



# FEEDBACK

March 2023

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.

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### Club News

## Membership Dues are Crucial

As of this writing, we have only 33 paid members for 2023, which include our multi-year members. The club is in need of ALL previous members to renew as soon as possible. As the newly installed Treasurer of the Club (mid February), I have tallied what we expect to pay in bills this year, and that amount is just shy of \$2,700.00 (not including the HamFest facility rental fee). While the proceeds from the HamFest usually help our financial needs, it DOES NOT cover all of our expenses. SMARS has monthly bills for internet and phone lines, as well as yearly expenses for liability insurance, club meeting facility rent, PO Box rental, and Field Day location fees among others. Additionally, our repeaters need repair and upgrades from time to time, as well as maintenance to the Field Day trailers, radios, antennas, and other equipment therein.

If you have not yet renewed for 2023, please mail your membership dues of \$15.00 as soon as possible to: SMARS, PO Box 934, Battle Creek MI 49016. For those that wish to become new members, or if you have info you'd like to update on your membership, please print and complete the Membership Form you can print from the W8DF.COM website and submit it, along with your dues. Extended memberships of 10 and 20 years are still available at a reduced rate (125.00 and 250.00 respectively). Of course, you can renew at club meetings as well...

I have mailed all 2023 Membership cards out to members that I have received dues from. If you believe you have paid and have not received your card, please see me at the next Club meeting, or send me an email and I'll do my best to rectify any previous oversight.

Here's to a successful 2023! Mike Russell, Treasurer. My email: [KQ8N@ARRL.NET](mailto:KQ8N@ARRL.NET)

## Crossroads Hamfest

The 61th Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap was a success this past Saturday. We ended the event in the black for finances and had a decent turn out. We had 5 people show up for VE Testing, 3 techs and 2 upgrading to Extra. All 3 of the individuals going for tech and 1 upgrading to Extra passed. The other upgrade, who only just started studying and took the test as he was there with one of the individuals getting their tech, did not managed to walk out with an upgrade.

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Rookie Roundup

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

Mode: SSB

Date: 04/16

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

### ARRL Digital Contest

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 Meters

Mode: Digital (excluding RTTY)

Date: 06/03 – 06/04

URL: [www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest)

### June VHF

Bands: Authorized Frequencies above 50 Mhz

Mode: Phone, SSB, CW, Digital

Date: 06/10 – 06/12

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

Date: 06/17

URL: [www.arrl.org/kids-day](http://www.arrl.org/kids-day)

### Field Day

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters, as well as 50 MHz and above

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB

Date: 06/24 – 06/25

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>*



We also had a moment of silence for Les Butler, ARRL Michigan Section Manager, as he passed away suddenly on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Michigan State Policy Interoperability Conference. Les was looking forward to the Michigan Crossroads Hamfest and was going to be our card checker for the event. Please keep Les's wife, family, and all of his many friends in amateur radio in your thoughts. I was happy that we were able to have most of the people at the event give a moment of silence for him.

A time lapse of the event, and tribute to Les, has been posted on YouTube under W8KDB (<https://youtu.be/Q1s79L2h6Lo>).

## Other News

### Ham in a Day (HIAD) April 1<sup>st</sup>

Do you know someone who is interesting in getting their Amature Radio License? The Skywarn/CERT group will be putting on a HIAD on April 1<sup>st</sup> (no, this is not an April Fools Joke). The HAID will be held at the Battle Creek Police Department starting around 9 AM and going until 5 PM. Testing will happen around 3 PM and will be administered by SMARS. Please direct anyone who is interested to the Event Brite website (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hiad-amateur-radio-license-qa-test-tickets-525264980697>). A fee of \$15.00 is due upon arrive to cover the test fee, this does not include the FCC fee that is paid to the FCC after the documents are submitted. Anyone who plans to attend the HAID will also need to get their FRN from the FCC.

### Schools Set to Talk with Astronauts via Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has announced that several schools are planning to communicate with orbiting astronauts in the coming weeks.

Lana'i High & Elementary School in Lana'i City, Hawaii, will attempt the contact between March 20 and 24, 2023. Students attending the high school already study amateur radio and the research being done on

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**03/19/2023**

Toledo Mobile Radio Association  
Hamfest and Computer Fair

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio  
Association

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

**04/01/2023**

AC8RC April Fools Day Mini-Swap

Location: Allegan, M

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Allegan County Amateur  
Radio Club

URL:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1271700113693504>

**04/22/2023**

St. Joseph County Michigan

Amateur Radio Club Ham Fest

Location: Centreville, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: St Joseph County  
Michigan Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/st-joseph-county-michigan-amateur-radio-club-ham-fest-1>

**04/22/2023**

Lucas County Amateur Radio

Emergency Service Trunk Sale and  
Swap Meet

Location: Toledo, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lucas County Amateur  
Radio Emergency Service

URL: <http://swap.lucasares.org>

the ISS, among other scientific pursuits.



Stone Magnet Middle School in Melbourne, Florida, will make their contact between March 27 and April 1, 2023. In their application, Stone Magnet wrote that they work to inspire students to develop interest in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) careers. The school has a special program for science research, and students from that program place well in district and statewide science fairs each year.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN), the ISS National Lab - Space Station Explorers, [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#), and AMSAT.

