



FEEDBACK

October 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

Call Sign License Plate

I think the State of Michigan has the best deal in the country at TWO dollars for the life of the plate. Go on line to mi.gov/sos. Go down to license plates and click plate order/replacement then under by mail go to plate information. Scroll down to and click Amateur radio and special organization. Click Amateur radio application which produces a form to print and fill out. Expect the plate to arrive in the mail in 2 to 4 weeks.

Article courtesy of Don, W8RVT

Club Officer Elections

A reminder that Club Officer Elections are coming up in October. All positions are available if anyone is interested. Currently, the Club President, Secretary, and Treasurer will need to be filled as the current members holding those position have stated they will not be running this year. To exist as a club, we will need to fill those positions.

The President is responsible for leading the meetings, signing off on paperwork (like agreements for Field Day), and is the backup to the Treasurer.

The Voice President handles the responsible of the President in their absents. Their main function is to plan programs and presentations for the club.

The Secretary records to minutes from the Club Meeting and the Board Meeting so they can be posted in the Feedback. This could be rolled into one of the other positions as well.

The Treasurer is responsible for the Club's finances including bills, reimbursement (if approved), and membership dues.

The Member at Large is needed if all four positions are filled. They are the tie breaker (if there is one) when the Board makes decisions. If there are only 3 Board members, a Member at Large is not needed or filled.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

ARRL November Sweepstakes-CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, & 10 Meter

Mode: CW

Date: 11/2 – 11/4

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

EME Contest

Bands: 50 to 1296 MHz

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 11/16 – 11/17

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

ARRL November Sweepstakes-Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, & 10 Meter

Mode: Phone

Date: 11/16 – 11/18

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

160 Meter

Bands: 160 Meters

Mode: CW

Date: 12/6 – 12/8

URL: www.arrl.org/160-meter

10 Meter

Bands: 10 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 12/14 – 12/15

URL: 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

**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>*

Other News

An Incredible Amateur Radio Rescue Story

Editor's note: The following story was submitted by Don Gardner, W7PJ, ARRL Idaho Section Emergency Coordinator.

On the evening of September 21, 2024, Greg Owen, WX7Z, heard an amateur radio emergency call on the VHF frequency known as the national simplex calling frequency, 146.52 MHz. Ed Clark, K7ELC, was calling to get medical help for a 51-year-old man who had rolled his four-wheeler.

Mac Mackintosh, W7ENZ, found the accident and injured man near his property where there isn't any cellphone service. Mackintosh had given his handheld radio to Clark to make the call for help while he gave aid to the injured man. The injuries were serious... head trauma, broken collarbone, broken ribs, and difficulty breathing.

Owen called 911 to request help. An ambulance, Life Flight helicopter and law enforcement were dispatched to the location, which was 35 minutes outside Orofino, Idaho. Meanwhile, Owen continued using the amateur radio to relay updates to the dispatcher. The injured man was transported to the hospital via Life Flight and at last report was recovering.

Gardner said hams in Idaho support an old national program called the Wilderness Protocol which encourages the use of the national simplex calling frequency, 146.52 MHz.

"As amateur radio operators, we train to be available to help when help is needed. The more that ham radio operators listen to the radio, the more chance there is that someone will be listening to take your emergency call. This is something that has been used many times throughout this county and here in Idaho," he said. "This is another incredible story to share."

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/an-incredible-amateur-radio-rescue-story>

Ham Radio Serving Southeast US Recovery Efforts

ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio® is tracking how amateur radio is proving critical in areas hit hard by Hurricane Helene, especially in North and South Carolina, portions of Tennessee, and beyond. In the hardest-hit Asheville, North Carolina, area, homes and entire towns have been swept away by flood waters and mudslides. Over 200 people have been killed, and many more are still missing.

Widespread devastation has damaged the power grid and roads, and many residents are without cell phone service and other utilities. For several days, radio communications were the only means of passing information. Ham radio continues to play a significant role in this situation.

In North Carolina, all official emergency radio communications are done through NC AUXCOMM. NC Division of Emergency Management Senior External Affairs Specialist Brian Haines says hams are deployed. "Amateur radio operators are working side by side with first responder communications personnel all over Western North Carolina. Needless to say, we are interested in highlighting all they are doing but at this point they are heavily involved in response efforts, which is where we need to focus," he said.

Winlink, which provides email over amateur radio, has been used significantly in the recovery. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, says the recent FCC removal of symbol rate restrictions has allowed a streamlined response using modern technology. "Winlink is an example of how modern tools work well within the Amateur Radio Service. Not

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

11/16/2024

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

URL:

<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

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

having to petition the FCC for a waiver of the old rules allowed Winlink to be used immediately during this emergency," he said. ARRL had advocated for the change, which was implemented in 2023.

