



# FEEDBACK

November 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:

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### 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 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.

## SMARS Christmas Party!

Join us **Saturday, December 11, 2021** at **Coney Island** from **5:30 – 7:30 PM** (time was adjusted so we can be out before Coney Island closes at 8 PM) for our annual holiday celebration!

As a reminder, each member will be responsible for their own check paid directly to Coney Island. Coney Island is located at 962 Capital Ave NE in Battle Creek Michigan.

Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange are asked to bring a gift (less than \$20), labeling it "for a man" or "for a lady" (please only get a gift for your gender to keep it even). Our end of year cash prize 50/50 drawing will also take place.

[Come and celebrate the holiday season with us!](#)

## 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

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### ARRL November Sweepstakes – Phone

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 11/20 – 11/22

URL: [www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

### EME Contest

Bands: All Authorized Bands Above 6 Meters

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 11/20 – 11/21

URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### 160 Meter Contest

Bands: 160 Meter

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 12/3 – 12/5

URL: [www.arrl.org/160-meter](http://www.arrl.org/160-meter)

### 10 Meter Contest

Bands: 10 Meter

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Date: 12/11 – 12/12

URL: [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter)

### Rookie Roundups

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

Mode: CW

Date: 12/19

URL: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://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](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

*\*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>*

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.

## Other News

# Solo DXpeditioner Says Operating from Crozet is Limited by Nature

The recent announcement of a pending 3-month DXpedition to activate Crozet Island (FT5W) in 2022 – 2023 has generated enthusiasm within the DX community. Right on the heels of the announcement, the Northern California DX Foundation ([NCDXF](http://www.ncdxf.com)) pledged \$20,000 to support the DXpedition. The point person for the planned event, Thierry Mazel, F6CUK, wants to temper any overblown expectations, as demand will be extremely high for the third most-wanted DXCC entity — right behind North Korea and Bouvet Island. Thierry says nature-related factors, including climate, will dictate the manner in which the DXpedition takes place.

“The wind blows almost constantly at 70 kilometers per hour (43 MPH), with gusts that can reach 150 kilometers per hour (93 MPH) within a few minutes,” Thierry and co-planner Paul Granger, F6EXV, said in a recent news release. “There are no real seasons on Crozet, so these conditions apply all year long, even if, during the austral summer, nicer days can be expected.”

Added to the possibility of gale or hurricane-force winds, the “fairly hard” volcanic rock that covers the archipelago and “very strict rules” in place to protect fauna and flora, will severely restrict the sorts of antennas that might be deployed. “For bird protection, antennas, guy wires, and anything that could be an obstacle are forbidden,” Thierry and Granger said. Just securing guy lines for a four-square would require more than 30 concrete blocks, [because] digging holes is not permitted. The original idea to erect four-square arrays for 40 and 20 meters was refused, they said. The French Austral Islands are United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites and declared as protected areas.

“The only possibility that the administration allowed, was to have an [antenna] attachment point to an existing building and have wire antennas from there,” Thierry and Granger said. “No beam! This is clearly stated in the permit we received.”

As if those weren't enough roadblocks, any equipment brought onto the island must be thoroughly cleaned to prevent the introduction of pollen, seeds, or non-native organisms.

DXpedition planners are pondering the “best solution for the best antenna possible.”

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**12/04/2021**

FCARC WinterFest

Location: Delta, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://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>

The last ham radio activity from Crozet was in 2009 by Florentin Bard, F4DYW, who operated as FT5WQ. Contrary to earlier accounts, the 2022 – 2023 DXpedition has not announced its call sign, which will not be made public in advance. The solo DXpedition in is anticipated to cost as much as \$58,000.

The Twitter account is @crozet2022, and a website is expected to be online soon. When it's up and running, it will include details of how donated funds will be applied. Thierry has pledged that all contributions will be refunded if the operation does not take place.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/solo-dxpeditioner-says-operating-from-crozet-is-limited-by-nature>

## ASRTU-1 CubeSat with V/u FM Transponder Submitted for IARU Coordination

China's Harbin Institute of Technology has applied for IARU Coordination of the ASRTU-1 CubeSat. Among other capabilities, the satellite will provide a V/u FM amateur radio transponder. ASRTU-1 is a 12U CubeSat mission designed by Russian and Chinese university students for education and amateur radio.

Harbin Institute of Technology has successfully developed several amateur radio satellites, including LilacSat-2 (CAS-3H), LilacSat-1 (LO-90), DSLWP-A (LO-93), and DSLWP-B (LO-94). A new SDR-based transceiver was developed for ASRTU-1 to provide communication and experiment resources to radio amateurs, including a V/u FM transponder, a UHF telemetry downlink, and a 10.5 GHz image downlink. The satellite will also allow radio amateurs to send commands to control the satellite to take and download images.

ASRTU is planned for a launch from Russia in the fourth quarter of 2022. — Thanks to the IARU

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/asrtu-1-cubesat-with-v-u-fm-transponder-submitted-for-iaru-coordination>

## Meeting Minutes 10/21/2021

Meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM

Pledge  
Introductions

**Officers present:** KE8GDN, W8IDR, W8AEZ, W8KDB, N5MKY

**Attendees:** N8ARR, W8RVT, WA8VRA, W8RDX, N8RCF, N8LN, KE8MOI, WB8KC, KE8RFB, Diane KE8WXA, W8JMZ, KB9IAR, Ron Cady N1RDK, KB9IAR.

