



# FEEDBACK

May 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:

#### President

Paul Crisher, KE8MOI  
[paulcrisher@gmail.com](mailto:paulcrisher@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Thomas Worthington, KE8GDN  
[tomcworth@aol.com](mailto:tomcworth@aol.com)

#### Secretary

Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ  
[w8aez@arrl.net](mailto:w8aez@arrl.net)

#### Treasurer

Diane Wilkins, KD8WXA  
[Turtlelakediane@gmail.com](mailto:Turtlelakediane@gmail.com)

#### Past President

Kyle Brown, W8KDB  
[w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdb@arrl.net)

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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.

## SMARS Fox Hunt April 23th 2022

Submitted by Tom Worthinton, KE8GDN



On April 23th, 2022, The SMARS club had a Fox Hunt out at the Leila Arboretum. There was 7 Radio Operators who showed up to hunt for the foxes and an observer. Tom started off by hiding 2 foxes. One was pretty local, very near parking lot, and one in more difficult area in aluminum covered stand by garden driveway. Unfortunately signal got

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### 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

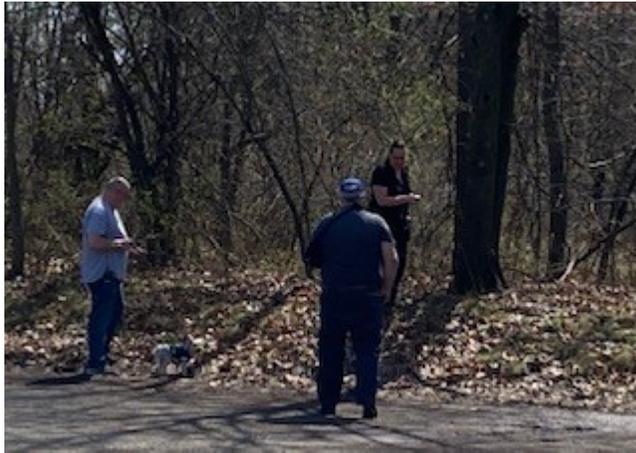
Mode: Phone/SSB, Digital, CW

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>*

worse as more and more cars pulled in, also found signal was reflecting off long chain link fence...oops.. Paul hid one fox in a tree, north of Museum, and was fun to find. John hid one fox near east side of Museum parking lot, which was also fun to find.



All hunters did great! Tom ranked dead last, could find the one he hid, couldn't get radio signal to lead him to the other more difficult hidden fox as described above. He was last to find two other hidden foxes..ugh. This guy needs more practice – Skills have rusted!! Overall, all seemed to have fun and I can't wait to do this again!

## 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

# FCC Has Resolved Technical Issues and Resumes Processing Amateur Radio License Applications

Updated 5/9/2022

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) reports that the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic batch filing (EBF) system is back online and functioning normally. A message sent by the FCC ULS EBF Team to VECs explains that the technical issues with ULS EBF filing are resolved, and that VECs may resume submitting files containing amateur radio license applications. ARRL VEC has submitted most of the backlog of its files for applications processed on,

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**05/20/2022 – 5/22/2022**

Dayton Hamvention

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

URL: <https://hamvention.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>

**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>

**06/11/2022**

St Joseph County Michigan Amateur Radio Club Ham Fest

Location: Centerville, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: St Joseph County Michigan Amateur Radio Club

**06/18/2022**

Midland Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Location: Midland, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club

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

or after, April 27, and expects to have all of the backlog submitted by the end of the day (May 9).

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-has-resolved-technical-issues-and-resumes-processing-amateur-radio-license-applications>

## ARRL RF Safety Committee Members To Be Honored By The Radio Society of Great Britain

Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee (RFSC) Gregory D. Lapin, N9GL, Ph.D, P.E., will receive an award at the 2022 Dayton Hamvention® from the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). He will receive the Founders' Trophy, recognizing his outstanding service to the society. He will also be accepting awards for committee members Kai Siwiak, KE4PT; Ric Tell, K5UJU, and Matt Butcher, KC3WD.

