



# FEEDBACK

November 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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*Treasurer*

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*Member at Large*

Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ

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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.

## Christmas Party

A new location has been secured, for this year at least, for the Christmas Party. We had ran into some issues trying to secure Coney Island, so we have booked Wastlake Presbyterian Church for the Christmas Party this year. Members are welcome to bring a dish to pass and Melanie will coordinate the food and supply two proteins plus a charcuterie board. There is also plan to do an Elephant gift exchange. More information will be discussed at the November Club Meeting.

## 2022 Battle Creek Christmas Parade

We are going to be pulling one of the Trailers in the Battle Creek Christmas Parade this year. Tom (KE8GDN) will be pulling the trailer. The truck and trailer needs to be decorated for the parade and will most likely be done the morning of the parade (which is November 19). The Staging area (which will provide minimal setup ability) opens at 3 PM (only vehicles in the parade are allowed in the staging area), Judging starts around 4:30 PM, and the staging area closes by 5:10 PM. We are number 52 in the line up, right behind CERT who is in spot 51. More details will be discussed at the November Club Meeting to figure out what we are going to be doing in the Parade, figure out who will be there, and how everything is going to happen.

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### ARRL November Sweepstakes

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 11/19 – 11/21

URL: [www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

### 160 Meter

Bands: 160 Meter

Mode: CW

Date: 12/2 – 12/4

URL: [www.arrl.org/160-meter](http://www.arrl.org/160-meter)

### 10 Meter

Bands: 10 Meter

Mode: Phone and CW

Date: 12/10 – 12/11

URL: [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter)

### Rookie Roundup

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

Mode: CW

Date: 12/18

URL: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://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>*

## Other News

# Is this the beginning of the end for CW Dxing?

In a recent thread on the CWops mailing list, a fellow wrote:

You wonder why more and more guys are getting on FTx mode? How about this?

- MADAGASCAR, 5R. Eiki, JH8JWF is QRV as 5R8AS from Ivato, Talatamaty, IOTA AF-013, until November 6. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using FT8. QSL via LoTW.
- GHANA, 9G. Dave, AB0GC is QRV as 9G1SD from the Wenchi, Brong Region. Activity is on 17 to 6 meters using FT8 and FT4 at various times during the day. QSL direct to home call.
- BANABA ISLAND, T3. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as T33T until November 15. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL via LoTW.
- INDONESIA, YB. Amir, YB9IPY/p is QRV from the Rajaampat Islands, IOTA OC-239, until November 8. Activity is on the HF bands using only FT8. QSL direct to IK2DUW.

I'm not on FT modes, but if you like chasing DX and new band/countries, or ARRL DX Challenge, or even tracking weird and unexpected LP propagation on a "dead" band, stuff like this makes it start to become a rational decision.

Sigh....

What followed was a wide-ranging discussion of CW vs. the digital modes. Some thought that FT4 and FT8 were cheapening the value of DXCC and other DX awards (as if they had any real value to begin with). Others just brushed it off saying, "There are a steadily increasing number of ways to enjoy this hobby. Pick your favorites for whatever reasons excite you."

I'm more in the second camp than the first. If people get their kicks from operating FT8, then more power to them. It's funny when you think about it. We CW operators often say that one reason for operating CW is that it's easier to work DX on CW than phone. So, I guess it's a bit hypocritical to bad mouth FT8 just because FT8 makes it even easier to work DX.

I'm not a big DXer, so it's not a big deal if I don't work Banaba Island this time around. And, overall, I think anything that gets people on the air is a good thing. Even so, not even having the chance to work these DXpeditions unless I fire up the FT8 software is a little disappointing. What do you think?

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/is-this-the-beginning-of-the-end-for-cw-dxing/>

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**11/19/2022 – 11/20/2022**

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

URL:

<http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm>

**12/03/2022**

FCARC WinterFest

Location: Archbold, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

URL: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

## ARRL Programs to Benefit from Auction Proceeds

The 17th Annual ARRL Online Auction, sponsored by RT Systems Inc., took place on October 21 - 27, 2022. There were over 200 participants who submitted bids, vying for QST "Product Review" equipment, new ham radio gear, vintage books, and the popular ARRL Lab mystery junque boxes. Plenty of spectators also contributed additional traffic to the auction site by browsing items and watching the bids climb.

