



FEEDBACK

February 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 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 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.

Crossroads Hamfest

As a reminder to everyone, the Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap is March 19th (third Saturday in March). Table reservations are slow at this time and without enough vendors, we will be forced to cancel the Hamfest. If you know some of the vendors who have been at the Crossroads Hamfest or know someone looking to offload some extra equipment they have laying around, please direct them to the website or pass the form to them.

Also, if the Hamfest is not canceled, we will need volunteers to help run it as well as VE's for the Testing Session. Please let us know if you are available to help out.

Other News

HamCation 2022 Roars Back to Life

Thwarted in 2021 by the pandemic, HamCation roared back to life Friday. Attendee traffic was heavy all around the Central Florida Fairgrounds in Orlando, despite Friday being historically a "slow" day, with hams visiting vendors, shopping the flea market, socializing, and

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

School Club Roundup

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

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 02/14 – 02/18

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

International DX – CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 02/19 – 02/20

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

International DX – CW

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 03/05 – 03/06

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Rookie Roundups

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

Mode: SSB

Date: 04/18

URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

**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>*

enjoying other hamfest activities.

The ARRL floor area was busy throughout the day, with staff, officers, and volunteers serving current and prospective members in several areas, including membership, clubs, contesting, and more.

One popular attraction was the ARRL Lab section, where attendees could have their handheld transceivers tested by ARRL lab personnel and volunteers, to verify power output and measure out-of-band harmonic emissions.

HamCation 2022 continues through Sunday, February 13.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/hamcation-2022-roars-back-to-life>

Beijing Winter Olympics Special Event Station BY1CRA/WO22 is Active

The Chinese Radio Amateurs Club ([CRAC](#)) [has announced](#) that Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games special event station BY1CRA/WO22 is now active on FT8, SSB, and CW on 160 – 10 meters and will operate until the games close on February 20.

Contact awards are available. A [log](#) is posted to Club Log. — Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via CRAC

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/beijing-winter-olympics-special-event-station-by1cra-wo22-is-active>

Some New Rules Going into Effect this Year for ARRL Field Day

After taking a few detours over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, [ARRL Field Day](#) rules are being updated on a permanent basis starting this summer. ARRL conducted a Field Day community survey with invitations propagated far and wide, and direct emails sent to more than 15,000 individuals and ARRL-affiliated clubs. After sorting through, reviewing, and discussing the survey results, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee recommended a number of rule changes for ARRL Field Day, which will take place this year over the June 25 – 26 weekend.

Starting this year, the maximum PEP output for a transmitter used by anyone submitting a Field Day log will be 100 W. The power multiplier of 2 will remain in place, and the high-power category will be removed from the rules. Until this year, the maximum low-power limit had been 150 W for most ARRL-sponsored operating events. The power multiplier will remain at 5 for QRP participants running a maximum of 5 W or less. As previously announced, 100 W is now the low-power category limit for all ARRL and IARU HF Contests, effective January 1, 2022.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

02/26/2022

Cabin Fever Ham Fest

Location: LaPorte, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club

URL: N/A

02/26/2022

Livonia Amateur Radio Club 51st Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Redford, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

URL: <https://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop/>

03/19/2022

Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

URL: <https://w8df.com/>

03/20/2022

CANCELED – Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair

URL: <http://tmrahamradio.org>

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>

A couple of changes instituted initially as accommodations for the COVID-19 pandemic will remain. Class D (Home) stations will continue to be able to earn points for contacts with other Class D stations. The club aggregate scoring change initiated in 2020 as a temporary measure will become part of the permanent rules. In the aggregate scoring plan, the scores of individual stations are combined under the score of a single club.

Another change, involving Rule 7.3.2 Media Publicity, has been modified. Rules to date have offered 100 bonus points for attempting to obtain publicity and demonstrating same. With the ease of posting via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and various other media websites, Field Day participants will now be required to obtain publicity, not just try to do so. Any combination of bona fide media hits would qualify for the bonus points. For example, posting the details of your upcoming or ongoing Field Day activity, or your Field Day results, on a club or news media site, on Facebook, or via Twitter and Instagram would meet the bonus criteria. Photos and videos are encouraged as part of media posts.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/some-new-rules-going-into-effect-this-year-for-arrl-field-day>

Meeting Minutes 01/20/2022

Meeting was called to order 7:08 pm

Pledge
Introductions

Officers in attendance: Paul KE8MOI, Diane KD8VXA, Stephanie W8AEZ

Members in attendance: Don W8RVT, Smokey N5MKY, Kyle W8KDB, Don W8RVT, Rick N8RCF, Jim W8JMZ, Bret KD8RHB, Dan N8EC, John W8JRD, Willie AB8WD, Dan WB8KC, John W8JRD.

Warm welcome was extended to newest HAM Melanie KE8TPQ.

