



# FEEDBACK

November 2024

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:

*President*

Matt Woodman, AD8KA  
[matthewfwoodman@gmail.com](mailto:matthewfwoodman@gmail.com)

*Vice President*

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*Secretary*

Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ  
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*Treasurer*

Daniel Whipple, KE8DW  
[dwhipple5@gmail.com](mailto:dwhipple5@gmail.com)

*Member at Large*

Daniel Pesch, WB8KC

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## Club Christmas Party

A reminder to all members, the Club Christmas Party is December 7<sup>th</sup> at Pennfield Presbyterian Church on M-66 (this is different then last year). The address is listed below. Time and menu is to be announced at this November Club Meeting. We will be playing a white elephant game bring an unmarked wrapped gift \$20 or less. And we will also do a little raffle.

7979 St Marys Lake Rd  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

### Other News

## YouTube Telethon to Raise Money for ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology

The [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) is growing next year, and a number of social media stars are coming together to help it happen. On Saturday, November 30, a live fundraiser telethon is set to take place on the Ham Radio Crash Course YouTube channel. Host Josh Nass, KI6NAZ, will be joined by several web-famous hams to talk radio and raise money. The proceeds benefit the [ARRL Education and Technology Fund](#), which is what pays for the Teachers Institute (TI).

There is skin in the game. "Several donors created a challenge with a \$20,000 pledge. The Donor Challenge will be unlocked when others step up and give during this year's telethon," said ARRL Director of

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### 160 Meter

Bands: 160 Meters  
Mode: CW  
Date: 12/6 – 12/8  
URL: [www.arrl.org/160-meter](http://www.arrl.org/160-meter)

### 10 Meter

Bands: 10 Meters  
Mode: Phone, CW  
Date: 12/14 – 12/15  
URL: [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter)

### Rookie Roundup-CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, & 10 Meters  
Mode: CW  
Date: 12/22  
URL: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "It really shows the value hams place on inspiring and educating the next generation of radio amateurs. They're going to be the engineers that lead our world forward, and ham radio is a solid foundation for wireless technology," said Beal.

All the funding for the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology comes from donations. In the last three years, 175 educators have graduated TI. There were 7 cohorts of the program in 2024, there are 16 planned for 2025, including taking the institute "on the road" to different cities around the country. The goal is to have 300 teachers in 2025, exceeding the combined total of the last three years.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, will join Nass on the telethon. He'll share success stories from the last several years, and answer questions about the program. "We're seeing real success, and it's great to have the opportunity to tell the stories that come out of enabling these educators," he said.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/youtube-telethon-to-raise-money-for-arrl-teachers-institute-on-wireless-technology-1>

## Hurricane Helene has changed my outlook on emergency communications

I was never very interested in emergency communications. Perhaps it's because I live in Michigan, which [according to World Atlas](#), is the second safest state as far as natural disasters go.

With what has gone on lately in North Carolina I'm re-thinking my position. I still don't think that every ham has to go whole hog (pun intended) on emergency communications, but we should have the ability to communicate without grid power and some knowledge of emergency communications techniques and protocols.

This may or may not include amateur radio. Tom, K4SWL, has some interesting thoughts on this. He was right in the middle of the Hurricane Helene situation and speaks from experience. [See his blog](#) to read more about his experience and his thoughts on going forward. They've decided to go with GMRS where he lives.

Here are some other reports on how radio amateurs responded to the hurricane in North Carolina:

- [Forget cell phones — amateur radio shines in the wake of Helene](#)
- [When cell towers and internet fail, ham radio operators can still talk. How to get involved](#)
- [Helene trapped Asheville broadcasters in their station. They've stayed on air ever since](#)

Personally, I have the ability to put a low-power transceiver on the air, and I can power this setup with solar panel. I did this for a 24-hour period several years ago on Field Day during the Covid crisis. I could do a lot more, though. Now's the time to start the conversation.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/hurricane-helene-has-changed-my-outlook-on-emergency-communications/>

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**12/07/2024**

Winter Hamfest

Location: Archbold, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: FCARC

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

**02/22/2025**

Livonia Amateur Radio Club Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Northville , MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

## 2024 ARRL Field Day Results Published

Results are published, and the numbers are in. They paint a picture of a very active 2024 ARRL Field Day. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were reported during the 24-hour event. That is up from 2023's 1.25 million contacts. That's likely indicative of the continued rise of Solar Cycle 25 leading up to the event, but more people also participated this year.

Entries were received from all 85 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections, as well as from 27 different countries from outside the US and Canada. "It is encouraging to see a rise in participation year to year," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. "ARRL Field Day is amateur radio's premier event, and the hams turned out for it."

Field Day is whatever you make it. For some participants, it's a contest; for others, it's a social gathering and club activity. Other groups use Field Day to showcase what amateur radio is all about to the public. Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to introduce youths to amateur radio.

Class A, B, and C scores are included in the 2024 QST results article. The scores for Class D, E and F stations and club aggregate scores are listed in the 2024 line scores on the web, as well in the digital edition of QST.

Results are available now on the ARRL Field Day website at <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php> and in the December issue of QST.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/2024-arrl-field-day-results-published>

## Meeting Minutes 10/17/2024

Meeting called to order around 7:00 PM

We welcome harmony Fraser as a new ham member congrats and welcome

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

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Working on dates early June 7 or eighth trying to be close to other ham fest for vendors.
- Skywarn – Working on sirens and looking for more volunteers for first of the month test.
- Field Day – Need to make a to do list, work on the trailers, and go through the equipment. Power sources need to be checked, and replaced if needed, as we have had some issues. Antenna should be checked and see what we can do about better packing. We need to do this before Field Day 2025.
- Repeaters – Repeaters are reported as good by Matt and Don.
- DSTAR – Nothing to report for D-Star Repeaters.
- POTA – Saturday breakfast Cafetal 8 AM followed by set up and radio time at Whiteford Lake Fort Custer.
- 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:

- No go on the Christmas Parade as the application was not submitted soon enough.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- 2025 SMARS Elections, below are the results:
  - President: Matt Woodman
  - Vice President: Gary Williams
  - Treasure: Dan Whipple
  - Secretary: Melanie Lake
  - Member at Large: Dan Pesch
- Christmas party December 7 Pennfeild Presbyterian Church (different than last year). Time and menu to be announced.

Meeting Adjourned around 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes 11/07/2024

### FINANCES:

- Checking \$5,373.03
- Savings \$6.94
- Cash on hand \$45.00
- Total \$5,424.97

New board members first meeting after elections.

Board members are as follows:

- President Matt Woodman
- Vice President Gary Williams
- Treasurer Dan Whipple
- Secretary Melanie Lake
- Member at Large Dan Pesch

Christmas party December 7 5 to 7 Pennfeild Presbyterian Church 7979 St. Mary's Lake Road if you can RSVP Melanie Lake 269-317-4858 We will be playing a white elephant game bring an unmarked wrapped gift \$20 or less. And we will also do a little raffle.

Hamfest Sunday, June 8 we will be at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds we have spoke to Kathy and already put money down to hold that date rental agreement form is received we will have the Bellshire building and the Me Merch building we will have to rent tables and chairs but sounds like a go more details to come.

POTA has reached its goal for 10,000 contacts fantastic job and huge props to Kevin Hoyt Dan Whipple and Dan Pesch Who have been out there almost every single weekend hammer in those keys and to everyone who showed up and participated and helped reach this goal what a fantastic achievement 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

<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: November 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: December 5th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: December 5th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: December 14th @ 8:30am VE Session: December 26th @ 7:00pm  Christmas Party: December 7th @ 5 – 7:00pm
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