



# FEEDBACK

June 2021

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:

*President*

Kyle Brown, W8KDB  
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*Vice President*

Thomas Worthington, KE8GDN  
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*Secretary*

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*Treasurer*

Ivan Rhodes, W8IDR  
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*Member At Large*

Glenn "Smokey" McCray, N5MKY  
[n5mky@arrl.net](mailto: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.

## October 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.

## Field Day

The paper work for Field Day at the Fort has been approved and we are good to go. The only change that has been made is that we do not need people to per-register or sign up as some of the restrictions have been lifted.

As for how things will happen, we will be setting up around 3 PM on Friday June 25<sup>th</sup>. We do not plan on having anything to eat at the park,

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Kids-Day

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 06/19

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

### Field Day

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital

Date: 06/26-06/27

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

### IARU HF World Championship

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 07/10-07/11

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

*\*A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](#), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

so please bring a snack if you feel you will get hungry while setting up. We recommend bring some water to stay hydrated. Field Day will start at 2 PM on June 26<sup>th</sup> and we will have dinner at the Park that night (food will be from Dig In).

As a reminder, the park pass is required to enter into Fort Custer. They will have tags you can purchase at the gate if you do not have a park pass. W8DF will not be responsible if your vehicle is ticketed or removed from not having a park pass.

## A-Hunting We Will Go...



Left to Right: Tom (KE8GDN), Paul (KE8MOI), Harold (KE8JZU), and Corey (KE8GQU)

The first Foxhunt of 2021 took place on May 29, 2021 at Leila Arboretum. The attendees assembled in the parking lot of the former Kingman Museum at 10:00 am for preemptive fresh coffee and donuts. Tom Worthington KE8GDN, coordinator of the hunt, reviewed the guidelines, search area, and fielded questions from the participants. He also provided a “sneak preview” of the tone being used. At 10:30am, the hunters were turned loose.

As the hunt progressed, Tom left the museum parking lot to check on the hunters’ progress. They were close to the Fox but hadn’t yet found it, so he provided a few hints to point them in the right direction. “Ultimately they found the Fox and took the #1st place and #2 place tags. We had a short discussion on where Fox was hidden, how local electrical towers and lines may have interfered,” said Tom. He had hidden the Fox transmitter antenna on one of the road sign legs and it was partially hidden by sign, which added to the challenge of locating it. The winners: Paul KE8MOI and Harold KE8JZU!

## 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 Repeater

URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

**\*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.



Many thanks to Tom for planning this event. It not only allows HAMs to hone their RF tracking skills, but it's also a terrific way to showcase amateur radio for the community. The next Foxhunt opportunity is planned for Field Day weekend at Ft. Custer Recreation Area. Come join in the fun!

## Other News

# International Space Station to be in Cross-Band Repeater Mode for Field Day

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) cross-band repeater will be available for [ARRL Field Day](#), June 26 – 27. Contacts will count toward Field Day bonus points as satellite contacts and Field Day contacts.

Field Day rules limit stations to one contact on any single-channel FM satellite. Note that contacts made during Field Day by ISS crew would only count for contact credit, but not for satellite bonus points. ISS cross-band repeater contacts are also valid AMSAT Field Day satellite contacts.

The ARISS cross-band repeater uplink is 145.990 MHz (67 Hz tone), with a downlink of 437.800 MHz.

ARISS suggests that those unfamiliar with the ISS repeater may want to practice with it prior to Field Day. ARISS had planned to switch modes to the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) during the second week of June, but this won't happen until after the first ARISS school contact following ARRL Field Day.

The ARISS ham station will be off-air during spacewalks on June 16 and June 20. -- Thanks to ARISS

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/international-space-station-to-be-in-cross-band-repeater-mode-for-field-day>

## Meeting Minutes 05/20/2021

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

**Officers present** – President Kyle W8KDB, Vice President Tom KE8GDN, W8IDR Ivan Member-at-Large Smokey N5MKY, Secretary Stephanie W8AEZ  
Others in attendance: KD8MA, KD8VJL, KD8VJN, W8RVT, W8JRD, WD8DCA, KB8IAR, KE8MOI, N8ARR, KE8RFK

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence in honor of recent silent keys: Jim Sheldon N8MNV and Bev Williams KA8CXS

Introductions

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made by Smokey N5MKY to accept the Secretary's Report as published in the Feedback and seconded by Tom KE8GDN. The motion was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Ivan W8IDR reported that an additional \$15.00 in club dues has been received since last month's report. A motion to

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - With the loosening of COVID restrictions, an outdoor event may be possible. A notice has been placed in the Feedback asking that anyone who is interested in planning and carrying out an outdoor swap-meet contact Kyle W8KDB. As of this time, we will proceed with plans to resume the indoor Crossroads Hamfest at The Annex of Wings Stadium in March 2022.
- SKYWARN - Per Smokey N5MKY, Jim W8JMZ gave a presentation on the August 25th derecho event. District 5 Emergency Coordinator announcement: Bret KD8RHB who has been the Calhoun County Emergency Coordinator, will be the new District 5 Emergency Coordinator.
- Field Day - A link has been placed in the Feedback for Field Day attendees to complete with their contact tracing information for COVID-19 contact tracing. Smokey stated that there was one update to the COVID preparedness plan. DNR Headquarters sent him a request for additional detailed information to comply with the updated plan. The club will be providing a catered lunch on Saturday to members and their guests participating in the event.
- VE session – No VE session this month. John Tucker is planning a VE Session in Kalamazoo on Saturday, May 22nd at the first pavillion at Flesher Field in Kalamazoo, 8:30am start time. Those who wish more information on the session or VEs who would like to assist may contact John at [WB8ZVV@gmail.com](mailto:WB8ZVV@gmail.com).

