



FEEDBACK

August 2024

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
Gary Williams, NK2M
nk2m@arrl.net

Vice President
Zach Mann, W8MAN
zmann648@gmail.com

Secretary
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
mel1853@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Daniel Whipple, KE8DW

Member at Large
Daniel Pesch, WB8KC

Inside this issue:

Lead article.....	1
Supplemental article.....	1
Upcoming Radio Contests.....	2
Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions.....	3
Meeting Minutes.....	4
Board Meeting Minutes.....	5
Club Repeaters.....	6
Nets & Upcoming Events.....	6

Club News

Membership Renewals

Just a friendly reminder that Membership Dues are coming up. These can be paid at a Club Meeting (on the 3rd Thursday of every month) or sent in to the Club's PO Box. The amount is still \$15.00 for one year, \$125 for 10 years, \$250 for 20 years, and \$300 for Lifetime. Donations to the club can also be sent into the PO Box or taken care of at the Club Meeting.

SMARS
P.O. Box 934
Battle Creek, MI 49016

Other News

New York High School Helps License Amateur Radio Operators

On August 1, 2024, Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, ARRL Education and Learning Manager, took a train trip to New York City to visit the [Staten Island Technical High School](#). He was there to help administer amateur radio exams to 49 students and all passed their exams. Several upgraded their licenses from General to Extra class and two students went from unlicensed to Extra class in one sitting.

Their teacher, Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, attended [ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) TI – 1 last year and TI – 2 this year. Since then, Everton has helped over 100 kids successfully test for their amateur radio licenses. He has built a program incorporating HF, local repeater use, foxhunting, and space communications and has plans to incorporate mesh networking with his students this coming school year.

On August 6, 2024, Henriques was helping his students build antennas to help make contact with the International Space Station. They made a 5-element VHF "bad boy" antenna with a mounting mechanism to rotate and pitch the heading using 3D-printed materials, PVC, and aluminum rods. They tried using an IC-2730a VHF/UHF radio on medium power. While that didn't go as well as planned, they were able to hear a lot of activity on 70 centimeters.

Staten Island Technical High School began as a New York City public high school in 1988. Its student body is comprised of lifelong learners, innovation facilitators, contributors to the betterment of society and intellectually inquisitive young men and women. In September of 2005, the school was granted the status as New York City's 7th Specialized High School by the New York City Department of Education. New York City's Specialized High Schools are comprised of the most academically gifted and talented students.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

10 GHz & Up

Bands: 10 GHz thru Light
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 8/17 – 8/18
URL: www.arrl.org/field-day

Rookie Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: RTTY
Date: 08/18
URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

EME Contest

Bands: 23 GHz and Up
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 8/24 – 8/25
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

September VHF

Bands: Above 50 MHz
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 9/14 – 9/16
URL: www.arrl.org/september-vhf

EME Contest

Bands: 23 GHz and Up
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 9/21 – 9/22
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

10 GHz & Up

Bands: 10 GHz thru Light
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 9/21 – 9/2
URL: 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>*

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/new-york-high-school-helps-license-amateur-radio-operators>

A tale of two Tawas parks

On the spur of the moment, my wife, Silvia, and I decided to head up to East Tawas, MI on Lake Huron for an overnight excursion. It was a nice change of pace, and it helped us beat the heat a little.

One of the things I most enjoy about East Tawas is being able to operate at Tawas Point State Park (US-1545). It's a two-fer in that operating from there is not only a POTA activation, but also a lighthouse activation, as the park is home to the Ottawa Point/Tawas Point Light (ARLHS USA-837). And, as a little bit of a bonus, last weekend was National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.



My operating position at Tawas Point State Park, US-1545. Note that I've started using the 4:1 current balun that I built recently with my doublet antenna.

It's about a two and a half hour drive from Ann Arbor to the park, but it took us at least 30 minutes extra, due to construction near Flint. We got there about 1:30 pm, and enjoyed the lunch we had brought while we looked out over Lake Huron.

I then found a nice shady spot to set up the rig. Last time I was here two years ago, I set up in the sun, and my KX-3 got so hot, I thought I'd damaged it. This time, in the shade, the radio stayed nice and cool.

I was on the air for a little over two hours and made about 30 contacts. Most of my contacts were on 20-meter CW, but at the end, I ventured into the phone portion of the band and was able to make four park-to-park contacts. I figured—correctly, I think—that I'd have better success hunting than calling CQ on phone. One tactic that seemed to work very well is to add “park to park” to my call. That got the activators' attention even though my 15 W was certainly not the strongest signal on the band.

