



FEEDBACK

August 2022

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.

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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.

Board Member Elections

This a reminder that this October is Board Member Elections. If you would like to be added to the ballot, please let Paul know so you can be added. A 5th position will also be available (Member At Large) this time around, unless someone else decides to become President.

Other News

Activate 5 Michigan lighthouses and get an award!

Because:

- I have so much fun operating from lighthouses,
- Michigan (my home state) has the most lighthouses of any state in the U.S. (the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society lists 203 sites in their database),
- and I would like to promote operating from Michigan lightouses,

I'm proposing the Michigan Lighthouse Award. The purpose of this

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: 3 Centimeter and Up
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW
Date: 08/20 – 08/21
URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

Rookie Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: RTTY
Date: 08/21
URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

EME Contest

Bands: 13 Centimeters and Up
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW
Date: 08/27 – 08/28
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

September VHF

Bands: 6 Meters and Up
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW
Date: 09/10 – 09/12
URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

10 GHz and Up

Bands: 3 Centimeter and Up
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW
Date: 09/17 – 09/18
URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

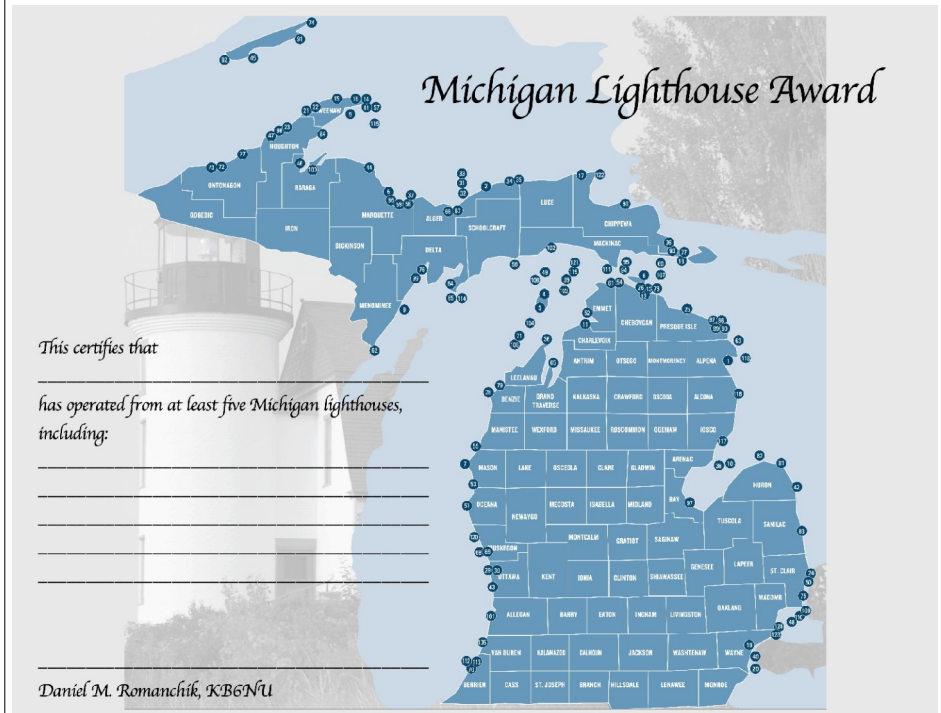
EME Contest

Bands: 13 Centimeters and Up
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW
Date: 09/17 – 09/18
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>*

award is to get people on the air and get them to visit some of these lighthouse sites. Maybe they'll also be motivated to join some of these lighthouse societies and help out with lighthouse preparation. (I am a member of the Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse Society and the Alcona Historical Society, which is working to preserve the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse.)

Here's a mockup that I came up with this morning. It's derived from a State of Michigan lighthouse map. Each lighthouse is numbered, and I plan to put the list on the back of the certificate. (If you have some skill at graphic design, and would like to help out with this award, please get in touch.)



To qualify for the award, you'd have to make at least five contacts from at least five different Michigan ARLHS lighthouse sites. I'm thinking that there will be a PDF version that can be downloaded from this website, and if someone wanted a printed version, then there will be small charge for printing and mailing.