Next SMARS VE session will be in June at Maple United Methodist Church in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

- Repeaters - Don W8RVT reported the 2m repeater has encountered an issue in which it stops repeating. He is continuing to work on the issue. Anyone who's interested in helping with the maintenance of the repeaters is encouraged to contact Don at [w8rvt@arri.net](mailto:w8rvt@arri.net) or Kyle at [w8kdb@arri.net](mailto:w8kdb@arri.net).

### OLD BUSINESS

- Kyle has heard back from the church. They confirm we can hold an in-person meeting there the 3rd Thursday in October for club officer elections.
- Tom KE8GDN is planning a foxhunt on May 29th at Leila Arboretum from 10am-1pm. He is also looking to plan another foxhunt for June, possibly at Ft. Custer. More information will be shared with Smokey N5MKY to disseminate via texcom.com.
- Work needs to be done on the club trailers prior to Field Day. Tom will plan to move them out of storage to his side yard around June 5th. Items that were shuffled between trailers will need to be returned to their correct trailer. Beam modifications that were mentioned after the last Field Day can also be made at that time.
- W8RVT asked about the progress on the 501c-3. He is withdrawing his proposal that the club pursue 501c-3 status as he does not believe the SMARS Board is interested in pursuing it at this time. N5MKY responded that he and other board members were interested in the

### NEW BUSINESS

- KD8RHB Bret attended the St. Joseph County Meeting. They mentioned they will hold a hamfest there on July 25th 8am-noon at the library. Additional information will be shared in next month's Feedback. Hudsonville IRA will also hold a hamfest on June 5th.
- W8RVT recommended that the club begin withholding a portion of the \$15.00 amateur radio examination fee to cover costs for the session.

N5MKY Smokey made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tom KE8GDN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes 06/01/2021

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

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

### Topics

- Kyle received the renewal verification for the ARRL Special Service Club designation.
- Tom W. KE8GDN reported several persons attended the May 29th Foxhunt at Leila Arboretum. He is planning another Foxhunt, possibly the weekend of Field Day, at Ft. Custer Recreation Area. Details will be provided soon.
- Field Day: Smokey N5MKY spoke with Tony at Ft. Custer Recreation Area. COVID restrictions were lifted effective June 1st, making the preparedness plan he filed obsolete. The park has installed new gates. Tony will provide a key to Smokey to allow SMARS passage through the gates after park hours. Smokey will put out a call for volunteers to assist with set-up and tear-down. At least one person must remain at the Field Day site Friday and Saturday nights to secure the club's equipment. Smokey stated he could as did John D. W8JRD.
- Kyle W8KDB is working on the rotors for Trailer #3. Rotor for Trailer #1 has not yet been serviced. He or Tom W. will follow up with Tom G. WR8G to verify the logging computers are ready to go.
- Tom W. contacted Don W8RVT about working on the trailer beam antenna. Tom will pull the trailers out of his barn and park them in his side yard. He already has parts for the trailer that needs brake-work. The Friday of Field Day weekend, Kyle will meet Tom W. at his home around 2:00 pm to tow the club trailers to the Field Day site at Fort Custer.
- Ivan W8IDR suggested magnetic bug-screens be installed in the trailers.
- Stephanie W8AEZ followed up with Cindy at the Dig In Cafe in Augusta regarding catering Saturday's lunch. Board agreed to the \$6.00/person estimate Cindy supplied for pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, macaroni and cheese. She will pick up the lunch from Dig In and bring it to the Field Day site.
- Kyle sent an inquiry to the Lansing amateur radio club about the process for obtaining 501(c)(3) status. The club is still seeking an accountant to assist with the process of filing and maintaining non-profit status. Anyone who has a lead on an experienced accountant is asked to pass their contact information on to one of the board members.
- Hamfest: As of the time of the June board meeting, Kyle has received no response from anyone interested in setting up and running a small Hamfest this summer or fall.

- Don W8RVT is still in need of someone to take over running and maintaining the club repeaters. Interested parties are asked to email him at w8rvt@arrl.net.
- Club Officer Elections: Kyle received an email from Maple United Methodist Church confirming that the club can hold an in-person meeting there in October prior to officer elections.
- VE Sessions: Per Don W8RVT's suggestion, Kyle looked further into recovering some of the expenses incurred from holding VE sessions. Per the ARRL, the club can use up to \$7.00 of the \$15.00 collected from examinees for incurred expenses relating to the VE session. There are two options: 1) the club can "hold back" those expenses from the fees collected for a session, or 2) the club can submit a reimbursement form to the VEC along with documentation of the club's expenses to host the VE session. For the first option, the club would need to retain records of session expenses for up to 2 years.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer's report was not available for review at the time of this meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 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

<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 previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p>Club Meeting: June 17th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: July 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: July 6th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: July 10th @ 8:30am VE Session: Hune 24th @ 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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