



# Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

## FEEDBACK

June 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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### Club News

### Membership Renews

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 renews (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 respectfully, 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.

### SMARS Field Day

SMARS will be setting up for Field Day at the Fort Custer Recreation Area (5163 Fort Custer DriveState Highway M-96, Augusta, MI 49012). This will require a Park Pass to enter. If your vehicle does not have the Park Pass, one can be purchased at the Office for \$17.00 (motorcycle is only \$11.00). To have it added to your vehicle for a year, it is an addition \$12.00 when you renew your license plate (\$6.00 for motorcycle when you renew your plate).

We also recently discovered that Dug-In (the restraint we normally get good from for Saturday) will be closed on Saturday and OT's is booked through June. The board is working on an alternative for food on Saturday.

### Other News

### FCC Proposes Record \$34,000 Fine for Alleged Interference and

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### 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)

### IARU HF World Championship

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

Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW

Date: 07/09 - 07/10

URL: [www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship](http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship)

\*A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](#),

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## Unauthorized Transmissions During Idaho Wildfire

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed a \$34,000 fine against Jason Frawley of Lewiston, Idaho, for allegedly interfering with radio operations of the U.S. Forest Service during firefighting activities for the Johnson Creek Fire near Elk River in July 2021. The FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on June 8, 2022 to Frawley. The FCC states in the NAL that Frawley holds an Extra-class Amateur Radio Service license, WA7CQ, and is the owner/operator of Leader Communications LLC, licensee of eight microwave licenses and one business license.

The FCC alleged in the NAL that "On July 17, 2021, using his amateur hand-held radio, Frawley transmitted five (5) times, and on July 18, 2021, Frawley transmitted three (3) times on frequencies allocated and authorized for government use, apparently causing harmful interference with his apparently unlawful transmissions."

The frequencies with which Frawley is alleged to have interfered were being used to coordinate firefighting crews from the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Department of Land to fight the 1,000-acre Johnson Creek Fire, including the communications between fire suppressant aircraft and ground crews.

The NAL includes details of the Forest Service's complaint and the FCC's investigation. On July 18, 2021, the Johnson Creek fire operations section chief drove to the Elk River airstrip and hanger where Frawley, who had disclosed his location, was found holding a radio next to a banner that read, "Leader Communications." Frawley admitted to transmitting on government frequencies and identifying himself as "comm tech." He argued that he was not trying to cause interference but instead was transmitting to provide information to the fire fighters.

"[A]t no time was I trying to disturb any other communications or air traffic. I was honestly just giving them information I had since I have been working on the butte since the early 90's . . ." wrote Frawley in his October 15, 2021 response to a Letter of Inquiry from FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith.

The FCC however concluded that "Frawley's admitted unauthorized transmissions on frequencies for which he did not have a license had the potential to cause substantial harm to life and property."

The FCC held that Frawley, by his own admission, apparently willfully and repeatedly violated the Commission's rules when he made eight separate radio transmissions on a frequency for which he did not have a license. The FCC stated that unauthorized transmissions on

## **Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions**

### **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>

### **08/06/2022**

Elkhart East Hamfest  
Location: Elkhart, IN  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network  
URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

frequencies licensed to public safety entities using those frequencies to respond to emergencies also constitutes a violation of Section 333 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

A news release from the FCC states that the fine is the largest of its kind proposed. "The Communications Act prohibits such interference with authorized radio communications and the Commission takes very seriously any interference with public safety communications," said the FCC. In a separate statement, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel added, "You can't interfere with public safety communications. Full stop. So today we propose the largest fine of its type for this interference that put fire suppression and public safety itself at risk."

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-record-34-000-fine-for-alleged-interference-and-unauthorized-transmissions-during-idaho>

## **2022 Youth on the Air (YOTA) Camp is June 12 – 17**

The 2022 Youth on the Air (YOTA) Camp will be on the air and streaming online. The campers will be operating special event station W8Y from the National Voice of America (VOA) Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township, Ohio, as well as from their hotel. Activation of W8Y will begin on the evening of Sunday, June 12, and conclude at 1 PM EDT on Friday, June 17. Campers will operate the station as they finish projects, between camp sessions, and during their free time.

In addition, dedicated HF station operating times will be on Monday, June 13, from 2 - 11 PM EDT. Dedicated satellite station operating times will be on Thursday, June 16, and Friday, June 17, from 10 AM - 1 PM EDT. Earth-moon-Earth (EME) will be in operation on Tuesday, June 14, and Monday, June 13, from 9 to 11 PM EDT.

The opening and closing ceremonies will be streamed live on the Youth on the Air YouTube channel. The opening ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 12, from 4 PM EDT - 6:30 PM EDT and will feature keynote speaker Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, the founder of Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI). The closing ceremony is on Friday, June 17, from 1 PM - 2 PM EDT. The YOTA YouTube channel will also feature a daily video that will spotlight the activities of the previous day.

For details about the 2022 YOTA Summer Camp, download the brochure from the YOTA web page, at [www.youthontheair.org](http://www.youthontheair.org). For additional information, contact Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, at [director@youthontheair.org](mailto:director@youthontheair.org).

