



# FEEDBACK

September 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.

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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

### Other News

## National Preparedness Month: Ensuring Family Safety

September is [National Preparedness Month](#). In coordination with our partners at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the [ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) is producing a series of weekly articles to help radio amateurs and their families stay safe.

See previous stories:

<https://www.arrl.org/news/resilience-through-amateur-radio-for-national-preparedness-month>

<https://www.arrl.org/news/national-preparedness-month-have-a-go-kit>

For a ham or any other public safety responder, whether paid or volunteer, it is not uncommon to be called out to provide assistance during disasters. We often do not know when we will be called or exactly what the call will involve. We also do not know how long we may be deployed. In the last edition, we focused on our go kit and the tools we should have to deploy as an amateur radio volunteer. But have we made sure our family is prepared for these times, whether we are deployed or will be staying home?

As the theme of this month suggests, ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, says it comes down to being prepared. "Make a plan with your family and ensure basic supplies are available including water, food and first aid capabilities. Do you have a generator or alternate power capabilities and do your family members know how to use it? Have a communications plan, including backup communications, with family members and friends," he said.

Johnston says to ensure your family knows where to go if they must

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### EME Contest

Bands: 23 GHz and Up  
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW  
Date: 9/21 – 9/22  
URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://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/10-ghz-up](http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up)

### Collegiate QSO Party

Bands: All Except 12, 17, 30, 60 Meters  
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW  
Date: TBD  
URL: [collegiateqsoparty.com](http://collegiateqsoparty.com)

### EME Contest

Bands: 50 to 1296 MHz  
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW  
Date: 10/11 – 10/12  
URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### School Club Roundup

Bands: All Except 60, 30, 17, 12 Meters  
Mode: Phone, CW  
Date: 10/21 – 10/25  
URL: [www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/school-club-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>*

evacuate for some reason. Always remember your family and your health and safety should always come first.

“Remember that there may be a time that you are the victim. There may be a time that you must turn down a request for assistance because you must take care of your family first. Ask if you can be put in a slot later down the roster to allow time to get your family to safety or have everything settled to ensure your family is cared for before deployment,” said Johnston.

ARRL recognizes the tremendous work ham radio volunteers put into serving their communities. “If your mind is not on the mission, you may be putting yourself and others at risk. Therefore, you should ensure your family’s wellbeing before, during and after a major event,” Johnston continued.

Learn about how to become an ARES Volunteer on the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org/ares](http://www.arrl.org/ares).

Learn more about how to keep your family safe at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/national-preparedness-month-ensuring-family-safety>

## Ham Radio Volunteers Serve During Hurricane Francine

Ham radio operators volunteering with the [ARRL® Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) have successfully completed operations for Hurricane Francine, now a tropical storm. “We had a huge positive showing of ARES team members checking in and doing the ‘thing.’ I sincerely appreciate everyone leaning into this activation,” said Robert Hayes, KC5IMN, Section Emergency Coordinator of the ARRL Mississippi Section.

The National Hurricane Center reported at 4:00 AM on Thursday, September 12, 2024, that Hurricane Francine made landfall early Wednesday evening in Louisiana, southwest of New Orleans, as a Category 2 hurricane, before weakening to Category 1. It has now been downgraded to a tropical storm.

Currently the storm is moving inland over southeastern Louisiana with heavy rainfall spreading across Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle. Early Thursday morning, the storm was 20 miles northwest of New Orleans with maximum sustained winds of 50 miles per hour (MPH) and moving northeast toward Mississippi at 14 MPH.

At least 419,942 people were without power early Thursday morning. [PowerOutage.us](#) reported 392,440 people without power in Louisiana and 27,502 in Mississippi.

A turn toward the north-northeast and north is expected during the next day or so, with some decrease in forward speed. On the forecast track, the center of Francine will move over central and northern portions of Mississippi through early Friday.

