



Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

FEEDBACK

July 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
idrhodes@aol.com

Member At Large

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

Inside this issue:

Lead article.....	1
Supplemental article.....	2
Upcoming Radio Contests.....	2
Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions.....	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Board Meeting Minutes.....	5
Club Repeaters.....	6
Nets & Upcoming Events.....	6

Club News

Membership Renews

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.

October and Future Club Meeting

We are planning to do an in person meeting on October. This is mainly so people can vote for the Club Officers. Please keep this in mind as 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. We are also working on arranging face to face meeting either outside or at the Church, we will keep you updated on this.

For the future club meetings, 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

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

Bands: Authorized UHF Frequencies from 222 MHz to 241 GHz

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 08/07 – 08/08

URL: www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest

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

**A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](#),*

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

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. This will be for the month of July at least, but we are planning for August to be the same as well.

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 and take affect at the start of the new year (when it is time for membership renewal).

Other News

How about an open source study guide?

I've been doing the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides for almost 20 years now. Yikes! That's a long time. It's been a lot of work, but satisfying work. It's a good feeling to know that I've helped literally thousands of hams either get their first licenses or upgrade to General or Extra.

I've been thinking about this today because, in exactly one year from now, we'll have a new Technician Class question pool. And that means that I'll have to produce a new study guide.

So, as I sit here today, I'm thinking how can I make the study guides better, while at the same time make them less work? One thing that occurred to me is that I could make them open source and then freely distribute them. I'd make less money on them, but it might be an interesting experiment.

If you have some experience with open source projects, and are interested in participating, I'd love to hear from you.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/how-about-an-open-source-study-guide/>

Purchase Radio now really just a memory

When I first moved to Ann Arbor in 1985, I drove down Hoover St. and thought I was in heaven. Right next to one another was Purchase Radio and a bike shop whose name I forgot. These were my two biggest hobbies at the time.

The bike shop, as I recall, didn't last long at that location. Purchase Radio, however, [persisted until 2007](#), at which point it closed because the last proprietor—the founder's son-in-law—decided to retire. I actually thought about buying the business, but for one reason or another, that just wasn't to be.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

07/25/2021

Centerville Hamfest

Location: Centerville, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: St. Joseph County ARClub

08/07/2021

Elkhart East Hamfest

Location: Elkhart, IN

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW

Repeaters

URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

09/11/2021

GRAHamfest 2021

Location: Wyoming, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur

Radio Association

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

09/11/2021

Central Michigan Amateur Radio

Club

Location: Okemos, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur

Radio Club



Purchase Radio when it closed in 2007.

The building has been vacant since then.....until now anyway. I drove by there yesterday, and discovered that the building had been razed.



Purchase Radio, June 29, 2021.

I don't know what's planned for that site, but life moves on.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/purchase-radio-now-really-just-a-memory/>

Meeting Minutes 06/17/2021

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, Vice President Tom KE8GDN, W8IDR Ivan, Member-at-Large Smokey N5MKY, Secretary Stephanie W8AEZ

Others in attendance: W8RVT Don, N8ARR Jay, W8JRD John, WD8DCA Leo, KE8MOI Paul, KD8MA Jim, KD8VJL Wayne, KD8VJN Sue, N8LS Jack, N1CEW Craig, W8JMZ Jim.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was published in the Feedback a little later than usual due to an error in the May 20th SMARS club membership meeting that required correction. The report was accepted with no further discussion or objection.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ivan W8IDR reported that \$30.00 in dues was received along with a \$21.00 donation this past month. Expenses included \$46.24 for the AT&T bill. The club account total is currently \$1,648.79.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - With the lifting of restrictions on gathering, some hamfests are starting up. St. Joseph Amateur Radio Club is hosting a hamfest in Centerville on July 25th and the Northern Indiana Repeater Association has one scheduled for Elkhart, Indiana. 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.
- SKYWARN - Smokey N5MKY reported that there was an in-person meeting this past Tuesday, June 15th. A presentation on Traffic Handling, Radiograms and ICS was given by Smokey. Bret White would like Skywarn to participate in more ICS and emergency traffic training and there are plans for some ICS or Emergency traffic to be incorporated in the next net. Training also for auxiliary communication is planned. One failure of a siren at the June emergency siren test. W8JMZ mentioned that our area has been upgraded to moderate risk for severe weather this evening.
- Field Day - Will be next Saturday and Sunday at Ft. Custer Recreation Area. All three trailers will be hauled to the site at 3:00pm next Friday. No food is provided for Friday. W8AEZ will pick up Saturday's catered meal from Dig In Cafe around 3:00pm. N5MKY advised he sent an email to Tom WR8G regarding setting up and networking computers. Smokey will also compose a radiogram for Field Day. N8ARR advised that he does not have the SMARS banner and Field Day signs. He suggested checking in the VHF trailer.

