Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

FEEDBACK

December 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
Matt Woodman, AD8KA
matthewfwoodman@gmail.com

Vice President
Gary Williams, NK2M
nk2m@arrl.net

Secretary
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
mel1853@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Daniel Whipple, KE8DW
dwhipple5@gmail.com

Member at Large
Daniel Pesch, WB8KC

Inside this issue:

Lead article.....1
Supplemental article.....2
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 Renews

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 has increased a little this year. For 1 year it is $20, for 5 years it is $75, for 10 years it is $145, for 20 years it is $280, and for Lifetime it is $500. For the 1 year, each additional Family Member is an additional $5. Dues are due Janurary 1st of each year. Newly licensed members get a year free. 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

HF Nets Presentation

If you missed last month's meeting, Matt Woodman (AD8KA) gave a presentation about HF Nets. It went over what a Net is, how to find the different Nets (be it Local Clubs, Regional, National, and/or International), and some of the Nets that are available. We were also introduced to Netlogger that some of the Nets use. Our local nets are listed at the end of the Feedback, but below are some of the HF Nets that were talked about in the presentation:

Regional
- MACS (MI Amateur Communications Systems)
  10 AM daily 80M 3.952 or 40M 7.232
- Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service
  5 PM Sunday 80m 3.932 or 40M 7.232 NCS KE8DO
- Wolverine Single Sideband Net
  5PM Monday – Friday 80M 3.935

National
- North American Traffic and Awards
  6PM Nightly 40M 7.185 (check-in one hour in advance; use of Netlogger is recommended)
  - Monday 40M – W1PEF, Paul, NH
  - Tuesday 40M – N6VF, Dave ("Bandit"), IN
  - Wednesday 40M – W8SGB, Stephen, OH
  - Thursday 40M – N5DIZ, Fran, IL/KK4PQU, Willard
  - Friday 40M – Open NCS Slot
  - Saturday 40M – AK9EN, Ken, IN
  - Sunday 40M – KE8GC, Greg, MI

International
- YLISSB System (YL System, https://ylsystem.org)
  365 Days of the year 20M 14.332

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Rookie Roundup-CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, & 10 Meters
Mode: CW
Date: 12/22
URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

Straight Key Night
Bands: All Authorized Amateur Freq. (Mainly HF Bands)
Mode: CW
Date: 01/1
URL: www.arrl.org/straight-key-night

Kids Day
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters
Mode: Phone
Date: 01/5
URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

RTTY Roundup
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: RTTY
Date: 01/04 – 01/05
URL: www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

January VHF
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: CW, Phone, FM, Digital
Date: 01/18 – 01/20
URL: www.arrl.org/january-vhf

A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page* **ContestCalendar, **http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar**

- OMISS (omiss.net for more times and digital info)
  1800z Sat/Sun 10M 28.665
  2030z Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun 12M 24.980
  1830z Daily 20M 14.290
  0100z Daily 40M 7.185
  0300z Daily 80M 3.825

Other News

2025 Youth on the Air Camp Application Period Open

Applications are now being accepted for campers interested in attending the 2025 Youth on the Air Camp. Licensed amateur radio operators, ages 15 through 25, who want to attend are encouraged to apply online at YouthOnTheAir.org. The camp is scheduled to take place June 15 - 20, 2025, in Thornton (Denver), Colorado and the Denver Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliated Club, is the local host.

The current application period is for the fifth camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America. For the best chance at being selected, applications should be submitted by 2359Z on January 15, 2025. Campers will be selected by the working group and notified by February 1.

To encourage attendance from across the Americas, allocations for campers are being held open for various areas of North, Central, and South America. If countries do not use their allocation or should someone within an allocation decline acceptance, those positions will be filled from the remaining pool of applicants. As this will be an ongoing process, everyone will not receive notification of acceptance at the same time. Preference will be given to first-time attendees.

Applications will continue to be accepted through May 1 and up to 50 campers will be accepted. The application process is free, but a $100 USD deposit is required upon acceptance. Should a potential camper be unable to pay the $100 deposit, they may apply for a scholarship or waiver. Campers are also responsible for their own arrival and departure transportation to the camp location. Travel assistance may also be available, especially for those traveling from outside of the USA and Canada. Travel during camp events is provided.

For details about the camp, visit the camp web page at YouthOnTheAir.org or email Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, at director@youthontheair.org.

Article courtesy of https://www.arrl.org/news/2025-youth-on-the-air-camp-application-period-open

Ready for a challenge?

Fabian Kurz, DJ5CW, has done it again! Fabian is the guy behind Learn CW Online—lcwo.net—a website that has helped hundreds, if not thousands, of radio amateurs learn Morse Code.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Fabian's latest project is the 52-Week Ham Radio Challenge. Slated to begin on January 1, 2025, the website says this about the challenges:

- The challenges are meant to inspire you to extend your horizon

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

02/22/2025
Livonia Amateur Radio Club Annual Swap & Shop
Location: Northville , MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

in amateur radio by weekly challenges through the year that touch all aspects of ham radio (and related fields).

