



FEEDBACK

July 2023

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.

Board of Directors:

President
Paul Crisher, KE8MOI
paulcrisher@gmail.com

Vice President
Zach Mann, W8MAN
zmann648@gmail.com

Secretary
Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ
w8aez@arrl.net

Treasurer
Michael Russell, KQ8N
kq8n@arrl.net

Member at Large
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
mel1853@hotmail.com

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Club News Field Day Completed



We have completed another successful Field Day. It came down to the wire with having to locate a new place, but we were pretty happy with the Calhoun County Fairgrounds and will most likely use the location in the future for Field Day and possible other events. Thank you to everyone who came out for setup, operating, and the tear down. We had a lot of stuff going on including a demonstration of a digital RF system (I don't remember what it was called, but it was similar to messaging between two locations using RF).



The food was great as well thanks to Melanie Lake. Some of the bands were kind of dead during Field Day and caused some of the other clubs to pack up early. Either way, the started to open up towards the night and I think we made more contacts than last year. Remember when you submit your logs, note that you are with SMARS Club (listed as "Southern MI ARS" in the system). This will help add to our total as well. As of our submission, we have a score of about 1,816 with 52 Digital Contacts and 329 Phone Contacts.



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: 222 MHz thru 241 GHz
Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB

Date: 08/05 – 08/06

URL: www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest

EME Contest

Bands: 2.3 GHz & Up

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital

Date: 08/12 – 08/13

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

10 GHz & Up

Bands: 10 GHz thru Light

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB

Date: 08/19 – 08/20

URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

Rookie Roundup

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

Mode: RTTY

Date: 08/20

URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

September VHF

Bands: 50 Mhz & Up

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital

Date: 09/09 – 09/11

URL: www.arrl.org/september-vhf

EME Contest

Bands: 2.3 GHz & Up

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital

Date: 09/09 – 09/10

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

10 GHz & Up

Bands: 10 GHz thru Light

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB

Date: 09/16 – 09/17

URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

**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

Commercial Interests Petition FCC for High Power Allocation on Shortwave Spectrum

The ad hoc group “Shortwave Modernization Coalition” petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 – 25 MHz range with up to 20 KW, including in bands immediately adjacent to spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests. The FCC has assigned it RM-11953. Comments are due by July 31, 2023, and reply comments by August 15. While the petitioners exclude the amateur bands, high power operations on immediately adjacent bands are proposed. [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](http://www.arrl.org) is reviewing the petition.

A copy of the petition is at:

<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1> (PDF).

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/commercial-interests-petition-fcc-for-high-power-allocation-on-shortwave-spectrum>

Michigan hams exempt from “distracted driving” law

Here in Michigan, Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed into law a bill making it illegal to manually use a cell phone or other mobile electronic device while operating a vehicle on Michigan roads. Under the law, which went into effect July 1, a driver cannot hold or support a phone or other device with any part of their hands, arms, or shoulders.

Here's the most pertinent part of the law:

Sec. 602b.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual shall not hold or use a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle. This subsection does not apply to an individual operating a commercial motor vehicle or a school bus.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual shall not hold or use a mobile electronic device while operating a commercial motor vehicle or a school bus. As used in this subsection, “use a mobile electronic device” means 1 or more of the following:

(a) Using a mobile electronic device to do any task, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(i) Send or receive a telephone call.

(ii) Send, receive, or read a text message.

(iii) View, record, or transmit a video.

(iv) Access, read, or post to a social networking site.

Fortunately, our ARRL volunteers were able to make sure that lawmakers exempted radio amateurs from this restriction. The exemption reads:

“Mobile electronic device” means an electronic device that is not

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

07/29/2023

Auburn Hamfest

Location: Auburn, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana

Amateur Radio Association

08/05/2023

Elkhart East Hamfest

Location: Elkhart, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW

Repeater Network

URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

09/09/2023

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest

Location: Wyoming, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur

Radio Association

URL: <https://w8dc.org/grand-rapids-area-hamfest>

09/10/2023

Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

URL: <http://findlayradioclub.org>

09/17/2023

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://w8tqe.com>

09/23/2023

BARA Trunk Sales

Location: Berrien Center, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Blossomland Amateur Radio Association

URL: <http://W8MAI.org>

permanently installed in a motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, a device capable of text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the internet, or producing email. Mobile electronic device does not include either of the following:

(i) A radio designed for the Citizens Band Service or the Amateur Radio Service of the Federal Communications Commission or a commercial 2-way radio communications device or equipment permanently installed in a motor vehicle.

(ii) A medical device that is designed to be worn, including, but not limited to, an insulin pump.

The Michigan Section recommends printing out the bill and carrying it with you in the car in case you are stopped by law enforcement and told you cannot operate a radio in your vehicle. While the Michigan State Police seem to understand the law, some of the smaller police departments may not be aware that amateur radio operators are exempt.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/michigan-hams-exempt-from-distracted-driving-law>

Techs: Now is the Time to Upgrade to General!

A new question pool took effect on July 1, 2023, for General-class license exams. ARRL has released new editions of its popular study resources including the 10th edition of The ARRL General Class License Manual and the 7th edition of ARRL's General Q&A.

ARRL has also updated its free online review and practice resource, ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio.

"ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) are already administering the new General-class exams," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. Somma suggests that candidates first take a practice test using ARRL Exam Review. "If you're already passing online practice exams, then you're ready to search for an in-person exam session team, or you can take the exam online via a remote video-supervised session." Visit the exam session search page on the ARRL website.