KE8GDN and his wife visited the Field day site a few days ago. The site has been mowed, however, there are still large boulders blocking the driveway to the site. He will check the trailers for the signs. W8RVT will be coming out to assist him with working on the antenna. The large canopy and some equipment has been swapped between the trailers and will still need to be sorted and placed back into the correct trailers. N8ARR advised that a couple of years ago there were 3-ring binders in each of the trailers listing the specific equipment that should be in each trailer. W8KDB stated he could drop by next week to assist with checking the equipment in the trailers. W8RVT reported that the International Space Station will be operating in crossband repeater mode during Field Day weekend. Bonus points are available, including for posting on social media, visitation by an elected official, and traffic handling, and one repeater contact with the ISS. KE8MOI has offered to help W8RVT with satellite tracking. Per Kyle, WR8G has the server ready to go. The computers are in the trailers and can be updated after they are connected to the server. He passed along a reminder to all participants to get a State Park Pass sticker or purchase one at the site in order to enter the park. W8IDR will bring a check for \$150.00 to cover the club's donation to Ft. Custer for our use of the area. Jim W8JMZ confirmed that the Skywarn group will be holding their Field Day at the American Legion off B Drive.

- VE session – The next SMARS VE session will be on June 124th at Maple United Methodist Church in the downstairs Fellowship Hall, beginning at 7:00 pm. One candidate has contacted W8KDB thus far. W8RVT asked if the club will be retaining some of the VE fees to cover costs for hosting the sessions. He suggested that the examiners can request for mileage reimbursement and perhaps donate their mileage reimbursement to the club. Kyle confirmed that he had contacted the VEC reimbursement will be up to \$35.00 for renting the testing room and that SMARS will submit a request for reimbursement to the VEC. If SMARS were to retain the amount, the club would need to retain records for up to 2 years.
- Repeaters - Don W8RVT reported everything has been working well this past month.

OLD BUSINESS

- KE8GDN discussed the May 29th Foxhunt at Leila Arboretum. Coffee and donuts were provided for the participants, the weather was good, and everyone seemed to have a good time.
- W8KDB reminded that \$15.00 membership dues can be mailed in to SMARS via the PO Box.
- An in-person meeting in October is planned at Maple United Methodist Church for officer elections. Persons interested in running for office should email Kyle at W8KDB.

Meeting Minutes (Cont.)

NEW BUSINESS

- 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.
- KE8GDN is working with Dave W8RDX to organize another couple of Foxhunts at Ft. Custer during Field Day weekend. Anyone who would like to participate in Foxhunting but who does not have a directional antenna can contact KE8GDN at tomcworth@aol.com for antenna-build plans.

A motion to adjourn was made by W8IDR, seconded by N8ARR. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 07/06/2021

The board meeting was held outdoors at Bailey Park. Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Ivan W8IDR, Tom W. KE8GDN, Stephanie W8AEZ, Smokey N5MKY

Topics

- Field Day: Leaks in the trailers (especially VHF trailer #3 and the UHF trailer) were discovered during Saturday's heavy rains. All of the trailers will need re-caulking. A recommendation was made to install magnetic bug-screens in all of the trailers. W8AEZ reported she has two that she will donate. The radio was removed from trailer #2 and placed in trailer #1 as the Kenwood stopped working. A power supply is also missing from trailer #1. A thorough inventory needs to be taken of the equipment in all three trailers. Anything that the club is not using should be sold or donated. Some of the plastic totes storing equipment have cracks and will need replacing.
- Club Meetings: Maple United Methodist Church has said SMARS can resume holding Thursday meetings due to lifting of COVID restrictions. The per-use cost for rental of the fellowship hall is \$35.00. N5MKY and KE8GDN suggested holding club membership meetings outside at Bailey Park. **Pros:** Meeting outside at the picnic tables would cost the club nothing. The outdoor setting might be less stuffy than the fellowship hall of the church. **Cons:** Outdoor meetings would be subject to the weather. If the club wished to reserve the covered pavilion, there is a fee of \$35.00. If SMARS did reserve the pavilion and found it occupied by another party, SMARS would be responsible for telling the other party to move to another location. The board decided to host the July 15th club membership meeting at

Bailey Park (weather permitting). If the weather is poor on the day of the meeting, club members will be notified that the meeting will be held over-the-air on the 146.660 MHz repeater.

- Christmas Party: Due to COVID restrictions last December, the SMARS Christmas Party was cancelled. The board agreed to move forward with plans for holding a club Christmas Party this December. Stephanie W8AEZ will contact Coney Island Cafe to see if SMARS can reserve their banquet room for the event.
- Lifetime Club Membership: A club member suggested that SMARS offer lifetime memberships. Possibilities discussed include \$125 for a 10-year membership, \$250 for a 20-year membership, or \$300 for a life membership.
- Foxhunts: Tom KE8GDN is planning another foxhunt, either at Fort Custer Recreation Area or Leila Arboretum, toward the end of July. He asked that anyone interested in participating contact him at tomcworth@aol.com.
- Treasurer's report: Ivan W8IDR reported an expenditure of \$116.20 to Dig In Cafe for providing Saturday afternoon's meal at Field Day.

Meeting adjourned: 6:21 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

Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones

Upcoming Events:

Club Meeting: July 15th @ 7:00pm
BLB Luncheon: August 5th @ 11:30am
Board Meeting: August 3rd @ 5:30pm
Club Breakfast: Augest 14th @ 8:30am
VE Session: August 26th @ 7:00pm

July'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).