



FEEDBACK

December 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.

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Club News

Membership Renewals

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. With in person meetings coming back this month (and continuing until the end of the year), memberships renewals (which should already be taken care of) can be done at a club meeting. Below is the Clubs PO Box if you wish to mail it in:

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.

October VE Session Welcomes New Techs and Upgrades with (almost) immediate licensing!!

By Mike Russell, KQ8N, ARRL VE

The October 28, 2021 VE session welcomed three candidates to the Community Room of the Maple United Methodist Church. The VE ratio tonight was over 2 to 1, but you never know how many may show up for testing. Participation by all the VE's is appreciated. One of the test takers was Rob Reehl (KE8JCC) from Portage. He successfully upgraded tonight from Technician to General. He told me after the meeting that he enjoys listening mostly and has become fascinated with HF and hearing stations from all over the world with just a wire antenna outside. He's looking forward to using what he's learned about sky wave propagation to make contacts with far away places. Rob works as an IT analyst in the Kalamazoo area. Our first new Technician from testing tonight is James 'Bryan' Greene (KE8TEV) from Otsego. He is a sales engineer. He told me that his life mentor was a ham, and he has distinct memories of sitting in front of the radio as the operator spun the dials and listened to signals from all over the world. He's excited to get involved himself now, and upgrade as time allows. The second newly licensed Technician is Mark Barrett (KE8TEW). He lives in Battle Creek and is a donation coordinator. He told me that he doesn't have any radios yet, but he likes to read technical information and wanted to learn all he could about amateur radio. These hams were pleasantly surprised that their licenses and

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Rookie Roundups

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

Mode: CW

Date: 12/19

URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

EME Contest

Bands: All Authorized Bands Above 6 Meters

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 12/18 – 12/19

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

Straight Key Night

Bands: All Authorized Amateur Frequencies

Mode: CW

Date: 01/01

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Date: 01/01

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

RTTY Roundup

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

Mode: Digital

Date: 01/08 – 01/09

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

January VHF Contest

Bands: Authorized Frequencies above 50 MHz

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 01/15 – 01/17

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>

**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>*

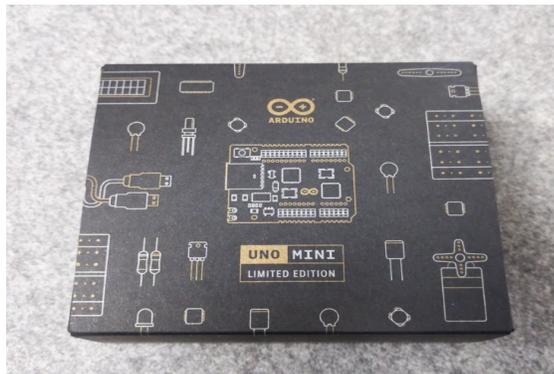
upgrades posted THE NEXT MORNING on the FCC website. SMARS VE Coordinator Kyle Brown (W8KDB) submitted the required paperwork through a new ARRL portal that expedites the licensure part of the process. Additional paperwork and fees are still submitted by US Mail for further processing by the ARRL VEC. The ARRL recognized earlier in the year that the mail had become less reliable, and came up with this new submission procedure. This process also continues the excitement for new hams as they can be on the air much sooner. When you hear these guys on the air, make sure to congratulate them on their accomplishment! The next VE session is scheduled for Thursday December 23, 2021 at 7pm. Info is also posted on the W8DF QRZ webpage and on W8DF.com.

Other News

#hamradio needs something like the Arduino

About a week ago, this Tweet flashed across my feed:

Happy 10 million UNOs, [@arduino](https://twitter.com/arduino) 🎉 My first UNO was one of the things motivating me to get into electronics as a child. As an older child I'm now happily studying Computer Science in Uni and you are one of the reasons. Very happy to hold this in my hands now! 🙌



I retweeted and added the comment, “#hamradio needs something like the Arduino.” The more I think about this, the more I think this is true. An UNO is something that is affordable and simple to set up and something that kids and newcomers can have fun with almost right out of the box.

Someone commented:

Yeah, if only we had a software defined transceiver and does-it-all software. Oh... wait... analog.com/en/design-cent... and gnuradio.org. Point being, we have the hardware + software – we just need to popularize it.

This is not a bad idea, but I think that this solution is still too expensive (a PLUTO SDR costs more than \$200). And, GNURadio is certainly not for beginners. My reply was:

A PLUTO costs \$200. An Arduino costs less than \$20.

