



FEEDBACK

February 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:

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Treasurer
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Member At Large
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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.

50/50

For the year of 2021, the 50/50 will be put on hold until we are able to do in person meetings again. For the 2020 50/50 Drawing, we will have someone draw the winners at the February Testing Session. Once the winners have been drawn, the winners will be contacted to confirm mailing address or make other arrangements for the transaction. You do not need to be present to win. Donating it to the club is also an option.

SMARS Hamfest

I have been in contact with Wings Event Center about possible options to have the SMARS Hamfest. As it stands right now, for us to have it in March we would be restricted to only 250 people in the Valley (this includes Staff and Vendors). Other restrictions would also be applied (people need to wear face mask and try to maintain social distancing). At this time it is hard to say how things would look in June/July time frame, although it should be noted that the Valley does not have AC and can get pretty hot depending on the weather. I would still like to have a Hamfest if at possible, even if that means later in the year then normal, but we need to make sure everyone will be safe (also it doesn't seem like other Hamfest are starting back up until July as well).

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

ARRL DX

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: CW
Date: 02/20 - 02/21
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

ARRL DX

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: Phone
Date: 03/06 - 03/07
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Rookie Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: SSB
Date: 04/18
URL: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

**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

ARRISS is Seeking Hosts for Ham Radio Contacts with the Space Station

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRISS](#)) is seeking formal and informal educational institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host amateur radio contacts with an International Space Station (ISS) crew member. Contacts would likely be scheduled between January 1 and June 30, 2022.

These voice radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes long and in a question-and-answer format. ARISS contacts afford participants the opportunity to learn firsthand what it's like to live and work in space, and about space research conducted on the ISS. Students will also have an opportunity to learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science.

Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact dates. ARISS is looking for organizations that can draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. Organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in dates and times of the radio contact. The deadline for proposals is March 31, 2021.

Visit the [ARRISS website](#) for more details and a proposal form. ARISS has operated amateur radio from the ISS for 20 years, and scheduled ham radio contacts between ISS crew members and schools and student groups around the world are a hallmark of the ARISS program. The ham radio stations onboard also are available for crew members to use and serve as back-up communications capability. In the US, ARISS is sponsored by NASA, the ISS National Laboratory, ARRL, and AMSAT.

An ARISS introductory webinar will be held on February 25, 2021 at 8 PM EST (0100 UTC on February 26). Participants must [register](#).

[Email](#) with any questions.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/ariss-is-seeking-hosts-for-ham-radio-contacts-with-the-space-station>

ARRL extends Field Day rules wavers, sets class D and E power limit

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified [ARRL Field Day](#) rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

“This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

NOTE - All ARRL Hamfest near our location have been Cancelled (nearest ARRL Hamfest is in Ohio in June 2021 at this time). 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.

individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021:

- Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.
- An aggregate club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

"With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements," Bourque said.

The preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions on how to submit entries, which must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

The [ARRL Field Day](#) web page has complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day [Facebook page](#).

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-extends-field-day-rules-wavers-sets-class-d-and-e-power-limit/>

Meeting Minutes 01/21/2021

Meeting was held over-the-air on the 146.660 MHz repeater and called to order at 7:12 PM.

Officers present: President Kyle W8KDB, Vice President Tom KD8GDN, Treasurer Ivan W8IDR, Member-at-Large Smokey N5MKY, Secretary Stephanie W8AEZ

Seven members and two guests were also in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Greetings were extended to two guest HAMS: Wayne (KD8VJL) and Sue (KD8VJN), both seeking club membership.

Secretary's Report: Motion was made by Jay N8ARR to accept the report as published in the Feedback, seconded by Tom KD8GDN. Motion was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Summary of the Treasurer's Report was given over the air by Ivan W8IDR. Recent transactions include payment for the club's P.O. Box for next six months' and monthly AT&T bill. Need to follow-up with Terry N8LN about D-Star expenses. Motion made by Smokey N5MKY to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Arnie WA8VRA. Motion was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - Dayton has cancelled their 2021 Hamfest due to the pandemic and it's not looking likely that we will be able to hold our Hamfest in March. An outdoor Hamfest or Trunk Sale is one possibility.
- SKYWARN - Per Smokey N5MKY the January in-person meeting was cancelled. ARES Connect will no longer be used as the software cannot be customized. Communication will be via text messages through TexCom. Google Voice has also been used, but only seven messages can be sent at a time.
- Field Day - As of this time, we are planning on participating in Field Day. Trailer work is on hold due to the weather, COVID, and budget.
- VE session – We are still planning to hold VE sessions the 4th Thursday of even months (e.g. February, April, June, etc.) Next VE session will be held in the fellowship hall of Maple United Methodist Church to allow for social distancing of examinees and VEs.

