



FEEDBACK

July 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.

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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

Radio Raffle Drawing

Field Day was a success, and we had a winner for the Radio Raffle. The Winner of the SMARS Raffle for an ICOM ID-50A handheld radio was Victor Green, KF8BQL. He is a brand new licensed ham and the latest member of our radio club. He was able to stop by during Field Day setup and received his new radio. The raffle raised \$496.37 for the club to be used towards normal expenses and equipment upgrades.



Congratulation to Victor and Thank you to all who supported the club by purchasing tickets.

Other News

ARRL Logbook of The World Returns to Service

ARRL [Logbook of The World® \(LoTW®\)](#) returned to service July 1, 2024. It had been offline as part of a [systems service disruption](#).

As work progressed on the network, some users encountered LoTW opening briefly during which some 6600 logs were uploaded. The logs were not processed until this weekend as we tested that the interfaces to LoTW were functioning properly.

We are taking steps to help manage what will likely be a huge influx of logs. We are requesting that if you have large uploads, perhaps from contests or from a DXpedition, please wait a week or two before uploading to give LoTW a chance to catch up. We have also implemented a process to reject logs with excessive duplicates. Please do not upload your entire log to "ensure" your contacts are in LoTW as they will be rejected.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

Bands: 222 MHz thru 241 GHz

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 8/3 – 8/4

URL: www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest

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>*

Despite this request, we have seen several recent DXpeditions upload large log files and many amateurs have uploaded logs with excessive duplicates. This negatively impacts the backlog time.

Lastly, please do not call ARRL Headquarters to report issues you are having with LoTW. You can contact support at LoTW-help@arrl.org.

Through the end of the year, you may experience planned times when LoTW will be unavailable. We have been using this time to evaluate operational and infrastructure improvements we would like to make to LoTW. Those times will be announced.

We appreciate your patience as we worked through the challenges keeping LoTW from returning to service. We know the importance of LoTW to our members, and to the tens of thousands of LoTW users who are not ARRL members. [LoTW](#), just behind [QST](#), is our second most popular ARRL benefit.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-logbook-of-the-world-returns-to-service>

Celebrating Software Defined Radio

At Ham Radio 2024, the International amateur radio exhibition, last week in Friedrichshafen, Germany, the Software Defined Radio Academy (SDRA) celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Founded in 2014, the SDRA has become a new platform for the exchange of knowledge surrounding software defined radio. In the early years, the academy's lectures were recorded with primitive camera technology, but today a video team takes the recordings to a completely different level. The SDRA's YouTube channel now has 150 uploads, 4850 subscribers, and many more views of the videos.

The winners of the Ulrich L. Rohde Award, created in 2022 for innovative research in the field of software defined radio, were also announced:

The **GNU Radio project for its good software solutions for software defined radio (SDR) technology**. GNU Radio is a [free software](#) development toolkit that provides signal processing blocks to implement [software-defined](#) radios and [signal processing systems](#).

The **DARC-AJW team for the SDR questions in the new questionnaire and the standardization of education**. According to group leader Matthias Jung, DL9MJ, posting on X, the team's work "focused on integrating SDR into the German amateur radio exam and educational materials."

Rob Robinett, AI6VN, with Paul Elliot, WB6CXC, for their fundamental work and influence on scientific research in other areas.

Christoph V. Wüllen, DL1YCF, with Laurence Barker, G8NJJ, for fundamental work on stations.

Dr. Rohde, N1UL, has been an avid amateur radio operator holding several licenses in the United States and Germany. He has been licensed since 1956 and involved in technology and systems and has received worldwide recognition. In 2015, he won first place in the ARRL DX Contest in the Northern New Jersey Section. He also operates N1UL/MM on his yacht, the Dragonfly, and is Trustee of the Marco Island Radio Club, K5MI.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/celebrating-software-defined-radio>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

07/20/2024

Auburn Hamfest

Location: Auburn, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana

Amateur Radio Association

URL: <http://w9ou.org>

08/03/2024

Elkhart East Hamfest, ARRL Central Division Convention

Location: Elkhart, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW

Repeater Network

URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

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>

How to troubleshoot a jumper wire

Tuesday, my friend Paul, KW1L, texted me, and asked if I could come over to his house and help him with his new antenna. He had just purchased and installed a Cobra Ultra-Lite Junior, and he didn't think that it was performing as well as it should.