- A lot of the challenges may be trivial for some participants (because it is what they do all the time), but very challenging to others.
- Participants of the challenge are encouraged to help each other in any way possible. There's no cheating and you decide on your own success or failure.
- The challenges may be done in the suggested chronolgical order, or in any other way you like. For maximum synergy and fun in comparing how it's going, going chronologically is recommended!
- Participants are encouraged to post their progress, ideas, questions on Mastodon with the tag #hamchallenge. There is also an IRC channel: irc.libera.chat/#hamchallenge
- You're encouraged to make use of your own equipment as much as possible, but it is perfectly OK to use borrowed equipment, or use WebSDRs/KiwiSDRs or other remote setups.
- Progress is tracked by mentioning the @hamchallenge@mas.to bot on Mastodon in your toots:
    - If you succeeded in a challenge, include HCnnS in your toot (where nn is the week). You will receive a point for the challenge.
    - If you didn't succeed yet, you can still include HCnn in your toot about the challenge, and it will be linked.
    - The bot will reply with an acknowledgement including your current score and streak length. If your toot was a direct message, the reply will be private, too.

I intend to blog about each challenge prior to the week of the challenge. I'll explain what the challenge is about and link to some resources that will help a participant complete the challenge.

I think this could be a lot of fun for both new hams and older hams. What do you think?

Article courtesy of https://www.kb6nu.com/ready-for-a-challenge/

Meeting Minutes 11/21/2024

Meeting called to order around 7:00 PM

We welcomed Kyle Hoyt, KF8CMA, as a new ham member. Congratulations and welcome to the Hobby.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Committee reports hamfest June 8 Calhoun county fairground following Hudsonville hamfest. Hopefully to pull more vendors. Note to put in shopper and to get fliers out for our event and change of venue.
- Skywarn – There was no in person meeting on Tuesday. Still working on sirens problem with transmission of tones. Urbandale back online after being tampered with and a big thank you to all who participate in siren testing. SET went well in October 80 points. State Auxcom in March Bret will be vetting applications.
- Field Day – No new updates at this time.
- Repeaters – Repeaters are reported as good by Matt and Don.
- DSTAR – Nothing to report for D-Star Repeaters.
- POTA – No new updates.
- Winter Field Day – January 25 11 AM through January 26 5 PM registered W8DF at Dan Whipple‘s residence. Dan will also have a trailer restrooms available and I'm sure will have some snacks. Digital mode is excepted and we will also have warm Eskimo shanties. Dan Whipple‘s address is 1160 S. 42nd St., Gillsburg, MI 49053 let us know if you're coming.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Christmas party December 7 Saturday from 5 to 7 at Pennfeild Presbyterian Church on the corner of 66 and St. Mary's Lake Road. Bring a gift if you would like to participate in the white elephant game. And bring your appetite.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Matt gave a presentation on HF Nets (see some of the information under Club News; a copy of the presentation is available upon request to Matt).

Meeting Adjourned around 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 12/05/2024

FINANCES:

- Checking $5,385.24
- Savings $6.94
- Cash on hand $45.00
- Total $5,437.18

Reminder for Christmas party this Saturday, December 7 5 to 7 PM 7979 St. Mary's Lake Rd., Pennfeild Presbyterian Church on the corner of Saint Mary's Lake Road and M 66 past M 66 Bowling Alley. Join us for fun and food we will have a raffle. A white elephant game so bring a small gift if you would like to participate and bring your appetite.

January through March we would like to update our property list of assets of the club and have everything logged. Trailers radios etc.

We will be purchasing a new power supply for future use this was previously an excepted motion by the club.

Ham fast securing the venue for June 8 at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds so excited to see what this year brings.

Don't forget the first of the year dues are coming up $20 for yearly membership.

We would also like to do a survey just to get feedback from the club members.

Also looking to do a radio Boot Camp more to come on that this may be something great for new hams

And once a quarter we would like to do a tech night Elmer hour

And or February topic will be ham apps

Looking forward to a new year and to see what it brings for our club

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

Club Meeting	**SKYWARN Coffee**	**BLB Luncheon**	**SMARS Breakfast**
3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI

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

Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones

Upcoming Events:

Club Meeting: December 19th @ 7:00pm
BLB Luncheon: January 2nd @ 11:30am
Board Meeting: January 2nd @ 6:30pm
Club Breakfast: January 11th @ 8:30am
VE Session: December 26th @ 7:00pm

Remember, dates close to or on holidays are subject to canceling or rescheduling without notice.