- Repeaters - Don W8RVT hasn't been up to the repeater site. He paid \$45.00 to renew the MagicJack for 1 year + 3 months and offered to cover the expenses to help out the club.

OLD BUSINESS

- Smokey N5MKY brought up that some club members have not yet paid their yearly dues. Arnie WA8VRA suggested a notice be placed in the Feedback newsletter to remind members to send in their SMARS club dues via mail. Ivan W8IDR will mail out membership cards to those who mail their dues. Kyle W8KDB verified the SMARS membership form and mailing address are available on the w8df.com website.
- Due to COVID restrictions on group gatherings, the 2020 Christmas Party was cancelled and 50/50 drawing was postponed. The Board will discuss options on how to do the drawing with the ongoing face-to-face restrictions.

NEW BUSINESS

- To comply with pandemic restrictions on face-to-face group gatherings and also to reduce club expenses, the Board decided to continue holding monthly club membership meetings and Board meetings over the air via the 146.660 MHz repeater. Once in-person dining is allowed at restaurants, the Board may resume its meetings at Coney Island as there is no incurred cost to the club.
- Tom KD8GDN has presentations on hold for now. He will submit a presentations list to post in the Feedback. Fox Hunt sessions will continue this year, likely resuming in March.
- With the loss of revenue from Hamfest, W8IDR Ivan asked if SMARS could set up a GoFundMe page to raise monies to help cover ongoing expenses. Guest Wayne KD8VJL suggested having an online garage sale of items donated by members. Kyle W8KDB tabled the ideas to the next Board meeting.

W8RDX Dave made the motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Smokey N5MKY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ

Board Meeting Minutes 02/02/2021

Called to Order: 5:40 PM

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Ivan W8IDR, Tom KE8GDN, Stephanie W8AEZ

Others present: Tom WR8G

Topics

- Hamfest: COVID-19 vaccine is currently in short supply and it is not likely to be widely available until later this year. This and the new more easily communicable strain of the virus may impact the club's ability to hold a Hamfest.
- Finances: Kyle reached out to the Church. They are OK with us not using their meeting room for the membership meetings and OK with us continuing VE sessions. They will send an adjusted contract.
 - Melissa at Wings Event Center contacted Kyle and asked if we would like to have our Hamfest on March 21st. Due to COVID restrictions, March may be too early for Hamfest. Wings has many openings on the weekends in June and July. Per Ivan, July sounds best as the club hasn't advertised at this point. Tom WR8G concurred with July due to covid restrictions if we anticipate 400-500 attendees. More information is pending a follow-up call from Melissa.
 - Online fundraising was mentioned at the Club meeting. More research is needed to determine if our Club can use GoFundMe. Patreon is another option for obtaining donations for the club. Kyle not sure if the Club is tax-exempt. Tom WR8G per GoFundMe will withhold some amount for taxes, paperwork needs to be filed for taxes being waived. Tom WR8G indicated he would be willing to put up \$500 to help keep the Club solvent if Hamfest must be held off until 2022. Per Kyle, some members have "topped off" their dues, donating the overage to the Club, and some of the HAMFEST vendors also allowed SMARS to keep their deposits to help out the Club after the 2020 Hamfest was cancelled. Can mention in the Feedback that members can send in their donations to the Club to help with continuing operating expenses. Parking lot Hamfest would be weather dependent.

- 50/50 Drawing: Ivan proposed hosting the drawing at a VE Session. Kyle suggested holding the drawing during the VE session this month (February). Tom WR8G did not believe there was anything in the Bylaws or Constitution regarding how to hold the drawing as it's a financial matter which is handled by the Board. Ivan stated he could write checks for the winners. Kyle will put a notice in the Feedback that winners do not need to be present to win due to COVID restrictions. All Board members present agreed to hold the 50/50 drawing at the February VE session.
- Kyle proposed holding the March Board meeting in-person at Coney Island as they have reopened. The pre-VE session "dinners" Coney Island can also resume effect the Feb. 25th VE session.

Meeting adjourned: 6:15 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

<p>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>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</p> <p>Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Club Meeting (On-Air): February 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: March 4th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: March 2nd @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: March 13th @ 8:30am VE Session: February 25th @ 7:00pm</p> <p>Some events might not happen due to COVID restrictions. Please check ahead of time to see if the event is going on. Board Meeting planned for Coney Island, if restricted then meeting on 2 meter repeater.</p>
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