The new General-class question pool is valid for examinations taken between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2027. "Upgrading from a Technician-class license to General-class significantly opens more operating privileges on HF bands," added Somma.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/techs-now-is-the-time-to-upgrade-to-general>

Meeting Minutes 06/15/2023

Called to order 7:00 PM

Officers present: Paul KE8MOI, Zach W8MAN, Mike KQ8N, Melanie KE8TPQ, Stephanie W8AEZ.

Others present: Ned WB4BKO, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G, Jan W8JKG, John W8JRD, Smokey N5MKY, Ivan, W8IDR, Don KB9IAR, Dan WB8CK, Dan N8EC, Dan KE8WZG, Tom KE8GDN, Rick N8RCF, Jim W8JMZ, Bret KD8RHB, Ben N5AMD, Matt AD8KA, Ned WB4BKO

Secretary's report: A motion made to accept, motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Current account balance is \$4100. We got our check back from Ft. Custer as we won't be there for Field Day. Made a donation of \$150 to the Calhoun Co Fairgrounds for use of their location for Field Day. A motion made to accept, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – No new updates
- Skywarn – Per Bret KD8RHB, there was a CERT meeting last night (about 17 attendees). Next Skywarn meeting is Tuesday. There were two failures at the last siren test: Springfield was a new installation (Ave A and Dickman), not sure why it failed; Urbandale also failed. There will be a Fire Station Simulated Emergency Test this Saturday, about 17 locations being covered. Will do a simplex test 146.440 MHz from the fire station locations in Calhoun County, Bellevue, and Olivet, from 10 AM-noon. The State Auxcomm Emergency Test was held on June 3rd. 16 counties participated and CERT was deployed. The Communications truck was stationed at the Haven of Rest shelter for relays. Placed 8th this year amongst all participating counties. CERT will be assisting at the air show on Saturday and Sunday. They will also be at the Calhoun County Fair. Skywarn will set up for Field Day at the American Legion.
- Field Day – Had a last-minute change due to a disagreement between the Michigan DNR and our insurance carrier. Location this year will be the Calhoun County Fairgrounds. Many thanks to Fairgrounds Manager Cathy Combs for allowing us to use their facilities! There is no entry fee for people to come for Field Day. Bathrooms and air conditioning are available. Gate will not be shut. We can use a generator. No picnic tables – we'll need to bring our own tables, chairs, canopies. Camping on the site will also be available. Dan, Tom W. and Kyle will be pulling trailers to the fairgrounds. Melanie will be taking care of the food for lunch on Saturday. Menu items include pulled pork, chicken salad, pasta salad, potato salad, coleslaw, and beverages. Melanie requested someone bring some ice for her to put into a kiddie pool to keep salads cold. Dan WB8KC

asked what the future will be for SMARS to use Ft Custer. Zach clarified that the issue wasn't with Ft. Custer but with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and their legal team. Mike KQ8N and Paul KE8MOI stated that we'll likely use the fairgrounds next year for Field Day. Smokey asked what publicity we have out about our Field Day. Bret confirmed WWMT has been notified.

- VE Session – Next VE Session is Thursday at 7 PM at Maple United Methodist Church.
- Repeaters – Echolink is working. The change that Terry made to the DStar 2m repeater appears to have solved the issues it was experiencing

OLD BUSINESS:

- POTA – Zach W8MAN reported that the club is now up to 134 QSO's from Ft. Custer. Two good spots – toward the beach at the picnic tables and the shelter at Whitford Lake. Everyone is invited to participate in the POTA. Zach asks that participants send their QSO logs to him. Kelly KE8MWQ stated she was looking at the POTA guidelines, she said that several stations can spot for different frequencies/modes if you include a "/" " plus a 3 digit number (e.g. "/003"). When you CQ, you only CQ with the club W8DF callsign.
- DX Competition – Zach W8MAN reminded participants to submit proof of their contact (QSL card, LOTW log entry, QRZ log entry). Larry KE8TVO had 2 contacts for this month: Korea and South Africa. (Way to go, Larry!)

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul expressed his thanks for everyone who turned out for tonight's meeting.

Motion made by W8JRD to adjourn. Motion seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 07/07/2023

Meeting called to order at 6:33PM

Attendees: Paul KE8MOI, Melanie KE8TPQ, Steph W8AEZ, Zach W8MAN; John W8JRD

Topics of Discussion:

- Mike KQ8N forwarded to Paul the financials for this month. Account is 4,252.09 in the club account after reimbursing Terry N8LN for DStar and the \$150 we paid for using the Calhoun Co Fairgrounds for Field Day. Fairgrounds was pleased with how left the site after the event finished.
- Zach asked about the numbers from Field Day. Estimated numbers: 47 attendees, 330 voice and 50 digital contacts.

Feedback from Field Day: Setup went well and turnout was great. Setup was completed Friday. Per Paul, WB8KC and N5MKY were correct about the connection of the tri-band.

Tear-down started at 12:30 PM and was completed within 2 hours before the storms went through. Ample food was supplied by Melanie KE8TPQ (Thank you, Melanie!).

Per Zach, the power supply for the 15m trailer is done and needs to be replaced. Metal jacks for the backs of the trailers should also be replaced.

Discussion about adding a GOTA station next year.

Kudos to Tom W KE8GDN for the work he did on the trailers (lights replaced, roofs sealed).

- Program for July Meeting: Zach will present how he sets up for the Parks on the Air.
- Curt KU8L has many years of QST magazines he'll give to Paul to give to any interested persons.
- Zach will meet with Matt about setting up a station for the Festival of the Forks celebration coming up in Albion.

Meeting called to order ended at 7:01 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: July 20th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: August 3rd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: August 4th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: August 12th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 24th @ 7:00pm
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