**Secretary's report:** A motion was by Jay N8ARR to accept the report as printed in the FeedbackN8ARR. Motion was passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Motion was made to accept the treasurer's report (which was printed off and passed around for examination at the meeting). Motion was passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Paperwork from Wings received, the Annex is reserved for March 19, 2022. Committee chairperson is needed.
- Skywarn – SET took place on Oct 21. 13 counties participated, Calhoun came in 11th. Ken Nierman is moving to Texas on 10/31/21.
- **Field Day** – Scores will be posted in QST December issue.
- **VE Session** – Next week Thursday 10/28/21 at 7:00 pm. Per Kyle, 3 people have indicated interest in attending this next session. Test will be done in Fellowship Hall of church to allow for social distancing.
- **Repeaters** – Per W8RVT, 2m had been acting up. He serviced the connector, applied copper paste, seems to be working fine now.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Tom W: Fox hunts will be put on hold until next season.
- Trailer equipment needs to be inventoried. He purchased some clear FlexSeal and silicone caulking to apply to the roofs. Tom suggested the club investigate the cost of applying rubber coating to the trailer roofs in the Spring. We do have temporary screens for the trailers (need to apply them in the spring). Cabinets can also be installed in the trailers in the Spring. Per Dan, we need to keep in mind that people stand on the roof when raising the antenna. Ivan suggested exploring the cost of applying shrink-seal (like with boats) to the trailers to protect them during storage for the winter. Jay said he can store the monitors he's donating until after the cabinet work is done in the Spring.

- Proposal on 10-year, 20-year, and lifetime memberships was put up for a vote:
  - \$125 for a 10-year membership
  - \$250 for 20-year membership
  - \$300 for lifetime membershipDiscussion of the proposal (where the money would go, such as in the general fund). Also discussed increasing the yearly dues from \$15 to \$20. Membership vote: Aye=18, opposed=1. Motion carries, this will take effect next year (2022).
- Officer elections: All board positions are up for a vote. Nominations for officers:
  - President – KE8MOI, Paul Crisher
  - Vice President – KE8GDN, Tom W
  - Treasurer –
  - Secretary – W8AEZ
- -Snack break- (and tally of votes)
- Election Results:
  - President: KE8MOI
  - Vice President: KE8GDN
  - Treasurer: TBD at a later date
  - Secretary: W8AEZ
  - Member at Large: (past President, W8KDB)

### New Business:

- Dan asked about how the March Hamfest is set up (tables, electricity) at Wings Annex. Advertisement via emails and fliers distributed by mail and hand-outs at other local Hamfests and radio clubs.
- Presentation next month: Terry N8LN on DStar
- Christmas Party at Coney Island Cafe on December 11th from 5:30-7:30PM

50/50 – Winner: Rick Franz

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes 11/05/2021

Meeting was called to order 6:10pm

Board members present: Ivan W8IDR, Paul KE8MOI, Tom WKE8GDN, Smokey N5MKY, W8AEZ Stephanie

Other members present: Diane, KD8WXA

### Topics of discussion brought up by incoming President Paul, KE8MOI:

- Diane KD8WXA has offered to take on the role of Club Treasurer. Ivan has supplied copies of the club's financials through today's date to her. We will need to update the club's Honor Credit Union accounts so that Paul and Diane both have signatory rights.
- Paul will need a key to the church. Will need to obtain it and the President's briefcase from outgoing President Kyle, W8KDB.
- Paul would like to resume looking for a place to have a club station.
- A question arose regarding the Administrator for SMARS Facebook page. It appears that Smokey N5MKY, John W8JRD, and Stephanie W8AEZ have administrator access to the club's page.
- Hamfest: Need to get info (table & electric layout) from Tom G WR8G. Need to get a list of volunteers to help with setup, ticket sales, PA system, and VE session.

### Topics of discussion brought up by Vice President Tom W., KE8GDN:

- Tom W. has a partial list of trailer inventory. A complete inventory still needs to be done.
- Question was asked about the arrangements for renting the church for club meetings and VE sessions. Assumption is that the contract is through December 31st of this year. The club will need to negotiate a contract for Jan.-Dec. 2022.
- Some members have already started paying 2022 dues.
- Rubber roof (like what they would use on a house trailer) and shrink wrap of the whole trailer would be costly. Per Ivan W8IDR, the top and door would only need to be wrapped/covered. Basic supplies on eBay would cost about \$200.
- Tom W. would like to Flex seal the trailer roof before this winter.
- Has anyone expressed an interest in becoming the club's repeater maintenance technician? We really need to have someone ready to jump in to help Don W8RVT.
- Presentations during monthly club meetings: Terry N8LN will be presenting about DStar at the November 18th club meeting.
- Tom W. has paperwork to fill out for Marsh Insurance (Trailers & contents, liability for Hamfest & Field Day).

- Recommended that the club resume pursuing 501.3c nonprofit status. Paul indicated he has some experience with 501.3c through his volunteer work (Haven of Rest).
- A suggestion was made to hold Board meetings on Fridays around 6:00 PM to accommodate work schedules of board members.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm

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

<b>Club Meeting</b> 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	<b>SKYWARN Coffee</b> 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	<b>BLB Luncheon</b> 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	<b>SMARS Breakfast</b> 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI
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<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  <b>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz  <i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i>	<b>Upcoming Events:</b>  Club Meeting: November 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: December 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: December 7th @ 6:00pm Club Breakfast: December 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: December 23rd @ 7:00pm  We will be resuming in person meetings this month at the Church. If you do not feel well, we ask that you stay option. Masks are optional. Bored Meeting date Subject to Change.
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