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/2022-youth-on-the-air-yota-camp-is-june-12-17>

## Meeting Minutes 05/19/2022

**Board members present:** Tom W. KE8GDN, Diane KD8WXA

15 Members present, plus 1 Ham Radio Operator

**Secretary's report:** Motion made to accept the report as printed in Feedback. The motion was seconded and accepted.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer's report was distributed at the meeting. A question was brought up about \$150.00 to Skywarn. It was determined to be the donation for the Park for Field Day. A motion was made to accept the report. The motion was seconded and accepted.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Nothing to report as we have already had it for this year.
- Skywarn – No one from Skywarn was present at the Meeting, so no updates for Skywarn.
- Field Day - Smokey has been given permission to run Field Day. Setup will happen on Friday June 24th around 3 PM. Smokey would like to do a Parks on the Air (POTA) Friday night since we are in a State Park. We will be operating as normal, 3 trailers and 4 radios (one being digital). Field Day starts on Saturday June 25th at 2 PM. Tom (KE8GDN) is planning to do a Fox Hunt at Field Day, wanting to do a more Long Distance Fox Hunt. He is working out awards for the Most Foxes found and/or the fastest a Fox is found. The prize will be something laser etched (details still be worked on). Jay will bring out his canopy's to provide shade for the Operators and Guest. Meal was planned to be don by Dug-In on Saturday (later found out they are not available).
- VE Session – We saw 6 people pass in April. In the May HIAD, there was 13 that passed. ARRL is allowed to submit and have been doing so.
- Repeaters – Don hasn't been up to the repeater site. No apparent issues.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Fox Hunt – A lot of people showed up for the last Fox Hunt that was done. Tom (KE8GDN) placed dead last. Everyone did good and had fun. One Fox was hard to find and another Fox had signal issues where it was hidden.. Paul hide the Fox in a tree that made for a good hunt. We would like to see more people

- do the Fox Hunt events in the future.
- Trails need to be sorted out before Field Day. May 28th was the planned date for sorting out the trailers, weather dependent. The idea is to take everything out, sort out what is needed and what is not needed, what goes into what trailer, and then put everything back into the correct trailers.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- QSL Cards didn't happen as most of the people who indicated they had some at the last meeting was not present at the May meeting (most likely due to Dayton Hamfest).
- Talk about Field Day next meeting for the layout and suggestions for Field Day.
- Tom would like to do a Build Fox Hunt antenna workshop if people are interested. There was also talk about adding 70 cm elements to the Fox Hunt antenna.
- Tom is interested in Satellite Comms and would be interested in someone doing a talk about it.
- Went around the room to see if anyone had anything:
  - There was a question about HF Contests (what to use, when etc..). The solar cycles were also talked about, related to HR Contacts.
  - Larry talked with Terry on D-Star as Terry made his way to Dayton Hamfest.
  - Dave talked to someone on a small island and someone from South Korea over HF.
  - Someone had brought up the fun with 10 Meter Repeaters.

Thank you to Diane KD8WXA for bringing out cookies for everyone.

The motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kyle Brown W8KDB  
SMARS Past President

## **Board Meeting Minutes 06/03/2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

**Officers present:** Paul KE8MOI, Tom W. KE8GDN, Diane KD8WKA, Stephanie W8AEZ, Kyle W8KDB.

Paul KE8MOI mentioned that he has received about 43 messages so far about the QST article featuring him!

### **Topics of Discussion:**

- Field Day 2022 – Field Day will be held at the Ft. Custer Recreation Area. Operations will run for 24 hours, beginning at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 25th, and ending Sunday, June 26th around 2:00 PM. Tom KE8GDN, his YL, and Kyle W8KDB will haul the club trailers from Tom's QTH to Ft. Custer, arriving at the site around 3:00 PM. The signs providing directions to the SMARS Field Day site were found in one of the club trailers. Will need to check with Jay N8ARR if the large banner is not in the trailers as it might be stored at his QTH. Kyle believed that the ARRL might be using the same rules as last year, allowing operators to make contacts from their home station and then "apply" the points they earn toward their club's point total. Paul KE8MOI will bring cable ties, electrical tape, and cable reels to the site. Kyle will contact Tom WR8G to confirm the logging software is ready to go.
- Club Presentations - After the business portion of the June 16th meeting, Tom KE8GDN will conduct a build-session for all attendees who wish to build a foxhunting antenna. Attendees should bring a fully-charged handheld radio (2m /73 cm) with them and appropriate connectors and clamps for attaching their radio to their foxhunting antenna in order to try it out. Anyone who has a soldering pen/iron is encouraged to bring it also.
- VE Report - W8KDB reported that a couple of examinees did not receive an email from the FCC regarding their license applications. He contacted the ARRL and had their applications resubmitted. One person has contacted him so far about the June 23rd VE session at Maple United Methodist Church.
- CERT will be assisting with communications at the Cereal Festival on June 11th and the Field of Flight.

The meeting concluded at 7:35 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

<b>Club Meeting</b> 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	<b>SKYWARN Coffee</b> 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	<b>BLB Luncheon</b> 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	<b>SMARS Breakfast</b> 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI
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<b>SMARS Nets:</b> 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	<b>Upcoming Events:</b>  Club Meeting: June 16th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: July 7th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: July 8th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: July 9th @ 8:30am VE Session: July 23rd @ 7:00pm  Field Day Setup: July 24th @ 3:00pm Field Day Start: July 25th @ 2:00pm
<b>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz  <i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i>	