Secretary's report: Motion made to accept the report. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Motion made to accept the report as passed around at the club meeting. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest - Jay N8ARR brought in the tickets (yellow). He contacted Livonia ARC to see if they would put out fliers at their Hamfest and is awaiting word back. Per Paul KE8MOI, Tom WR8G has the schematic for the table setup and is willing to help with setup arrangement. Tom WR8G has provided a list of prior vendors and their contact information to Terry N8LN and Paul KE8MOI. They will be sending out an email blast to these vendors this weekend. Paul talked with Cheryl Pickett @ Wings Stadium. Things are still a "go" for now, however, she said that (depending on COVID) there is the possibility that the event might be canceled.
The ARRL posting for our Hamfest was missing. Kyle W8KDB followed up with the ARRL which responded that our application for sanctioning was lost. Smokey resubmitted the application to the ARRL and confirmation was received from the ARRL granting their approval for sanctioning. A table will be provided for ARRL representatives free of charge. SMARS will hold a VE session at the Hamfest.
- AUXCOMM/Skywarn Report - Calhoun EC Bret KD8RHB has put together a newsletter for WX8BTL BC Skywarn/Auxcomm. There was a good turnout of members at the Tuesday night meeting. Chris Young, new Emergency Services Director, was introduced. Urbandale school siren did not work at the January siren test. Cause appeared to be an error on the power meter at the site. The siren at Avenue A and Dickman Road also did not function. The vendor (Westshore) will need to send out a technician. They are hoping to get this siren back online by March.

FEMA Region 5 exercise - Operation High Water - is planned for the end of July, exact date and time is yet to be determined.

Auxcomm exercise is scheduled for April 30th, focused on WinLink. All districts in Michigan and possibly Illinois will be involved. US Forest Service is charging a fee for repeaters. This Saturday, January 22, will be a virtual "storm chasers summit" chasersummit.com. Cost: \$60. D-Star simplex (145.000 MHz) will be used for check-ins at next Tuesday's net. VHF simplex exercise "Winter heat" is going on this month. This is third year it's been held. Go to Hamactive.com for more information.

- Winter Field Day - Scheduled for Jan. 29th-Jan. 30th (starts at 2 PM, runs for 24 hours). Set up at Uncle Larry's (15596 15 Mile Road, just off Verona Road), 9:30 AM on Jan 29th. Will have a heated trailer (county's emergency operation center), operating station operating (1-I class). Operating from home is 1-H. Additional points are awarded for emergency power. Callsign will be AB8I (Scott's). Highlight last year was a contact made with a station in Antarctica! Everyone is welcome to stop in.
Note: Winter Field Day was canceled
- VE Report - VEC Kyle W8KDB reported there were three people at the December VE session, two received their tickets. An impromptu VE session was held last night at CRT. Examinee earned his Technician class license.
- Club Repeaters - Don W8RVT reported the 220 MHz repeater now requires a tone due to interference. He was at the repeater site this past Tuesday to check for the source of an open squelch sound on Echolink.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tom KE8GDN was under the weather so he did not attend. Arnie WA8VRA was also unable to attend as his YL Val is not doing well. Thank you's go out to John W8JRD for making coffee arrangements with Coney Island; Jay N8ARR for supplying sugar, creamer, and stirrers; Paul KE8MOI for the cookies; and Melanie KE8TPQ for the delicious coffee cakes!

NEW BUSINESS:

- Winterheat VHF simplex competition is running this entire month. N. American QSO Party this weekend. Info is on ARRL.net. Dan WB8KC asked if anyone in the club had done a presentation on EMP. Rick N8RCF indicated he had a presentation in the works.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 02/04/2022

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

Officers present: Paul KE8MOI, Tom KE8GDN, Kyle W8KDB, Stephanie W8AEZ

Topics of Discussion:

- Hamfest – Paul has received table reservations from three vendors. Wings has no COVID restrictions at this time. A list of all vendors registered for the 2019 Hamfest was supplied to Paul courtesy of Tom WR8G and Paul will send a mass email (from SMARS Gmail) to these vendors tomorrow (2/05/22). A Hamfest volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated at the Feb club meeting. The treasurer will need to get petty cash for the cash boxes. 1-2 cash boxes will be placed at the front entry and 1 box back by the vendor entrance. Jay N8ARR has the ticket tumbler and Hamfest signs. Tom KE8GDN has the club's insurance form from Mercer for the event. He will remove the language on the application about COVID protocol as there are currently no restrictions, request that Mercer write the coverage for Friday and Saturday, and mail it out tomorrow (2/05/22). A couple of tickets for our SMARS Hamfest were sent to the Kalamazoo club.
- Club Presentations – Tom KE8GDN presented a list of proposed trainings and presenters for future club meetings. An antenna build is one of the projects proposed. Paul said he'd heard something about a light bulb antenna from a HAM (Ted?) during his recent visit to the straight-key competition in Adrian. Ted apparently holds the record for the longest distance contact with a light bulb antenna. Paul plans to go down to Adrian and work with Ted to build one.
- Club membership – Since last month's meeting, applications for one lifetime membership application and one new membership have been received. A reminder for members to send in their dues for 2022 will be placed in the next Feedback.

Meeting closed @ 7:15 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

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: Feb 17th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: March 3rd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: March 4th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: March 12th @ 8:30am VE Session: Feb 24th @ 7:00pm
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