ARISS is presently [seeking contact proposals](#) for the next round of school selections.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/schools-set-to-talk-with-astronauts-via-amateur-radio>

## ARRL International DX Contest a Success

Last weekend (March 4 - 5, 2023) was the phone segment of the ARRL International DX Contest.

Although the deadline to submit logs is 2359Z on March 12, preliminary numbers already show an increase in submissions compared to the same period last year. Conditions were favorable for much of the world, and many operators took to social media to talk about their wins.

Italian ham Chris Diemoz, IX1CKN, wrote in to express his gratitude for the contest, saying, "I haven't come back to the US since 2001, but... I [count last] Sunday afternoon [as] a true trip to the States, from east to west." Diemoz made 80 contacts in the US.

From his parked car in Ozein, Italy, Diemoz operated during the contest using QRP power from a Xiegu G90 transceiver and an Outback-1899 HF antenna. He enjoyed making a lot of contacts on 10 and 15 meters, which are opening due to Solar Cycle 25. He made a video with some of his QSOs and posted it to YouTube. Click on the screenshot above or click here to view the YouTube video.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-international-dx-contest-a-success>

## Meeting Minutes 02/16/2023

Called to order @ 7:00 PM

**Board members:** Paul KE8MOI, Zach W8MAN, Melanie KE8TPQ

**Secretary's report** – Motion passed.

**Treasurer's report** – Diane KD8WXA did not make it to the meeting to transfer treasurer's items to Mike KQ8N. She will be meeting him the following day. No raffle at meeting. Report provided at the meeting passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – 40 tables have been sold so far. Will send around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to assist with ticket sales, checking-in vendors, etc. Set up will begin Friday, March 10 at 3 PM. DX Engineering has donated a \$100 gift certificate for the raffle.
- Skywarn – Smokey N5MKY reported that the next Skywarn meeting will be Tuesday 21st of February at 6:30 PM. CERT will hold training sessions on March 24th-25th. There will be a tabletop exercise on March 16th. Storm spotter training class will be held on March 25th. There will be a HIAD on April 1st at the Battle Creek Police Department.
- Field Day – Smokey N5MKY is working on the paperwork needed by Ft. Custer to hold our Field Day there. Set-up will be on June 23 at 3 PM with operations to begin on Saturday, June 24. The Field Day picnic to be discussed later. It was recommended that a list be drawn up of what is needed for Field Day (e.g. parts, paint, screws, etc.) and presented at the next meeting.
- VE Report – Next VE session will be at our Hamfest on March 11th. Session will begin at 10 AM. Walk-ins are welcome.
- Repeaters – Echolink was not working. No other issues with the repeaters to report at this time.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Following the resignation of Diane KD8WXA, Mike KQ8N has accepted to serve as treasurer for this year.

Meeting was short and adjourned early due to poor weather

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melanie Lake KE8TPQ  
SMARS Member at Large

## Board Meeting Minutes 03/03/2023

Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM

**Attendees:** Paul KE8MOI, Melanie KE8TPQ, Zach W8MAN, Mike KQ8N.

**Others:** John W8JRD

### Topics of Discussion:

- Club Meetings/VE Sessions: Paul reported that Maple United Methodist will need a payment of \$630 to cover our use of the church for club meetings and VE sessions for 2023. Mike KQ8N confirmed he has enough membership cards and 50/50 tickets.
- 2023 Crossroads Hamfest: He has sold 92 tables as of today's date. Last year, we paid \$500 for additional tables and didn't use them. Our contract with wings is for 100 tables. Estimated cost for renting the Annex is \$2,900. The Wings event coordinator apologized for not having our usual Saturday date this year. We were given a discount as consideration. Only 5 vendors have requested power. Wings requires an additional fee to run power down the middle of the arena. With the limited number requesting power, we will place them on the side, eliminating the need for running extra power. Jay will take care of the signs, ticket tumbler, and the talk-in antenna. He will make a line just for those with exact change. We are set for raffle prizes. Stephanie W8AEZ has the cash boxes and will deliver them to Paul on Friday. Mike KQ8N will go to the bank to get change for them. Wings has a hockey game Friday at the main stadium. Paul will send the vendors a SMARS pass to allow them access to the lot to unload their wares that evening. We will have a DXCC (Les) checker on-site. Dale Williams and Scott Yonally from ARRL will also be attending. We will host a VE Session during the Hamfest. The session will begin at 10:00AM.

- Field Day: Zach W8MAN spoke with Smokey N5MKY on Feb 5th about this year's Field Day. Zach will coordinate with Ft. Custer on reserving our usual site for Field Day. We will need to give Ft. Custer a copy of our insurance policy along with the usage application. Paul confirmed that the club makes a \$150 donation to the park for use of the site. Will have a FT-8 station running at Field Day.
- Parks On The Air: Zach would like to do a POTA event, run it for 3-5 hrs, and hold it a couple of weeks before Field Day. This would also give us an opportunity to test our equipment and tune our antennas before Field Day.

Meeting ended at 3:55PM

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: March 16th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: April 6th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: April 7th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: April 8th @ 8:30am VE Session: April 27th @ 7:00pm  HIAD: April 1st @ 9:00 AM HIAD Testing: April 1st @ 3:00 PM
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