



FEEDBACK

May 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

Trailer Work

To help get ready for Field Day (which is right around the corner), we need to do some maintenance to the trailers and equipment. This was planned for the past Saturday, but there may be future days scheduled to work on them before Field Day. This will be discussed at the Club Meeting this way, so if you are interesting in helping out please stop by at the Club Meeting this Thursday May 16th at 7 PM (we meet at the Maple Methodist Church on Capital Ave).

Other News

Storms and Tornadoes: Amateur Radio Ready

Strong storms and reports of at least 60 tornadoes have wreaked havoc in the Central U.S. for nearly two weeks. Homes and businesses across Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Iowa were destroyed, and power is still down for more than 30,000 residents. On May 1, 2024, President Joe Biden declared a major disaster exists in Oklahoma, making federal aid available to those affected by last weekend's severe storms in Hughes, Love, and Murray counties.

Section Manager of the ARRL Iowa Section Lelia Garner, WA0UIG, reported that in Iowa, they have moved from response to recovery. Currently, nine counties are under the Iowa State Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Advocacy Program.

"Amateur Radio has served our local agencies well. We recently networked at a central Iowa hamfest and are building our emergency communications capacity primarily through [the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®)]. ARES resources [include] personnel, experience, meetings, training, [communications] equipment, [and]

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

International Digital Contest

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 Meters

Mode: Digital (excluding RTTY)

Date: 6/1 – 6/2

URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest

June VHF

Bands: Above 50 MHz

Mode: Phone

Date: 6/8 – 6/10

URL: www.arrl.org/june-vhf

Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Date: 6/15

URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

Field Day

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

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 6/22 – 6/23

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>*

operating trailers. The opportunity to share our experience and knowledge gained in the field has been critical to supporting ARES in Iowa," said Garner.

Garner added that awareness is the best tool. She stressed that amateur operators and ARES members work to help the National Weather Service and other served agencies in order make their work and the community safer.

ARRL Emergency Management Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, agrees that everyone should stay vigilant in their awareness and preparations, even during periods of less activity. Make sure you are prepared at home and that your family has a severe weather plan. This is extremely important if you plan to be mobile or away from your home during a severe weather event. Your safety is the most important thing if you plan to be active during severe weather. Every ham who is interested in severe weather should take the [SKYWARN](#) storm spotting class offered by the National Weather Service," said Johnston.

He added that some of the most important aspects of preparation are communication and building relationships. These activities, including drills and exercises, need to be done during blue - sky days to ensure you will be ready during days with severe weather.

The [ARRL Learning Center](#) offers courses like on Basic EmComm and Intro to Radio for Emergencies & Disasters.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/storms-and-tornadoes-amateur-radio-ready>

A Stroudsburg teens' passion for radio

STROUDSBURG, MONROE COUNTY (WBRE/WYOU) — In this week's Here's to You Kid segment, 28/22 News met a young ham radio operator. It's not only his hobby, what he does also involves helping save lives.

28/22 News Reporter Iyee Jagne met up with Samuel Thrall and gave us a look at the Monroe County Public Safety Center and the teen's role there.

14-year-old Samuel Thrall is a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association (EPARA.)

He passed three levels of the FCC Amateur Radio Licensing exam and now helps at the Monroe County Public Safety Center.

"In the event of an emergency situation, so say a blizzard happened, we would be deployed to various Red Cross centers through the county to establish communications and there for relay any needs that the stations might need," said Samuel.

What interested him in ham radio in the first place is simple.

"The scientific aspect of it the sense is very interesting because it's a technology we use on a daily basis. Our phones are all powered by radio just with computers built into them," Samuel explained.