ARRL Auction Manager Lisa Tardette, KB1MOI, reported that "695 bids were recorded, and a number of items went into overtime bidding." After all was tallied, this year's auction grossed more than \$32,000. Tardette said the items that drew the highest interest from bidders had been previously tested for the popular "Product Review" column in QST. The Elecraft K4D HF/6M SDR transceiver, reviewed in the September 2022 issue of QST, had a winning bid of \$5,850. The Four State QRP Group Bayou Jumper 40-meter CW transceiver, reviewed in the March 2022 issue of QST, went for \$675, while it currently retails for \$105. Bidders like to support a good cause and know that these "Product Review" items have been rigorously tested in the ARRL Lab.

Comments from bidders included, "Thank you, I'm excited about my new radio," and, "Happy to participate in an event for a great cause."

The ARRL Online Auction is an important fundraiser and a critical means of support for many of the association's programs, which rely on funding sources beyond basic membership dues. ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, said that the auction raises funds to further projects that otherwise would go unsupported. "Following the launch of the ARRL Learning Center ([learn.arrl.org](http://learn.arrl.org)) late last year, we are developing more content to help amateur radio operators increase their knowledge and skills," said Goodgame. "The Learning Center provides ARRL members with instruction and training for getting on the air, emergency communications, and electronics and technology."

Goodgame said that several full courses are under development. ARRL Emergency Communications Training courses are being updated and modernized. ARRL has also partnered with Dave Casler, KE0OG, to offer his supplemental amateur radio license instruction on the ARRL Learning Center. These efforts are made possible in part through the proceeds of the ARRL Online Auction.

"We would like to express our appreciation to all of the winning bidders, RT Systems -- this year's auction sponsor -- and to all of our donors who provided such a diverse mix of items," said Tardette. "We look forward to our 18th Annual ARRL Online Auction in 2023."

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-programs-to-benefit-from-auction-proceeds>

## Meeting Minutes 10/20/2022

Called to order at 7:06 PM

**Officers in attendance:** Paul KE8MOI, Diane KD8WXA, Stephanie W8AEZ.

**Attendance:** Kelly KE8MWQ, Dan P. WB8KC, Bret KD8RHB, Don W8RVT, John W8JRD, Jim H. KC8JJQ, Kyle W8KDB, Harold KE8GZU, KE8UUC Matt, Don P. KB9IAR, Tom G. WR8G, Jan G. W8JKG, Zach KN6PIK, Melanie KE8TPQ, Philip AC8PJ, Ruth KE8WEN, Dan K. N8EC, Jim Z. W8JMZ, Rick N8RCF, Bob AC8QM, Ivan W8IDR.

Special greetings to Zach Mann KN6PIK, 1st class logistics specialist in the U.S. Navy. He has acted as an operator for the U.S. Midway (N16W). The Midway has a special event station, DStar 52-alpha, on the air from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM (Pacific Time) on the 1st Saturday of the month. The ship also hosts amateur radio activities for the Boy Scouts.

**Secretary's report:** A motion made to accept by John W8JRD, motion 2nded by Diane KD8WXS, motion was accepted.

**Treasurer's report:** A motion made to accept by Bret KD8RHB, motion was seconded and accepted.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Kalamazoo Hamfest (partnered with the Antique Radio Club) was this past weekend. 160 vendor tables were sold. Attendance was low. The SMARS Hamfest will be on March 18, 2023 at the Wings Event Center. We need to get notices out to the ARRL and CQ Magazine.
- Skywarn/CERT - Bret KD8RHB reported that they looked at space weather, Auxcomm, ARES at the meeting this past Tuesday. The simulated emergency test took place for District 5. Calhoun Co./District 5 placed 3rd in the State. There was also a local exercise at Ralston's, which included dive teams. Four new people went through the CERT program. HIAD had 5 people, all earned a technician license. St. Joseph County Skywarn has moved their net from Thursdays to Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM. The City of BC is looking at purchasing new equipment to fix the warning siren at the I-94 rest station. Avenue A and Dickman sirens have obsolete parts. The Pennfield High School siren at the bus garage is back online.
- Winter Field Day – Winter Field Day 2023? - No discussion yet as to whether or not there will be one.
- VE Session - There will be a VE session next week Thursday. A reminder to those interested in

becoming a VE – a General (or Advanced) license or higher is necessary in addition to completing an open-book test. There is no cost to become a VE.