A piece of wire with alligator clips on each end.

The suspect jumper wire.

I won't go into all of the details, but one of the checks he had made was to measure the continuity of the feed line, which is 80 feet of 18-gauge, 450 Ω ladder line. To do this, he connected the jumper wire in the photo at right across the ladder line in his shack and then measured the resistance at the antenna feed point.

The measurement that he came up with was 16 Ω . Well, the [National Institute of Science and Technology \(NIST\)](#) says that the resistance of 18-gauge solid wire should be about .0064 Ω /ft. Using that figure, the resistance should be somewhere near 1 Ω .

So, Paul asked me to bring over my DMM, which I did yesterday. We dropped the antenna, put my Fluke 79 across the feed point, and measured close to 16 Ω .

It didn't make much sense, but the only reasonable explanation was that the problem with this measurement was the jumper wire. This was somewhat troubling to Paul, as he had a sentimental attachment to this jumper wire. It was given to him by a fellow who worked for him at Xerox, and he pointed out to me how well-made it was. He noted, for example, that each end of the wire had been tinned before it was screwed to the alligator clip.

I agreed that it was well-made, but certainly one or both of the connections could have oxidized, resulting in a high-resistance connection. And guess what? When I measured the resistance of the jumper, it turned out to be about 15 Ω !

I then unscrewed the wire at one end and measured again. It measured 15 Ω . I unscrewed the wire at the other end, and voilá, I measured 0 Ω . I screwed the alligator clips back on, and the overall resistance was near 0 Ω again. My guess is that the second connection was a little loose, and that over the years, some oxidation built up on both the wire and the alligator clip.

Whenever we do something like this, Paul likes to ask, "So, what did we learn from this?" In this case, I think what we learned is that even jumper wires can go bad. It's also a validation of the KB6NU Theory of Electronic Failures, i.e. at least 80% of the problems associated with electronic equipment are problems with cables or connectors.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/how-to-troubleshoot-a-jumper-wire/>

Meeting Minutes 06/20/2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Hamfest** – Nothing to report at this time. Exploration of the Fair Grounds as a possible location planned during Field Day.
- **Skywarn** – Skywarn no one available for comment at this time
- **Field Day** – It is happening this weekend. Need people to help setup, operate, and tare down. We have 3 trucks to pull the three trailers. The leveling jacks need to be added to the 2 other trailers. Work still needs to be done on the trailers, but won't happen before Field Day this year.
- **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

- Third weekend in September festival of the forks downtown Albion promoting ham radio set up a booth more information talk to Matt Woodman.
- Trailers are good to go for field day fairgrounds paid for Friday set of 3 PM happy Field day.

NEW BUSINESS

- Proposal to increase dues put membership laws into bylaws for 10 15 and 20 year memberships lifetime memberships \$400 second on motion vote in July meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 07/11/2024

Hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July hence the reason our minutes are late so we did not have a meeting on the fourth which is the first Thursday of the month we delayed one week so here are your minutes

- Checking \$5521.38
- Savings \$6.94
- Cash on hand \$44
- As of July 11, 2024 total amount \$5572.32

Zack to send an amendment to constitution regarding dues to Kyle

Treasury report was previously sent via Dan Whipple if you do not have that let me know and I will send you it.

Also making note that we would like an extra key for the church to be in your possession Kyle for the VE sessions in case the president is unavailable

Field day was a great turn out little storm on Saturday night chased most of the evening warriors away but in all we made lots of contacts. Still lots of work to do on trailers and in general for a better flow and easier set up. A lot of talk about how the portable set ups did a great job got many contacts and we're easy to set up and take down. Maybe we want to consider a different approach will bring that up and meeting.

Also we forgot to do a log for everyone to sign that came out to field day. So remember for next year a sign in log

All right Kathy was paid for field day also looking into the fairgrounds for hamfast what they have available for tables chairs power heat it may end up changing the date of ham for us to be continued would like to get it closer to other ham fest make more and spend less.

Radio raffle was a success we may do more in the future the lucky winner was a new ham who had just previously became ham in a day congrats and the club made about 500 bucks will get the exact figure for you don't have it on hand.

Also would like to look into doing more work on the trailers this fall will contact Tom Worthington on this matter. That's all see you soon.

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 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: July 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: August 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: August 1st @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: August 10th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 22nd @ 7:00pm
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