Samuel says his start in this field was an interesting one.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

05/17/2024 – 05/19/2024

Dayton Hamvention

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: Hamfest

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

URL: <https://hamvention.org>

06/01/2024

FCARC Summer Hamfest

Location: Wauseon, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

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

06/01/2024

IRA Hudsonville Hamfest

Location: Hudsonville, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association

URL: <http://www.w8ira.org>

06/02/2024

Annual Chelsea Amateur Radio Club Swap Meet

Location: Chelsea, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Chelsea Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://wd8iel.com>

06/15/2024

MARC Hamfest

Location: Midland, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club

URL: <http://w8kea.org>

06/16/2024

Monroe Hamfest

Location: Monroe, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Monroe County Radio Comm Association

URL: <http://mcrca.org>

"I failed my swimming test at Boy Scout camp one year, so I had to replace it and I replaced swimming with the Radio Mariott Badge," Samuel continued.

From there his passion for radio grew.

"Then I got my technician license, then I kept going and in February I got my general and then last April I got my amateur," Samuel added.

Getting all those certifications was not an easy process but Samuel says.

"It is a fun process, and it is rewarding at the end when you get to play with you know these technologies and it's a fun experience and you meet a lot of people along the way," said Samuel.

When Samuel grows up, he plans to join the armed services.

"Going to a service academy I'm going to apply for the Air Force Academy and hopefully West Point Army Academy. I plan to go into Tela communications or something involving radio technology because that's just a field that interests me," Samuel stated.

Samuel is also a Boy Scout in Troop 99 in Effort and is a member of the Pleasant Valley Middle School baseball team.

Samuel is also working toward several Eagle Scout awards.

Here's to you Samuel!

If you have a kid you think should be featured on Heres To You Kid!, [send in a nomination online](#).

Article courtesy of <https://www.pahomepage.com/nepas-children-first/heres-to-you-kid/a-stroudsburg-teens-passion-for-radio/>

Meeting Minutes 04/18/2024

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, but we need to start planning for next year after Field Day.
- **Skywarn** – Skywarn siren test no Urbandale Riverside or I 94 west lake no power meter. Update Urbandale successful test will activate in May. There will be a special siren test for Burlington and Homer next month.
- **Field Day** – Field day Marshall county fairgrounds set up Friday, June 21 field day June 22 lunch at noon after 6 PM June 22 we will allow for open operation.
- **VE Session** – One person shows up for the April VE Session and passed with a General. Next VE Session is June 27th.
- **Repeaters** – Repeaters all good thanks Don and Matt
- **DSTAR** – Nothing to report
- **POTA** – Committee report Pota on fire with Contacts 171 weekend and the week before 130. About 200 contacts April 20. Pota is usually on Saturdays meet at Café TAL At 8 AM for breakfast activation at Whitford lake and set up start at 10 Fort custard.

OLD BUSINESS

- Trailer crew may open for second week inventory the 11th through the 12th. 18th through 19th is a rain date contact Tom or Kyle 10 AM work party to 22024 Walbascon Rd. will more than likely be an email sent out regarding trailer work.

NEW BUSINESS

- New business VE session June 1 HIAD 230 to 3 VE needs support location DBW Kendall Street
- Motion to authorize a treasurer to

purchase radio drawing tickets for a raffle purchase of a ID 50 radio sell 100 tickets \$10 apiece for the raffle drawing on Saturday at field day June 22 motion passed. tickets have been purchased as well as radio. You may obtain a raffle ticket from a board member \$10 each.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 05/02/2024

Board meeting is held first Thursday of the month at 6:30 at the VFW on 20th St.

Went over the roster of members and membership dues no email response from a few 44 current 17 unpaid

Raffle tickets available now at \$10 each you may buy more than one, board members have your tickets for purchase see Mel or Dan or Zack drawing is on June 22 at field day.

Zack and Gary will do a walk-through at the fairgrounds this month. And trailer crews will work on readiness of trailers for field day. Again contact Tom If interested in helping revamp some trailers. May 11 and 12th were the dates talked about at our last meeting. With rain dates being the 18th and 19th.

Reminder Dayton Ohio Hamvention May 17 through the 19th Ann Arbor has charter bus trips if anyone is interested.

Field day June 21 set up and June 22 field day with lunch at noon. Drawing will be held for the ID 50 on that day.

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: May 16th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: June 6th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: June 6th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: June 8th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 27th @ 7:00pm
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