To which, I got this reply:

OK. For a transmitter, how about \$35 for a Raspberry Pi + github.com/F5OEO/rpitx? For a receiver, \$30 for

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

02/26/2022

Livonia Amateur Radio Club 51st Annual Swap & Shop
Location: Redford, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club
URL: <https://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop/>

03/20/2022

Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair
Location: Perrysburg, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association
URL: <http://tmrahamradio.org>

06/04/2022

FCARC Summer Hamfest
Location: Wauseon, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club
URL: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

08/06/2022

Elkhart East Hamfest
Location: Elkhart, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network
URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

rtl-sdr.com/buy-rtl-sdr-dv...

I said:

Now, you're getting closer, but you can't just dump this on them and expect them to magically create a working set. They'll need some instructions and/or some coaching.

And my friend's reply:

We're in violent agreement. Arduino didn't succeed because it was good hardware, it succeeded because of the vast ecosystem – books, classes, video tutorials, etc. We need the same thing for Software Defined Radio, especially “training wheels” for GNU Radio.

So, my question—or challenge, really—is how do we come up with something that lets beginners get started in radio for less than \$100 and offers a similar experience to the UNO?

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/hamradio-needs-something-like-the-arduino/>

World's Smallest Moon Lander from Japan will Put Ham Radio Transmitter on the Moon

Japan's OMOTENASHI, the world's smallest moon lander, will have an X-band and UHF communication system, although it will not carry an amateur band transponder. OMOTENASHI is a 6U CubeSat set for launch via a NASA SLS rocket as early as February 2022. It will have a mission period of from 4 to 5 days. The name is an acronym for Outstanding Moon Exploration Technologies demonstrated by Nano Semi-Hard Impactor. Wataru Torii of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Ham Radio Club, JQ1ZVI, said radio amateurs can play a role in gathering data from the spacecraft.

The spacecraft is made up of two separable components, both having independent communication systems — an orbiting module and a surface probe. The orbiting module will take the surface probe to the moon. It will transmit beacon or digital telemetry data on UHF (437.31 MHz). The surface probe — the moon lander — will transmit digital telemetry or three-axis acceleration analog-wave with FM modulation on UHF (437.41 MHz). Transmitter power will be 1 W in both cases.

“If we succeed in receiving the UHF signal from the surface probe, we could know the acceleration data on the impact on the moon and the success of the landing sequence,” Torii explained.

“We already have a station for uplink and downlink at Wakayama in Japan — used as an EME [moonbounce] station. However, if the satellite is invisible from Japan, we cannot receive the downlink signal. So, we need a lot of help from ham radio stations worldwide.” Torii noted that the RF system on the lander only operates on UHF.

The orbiting module beacon will transmit on 437.31 MHz using PSK31. The surface probe beacon will transmit on 437.41 MHz using FM, PSK31, and PCM-PSK/PM.

Contact Torii for more information.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/world-s-smallest-moon-lander-from-japan-will-put-ham-radio-transmitter-on-the-moon>

Meeting Minutes 11/18/2021

Meeting called to order at 7:07am

Pledge
Introductions

Officers in attendance: KE8GDN Tom W, KE8MOI Paul, W8IDR Ivan, W8AEZ Stephanie, W8KDB past-President/Member at Large

Others in attendance: WB4BKO Ned, Bret KD8RHB, W8RVT Don, AB8HK Dave Gerber, KC8SLI Renee Gerber, Smokey N5MKY, Rick Franz N8RCF, Jim Zoss W8JMZ, Jim Keller KD8MA, Diane KD8WXA, Dan KB8KC, Terry N8LN, Arnie WA8VRA, Wayne KD8VJL and Sue KD8VJN.