Significant stories of the response from individual hams is emerging, particularly from those who have created pop-up nets to pass health and welfare traffic. Using mountaintop repeaters that have robust power backups, HF frequencies, and Winlink, ham radio operators are putting in their time, talents, and personal gear to good use.

The local news media in affected areas has connected with several radio amateurs to highlight their work. CBS 17 in Raleigh reported on Van Lee, KM4TC, who helped families trying to get information on loved ones. In Charlotte, Queen City News told the story of Dan Gitro, K2DMG, who has been providing information to hams about current conditions as well as passing along messages to loved ones.

Countless other hams have stepped up by passing traffic and providing information. ARRL seeks to tell those stories of selfless service as the operators find time.

Amateur radio has been serving communities even before the storm hit. The Hurricane Watch Net, VoIP Hurricane Net, and WX4NHC, the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center, were all active as the storm churned towards Florida. In the 25 hours that the net was active, hams passed along over 100 surface reports that were used by forecasters to make more informed decisions about the storm.

Hurricane Helene made landfall near Perry, Florida, on the evening of Thursday, September 26, as a Category 4 storm. With winds of 140 miles per hour, it was the strongest hurricane on record to slam into Florida's Big Bend.

In Florida, Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers were embedded with county officials and at the State Emergency Operations Center.

As the storm moved north, the worst impacts were felt. Officials have classified the rainfall near Asheville as a 1,000-year event. The impact started to emerge over the weekend of September 28—29.

ARRL leadership was in touch with field organization volunteers in the impacted area throughout the weekend. On Monday, a call was held to see what resources may be needed. A clear challenge of logistics emerged. Entire road networks are unpassable. General aviation pilots have been working, as they do during major disasters, to use donated aircraft to ferry in relief supplies. Ham radio operators have been working with Operation Airdrop and other volunteer groups to help provide communications support. Dozens of private helicopters have been flying in supplies, as have military assets.

In Tennessee, hams have rallied to return repeaters impacted by the storm to service. Section Manager of the ARRL Tennessee Section David Thomas, KM4NYI, reports that a request for help on the TN ARES net resulted in batteries being donated and delivered to return the W4KEV repeater system to service, including the 145.410 machine located on Viking Mountain in Greene County, Tennessee, which covers much of the area in North Carolina and Tennessee that was decimated.

As connectivity via phone and data networks continues to return, ARRL expects more stories of amateur radio serving communities will emerge.

While commercial communications networks and utilities are increasingly more resilient, Hurricane Helene has demonstrated that amateur radio is a critical partner that works When All Else Fails®.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-serving-southeast-us-recovery-efforts>

Meeting Minutes 09/19/2024

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 – No new updates.
- Skywarn – Skywarn still working on sirens still need people to cover areas. Having issue getting things covered so please if you're able to volunteer for the first of the month sirens meeting net is held the Tuesday before the first. At 6:30.
- Field Day – Winter field day to be hosted by Dan KE8DW and his lovely wife Stephanie
- Repeaters – Repeaters are reported as good by Matt and Don.
- DSTAR – Nothing to report for D-Star Repeaters.
- POTA – POTA will be on Sunday, September 22 due to festival of the forks. POTA is usually held on Saturday breakfast at CaféTal 8 AM followed by set up and contacts Location Whitford lake. Fort custard recreational area join us and have fun. POTA Over 250+ contacts from the last pota that have been logged 8232 contacts trying for 10K by Christmas.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Festival of the forks in Albion Saturday, September 21 in front of Lopez tacos set up 8 AM 10 AM parade.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Next meeting nominations for club officers and vote for club officers.
- Bret Skywarn there will be a spring hi Ed and lots of 5K races to cover.
- CERT is on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 department of public works.

- October 25 is the last day to register for the Christmas parade so we need to decide if that is something we are going to do.
- Christmas party plans to be announced soon.

Meeting Adjourned around 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 10/03/2024

FINANCES:

- Checking \$5,407.21
- Savings \$6.94
- Cash on hand \$45.00
- Total \$5581.84

Coming up elections for new board positions at our next meeting.

Ham fest committee

Date for Ham fest venue still not committed.

Trying to plant it closer to other ham fests tickets will be \$10 per person.

It is also a possibility that we may have food available and an open kitchen during ham fest will let you know as we get closer.

And field day Dan and Stephanie Whipple will host field day W8DF has been registered for that date January 25 through the 26th we will have one trailer and heated tents.

All winter field day participants will run under W8DF

Melanie Lake has secured a reservation for a Christmas party December 7 time to be announced and more info to come location Pennfield Presbyterian Church on the corner of Saint Mary's Lake Road and 66

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>
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<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: October 17th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: November 7th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: November 7th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: November 9th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 24th @ 7:00pm</p>
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