



# FEEDBACK

April 2022

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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Paul Crisher, KE8MOI  
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### Inside this issue:

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Lead article.....                    | 1 |
| Supplemental article.....            | 1 |
| 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 Diane KD8WXA 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 for one year. We have added additional memberships (10 years for \$125, 20 years for \$250, and lifetime \$300). Family members will add \$10, \$20, and \$30 respectively, depending on which membership you go with. A color Star will indicated if you have a 10 year, 20 year, or lifetime membership (Blue, Silver, and Gold). Cards will be mailed out after fee has been received or can be picked up at any club meeting. Donations to the club can also be sent to the same address.

### Classifieds

George (W8UVZ) has the following available. If interested, please reach out to him at [w8uvz@yahoo.com](mailto:w8uvz@yahoo.com):

- 5 element 6 meter beam by MSquared Inc. \$100-- This is a very high quality antenna with balun and mast to boom mount.
- 2 meter Ringo Ranger, 6 meter Ringo, 10 meter Ringo, all Cushcraft.
- 2 each 2 meter 3 element beams, with mast or tower mount at back of boom.
- 6 sections Rohn 25G tower with a rotator plate, guy wire with turn buckles, etc. Some surface rust. \$200 for all.

### Other News

## New Amateur Radio License Applications Fee To Become Effective April 19, 2022

A Public Notice released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on March 23, 2022, in [MD Docket No. 20-270](#), announced that

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Rookie Roundups

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

### International Digital Contest

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 Meters  
Mode: Digital (excluding RTTY)  
Date: 06/4 – 06/5  
URL: [www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest)

### June VHF

Bands: Above 50 MHz  
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW  
Date: 06/11 – 06/13  
URL: [www.arrl.org/june-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf)

### Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters  
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW  
Date: 06/18  
URL: [www.arrl.org/kids-day](http://www.arrl.org/kids-day)

### Field Day

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters, 50 MHz and above  
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW  
Date: 06/25 – 06/26  
URL: [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)

*\*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>*

new application fees for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau applications will become effective on April 19, 2022. The new fees, mandated by Congress, apply to applications for Amateur Radio licenses including those associated with filing Form 605, the Amateur Operator/Primary Station Licensee Application.

Effective April 19, 2022, a \$35 fee will apply to applications for a new Amateur Radio license, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call signs.

Anticipating the implementation of the fee in 2022, the ARRL Board of Directors, at its July 2021 meeting, approved the "ARRL [Youth Licensing Grant Program](#)." Under the program, ARRL will cover a one-time \$35 application fee for license candidates younger than 18 years old for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC). Qualified candidates also would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC. ARRL is finalizing details for administering the program.

ARRL had filed comments in opposition to imposing a fee on Amateur Radio license applications. The FCC initially proposed a higher, \$50 fee. In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, 2020, the amount was reduced -- the FCC agreeing with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications."

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, explained that all fees are per application. "There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. The fees will be the responsibility of the applicant regardless of filing method and must be paid within 10 calendar days of FCC's receipt of the application. For applications filed by a VEC, the period does not begin until the application is received by the Commission, a ULS file number assigned, and an email sent by the FCC directly to the applicant."

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at license exam sessions. New and upgrade candidates at an exam session will continue to pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual, and pay the new, \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES FRN Registration system ([CORES - Login](#)).

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who then will have 10 calendar days from the date of the email to pay. After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or explanation of other action. The link will be good for 30 days.

Somma also explained that applications that are processed and dismissed will not be entitled to a refund. This includes vanity call sign requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign. "The FCC staff has suggested that applicants for vanity call signs should first ensure the call signs requested are available and eligible

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**05/01/2022**

Lucas County Amateur Radio  
Emergency Service Trunk Sale and  
Swap Meet

Location: Toledo, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lucas County Amateur  
Radio Emergency Service

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/lcaresswap>

**06/04/2022**

FCARC Summer Hamfest

Location: Wauseon, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur  
Radio Club

URL: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

**06/04/2022**

IRA Hudsonville Hamfest

Location: Hudsonville, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Independent Repeater  
Association

URL: <http://www.w8ira.org>

**06/05/2022**

Annual Chelsea Amateur Radio Club  
Swap Meet

Location: Chelsea, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Chelsea Amateur Radio  
Club

URL: <http://wd8iel.com>

**06/18/2022**

Midland Amateur Radio Club  
Hamfest

Location: Midland, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio  
Club

URL: <http://www.w8kea.org>

**06/19/2022**

Monroe Hamfest

Location: Monroe, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Monroe County Radio  
Comm Assoc

URL: <http://mcrca.org>

for their operator class and area, and then request as many call signs as the form allows to maximize their chances of receiving a call sign."

Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC at [www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee](http://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee). Details for the ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program will be similarly posted there, when available.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/new-amateur-radio-license-applications-fee-to-become-effective-april-19-2022>

## Ham Payload Going to the Chinese Space Station

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) satellite frequency coordination panel reports that an application has been submitted for an amateur radio payload to be hosted on the Chinese Tiangong space station. The coordination request states:

"CSSARC is the amateur radio payload for Chinese Space Station, proposed by Chinese Radio Amateurs Club (CRAC), Aerospace System Engineering Research Institute of Shanghai (ASES) and Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT)."

The first phase of the payload is capable of providing the following functions utilizing the VHF/UHF amateur radio band:

- 1) V/V or U/U crew voice
- 2) V/U or U/V FM repeater
- 3) V/V or U/U 1k2 AFSK digipeater
- 4) V/V or U/U SSTV or digital image

The payload will provide resources for radio amateurs worldwide to make contacts with onboard astronauts or communicate with each other. It will also play a role to inspire students to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, and to encourage more people to get interested in amateur radio.

The planned launch from Wenchang is scheduled for the third quarter of this year. - Thanks to AMSAT UK

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-payload-going-to-the-chinese-space-station>

## Meeting Minutes 03/17/2022

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

**Board Members in Attendance:** Paul KE8MOI, Tom W. KE8GDN, Diane KD8WXA, Stephanie W8AEZ.

**Other Attendees:** W8RVT, WB8KC, WR8G, W8JKG, N8ARR, W8KDB, KE8TVO, KE8MWQ, KE8TOB, N8LN, W8IDR, KD8RHB, N8RCF, W8JMZ, N8ET, N5MKY, AB8WD, K, W8OPE, KD8MA.

**Secretary's report:** Motion was made to accept the report as printed in the Feedback. Motion was approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Report was circulated at the meeting. Diane reported that \$800 had been withdrawn from the account for the hamfest cash boxes. Motion was made to accept the report. Motion was approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Paul KE8MOI reported that 97 tables had been sold so far and he has had inquiries also about tables available the morning of the event. People he's talked to on the phone are excited. For the Hamfest raffle, Terry N8LN got a gift certificate from RT Systems for \$60 and also will also donate some reference books; N5MKY received two \$50 certificates and two \$25 from ARRL; Jay will donate a couple of radios (1 Baofeng, and 1 Wouxun) and a bag of tie wraps. Jay has put out the direction signs already and he will put up the antenna on the roof for the talk in. He will pass around a sign-in sheet for members to volunteer. Jay will run the PA until 10AM. He will need someone to take over on the PA from 10AM-Noon so he can attend the VE session. Kyle W8KDB has had several people contact him about the VE session. Per Paul, the enclosed room on the stage can accommodate anticipated examinees and Ves. Paul KE8MOI extended his personal thanks to the following members for their assistance with the 2022 Hamfest: Smokey N8MKY for advertising the hamfest on the air; Tom G. WR8G for his assistance with the vendor emails and Wings Event Center floor plan; Willy and John for giving fliers and 2 tickets out at the Barry County Club this Tuesday. Thank you to Terry N8LN for the use of his callsign on hamfest communications. Diane for handling the tickets, and vendor forms; and Stephanie W8AEZ for passing along 4 tickets to the MSU Amateur Radio Club.
- Skywarn – Bret KD8RHB - March siren test except the stations with known issues went well. Jim W8JMZ put on a great presentation this past Tuesday - "Perils" by the National Storm Observatory. About collecting storm data down south. Jim W8JMZ reminded everyone that spring arrives this Sunday and that severe weather season kicks off as well. Next week is Severe Weather Week. Some communities (not Battle Creek) will be testing their sirens next Wednesday.

Bret will include in the Skywarn newsletter information regarding the Auxcomm Winlink presentation for 40m, UHF, VHF, and NMRS. Jim W8JMZ also reported that a coronal mass ejection (CME) was observed on March 13th; the effects will be felt on Earth four days later. The CME has displaced the radiation and has increased auroras. [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) had listed "poor" for every band listed, however every band sounded great. Several hams reported 75m and 17m have been active.