The Hurricane Watch Net has secured operations but remains at HWN Alert Level 2 monitoring mode. During their 14-hour activation, Net Manager Bobby Graves said they collected and forwarded over 40 surface reports from southeastern Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast to the National Hurricane Center by way of WX4NHC. A copy of

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**10/05/2024**

Kalamazoo Hamfest

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club (KARC), Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team (SMART)

URL:

<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.org>

**10/12/2024**

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

URL: <http://www.mcecs.net/hamfest>

**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>

these reports is available upon request. Also, they had direct contact, on many occasions, with the Louisiana State EOC (WB5LHS) in Baton Rouge on 14.325 MHz. The VoIP Hurricane Net secured formal net operations on Wednesday, 9/11/24, at 1100 PM EDT/1000 PM CDT. A total of 58 reports were submitted to WX4NHC, the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center, some of which were used in NHC Advisories and Tropical Cyclone Updates. Reports ranged from wind damage to buildings, tree and wire damage reports, coastal storm surge flooding, wind measurement, rain gauge and rain-related street flooding reports.

A complete listing of the reports can be seen in the VoIP Hurricane Net Report Viewer at the following link:

[https://www.voipwx.net/qilan/nhcwx/list\\_VOIP\\_records1?auth=OK](https://www.voipwx.net/qilan/nhcwx/list_VOIP_records1?auth=OK)

ARRL will monitor the path of Francine and issue updates as warranted.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-volunteers-serve-during-hurricane-francine>

## Hams Respond as Hawaii Threatened by Three Major Storms

In late August, Hawaii's big island was threatened by three major tropical storms and amateur radio operators were prepared to assist as the threat grew more intense. Russell Roberts, KH6JRM, Public Information Officer, Hawaii County, ARRL Pacific Section, said that beginning August 23, storm watches and warnings were being issued for tropical storms Hone, Gilma, and Hector, all churning off the island's southern coast.

By August 31 and September 1, Hone had become a Category 1 hurricane with winds over 75 miles per hour (MPH), occasional gusts to 100 MPH and heavy rain. Gilma was next as a Category 1, but later intensified to a Category 3 hurricane, dropping 28 inches of rain which flooded roads, along with high winds that brought down trees, power and communications lines.

"We had 3 Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) operators on the net for about 24 hours beginning August 30 and they handled 41 contacts," said Roberts. "Some repeaters were out of fuel, so we switched to HF to pass traffic and assess the damage."

The storms never made landfall and while there were no fatalities or injuries, the damage was severe. Nearly 30,000 residents were affected. Power is still out for over 200 customers, cleanup and road repair are active.

"We were very fortunate," said Roberts. "There was concern a fire warning would need to be issued for several parts of the island. But the approaching weather brought rain and lowered temperatures."

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/hams-respond-as-hawaii-threatened-by-three-major-storms>

## Meeting Minutes 08/15/2024

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** – Info on ham fest spoke with Kathy at the fairgrounds looking to move the date closer to other hand fest pending water and heat nothing further
- **Skywarn** – Skywarn nothing reported working on sirens upcoming October 12 simulated emergency test more info to follow
- **Field Day** – Winter field day Dan said he would be willing to host more to follow.
- **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

- New bylaws for membership dues will be added to the constitution soon

### NEW BUSINESS

- W8DF license has been renewed

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes 09/05/2024

### FINANCES:

- Checking \$5529.90
- Savings \$6.94
- Cash on hand \$45
- Total \$5581.84

There are currently 57 members in our SMARS club

Internet due to come out soon

Ham fest still in the works for the fairgrounds need to make more contact with Kathy to factor in parking water looking to put it closer to the Dayton ham fest in May more to come

Winter field day January 25 through the 26 2025 Dan and Stephanie Whipple would love to host.

We are considering doing another raffle thought that was a good turn out will look into it again

Christmas party venue may change will update you on that soon.

Nothing more to report at this time.

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: September 19th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: October 3rd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: October 3rd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: October 12th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 24th @ 7:00pm
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