



# FEEDBACK

September 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.

### Board of Directors:

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. More information will be provided at the Club Meeting's and future Feedback editions.

### Other News

## USA Radio Orienteering Team Brings Home Silver and Bronze Medals

At the 21st International Amateur Radio Union World Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Championship in Liberec, Czech Republic, held August 27 through September 2, 2023, USA competitors won a silver medal for an individual competition, as well as two bronze team medals.

ARDF, also known as radio orienteering, is a multi-skill sport that involves running and navigation using only a map and compass.

Competitors use a 2-meter (144 MHz) or 80-meter (3.5 MHz) radio

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Collegiate Amateur Radio

Bands: Unknown

Mode: Digital

Date: 10/07 – 10/08

URL: [www.arrl.org/collegiate-amateur-radio](http://www.arrl.org/collegiate-amateur-radio)

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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>*

receiver to locate multiple transmitters hidden in a forest. The sport directly applies to important activities such as search and rescue, wildlife tracking, airborne and seaborne navigation, and communications. The competition at the championship in Liberec involved mountainous terrain, intricate navigation challenges, periods of rain, and elite racing.

The USA fielded its largest team ever, including 21 athletes, with seven competing in a world championship for the first time. The (IARU) and Czech Radio Club hosted the event in the mountainous region of North Bohemia, with 28 countries and nearly 400 racers attending.

Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG, won a silver medal in the W65 category during the 3.5 MHz "foxoring" event that combines orienteering and transmitter (fox) hunting. Nadia Scharlau, KO4ADV, and Natalia Leoni earned a bronze team medal in the W55 category 144 MHz classic competition. Several USA athletes also finished within the top 10 results in nearly all the classes, including two fourth - place finishes by Scharlau.

Scharlau was thrilled with the results. "All our newcomers performed beyond our expectations. The courses were extremely hard. We all got along and supported one another. Most importantly, almost everyone expressed their determination to improve and come back to compete again," said Scharlau.

ARRL's ARDF Committee Chair Charles Scharlau, NZ0I, who also raced, echoed the positive take on the USA team, stating, "They successfully navigated well-designed courses on rugged terrain against a field of skilled and experienced competitors. The Czech Republic is an ideal place to hold the world championships. They have great maps, excellent venues, and they know how to put on a world-class event," he said.

The USA Radio Orienteering Championship will be held in Michigan on October 7 - 13, 2024. Team USA will select its team members for the 2025 USA Championship, and that team will travel to Lithuania in 2025 to compete in the 22nd World ARDF Championship.

A complete list of the 2023 results can be found at <https://vysledky.ardf2023.cz/>.

Thanks to ARRL ARDF Committee and Event Director Joseph Burkhead, KE8MKR, for the information contained in this story.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/usa-radio-orienteering-team-brings-home-silver-and-bronze-medals>

## Is The Shack coming back?

Radio Shack filed for bankruptcy in 2015 and 2017, and in 2020, was acquired by a company called Retail Ecommerce Ventures. Retail Ecommerce ventures had acquired several well-known retailers, such as Dress Barn, Pier 1, Stein Mart, Modell's Sporting Goods, and Linens 'n Things, and [some stories](#) heralded this as a big comeback for Radio Shack.

That never panned out, apparently, because they were just purchased again by El Salvadoran company Unicomer Group, which has been operating RadioShack stores throughout Latin America and the Caribbean since 1998. The [RadioShack website](#) now says:

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**09/23/2023**

BARA Trunk Sales

Location: Berrien Center, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Blossomland Amateur Radio Association

URL: <http://W8MAI.org>

**09/23/2023**

CMARC HAM FEST (**CANCELED**)

Location: Lansing, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

**10/07/2023**

Kalamazoo Hamfest

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo SMART Club and Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club

URL:

<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.com>

**10/14/2023**

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc

URL:

<http://www.mcecs.net/Hamfest.htm>

**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>

In 2023, Unicomer Group acquired RadioShack's intellectual property assets and domains in about 70 countries around the world, including: the United States, Canada, Europe, and China; and aims to manage the business of technology products with excellence, generating long-term profitable relationships with our partners.

This acquisition consolidates Unicomer Group as the majority owner of the brand worldwide, leading the technology market and expanding its value offer for its clients.

We want to continue developing the business, in as many territories as possible, creating support plans for operations, reaching our customers with our broad portfolio of products, looking for the best prices and constant innovation to provide solutions to technological problems.

Does this mean that they are going to be opening up a RadioShack store near you? The above kind of hints at that, who knows? Retail is a tough business, but some technology stores, such as Micro Center, seem to be doing well. Time will tell, I guess.

### Ham gear from Radio Shack

Coincidentally, I happened to run into the ad below in an old issue of CQ.

But what really cooks is the tasty selection of Ham radio accessories at our many convenient locations. So shop RadioShack for all your Ham radio needs.