- Repeaters - Don W8RVT reported that he had to replace a part on the 200 MHz repeater. Bret reported he couldn't get into our 200 repeater on Tuesday, but he could get into Kalamazoo's repeater.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- A reminder that the BC Holiday Parade will be Saturday, November 19th. The theme is "[Lights on Battle Creek](#)." SMARS has signed up to participate along with CERT. The plan is to tow the VHF trailer, have a couple of people operating from inside, and others can ride in the truck bed or walk alongside. Bret will also have his outfitted ambulance.
- Trailers – Larry Metzgar KE8TOB has offered his barn to work on the trailers, but it would have to be this weekend as the weather is going to be nice.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Call for nominations for officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer)  
**President** – Paul KE8MOI stated he was willing to continue to serve in this role.  
**Vice President** – Tom W. KE8GDN has returned to work. Dan nominated Zach.  
**Treasurer** – Diane KD8WXS stated that she's willing to stay on.  
**Secretary** – Stephanie W8AEZ offered to remain (with an assistant to fill in when she has a schedule conflict).  
**Member-at-Large** – Melanie offered to take on this role.  
\*Ballots were passed out for voting for Vice President. Result: 22 votes were cast. Tally: 16 votes for Zach, 6 for Tom W.
- Christmas Party 2022 – Despite repeated attempts by Paul KE8MOI to make arrangements with Coney Island to use their Banquet room, he has received no response. Melanie KE8TPQ offered to host the Christmas Party at her church (Westlake Presbyterian on 28th Street). The suggestion was made to have a potluck for this event. Date/time for the Christmas Party pends verification on the Church's availability.

50/50 Drawing winner was Jim W8JMZ. Proceeds were donated back to the club. (Thank you, Jim!)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes 11/04/2022

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

**Attendees:** KE8MOI Paul, Tom W. KE8GDN, Diane KD8WXA

**Others:** Melanie KE8TPQ, John W8JRD, Zach KN6PIK.

### Topics of Discussion:

- Christmas Party: Melanie KE8TPQ was able to book Westlake Presbyterian Church (on 415 South 28th Street, by Lakeview Middle School) for our Christmas Party. Date of the party will be Dec. 3rd. 4:00-6:00 PM. Members are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Melanie will coordinate the food and supply 2 proteins plus a charcuterie board. SMARS will make a donation (\$100) to the church for allowing our use of their room. We will also do a White Elephant gift exchange.
- The 50/50 Raffle: Paul KE8MOI proposed having this year being the last one for the 50/50 Xmas raffle. After this Christmas, 50% would go back to the club, while the person whose ticket was drawn has the option to keep the \$ they won, or donate it back to the club.
- Lights on Battle Creek Holiday parade: The parade will be on Saturday, November 19th. Paul received a letter confirming SMARS and CERT have secured a spot as parade participants. We will need to line up by 4:00 PM. Parade begins at 5:00 PM. Participants are welcome to dress up, but NOT as Santa and Mrs. Claus. Paul has a LOT of candy which can be handed out at the parade. Will be on the air during the parade, operating from the VHF trailer. Jay will supply an antenna that we can use. Tom W. has mini suction cups that can be used to decorate his truck and the VHF trailer with Christmas lights. Club members can also ride in the bed of his truck. He also suggested adding an external speaker to broadcast the radio contacts being made during the parade. We will need a generator/inverter as his truck's max output is 400 watts. He pulled the old generator out of the UHF/VHF trailer, but it looks like it may need some work to make it operable.
- Club Internet service provider: Terry N8LN told Diane he was being billed \$60/month for internet. The club will reimburse him at that rate.
- Club income: There was a discussion about raising yearly club membership dues to \$20/year for individual members plus \$1 for each additional family member. The 5-yr, 10-yr and life membership rates would remain the same.
- Daine has created an updated database of SMARS club members. The list will be reviewed and updated.

Meeting ended at 7:11 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

<p><b>Club Meeting</b> 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b> 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>BLB Luncheon</b> 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b> 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p><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</p> <p><b>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p>Club Meeting: November 17th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: December 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: December 2nd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: December 10th @ 8:30am VE Session: December 22nd @ 7:00pm</p>
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