



FEEDBACK

July 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.

Other News

Is Field Day still relevant?

I always enjoy Field Day, and this year was no exception. But, as I sat there, punching call signs into N1MM and watching my log and the logs of the other networked stations, it occurred to me that there were an awful lot of 1B, 1D, and 1E stations. I'm guessing that the majority of these stations were one-person operations operating from their back porch.

I know that Covid is still an issue, and some hams are just anti-social, but I think that these folks are really missing out. I mean, it's nice to try something new once in a while, and the first year was fun. I operated completely QRP and battery-powered. The second year, however, was completely unsatisfying, even though we did manage to cobble together a small group.

Is Field Day still relevant?

This year was a lot better. Our club was 3A, but even so, attendance was way down. Noting that, and noting all the single-operator stations, I'm beginning to wonder if Field Day is still relevant. I've always described Field Day as a combination club social event, emergency preparedness exercise, and public relations event. With so many

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

Bands: 1.25 Meters and Up
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW
Date: 08/06 – 08/07
URL: www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest

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: 08/18
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>*

single-operator stations, it's certainly not much of a club event, and I doubt that the 1B, 1D, and 1E ops are doing much public relations.

I suppose that the 1B and 1E stations are exercising some of their emergency communications capabilities, but a lot of training is now required to really take part in emergency communications. I'm not sure that knowing that your generator is working and how to start it would be all that valuable in a real emergency situation.

Even with all the 1B, 1D, and 1E stations on the air, it seemed to me that participation was down. At least it was down on CW. After searching and pounding a bit, I had no problem at all finding a clear frequency on which to start calling CQ.

Should Field Day encourage more VHF/UHF operation?

Another reason that makes me wonder about the relevance of Field Day is that operation mostly takes place on HF. Sure, some clubs have VHF/UHF stations, but I'd say that those are the exception rather than the rule. And, since the majority of licensed hams are Techs, how appealing is it for them to come out and participate in Field Day?

Also, most emergency communications now take place on VHF, UHF, and above. How is making rapid-fire CW contacts on 80 meters training people to be better at emergency communications?

I mentioned this to my friend Mark, W8MP, who happened to wander into the CW station while I was pondering this idea. He said, "Well, at least this is getting people on the air." That's true, I guess, but there are all manner of contests and operating events that get people on the air.

I'm not exactly sure what we can do to increase Field Day participation, but here are a couple of ideas:

- Give more points to VHF/UHF and up QSOs to encourage more operation on those bands.
- Require every club operation to have a GOTA station, or give more points to GOTA contacts. It seems to me that GOTA stations are one of the really good things about Field Day and it should be promoted more.
- Give points for activities specifically directed at Tech licensees. I'm not sure what that would be, though.

I'm certainly interested in hearing what you think about this? Am I off base here? If not, how would you make Field Day more relevant to the situation that amateur radio finds itself in these days.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/is-field-day-still-relevant/>

FCC Legacy CORES System to be Retired

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will retire the [Legacy version](#) of its COmmission REgistration System (CORES) on July 15, 2022. CORES is the FCC's public-facing database that enables and tracks certain types of FCC and FCC applicant actions, including amateur radio applications and licenses. Its implementation has enabled routine amateur applications and licenses to be issued overnight instead of over weeks, as was the case with earlier methods.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

08/06/2022

Elkhart East Hamfest

Location: Elkhart, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network

URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

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>
[GRAHamFestFlyer.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>

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® advises the amateur radio community to transition to the [updated version of CORES](#) as soon as possible.

In essence, CORES is designed to identify those who hold certain types of FCC licenses and FCC authorizations, including amateur licenses, and organize them in an easily accessible manner under a common FCC Registration Number (FRN) regardless of whether one holds a single such authority or thousands. The new CORES, in addition to assigning individual FRNs, allows holders of multiple FRNs to aggregate them under a single account where the licenses and authorization, fees and payments, and related actions can be administered from within the same account.

In effect, new CORES can be conceptualized as an electronic interactive file folder. The [updated version of CORES](#) has been available since 2016, and now its use will be mandatory for all amateur licensees when submitting amateur-related applications.

Starting on July 15, 2022, the Legacy CORES website will re-direct users to the [Commission's updated CORES](#) site. Although some functionalities in the old system will continue to work for a short time, the [FCC has urged all users](#) to transition to the updated CORES system to take advantage of its enhanced security and functionality.

Register with the FCC

Licensees that do not already have an FCC CORES Username Account must create one with a unique username (a valid email address) and password. After creating the account, when logged in, users should associate their existing FRN or FRNs with this account. Instructions for doing so are on the [FCC Registration Help](#) page. One's FRN is printed on all current amateur applications and licenses, and will not change. FRNs can also be found by looking up one's call sign in the Commission's ULS (<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>) or by using the FCC's [advanced search](#) page.

