



FEEDBACK

October 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.

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Club News

Club Officer Elections

A reminder that Club Officer Elections are coming up in October. All positions are available if anyone is interested. Currently, the Club President, Secretary, and Treasurer will need to be filled as the current members holding those position have stated they will not be running this year. To exist as a club, we will need to fill those positions. The President is responsible for leading the meetings, signing off on paperwork (like agreements for Field Day), and is the backup to the Treasurer.

The Voice President handles the responsible of the President in their absents. Their main function is to plan programs and presentations for the club.

The Secretary records to minutes from the Club Meeting and the Board Meeting so they can be posted in the Feedback. This could be rolled into one of the other positions as well.

The Treasurer is responsible for the Club's finances including bills, reimbursement (if approved), and membership dues.

The Member at Large is needed if all four positions are filled. They are the tie breaker (if there is one) when the Board makes decisions. If there are only 3 Board members, a Member at Large is not needed or filled.

WX8BTL HIAD

The Skywarn group (WX8BTL) will be putting on a HIAD (Ham in a Day) on October 21st at the Department of Public Works Building on Kendall Street. This starts at 8 AM and goes until 3 PM. At 3 PM the SMARS VE Group will administer the test. While 3 VE's are needed to grade, because they are normally in a different room we will need at least 6 VE's (a runner, weather they are VE or not, will also be needed to transport the folders between the two rooms). Registration information is out on Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hiad-amateur-radio-license-ga-test-tickets-694447359747>), or reach out to Bret (KD8RHB) at kd8rhb@yahoo.com.

Other News

ARRL Urges Comments to FCC on 60-Meter Band

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](https://www.arrl.org)® is asking that all radio amateurs urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue the existing use of the 60-meter band. A public comment period is open until October 30, 2023. ARRL encourages expressions of support to the FCC for the current 100 W ERP power limit (instead

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

School Club Roundup

Bands: 60,30, 17, and 12 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 10/16 – 10/20

URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

EME Contest

Bands: 50 to 1296 MHz

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital

Date: 10/28 – 10/29

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

Sweepstakes CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 11/04 – 11/06

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

Sweepstakes Phone

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 11/04 – 11/06

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

EME Contest

Bands: 50 to 1296 MHz

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital

Date: 11/25 – 11/26

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

**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>*

of reducing the power limit to 15 W EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels.

ARRL has assembled a web page with instructions on how to submit your comments, as well as background information on the issue: www.arrl.org/60-meter-band.

To submit a filing of your comments for the FCC's consideration in the rulemaking process, go to the FCC web page for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking's (NPRM) Docket Number 23-120 at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/docket-detail/23-120>.

If you wish to directly enter your comments, select the button labeled [SUBMIT AN EXPRESS FILING](#) or if you are uploading a document that contains your comments, select [SUBMIT A STANDARD FILING](#). When submitting your comments, be sure the correct proceeding's docket number, 23-120, is included on the form. Your name and comments will be entered into the official public record of the proceedings and will be viewable by anyone who visits the docket web page.

While radio amateurs are encouraged to include any comments they would like in their submissions, they're especially encouraged to draw upon their personal experiences using the 60-meter band for public service purposes and for its location between the amateur 80- and 40-meter bands, which is critical to ensuring signal propagation to certain geographic areas during variations in time and the solar cycle. For example, ensuring radio amateurs have a continuum of communication capabilities across the 7 MHz, 5 MHz, and 3.5 MHz bands is valuable for emergency communications, especially between the US and Caribbean nations during hurricane season.

Some of the main points to comment on for this NPRM are:

- Urging the FCC to keep the four existing channels allocated to amateur radio on a secondary basis.
- Urging the FCC to keep the 100 W power limit for the four existing channels and the new 15 kHz subband.

ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, underscored the importance of commenting, urging members to speak up. "ARRL members make up the strongest voice in matters of amateur radio spectrum defense," said Harrop. "Your membership and participation in the rulemaking process both ensure ARRL continues to make the difference when our band privileges are threatened. Please join us in effort to protect our 60-meter band privileges."

[Donate to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund: www.arrl.org/donate](http://www.arrl.org/donate).

Read more:

[Comment Deadlines Set on Proposed 60-Meter Band Changes](#)

ARRL News | 10/04/2023

[ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band](#)

ARRL News | 04/28/2023

[World Radiocommunication Conference Approves Global 60-Meter Allocation](#)

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

11/18/2023 – 11/19/2023

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo, ARRL Central Division Convention

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

URL:

<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

12/03/2023

FCARC WinterFest

Location: Archbold, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

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

02/17/2024

Livonia Amateur Radio Club Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop>

ARRL News | 11/18/2015

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-comments-to-fcc-on-60-meter-band>

Jamboree-on-the-Air is on October 20 – 22, 2023

Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA), the largest Scouting event in the world, takes place on the third weekend of October (10/20 - 10/22).

