power, W1AW Field Day message, safety officer, social media, and Radio-gram message to the Section Manager. One operator on 20 meters made most of the QSO's. 10m and 15m were open on Sunday.
- VE session – The next SMARS VE session will be August 26th at Maple United Methodist Church.

Kalamazoo will hold their VE session beginning at 8:30am this Saturday, July 17th, at Flesher Field in the 1st pavilion on the right.

- Repeaters - Don W8RVT had not been up to the repeater site since before last month's meeting. Please contact Kyle at w8kdb@arrl.net or Don at w8rvt@arrl.net if you are interested in helping out with maintaining the repeater.

OLD BUSINESS

- KE8GDN Tom reiterated that rain impacted some Field Day activities. He did manage to hold 2 Foxhunts that weekend, placing the fox inside a sealed plastic container. The closest one to find the fox was Harold KE8JZU.
- Tom also mentioned that the UHF/VHF trailers have no screens. He purchased a screen kit for the pedestrian door. W8AEZ also provided two more door screens which might work on the end doors. Some roof leaks were discovered. Caulking needs to be removed and the roofs need re-sealed. Equipment that was shuffled between the trailers will need to be placed back in its correct assigned trailer.

NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed change to the membership dues: 10 years for (??) 20 years for \$250, life membership for \$300.
- The outdoor meeting planned for this evening was scrapped due to potential for evening storms and mosquitos.
- Several members would like to resume face-to-face meetings prior to October. KE8GDN proposed renting one of the blue pavilions near Bailey Park for hosting an outdoor club meeting. There is a \$35.00 rental fee for the pavilion.
- Stephanie W8AEZ reported that she spoke with Stevie at Coney Island Cafe about hosting the SMARS Club Christmas Party. The front banquet room is available Saturday December 11th. As the restaurant closes at 8:00 pm, a proposal was made to shift the time of the party from 6:00 - 8:00 pm to
- No objection was voiced to shifting the time of the Christmas Party from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm.
- Tom KE8GDN is planning another foxhunt at the end of this month at Ft. Custer. Meeting at 10:00am in the area near where we held Field Day or in the parking lot. Interested persons should email Tom at tomcworth@aol.com.
- Tom asked for assistance with presentations on satellite/ISS communication, station logging, and LOTW (logbook of the world).

Late Check-Ins: N1CEW Craig.

A motion to adjourn was made by N5MKY, seconded by KE8GDN Tom. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 08/03/2021

The board meeting was held at Coney Island Cafe. Meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Ivan W8IDR, Stephanie W8AEZ, and Smokey N5MKY.

Absent: Tom KE8GDN

Topics

- Christmas Party: Ivan delivered the check to Coney Island Cafe to reserve the banquet room for the SMARS Club Christmas Party. The party will be from 5:30-7:30 PM on Saturday, December 11th.
- SMARS 2022 Hamfest: Kyle received notice that Wings Annex available March 19th for SMARS Hamfest. Kyle will confirm the date with Wings.
- Club Trailers: Per email message from Tom KE8GDN, he needs volunteers to assist him with inventory and sorting of items that were shifted between the trailers at Field Day. Items that the club no longer uses should be sold or tossed out. Re-sealing of the roof and window seams still needs to be done. A donation of magnetic bug-screen curtains was received from W8AEZ; those will need to be installed in the trailers
- Foxhunts: Tom KE8GDN is holding off on scheduling foxhunts until later this season. HAMS who are interested in participating in a foxhunt are encouraged to contact him at tomcworth@aol.com.
- Club Officer Elections: Nominations are open for club officers. Due to family commitments, Ivan W8IDR advised that he will not be running for another term as Treasurer. Elections will be held during the October 21st club members meeting in the basement of Maple United Methodist Church.

The August 19th SMARS membership meeting is scheduled to be held at the picnic area in Bailey Park adjacent to the river. If the weather is poor, the meeting will be held over-the-air on the 146.660 MHz repeater.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
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: August 19th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: September 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: September 7th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: September 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 26th @ 7:00pm August's club meeting is planned for outside at Bailey Park. If weather is bad, the meeting will be on air (on the W8DF 2 Meter Repeater).
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