Secretary's report: Motion to accept made by Tom W. KE8GDN. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Motion to accept made by Diane KD8WXA. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – N8LN and WR8G have offered to assist with Hamfest. Tom cannot answer phone calls. Paul KE8MOI will take phone calls. Need to get tickets ordered for Hamfest. Will need to check with Jay N8ARR for info on the vendor who printed our tickets and fliers for past Hamfest. Paul received email from N9ETW (Bob) inquiring about whether SMARS was doing a Hamfest in March. He reported several vendors indicated they are on board for coming to the SMARS Hamfest on March 19, 2022. Kyle W8KDB offered to run the Vendor door and help with tear-down.
- Skywarn – Bret White KD8RHB reported that Skywarn had a meeting this past Tuesday 11/16/21. They are getting a generator at the Pennfield site. Per Smokey – thanks to everyone for siren test. Skywarn recognition day is Dec. 4th (Friday night at 7:00pm).
- Field Day – Winter Field Day is next event coming up (Skywarn). Location not yet decided.
- VE Session – Per Kyle, everyone passed. Mike Russell interviewed some of the candidates - interview will appear in the December 2021 Feedback. Kyle scanned and submitted the paperwork electronically to the ARRL (first time we've done this), and callsigns had posted by the following morning. Next VE session is December 23rd at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall at Maple United Methodist Church. Kyle has been contacted by someone who may want to test to upgrade to General.
- Repeaters – Per Don W8RVT, nothing to report about the repeaters.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Diane KD8WXA has offered to take the open position of Treasurer. Motion made by N5MKY Smokey. Motion passed
- Trailers – Tom W. reported that Gerber Trailer from Portage will be coming out tomorrow afternoon to look at the trailers' roofs and write up an estimate for repairing them. (VHF trailer is the worst.) Gerbers will also provide a warranty for the repairs. Tom W will ask Gerbers also about climbing on the roof (yeah or nay). Shrink-wrap will cost \$288 for a roll, then we would have to use a propane heat gun to shrink the wrap. Tom W has 2 tarps that he could apply to the trailers if needed this winter to protect them. Can weigh them down with water-filled milk jugs. Tom W. also talked to RV Battle Creek on W. Michigan about roof repairs. Rubber would not stick to metal, so we won't go that route. Trailer inventory can wait until after this winter when things warm back up. For last year and this year, Tom W. had created a list of training/presentations for our club meetings. Will not have one for December (as we have the Christmas party then and no regular club meeting). He will place a list within the Feedback on proposed presentations. Club members are invited to give presentations for the group.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul KE8MOI asked for an inventory list of what the club actually has and what we can dispense with. We are looking for donations of shelving and countertops for the trailers. Dan and Kyle may have access to cupboard and countertops. Tom W. indicated he could use a trailer to haul the items.
- Terry and Mike are currently holding a technician class. Three attendees. One of the three has already gotten his license!

Presentation by N8LN – Dstar

50/50 Drawing

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Tom W. KE8GDN

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 12/08/2021

Meeting was called to order 6:05pm

Board members present: Ivan W8IDR, Paul KE8MOI, W8AEZ Stephanie

Other members present: Diane, KD8WXA

Lifetime Membership

Paul received an email from KQ8N requesting clarification regarding SMARS Lifetime membership fee and amount due for "additional family member(s)." For a 1-year membership paid in full by a HAM, each additional family member residing in the same household can also join SMARS for an additional \$1.00 fee (Part IV of SMARS Club Constitution). Under the new membership offerings, a "lifetime" is considered continuous membership by a HAM for a 30-year period. It would stand to reason that additional household residents of a HAM who has purchased a 30-year life membership could become life members for \$30.00 (\$1.00 per year for 30 years). In lieu of a regular membership card, it was suggested that those who've purchased a life membership receive a silver or gold-colored membership card or certificate. A recommendation was made to add a tab or page to the current Club Members Google Sheet on which to record those who've purchased a life membership.

Trailer Maintenance

Tom W. KE8GDN received an estimate of \$680 to make repairs to the trailer in greatest need of fixing-up. The repairs would be covered by a warranty. Decision was made to wait until the spring to proceed with the repairs.

Hamfest

N5MKY has submitted notices of our Crossroad Hamfest to the ARRL/QST and CQ Magazine. Tom G. WR8G has forwarded the Google Phone to Paul KE8MOI and has updated the W8DF.com website with information regarding the 2022 Hamfest. Fliers are done and ready for distribution. Terry N8LN will be assisting with vendors.

Miscellaneous Items

Honor Credit Union has transferred signatory authorization for the SMARS Club account to Paul KE8MOI and Diane KD8WXA.

A bill was received from Mercer for renewal of the club's insurance and presented to Club Treasurer Diane, KD8WXA, for payment.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 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: December 16th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: January 6th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: January 4th @ 6:00pm Club Breakfast: January 8th @ 8:30am VE Session: December 23rd @ 7:00pm Board Meeting time and date subject to change.
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