To be honest, I don't qualify for the award yet, myself. I have only activated four different lighthouses, including the Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse, Lightship Huron, Tawas Point Lighthouse, and the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse. I plan to visit the Belle Isle Lighthouse, which is actually the closest one to me here in Ann Arbor, before the summer is over.

Let me know if you have any interest in this award, especially if you already qualify for it. I'm going to go ahead with this one way or another.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

09/10/2022

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Location: Okemos, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

URL:

09/10/2022

GRAHamfest 2022

Location: Wyoming, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

URL:

<https://www.w8dc.org/hamfest/2022/GRAMHamFestFlyer.pdf>

09/11/2022

Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

URL:

<https://www.findlayradioclub.org>

09/18/2022

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://w8tqe.com>

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/activate-5-michigan-lighthouses-and-get-an-award/>

Hams Radio Operators Support American Red Cross in Kentucky Flood Response

As the flood waters began to recede following devastating rainfall in Kentucky that began on July 26, the American Red Cross reported that over 400 of their disaster workers were on the ground, as well as dozens more in other locations. They provided shelter, meals, and other forms of support. Red Cross teams also worked alongside their state and municipal partners among others, including Kentucky Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, was in touch with American Red Cross personnel in the affected area. He said ham radio volunteers were supporting Red Cross damage assessment teams with radio communications. "The rural and mountainous terrain of the affected area adds to the already difficult situation," said Johnston.

Much of the local response effort is being coordinated by Steve Morgan, W4NHO, of Owensboro, Kentucky. The response of radio amateurs throughout the region is under and in cooperation with an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kentucky Chapter of the American Red Cross.

ARES® groups from Ohio and Virginia have also been in touch with hams in the affected areas and have been on standby, ready to respond if needed.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/hams-radio-operators-support-american-red-cross-in-kentucky-flood-response>

Meeting Minutes 07/21/2022

Called to order at 7:02 PM

Officers in attendance: Paul KE8MOI, Tom W. KE8GDN, Diane KD8WXA, Stephanie W8AEZ

Others in attendance: Kelly KE8MWQ, Dan WB8KC, Ivan W8IDR, Jay N8ARR, Bret KD8RHB, Don W8RVT, John W8JRD, Larry KE8TOB, Jim KC8JJQ, Kyle W8KDB, Scotty KE8RFK.

Secretary's report: motion was made to accept, motion 2nded, motion accepted.

Treasurer's report: motion was made to accept, motion 2nded, motion accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Kalamazoo Hamfest is Oct 16th (Sunday) 8:00AM-Noon. SMARS members are invited to help out.
- Skywarn/CERT – Report from Bret KD8RHB – CERT assisted at the June breakfast table event. There was one call for medical assistance for an attendee. also helped out at the balloon festival as rovers, backup support for event staff and the fireworks show. This was the first time they helped with the “show-box” for the Thunderbirds’ air show (Friday, Sat., Sunday, and Monday). Bret ran two simultaneous nets. Spotters had to check in with any rail movement coming in from Eaton, Kalamazoo, and Calhoun Counties toward the airport. Information was then forwarded to the FAA.

CERT communications volunteers are needed for the Calhoun County Fair. The next CERT class will be held in September 16 (6-10pm), 17 (9am-5pm), and 24th (9am-5pm) at the Public Works Dept on Kendall and is open to anybody. The 5th District exercise will be at the end of September and a CORES exercise (next week Thursday?) The mode for CORES has not yet been determined.

Four warning sirens in Calhoun County are not working (including the I-94 rest stop siren). RadioComm had previously serviced this siren but they are unable to at this time. Bret has contacted vendor West Shore to service these sirens. Emmett Township is investigating putting up two sirens. Bret was in 9:00 AM board meeting for interoperability. WinLink will be used for the 5th District exercise.

SMART 911/RAVES was recently rolled out (replaces Nixel). A ham-in-a-day (HIAD) session is being planned for October 15th (Saturday) at the Battle Creek Police Dept. Bret recently got his SHARES license (FEMA).