The FCC has posted [Tutorial Videos](#) to assist with the transition. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, recommends viewing the videos "Getting Started With the New CORES," which explains how to register for a CORES Username Account, and "Associating an FRN to a Username," which instructs Legacy CORES users on how to link one or more existing FRNs to a username. [FCC CORES Registration Instructions](#) can also be found on the ARRL website.

Additional information is available on the FCC website or by calling the FCC Licensing Support Center at (877) 480-3201, Option 4, and on the FCC's [e-support](#) page.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-legacy-cores-system-to-be-retired>

Meeting Minutes 06/16/2022

Called to order at 7:00 PM

Officers in attendance: Paul KE8MOI, Tom W. KE8GDN, Steph W8AEZ, Diane KD8WXA, Kyle W8KDB.

Officers in attendance: Paul KE8MOI, Tom W. KE8GDN, Steph W8AEZ, Diane KD8WXA, Kyle W8KDB.

Secretary's Report: Motion was made to accept. Motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report: Motion was made to accept. Motion was seconded and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Skywarn – Next meeting is June 21st at the American Legion at 6:30 PM. Hot dogs will be provided for attendees. Jim W8JMZ reported storm damage south of Athens - trees and wires down between midnight and 2 AM.
- Field Day – Setup at Fort Custer Recreation Area will be Friday, June 24th, at 3:00 PM. We only have two people to pull trailers (down from 3). Per Smokey, trailers #2 and 3 need to be pulled out first. Trailer inventory was completed a couple of weekends ago. Paul received a message this morning from Bret KD8RHB, confirming that Mayor Behnke will make a visit and deliver a proclamation and State Representative Haadsma will also visit the site on Saturday at 3:00 PM. Paul and Stephanie have reached out to some of the local scout troops to let them know they are welcome to attend Field Day (Radio Merit Badge & foxhunting experience). No luck so far in finding a caterer for Saturday's dinner. Kyle received a catering recommendation for Player's Club bar. Stephanie W8AEZ will follow up with them. WR8G Tom has a new server to use for Field Day. The site for the trailers has been mowed. Jay N8ARR has the club banner and will bring it out to the site. Jay, Kyle, and Smokey will bring canopies. Smokey N5MKY printed off the site application, site plan and fire safety plan, and insurance rider. He will also furnish the trailer layout. Don W8RVT will be running PSK31 in one of the trailers.

- VE Report – Next session is Thursday, June 23rd at 7:30 PM. Two people have expressed an interest in attending.
- Repeaters – Don, W8RVT, said he had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tom W. KE8GDN will host a foxhunting antenna build tonight after the business portion of the meeting.
- He asked for recommendations for a HAM to present on satellite communications. Paul KE8MOI and Don W8RVT offered to help with that presentation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mike Russell KQ8N has put together a welcome letter geared toward new HAMs. (Copies were placed on tables for all to examine at tonight's meeting). Mike is passing along contact info for new HAMs to Paul, and Paul will send out the letters.
- Mike also brought up that he would like to ask our members to consider sponsoring a VE session (sponsors would pay for examinees' test fee).
- Smokey brought up an ARRL grant for youth HAMs which covers their test and license fees.
- The club is reimbursing Terry N8LN tonight for covering the internet fees for the repeaters (April-May-June 2022).
- Don W8RVT mentioned the article about Paul in last month's QST. Paul explained that he made a POTA contact on PSK31 a while back with a guy. About 2 weeks later Paul received a phone call - it was the editor of QST (the same HAM he talked to on PSK31). He interviewed Paul over the phone, the result was the article in QST.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jay N8ARR and seconded by Smokey N5MKY.

Meeting was adjourned 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 07/01/2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Officers present: Paul KE8MOI, Diane KD8WXA, Kyle W8KDB

Other: Smokey N5MKY, John W8JRD, Tom WR8G, Jan W8JKG

Topics of Discussion:

The meeting was mainly about Field Day.

- Paul thanked Tom G and Corry's help at both setting up and tearing down for Field Day.
- Smokey mentioned he will continue helping secure the location, but will most likely not be available to help with setup, tear down, or camping out with the trailers.
- Paul talked about about the contacts that he made during Field Day and the interactions he had with people who were visiting and operating.
- Paul also extended a thank you to Kyle W8KDB for helping explain how to setup the towers and tear them down.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 PM.

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: July 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: August 4th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: August 5th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: August 13th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 25th @ 7:00pm
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