**25W/10W 2M Mobile Transceiver HTX-252**  
Easy to mount and use. 30-channel memory, 1-out channel, 99 CTCSS encloade plus 19-key DTMF and walk-talk ear, training, lighted LCD display with signal-level meter. Scan, tone, noise or memory-battery warning. RX 100-120MHz. 1000W to 40MHz repeater offset. 5.5-ft. fixed DC power cord. Mobile mounting bracket and manual. #19-1122, \$159.99

**New Dual-Band Handheld HTX-420**  
Feature-rich, 2M/20w transmitter with up to 99 ch. 2M, SAME weather alert plus digital comp. 100-ch. memory, 50 CTCSS pre-tone, 16-key DTMF with 6, 16-digit auto-search memory, instant standby and keypad, battery volt meter, condition indicator, 2.2" 120MHz V-twin pack and charger, and empty "AA" battery tray. #19-1108, \$69.99. Available in June.

**RadioShack**  
You've got questions. We've got answers.  
Visit us at [www.RadioShack.com](http://www.RadioShack.com) or call 1-800-THE-SHACK®  
FCC Amateur Radio Technician Class or higher license required to operate the above products.

I doubt that RadioShack is going to start selling ham gear again, but again, who knows? There are more radio amateurs now than ever, and the number of stores selling amateur radio gear is smaller than it was back in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/is-the-shack-coming-back/>



## Meeting Minutes 08/17/2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

**Officers present:** Paul KE8MOI, Mike KQ8N, Zach W8MAN, Stephanie W8AEZ

**Others present:** Jay N8ARR, Terry N8LN, Tom W. KE8GDN, Tom G. WR8G, Jan W8JKG, John D. W8JRD, Ivan W8IDR, Don P. KB9IAR, Kyle W8KDB, Harold KE8JZU, Kevin KE8UUJ, Dan WB9KC, Dan KE8DW, Kelly KE8MWQ, Don W8RVT, Ned WB4BKO, Larry KE8TVO, Matt AD8KA.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Currently we have \$3,703.91 in the bank. \$35 from Kyle for reimbursement of VE session expenses. Motion was made to accept. Motion passed..

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Hamfest** – The Kalamazoo club will be hosting their Hamfest Oct. 7th at Kalamazoo Expo Center. Paul has not heard back from Cheryl about our Hamfest date. Paul and Dan WB8KC went to Elkhart for their hamfest last weekend. Not as good as ours as far as equipment being sold/swapped and their VE session. They had a VE session with 21 examinees.
- **Skywarn** – No report tonight as they and CERT are out at the Calhoun Co Fair. Fair will come to a close Saturday evening.
- **Field Day** - Zach thanked everyone who participated with setup and tear down. Power supply that burned up is still mounted in the trailer. Don W8RVT asked that it be delivered to him for repair. Tom G. Mentioned that the yellow network cables are 3-4 years old now, ends are beginning to fray. He will follow up on procuring replacement cable.
- **VE Session** – Our next session is August 24th. Kyle received an email from KD8KB (WD8DC). He would like to sit in on our next session.
- **Repeaters** – Per Terry N8LB, DStar repeater is working. Don W8RVT was at the Club VHF/UHF repeater site yesterday. APRS wasn't working, and neither was the MagicJack. Apparently there was a power interruption at the site that caused the repeaters to reboot. He had to restart the MagicJack and log onto the APRS server manually. He asked if the club would
- **POTA** – Our club is doing a great job on the

POTA from Ft. Custer - Kelly, Dan WB8KC, and Kevin have been participating regularly. Zach anticipates that our club will be on the contacts leaderboard in the next week or two. Dan invited all interested members to drop by POTA and participate. Next activation will be this Saturday, August 19, 2023.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- No old business to discuss this evening.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- WR8G Purchased 4 new computers and donated a 5th one for the club to use for Field Day logging. Specs: I7, 6 cores, 2.4 GHz, they are fast and will run all of the digital modes, including FT-8. Estimated useful life is about 5 years.
- We still have SMARS mugs and decals for sale, \$10 each.
- Mike KQ8N and Terry N8LN will have a Technician class beginning next Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Classes will meet consecutive Wednesdays at CRT from 6-9 PM. Please contact Terry and Mike via [calhoun.hamclass@gmail.com](mailto:calhoun.hamclass@gmail.com) for more information and to register.
- Jay N8ARR is cleaning out his basement and would like to part with the system Fusion repeater he purchased and donated to the club a while back. He also has 2 Field Day Signs. He will give them to Tom G.. Kyle W8KDB stated he'd take the repeater and store it.

**50/50 Drawing:** Winner was KE8MWQ. Proceeds donated to the club. (Thank you, Kelly!)

Motion to adjourn made at 7:49 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ  
SMARS Secretary

## **Board Meeting Minutes 09/01/2023**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 AM

Attendees: Paul KE8MOI, Melanie KE8TPQ, Steph W8AEZ, John W8JRD.

### **Topics of Discussion:**

- Treasurer's report supplied by Mike KQ8N shows \$3,719.61 is our current account balance.
- Paul talked to Cheryl at the Wings Annex. March 8-9th has been reserved for our 2024 Hamfest. We will have 100 tables with electrical access running around the edge. Suggestion was made to create an area where attendees could sit.
- Reminder: Club officer elections for club officers will be in October. Candidates are needed for the positions of club president, treasurer, and secretary.

Meeting ended at 6:50 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: September 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: October 5th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: October 6th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: October 14th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 26th @ 7:00pm  HIAD: October 21st @ 3:00pm (Department of Public Works Building)
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