



FEEDBACK

September 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

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w8aez@arrl.net

Treasurer

Ivan Rhodes, W8IDR
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Member At Large

Glenn "Smokey" McCray, N5MKY
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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.

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. We are planning to resume our normal Hamfest in 2022 and will need someone to be the chair person for that.

Future Club Meeting

We are going to be starting in person meetings this month (September). Please keep in mind that in October we will be voting for the board members. At this point, all positions are open and will need to be filled for us to continue existing as a club. I will keep posting this reminder (as well as the Membership Renewals) each month until the October Club Meeting.

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

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

10 GHz and Up

Bands: Authorized Frequencies 10 GHz and Up

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 09/18 – 09/19

URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

School Club Roundup

Bands: Authorized Bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 10/18 – 10/22

URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

10 GHz and Up

Bands: Authorized Frequencies 2.3 GHz and Up

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 10/23 – 10/24

URL: 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>*

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 (at an in person meeting) and take effect at the start of the new year (when it is time for membership renewal).

August VE Session Welcomes New Techs and Upgrades

By Mike Russell, KQ8N, ARRL VE

The August 26, 2021 VE session welcomed five participants to the Community Room of the Maple United Methodist Church. Seven Volunteer Examiners were present to oversee and score the event. All five attendees passed the exam they came to complete! New Technicians are Philip Wareham (KE8SVF) from Portage and Adam Draayer (KE8SVE) from Kalamazoo. Philip says that he's found that amateur radio is a useful skill worth learning more about. He has recently located to the area from North Dakota and enjoys astronomy. Adam is a machinist and lives in Kalamazoo. He has recently purchased an SDR radio that he's itching to use to its full potential. Upgrading from Tech to General were Pat Kelly (KE8SKJ) from Climax, Dave Goedde (KC8HEU) from Marshall, and Mark Vanschagen (W8XLT) from Stanton. Pat told me that he got his Tech license at the June SMARS VE session. He's had an interest in ham radio since grade school when he took the Novice test, but couldn't get past the Morse code requirement. Requirements have changed, he's retired now, and he's looking forward to getting some antennas up before the snow flies. Dave has been a ham for over 30 years, and has been eyeing the General exam for some time and was happy to successfully upgrade tonight. Finally, Mark, a carpenter working in Grand Rapids, traveled to our event from Stanton. He's had his Technician license for about two years. He said he was ready to take the upgrade exam and SMARS was the earliest exam in the area to get his upgrade completed. Mark took the Amateur Extra exam as well, which is offered without additional expense, just to see what it was like. He didn't expect to pass (and didn't), but he was able to get a glimpse at the next level test and has become motivated to make it his next goal. If you hear these guys on the air, please congratulate them on their accomplishment.

Other News

ARRL weighs in on insulin pump story

About a week and a half ago, [I blogged](#) about a Florida TV news report that took to task a radio amateur living a few doors down from a woman using an insulin pump. She claimed that his operation caused the pump to malfunction, putting her health at risk.

After hiring a consultant to look into the matter, the homeowner's association ordered the ham to cease operation, even though the consultant's findings were inconclusive. The report from Sublight Engineering, PLLC, of Arlington, VA, states, "It is possible that HF

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

09/18/2021

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

Location: Okemos, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

09/19/2021

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://w8tqe.com>

10/16/2021

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Muskegon County

Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

URL: <http://mcecs.net/Hamfest.htm>

10/17/2021

Kalamazoo Hamfest & Amateur Radio Swap and Shop

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club and Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team

URL: <http://KalamazooHamFest.com>

amateur radio operations described herein could create fields that exceed manufacturers (sic) limits." (Italics are mine.)

In my original post, I wrote, "This report is troubling for many reasons. I hope that the ARRL is aware of this, and is looking into it." Well, they did and [reported on their findings](#). As expected, they wrote, "It also became apparent that there is no actual evidence connecting the amateur's transmissions to operation of the insulin pump."

Ria, N2RJ, the ARRL Hudson Division director, also produced a video on this situation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08tZEHjCWaw>

What I don't understand is why no one contacted the manufacturer, Medtronic. Wouldn't they want to know if one of their devices was faulty, or if their manufacturing and testing procedures were faulty?