- Field Day 2022 – Kyle W8KDB, Dan WB8KC, Kelly KE8MWQ, and Paul KE8MOI stayed overnight Saturday. Kudos to Kyle for his guidance with setup. Kelly got her 1st HF contact. A lot of contacts were made via PSK31. Many thanks to Players Club for catering Saturday's

dinner. Per Kyle, our total score was 2,050 points (generator, public information, public location, daily message, elected official visited the site, educational activities, social media): 125 digital (x2 multiplier) and 250 by phone. They are doing aggregate scores. Persons who participated via their home station can submit their contact data to “SouthernMIARS” to be included with SMARS’ club score. Some equipment will need to be repaired/serviced before next Field Day (Butternut antenna, one mast is difficult to crank up).

- VE Session – Nest session is Thursday, Aug 25th. Kyle mentioned the ARRL article about the replacement of the CORES system. He recommended everyone move their CORES account over to the new system sooner than later.
- Repeaters – Don W8RVT had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tom W. KE8GDN – He has organized four Foxhunts this year. Additional foxhunts will be postponed until later this fall.
- Trailers have been pulled by the barns at his QTH. He sprayed the tops of the trailers with Flex Seal. There is a leak in trailer #3 (HF) near the vent and some surface rust. Tom asked if the club wanted to pursue RV Roof Seal - (white elastomeric with reflective material). Pros are that it would keep the trailers cooler and it would be easier to patch. We would likely need 5 gallons of each. The trailers would need to be cleaned prior to applying the RV sealant.
- Dan WB8KC and Jay N8ARR suggested that the club consider allocating money to purchase RV sealant for all three trailers. The board will discuss it at the next meeting. Jay N8ARR volunteered some funds to cover some of the cost of the RV sealant.
- Tom W. asked for ideas for programs for the next couple of months. Bret KD8RHB will do a WinLink presentation at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- KQ8N Mike reported an error in the Feedback. He had actually offered to cover the VE room fees, not pay for individual exam fees.
- Paul KE8MOI would like to put one of the club trailers in the BC Holiday Parade. There is no entry fee for the parade. He suggested that the club print off cards to hand out with the club's information.

Tonight's Program: Attempted 8:16 PM Satellite contact with the International Space Station.

Meeting was adjourned 8:16 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 08/05/2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

Officers present: Paul KE8MOI, Diane KD8WXA, Tom W. KE8GDN, Stephanie W8AEZ

Topics of Discussion:

- Paul received the post office bill for the club's PO Box. He paid the \$83 billed for July-Dec 2022. Diane confirmed she paid \$83 for Jan-June 2022.
- Paul was unaware that the club had previously reimbursed members for supplying snacks for the monthly membership meetings. He offered to pay \$15/meeting for snacks.
- 50/50 Drawings – A member brought up that sometimes people donate their winnings back to the club and that the donated money should go toward the club's operating expenses and not be added to the 'pot' of money for the end-of-year December Christmas party drawing.
- Club trailers – Board members discussed the trailer repairs proposed at the July membership meeting and authorized the use of up to \$500 for the purchase of materials. Jay N8ARR offered \$200 to help cover the cost.
- 2022 Club Christmas party - Due to the timing of Christmas this year, December 3rd appears to be the best date. Paul will follow up on scheduling Coney Island's Banquet Room for the event.
- John W8JRD brought up that the club's special service status has lapsed. Stephanie will follow up on steps to reinstate the status.
- Stephanie brought up that SMARS had previously taken a club trailer to Brooks Field for the Fly-in/home tour weekend to showcase amateur radio. She will follow up with the Marshall organizers to see if this is a possibility for the 2022 event. Bret KD8RHB has also expressed an interest in participating.
- 2022 City of Battle Creek Christmas parade - Paul would like the club to participate. Bret KD8RHB is also interested in participating. Paul called the BC Community Foundation, left a message, and is waiting for a callback.

Meeting ended at 6:55pm

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

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: August 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: September 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: September 2nd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: September 10th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 25th @ 7:00pm HIAD: October 15 th @ 3:00pm @ Battle Creek Police Dept
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