Along with members of the RSGB, the ARRL RFSC members formed an EMF Oversight Group, which has been meeting since August 2020 to help develop tools and procedures for complying with the new RF Exposure regulations for amateur radio operators in Great Britain. The new rules in the UK are similar to those already in effect in the United States. The new rules will be phased in over a 2-year period and are currently in effect for high band frequencies only.

RSGB members of the EMF Oversight Group are John Rogers, M0JAV (RSGB Director); Peter Zollman, G4DSE, and Ian White, GM3SEK, who received their awards at the society's annual general meeting on April 23, 2022, during an online ceremony.

To learn more about the Radio Society of Great Britain visit [rsgb.org](http://rsgb.org).

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-rf-safety-committee-members-to-be-honored-by-the-radio-society-of-great-britain>

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

**Board members present:** Paul KE8MOI, Diane KD8WXA, Tom W. KE8GDN, Stephanie W8AEZ.

**Members present:** KE8MWQ, AB8W, KB9IAR, W8IDR, N8RCF, W8JMZ, W8KDB, KE8CBG, KD8RHB, KE8TOB, W8RVT, N8LN, KE8TDL, KE8TPQ, W8RDX, N5MKY.

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

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer's report was distributed at the meeting. W8RVT asked two items on the report. Diane reported \$489 was deposited on March 19th. A motion was made to accept the report. The motion was seconded and accepted.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Hamfest – Mostly positive feedback from vendors. Two complaints he heard were regarding the confusion about what door vendors should use to enter to unload their wares and wheelchair/scooter accessibility to the vendor floor. Paul discussed handicapped accessibility issues (e.g. the curtain near the elevator) with the Wings Event manager. He was pleased with how many people turned up to assist with setup, teardown, ticket sales, and crowd control, and extended kudos to everyone for their efforts in making the hamfest a success. Smokey N5MKY believed that crowds started to thin out after 10 AM. He suggested drawing for a big prize be done out sooner as it could keep attendees longer at the event. Bill stated it was first hamfest he'd been to. He felt a little frustrated because he was looking to buy equipment, but didn't know what specifically he should look for. His suggestion was to have an "information booth" with an on-site expert to provide assistance with equipment purchases.
- Skywarn – Per Bret KD8RHB, there was a meeting and presentation on WinLink this past Tuesday. Despite testing the equipment the night before on Bret's monitors at home, an issue arose. WinLink apparently glitches when you switch from a 2-monitor system to a 1-monitor system. A fix has been found for the issue. Plans are in the works for another WinLink presentation later along with a "hot dog burn." On a coming Friday, SEC Max Schneider will send a WinLink email to the district coordinators. On Sunday, Bret will receive the final message and transmit it to the state EOC. The April Siren Test had one reported warning siren failure: Urbandale School. Jim W8JMZ stated that there has been a fair amount of atmospheric and space-related weather, including blackouts ranging from South America to Florida. There will be a Ham-in-a-Day on May 7th. Eight persons are currently signed up. Bret will post HIAD information out to the 5th District.

wife are signed up for the HIAD session. Several community and volunteer events are coming up, including the World's Longest Breakfast Table (June 11th), Field of Flight, Get Your Colon Rollin', and the Calhoun County Fair. Jim Zoss – General thunderstorms coming, no severe weather expected. CERT meetings have been changed to the second Wednesday of the month (May 11th) at 6:30 pm at the police department. Next CERT class will be in the fall. Bret said anyone who is interested in CERT is welcome to come to the CERT training meeting.