- Field Day – Fort Custer Recreation Area appears to be the best option for us. Smokey N5MKY was asked to contact the fort and file the paperwork. The club is planning to set up three trailers and Jay's canopies. Saturday's meal will be catered by the Dig-In Cafe in Augusta.
- VE Session – Four people tested (including Brian and Kelly, present tonight) at the February session. All examinees received licenses or upgrades.
- Repeaters – Don W8RVT reported the intermittent audio problem has returned on VHF. Paul noticed issues on today's BLB.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Tom W. KE8GDN brought up last year's discussion about doing an inventory of all three trailers. He will pull trailers out after things warm up and dry out and will send word out via the club website and FaceBook page for volunteers to help with inventory.
- He has also compiled a list of suggestions for training sessions to take place after the business portion of the Club meetings. Experts in satellite tracking, and Winlink are being sought for giving presentations. Any members who have suggestions for meetings may pass them along to Tom via his email tomcworth@aol.com.
- A Foxhunt is planned for April 23rd in Leila Arboreteum starting around 10am (weather permitting). Willy mentioned Barry County had conducted a beginner's Foxhunt and one for advanced radio operators.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul KE8MOI received an email from AA8RK, Public Information Coordinator for the Michigan Section, requesting information about our club Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO is responsible for creating and enabling clear and concise information for government agencies, news outlets, social media, and the public.
- Dan WB8KC asked what benefit there was to the club in having a PIO. Tom W. explained the PIO would help disseminate information about Hams, our club, and highlight the positive things Hams do in our communities.
- Kyle W8KDB asked if there was anything in the Club constitution about voting for PIO. Per Tom WR8G, PIO position can be by appointment of the President.
- A motion was made for Bret KD8RHB to become our PIO. Motion was seconded and passed. Bret pledged to make connections with local clubs and emergency managers. At present, the PIO will be maintained as a non-voting member of the board
- Willy AB8WD mentioned the Barry Roubaix bike race and the need for Hams to assist with SAG (support and gear)

wagons, and check-stations. Over 4,000 bicyclists participate in this annual race. Hams will have APRS in the SAG wagons to allow for locating the vehicles on the course.

- Several suggestions were made regarding setting up a club trailer for Parks On The Air, Jamboree On The Air, Brooks Field in Marshall for their Fly-In or during the Home Tour, World's Longest Breakfast Table (June 11th), and Calhoun Co Fair (Aug 14-20th).

**Bret KE8RHB:**

- HIAD is being planned for May 7th (siren test date) at the Battle Creek Police Station or the Public Works building on Kendall. He should know by the end of the day this Monday 3/21 and will put out the word. Chris, our EMD from Calhoun County, has expressed an interest in getting his Ham license. The State is really pushing the EMDs to become involved.

A motion made to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:22 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ  
SMARS Secretary

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**Board Meeting Minutes 04/01/2022**

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM

**Officers present:** Paul KE8MOI, Tom ke8gdn, W8KDB, Diane KD8WXA, Steph W8AEZ, Kyle W8KDB

**Topics of Discussion:**

- Hamfest – Paul was pleased with the tremendous volunteer turnout for setup and tear down. Many vendors told him they left with a lot less product than what they'd brought. One vendor said it felt like a "buyers hamfest vs. a lookers hamfest." A total of 100 tables and 544 tickets were sold, and there was approximately \$2,368 earned at the end of the event. Extra hamfest tickets will be donated to the Skywarn club for their 50/50 raffle. Paul KE8MOI was approached by members of the Kalamazoo amateur radio club who asked if he would be willing to help them run their Hamfest. Paul accepted. His thinking is that it would be nice to build bridges with other local clubs. There were a couple of complaints. One was that the curtain was too close to the elevator, making scooter and wheelchair entry difficult. Some vendors were confused about where they needed to go to unload their wares. Suggestions for improvement for the club's next hamfest:
  - Have vendors tear off part of their entry ticket and write their feedback about the event

- Add an area to the vendor registration form where they can indicate how many chairs they need
- Send clear instructions as to where they can park to unload their wares when sending their confirmation letter/email
- Have handicapped parking available at the vendor's door on the lower level
- VE Session – Kyle reported the Hamfest VE session went very smoothly. One examinee earned all three tickets (Technician, General, Extra) at the session!
- Club Merchandise – Tom KE8GDN spoke with vendor Gold Medal Ideas about creating caps and t-shirts bearing the SMARS emblem for our club. The vendor was receptive to this. They would need SMARS to provide the logo to them.
- Foxhunts – Tom KE8GDN proposed holding a will be the Saturday after the April club meeting. The location will be Leila Arboretum.

Meeting was closed at ended 7:20 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, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

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.

All repeaters are available via EchoLink (70cm and 1.25m are W8DF-R; 2m is W8DF-L)

## 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><br>3rd Thursday of every month<br>Maple United Methodist Church<br>342 Capital Avenue NE<br>Battle Creek, MI 49017 | <b>SKYWARN Coffee</b><br>1st Saturday of every month<br>Immediately after Siren Test<br>Coney Island, N.E. Capital<br>Battle Creek, MI | <b>BLB Luncheon</b><br>1st Thursday of every month<br>Coney Island, 962 Capital<br>Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI | <b>SMARS Breakfast</b><br>2nd Saturday of every month<br>Coney Island, 962 Capital<br>Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI |
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| <b>SMARS Nets:</b><br>Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 MHz<br>Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 MHz<br>Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz<br>Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 /443.95 MHz<br>Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 MHz<br>Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz<br><br><b>Other Nets:</b><br>Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz<br><br><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i> | <b>Upcoming Events:</b><br><br>Club Meeting: April 21st @ 7:00pm<br>BLB Luncheon: May 5th @ 11:30am<br>Board Meeting: May 6th @ 6:30pm<br>Club Breakfast: May 14th @ 8:30am<br>VE Session: April 28th @ 7:00pm |
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