This annual global operating event allows Scouts to use amateur radio to connect with hams around the world. The event is supported by many local amateur radio clubs and individual operators. JOTA starts Friday and ends Sunday, but there are no official hours of operation, so you have the whole weekend to make JOTA contacts.

Here are the event rules:

- All radio operators must operate their stations strictly in accordance with FCC regulations.
- Stations should try to contact each other by calling "CQ Jamboree" or "CQ JOTA," or by answering other stations sending this call.
- Any authorized amateur radio frequency may be used. It's suggested that the Scout frequencies be used, at least for a starting point. Remember that your radio has a dial and to move away from active nets and contesters.
- Any amateur mode of operation can be used, such as CW, SSB, PSK, SSTV, FM, and satellite. The more modes in operation, the more exciting the event will be for the Scouts.
- JOTA is not a contest. The idea is to contact other Scout stations and allow as many Scouts as possible to talk to other Scouts and learn about who they are and what they are doing. You might think about counting the Scouts on both sides of the QSO rather than the number of QSOs!
- [Scout Camps on the Air](#) is still being developed, but ensure you log your contacts for inclusion in this special program once submissions are tracked.

More information about JOTA may be found on the Scouting website, at <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/>.

Meeting Minutes 09/21/2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Officers in attendance: Paul KE8MOI, Zach W8MAN, Mike KQ8N, Melanie KE8TPQ, Stephanie W8AEZ

Club members in attendance: Jay N8ARR, Kyle W8KDB, Tom G. WR8G, Ned WB4BKO, Don P. KB9IAR, Jim Z. W8JMZ, Rick N8RCF, Ivan W8IDR, Bret KD8RHB, Kevin KE8UUJ, John W8JRD, Don W8RVT, Kelly KE8MWQ, Dan P. WB8KC, Larry KE8TVO, Dan KE8DW & his YL, Tom W. KE8GD, Harold KE8GZ.

Secretary's Report: Motion made to accept, Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Per Mike KQ8N, we currently have \$3712 in the bank. The AT&T bill will be due soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Hamfest** – We have booked the Wings Event Center for March 9th, 2024. Setup Friday 6-9PM on March 8th. Matt will be doing a GRMS presentation at the October 7th Kalamazoo Hamfest.
- **Skywarn** – Bret reported they had about 10 attendees at their last meeting. There were several warning sirens that didn't work at the Sept. 2nd test. Siren at Avenue A and Dickman (new) is also not working. A new siren has been approved for the Capital Ave/I-94 rest area. The National Emergency Broadcast will be on October 4th. A statewide SET will be held on October 14th, starting around 9 AM. Severe weather scenario. There is a HIAD on October 21st. Skywarn is working to get the station at the American Legion Post # 257 up and running.
- **Field Day** – Nothing to report.
- **VE Session** – Kyle W8KDB reported there were 2 examinees at the August VE session. 1 Tech and 1 General license were earned.
- **Repeaters** – Don W8RVT reported that he's not been up there. Per Mike KQ8N, the D-Star repeater is working.
- **POTA** – Dan WB8KC reported they had 45 to 46 contacts last weekend. Everyone is welcome to drop by the Whitmore Lake Picnic Pavilion at Ft. Custer between 10 AM to 1 PM or 2 PM most Saturdays, and join in the fun!

OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business to discuss this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **HAM Class** – Mike KQ8N reported they have 1 student. They anticipate having a test in a couple of weeks.
- **Officer elections** will be held at next month's club meeting (October 19th).
- **Christmas Parade** – Tabling for discussion until after October elections.

50/50 Drawing: \$31 in the kitty tonight. The winner donated the proceeds back to the club. (Thank you!)

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:44 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 10/13/2023

Meeting called to order at 6:12 PM

Attendees: Paul KE8MOI, Zach W8MAN, Melanie KE8TPQ, Stephanie W8AEZ.

Topics of Discussion:

- Treasurer's report supplied by Mike KQ8N shows our current account balance is \$3750.00.
- Club Officer elections will be held at the October 19th club meeting. Club President, Treasurer, Secretary offices are up for election as the current officers are not running for reelection.
- Per Paul, the Kalamazoo Hamfest sold 200 tables and they had around 400 attendees. It was suggested that we align our Hamfest fees with those charged by the Kalamazoo club, which charged \$15 per table,
 - \$25 per electric and \$8 per ticket.
- Per Zach, POTA is doing very well. SMARS had over 170 contacts last weekend.
- The American Legion and Calhoun County CERT will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat on October 28th from 10 AM -2PM at American Legion Post 257 at 7475 B Drive N.

Meeting ended at 6:30 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: October 19th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: November 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: November 3rd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: November 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 25 @ 7:00pm HIAD: October 21st @ 9:00am (Department of Public Works Building) HIAD VE: October 21st @ 3:00pm
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