With no real conclusion to this story, it's bound to pop up again. You know that someone somewhere is going to claim that a ham is interfering with his or her insulin pump and a Google search is going to turn up this story on the Florida TV station's website. I think it would have been a good idea to completely debunk this story, so that when it does come up again, we can just point to this case and blow off the complainer. As it stands, however, we really can't do that.

Meeting Minutes 08/19/2021

Meeting was held in Bailey Park at the picnic area and was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present – President Kyle W8KDB, W8IDR Ivan, Member-at-Large Smokey N5MKY, Vice President Tom KE8GDN, Secretary Stephanie W8AEZ

Others in attendance: N8ARR Jay, W8RDX Dave, KE8GZU Harold

Secretary's Report: Motion was made to accept the Secretary's Report as published in the Feedback. Motion was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Per Treasurer Ivan W8IDR the month's starting balance was \$1321.35. Expenses paid included a \$50.00 deposit to Coney Island Cafe for use of their banquet room for the club's Christmas Party. AT&T bill will be received and paid in the near future. Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented by Ivan. Motion was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - Kyle spoke with Melissa at Wings Stadium, confirmed the club's reservation for the Annex on Saturday, March 19, 2022 to hold our Hamfest, and that no advance deposit was needed. Setup for the Hamfest will begin on Friday, March 18th at 3:00 PM.
- SKYWARN - Per Smokey N5MKY, three storm nets were held last week. The Pennfield repeater went down again this past weekend after the storm, but it was back in operation on Monday. The in-person Skywarn meeting this week was cancelled since several members were assisting at the Calhoun County Fair and unable to attend.
- A Ham-in-a-Day (HIAD) session is being planned for September 25, 2021. The cost to attend the session is \$15.00. Details including the location of the exam can be found at the WX8BTL Skywarn Facebook page or Eventbrite.com.
- Field Day - Smokey N5MKY has filed the club's score report. Overall ranking for Field Day has not been posted by the ARRL. Jay N8ARR has three LCD monitors he is willing to donate to the club for the trailers. He will check with Rich's Trailer Repair in Kalamazoo for an estimate to rubberize the roof of trailer #3. Tom KE8GDN proposed the club install a ship-wheel to expedite getting the towers down. One trailer is missing a power supply. Volunteers are still being sought to help inventory and shuffle items between trailers.
- VE session – The next SMARS VE session will be August 26th at Maple United Methodist Church. Kyle has received one query about

attending this session.

- Repeaters - Don W8RVT had nothing to report at this time. Please contact Kyle at w8kdb@arrl.net or Don at w8rvt@arrl.net if you are interested in helping out with maintaining the repeater.

OLD BUSINESS:

- SMARS has reserved the banquet room at Coney Island Cafe for this year's membership Christmas Party. The party will take place on Saturday, December 11th from 5:30-7:30 PM. Attendees can order off the restaurant's regular menu and they will also be responsible for settling their own bills.
- Board Elections are slated to occur during the October 21st club membership meeting in the fellowship hall of Maple United Methodist Church. Nominations are being sought for the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer as the current officers in those positions are not running for re-election.
- The proposed change to the membership dues (10-year, 20-year, Lifetime) will be presented to the club membership at the October meeting for discussion prior to a vote.
- The equipment in the three club trailers needs to be inventoried and items that the club no longer is using should be disposed of. The goal is to have the interior of the other two trailers set up like the VHF trailer. Jay N8ARR has two laminated shelves from the trailers stored at his place. He will give them to Tom KE8GDN to put into the trailers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tom KE8GDN is planning another foxhunt, date, time and location to be announced later. He spoke with N8LN about giving a training presentation on D-STAR at a future club meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by N5MKY, seconded by N8ARR Jay. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 09/07/2021

The board meeting was held at Coney Island Cafe. Meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm.

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Ivan W8IDR, and Stephanie W8AEZ.

Absent: Smokey N5MKY, Tom KE8GDN

Topics:

- Kyle is awaiting the updated paperwork for the club's rental of the Fellowship Hall for September, November, and December. The club previously paid for renting the room for October's club membership meeting and officer elections.
- Club Officer Elections: Nominations are being sought for the offices of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer as the current officers are not seeking re-election. Elections will be held during the October 21st club members meeting in the basement of Maple United Methodist Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 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: September 16th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: October 7th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: October 5th @ 5:30pm Club Breakfast: October 9th @ 8:30am VE Session: October @ 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.
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