A noisy activation at Tawas State Harbor

We stayed at the Tawas Bay Beach Resort that night. It's a nice hotel,

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

09/07/2024

Branch County ARC Fall Trunk Swap

Location: Coldwater, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

URL: <http://branchcountyarc.org>

09/07/2024

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest

Location: Wyoming, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

URL:

<https://w8dc.org/2024/02/05/grand-rapids-area-hamfest/>

09/08/2024

Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

URL: <http://w8ft.org>

09/15/2024

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: AARC

URL: <http://w8tqe.com>

10/05/2024

Kalamazoo Hamfest

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club (KARC), Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team (SMART)

URL:

<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.org>

10/12/2024

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

URL: <http://www.mcecs.net/hamfest>

has its own little beach, and is close to downtown East Tawas. It's also right next to [Tawas State Harbor \(US-6812\)](#).



The view from my operating position at Tawas State Harbor (US-6812).

Since we had to check out of the hotel by 11:00 am, I decided to get up a little early and make some contacts in the morning. That way, my wife could stay in bed and not have to sit out in the park while I operated. I left the room a little after 7:30 am, hiked over to the park, and was set up just before 8:00 am.

When I turned on the radio, though, I was quite dismayed to hear all the noise. It was peaking at S5! When I conjured up the plan to activate this park, I hadn't realized that it was right next to an RV campground. My guess is that all that noise was coming from the campers. I tried re-orienting my doublet antenna, but that didn't help at all.

Not only that, band conditions seemed quite poor yesterday morning. There were only a few strong signals. Couple that with having to operate with the noise reducer on means that I'm sure that I missed a few calls just because they were below the noise floor and I couldn't hear them. If one of them was you, please accept my apologies.

I operated until about 8:30 am, when I decided to give up fighting the noise and band conditions. Overall, I managed to make 16 contacts in about 35 minutes, so actually not a bad rate.

I packed up and headed back to the room. When I got back, Silvia was ready for breakfast, and so was I. We had a nice breakfast at the hotel, then took a walk out to the end of the breakwater at Tawas State Harbor. It was a little bit warm out there in the sun, but quite enjoyable looking out over the lake. From the shore, you could just spot the lighthouse, which had to be at least a couple miles away.

After our walk, we packed up the car and headed home. There were no major traffic holdups on the way home, and we made it in two and a half hours.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/a-tale-of-two-tawas-parks/>

Meeting Minutes 07/18/2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

We would like to welcome new members Devon Barks Scott Babcock and Jim Heckman.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Hamfest** – We are looking at fairgrounds for club ham fest 2025 very possible trying to make sure that we are close to other hand first dates. Checking on parking and VE sessions loading and unloading security all these things need to be assessed if we are to use the fairgrounds.
- **Skywarn** – Nothing on skywarn at this time.
- **Field Day** – Field day was a success a great time. A very successful raffle and the fairgrounds was again a great resource for our field day plan on using this space for future events. We are also in the stages of planning a more efficient field day set up. Our set up is always fantastic but always looking for ways to improve. Great job on the GOTA station set up by Kevin and Dan. Tom and Kyle thank you for all your hard work keeping everything up and running for field day and getting trailers ready you always do a fantastic job.
- **Repeaters** – Repeaters are reported as good by Matt and Don.
- **DSTAR** – Nothing to report for D-Star repeaters.
- **POTA** – Nothing new to report for POTA

OLD BUSINESS

- Last meeting to amend the dues pricing and schedule dues are due on the first of the year \$20 for the year voted to change bylaws pass unanimously W8DF.com you can find our constitution and the amendments made for five year tenure in

lifetime.

NEW BUSINESS

- Saturday POTA breakfast at Café Tal At eight and Set up at nine 930 Whitford lake Fort Custer recreational 24 awards for activation congrats.
- Festival of forks in Albion in September more details to follow.

SPECIAL NOTE

- Dan did not oppose due pricing

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 08/01/2024

FINANCES:

- Checking \$5,506.38
- Savings \$6.94
- Cash on hand \$59.00
- As of August 3rd, 2024 total amount \$5,572.32

Since May POTA Has had 6725 contacts (woo hoo that is awesome).

We sent in \$20 for our nonprofit organization with the names of all officers for corporate annual filing.

Our club has 56 members and a few new members. still have some unpaid dues. So make sure if one of them is you to pay your dues for the year.

Need to start talking about winter field day.

Hamfest venue

New ways to reach out to the community and grow our club. Matt has some great ideas on that festival of forks and having a set up there to promote the club.

Reaching out to the youth to promote ham radio

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
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>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
---	---	---	--

<p>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</p> <p>Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Club Meeting: August 15th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: September 5th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: September 5th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: September 14th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 22nd @ 7:00pm</p>
---	---