- Field Day – Smokey talked to Tony at Ft. Custer today. Tony said the application looks good, no problems with mowing the entire area. (To eliminate tick-bite issues). Don W8RVT has offered to take the 3 Kenwood radios out of the trailers, repair them, tune them, and return them to the trailers. (Thank you). Paul mentioned that Kalamazoo is interested in partnering with SMARS for a future Field Day. A suggestion was to extend an invitation to the Kalamazoo Club to drop by our Field Day at Ft. Custer.
- VE Session – Next week, April 28th. Per Kyle W8KDB, one possible attendee at this time. Smokey reported two persons at the Skywarn meeting this past Tuesday expressed an interest in coming in the VE Session.
- Repeaters – Don hasn't been up to the repeater site recently. No apparent issues. John W8JRD reported there are a couple of people on the BLB who have had antenna issues.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Tom KE8GDN – The trailers still need to be sorted out before Field Day. He's pulled them out onto the side yard to allow access. There is a tentative plan to do this on a Saturday, possibly May 21st, around 10:00 AM.
- Tom wants to kick off the SMARS foxhunts this year. The first one will be this Saturday, Leila Arboretum, from 10 AM-2 PM. Participants will meet in the parking lot of the Kingman Museum. New and experienced hams are welcome to join in on the fun – the just need to bring a handheld radio.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Smokey N5MKY mentioned he'd seen a virtual "Ham boot camp" advertised online and in QST.. The boot camp is for HAM beginners thru extra class, will be offered via Zoom, and runs 6 hours. The first session will be this Saturday 10:00 AM. Participants must sign up ahead of time.
- Terry N8LN received a message from a YL via DStar. She passed all three exams (at the tender age of 70)! She relayed her appreciation for all of the elmers that have helped her along the way.
- Paul KE8MOI mentioned he would not be at the May SMARS meeting as he was invited to the Kalamazoo club's meeting (KARC and SMART) that same evening. He stated the importance of HAM

- clubs supporting one another to grow interest and club membership.
- Paul was at W8JMZ's house recently and had an idea – he'd like all HAMS to bring in their top 2-5 favorite QSL cards to the May SMARS meeting for a "QSL show and tell." He envisioned this also as an opportunity for HAMS to share how they developed their QSL card designs. (Paul's first QSL card was one from Australia – it has a koala on it!)

Thank you to Diane KD8WXA, Melanie KE8TPQ, John W8JRD, and Stephanie W8AEZ – for the cookies, salad, and coffee for tonight's meeting. Yum!

The motion to adjourn was made by John W8JRD. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ  
SMARS Secretary

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### Board Meeting Minutes 05/06/2022

The meeting was called to order 6:32 PM.

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

KE8MOI reminded the Board that he would not be at the next Club meeting due to a schedule conflict with another meeting he has in Kalamazoo that same night. He will leave the key with KE8GDN or W8KDB to open the church for the SMARS Club Meeting.

#### TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- Foxhunt – The foxhunt at Leila Arboretum was well attended and the weather was gorgeous. KE8GDN would like to plan another involving greater tracking over a greater distance and accommodate tracking from those who have mobility limitations.
- Club Trailers – KE8GDN has sprayed down the trailers and applied some FlexSeal. The VHF/UHF trailer still has a leak around the drip edge in the door area.
- Field Day 2022 – Two radios (Kenwoods) from the trailers have been delivered to Don W8RVT for servicing before Field Day. The third Kenwood will need to be taken to Don as well. N5MKY would like to activate Parks on the Air while the club is operating at Ft. Custer for Field Day.
- Club Presentations – All attendees at the May 19th SMARS Club meeting are invited to bring in QSL cards they've received for "show and tell" following the business portion of the meeting. KE8GDN will distribute a supply list for building a foxhunt antenna also at that meeting. The antenna-build session will be held at the June club meeting.
- VE Report – W8KDB reported that the VEC processing of licenses was still on hold.
- Dayton Hamvention 2022 – The Dayton Hamvention will be held in Xenia on May 20, 21, and 22nd. KE8MOI plans to attend.

- Club Repeaters – The board agreed to resume paying N8LN quarterly effective April 2022 for the internet connection to the repeater. He has been paying \$58.95/month to help out the Club when COVID put a temporary halt to hamfests.

The meeting concluded at 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> 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>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz  <i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i>	<b>Upcoming Events:</b>  Club Meeting: May 19th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: June 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: June 3rd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: June 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 23rd @ 7:00pm
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