



# FEEDBACK

March 2026

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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[matthewfwoodman@gmail.com](mailto:matthewfwoodman@gmail.com)

*Vice President*

Kevin Hoyt, KE8UU  
[kehoyt57@gmail.com](mailto:kehoyt57@gmail.com)

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[mel1853@hotmail.com](mailto:mel1853@hotmail.com)

*Treasurer*

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[dwhipple5@gmail.com](mailto:dwhipple5@gmail.com)

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### Club News

## Membership Renewals

Just a friendly reminder that Membership Dues are due. 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 has increased a little this year. For 1 year it is \$20, for 5 years it is \$75, for 10 years it is \$145, for 20 years it is \$280, and for Lifetime it is \$500. For the 1 year, each additional Family Member is an additional \$5. Dues are due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Newly licensed members get a year free. 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

## Hams Help Forecasters with Real-Time Data on Northeast Blizzard

A historic blizzard paralyzed much of the Northeast in late February, and amateur radio operators were on the air to help forecasters keep track of the storm's impact. Southeastern New England was one of the hardest-hit areas. ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and Boston-area SKYWARN Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, provided this summary for ARRL News:

A severe blizzard left its mark on Southeast New England with massive amounts of snow, vehicles and even plows getting stuck, damaging winds gusts to hurricane force causing ~350,000 customers to lose power in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and some coastal flooding issues at high tide. The blizzard broke Rhode Island's state [record](#) for snowfall with 37.8 inches of snow in Providence. ARES-SKYWARN Nets across southern New England were activated with the WX1BOX amateur radio team to support the National Weather Service (NWS) Boston/Norton office, as well as local and state emergency management and broadcast media, with timely updates on the storm.

We had ARES-SKYWARN nets activating on an every 1-2 hour

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Rookie Roundup

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

Mode: SSB

Date: 04/19

URL: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

### Intl Digital Contest

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

Mode: Digital (excluding RTTY)

Date: 06/06 – 06/07

URL: [www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest)

### June VHF

Bands: Above 50 MHz

Mode: Digital, Phone, SSB, CW

Date: 06/13 – 06/15

URL: [www.arrl.org/june-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf)

### Kids Day

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 06/20

URL: [www.arrl.org/kids-day](http://www.arrl.org/kids-day)

### Field Day

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters and 50 MHz and above

Mode: Digital, Phone, SSB CW

Date: 06/27 – 06/28

URL: [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://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>*

basis providing snowfall, wind gust, wind damage and coastal flood reports. The nets were very active with great participation, allowing a comprehensive situational awareness. We also interacted with many non-amateur radio SKYWARN spotters via social media.

Reports of snowfall as high as 43 inches in Tiverton, Rhode Island, and 41 inches in Fall River, Massachusetts, were received from SKYWARN spotters. Macedo's hometown of New Bedford, Massachusetts, recorded 37 inches of snow.

Amateur Radio SKYWARN Nets were active on over a dozen repeaters across southern New England, along with the [New England Amateur Radio VoIP Reflector system](#) with snowfall, wind damage and wind gust reports. The Amateur Radio Net Plan for Massachusetts was sent into Massachusetts Emergency Management in an ICS-205 to ESF-2 as part of a closer working relationship with state emergency management. Well over 1,000 reports were generated from these nets and shared with partner agencies and the media. Blizzard conditions were met at numerous sites across southern New England.

[Eastern Massachusetts ARES](#) was placed on stand-by on Sunday 2/22/26 for any partner agencies and to augment and enhance support for the ARES-SKYWARN Nets for participation. Cape Cod ARES members Chris Ranney, WA1CMR, and Dennis Driscoll, N1DRN, deployed to support operations in the town of Sandwich, providing auxiliary communications between their EOC and a shelter for the town. Their operation secured on Wednesday evening, February 25.

Amateur radio received media attention on The Weather Channel several times throughout the blizzard. Jim Cantore stated, "When we get all these observations, it comes from SKYWARN spotters and amateur radio operators because when people can't communicate and the phone lines down, the amateur radio operators are all we got."

The [WX1BOX](#) website will be updated with a Post Blizzard Coordination Message at the end of the week with more detailed information on the blizzard across southern New England.

ARRL News and The ARRL Letter will also provide reports from other parts of the affected region as they are received.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/hams-help-forecasters-with-real-time-data-on-northeast-blizzard>

## Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026

It's not too early to gear up and get ready for ARRL Field Day! Field Day 2026 takes place June 27 – 28 and will bring together more than 30,000 amateur radio operators for one of the most popular on-the-air events in the US and Canada.

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**03/21/2026**

Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club  
Hamfest

Location: Lowell, MI

Sponsor: Lowell Amateur Radio Club

Site: <http://larc.club>

**04/11/2026**

AC8RC Mini-Swap

Location: Burnips, MI

Sponsor: AC8RC

Site: <http://ac8rc.org>

**04/18/2026**

SJCARC Hamfest

Location: Centreville, MI

Sponsor: SJCMIARC

**05/02/2026**

Crossroads Hamfest

Location: Marshall, MI

Sponsor: Southern Michigan  
Amateur Radio Society

Site: <http://www.w8df.com>

**05/02/2026**

Lucas County ARES Hamfest

Location: Toledo, OH

Sponsor: Lucas County Amateur  
Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Site: <http://www.lucasares.org>

Resource.” Combined with the [ARRL Year of the Club](#), it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

All of the information you need to get started can be found on the [Field Day](#) web page, including how to join the [ARRL Field Day Facebook Group](#), where you can share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day.

The overall objective for Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands above 50 MHz, and to learn to operate in less than optimal conditions. Many clubs choose to set up in camp-style fashion with portable equipment, temporary antennas, and off-grid power sources.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2 (North and South America). DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

Also check out the [Field Day site locator page](#) to help find participating stations near you. As an added incentive for anyone participating in ARRL's yearlong America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award, contacts made with ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs all year, including during Field Day, will count toward your America250 WAS Affiliated Club Endorsement. Check out those details at [www.arrl.org/america250-was](http://www.arrl.org/america250-was).

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day).

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/start-planning-for-arrl-field-day-2026>

## Meeting Minutes 02/19/2026

Meeting Called to order at 1900

13 members in attendance.

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

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – May 2 Calhoun County Fairgrounds, sheep, and goat barn across from the comfort center more detail details to follow.
- Skywarn – Last siren test was digital went out at 13:00 Battle Creek area was delayed by nine minutes went out on second signal we are working on the situation. CERT training May 17th, 18th, and 25<sup>th</sup>, if interested see Bret.
- Field Day – 27th through 28th in June, more information to come.
- Repeaters – No new updates at this time.
- VE – Next test session is February. Discussed the changes related to VE Sessions including no more supplies from ARRL. We will need to print everything ourselves and/or move to digital. Moving to digital has it challenges and some input was provided by Ralpa Katz (AA8RK) who is the ARRL Representative for our area. The club he is in had already moved to digital and talked about some of their issues.
- POTA – held every Saturday at Whitford Lake Fort custard recreational area by the pavilion breakfast at Café Tal at 8 AM followed by set up and contacts last Saturday 302 contacts come out and hang out.
- Winter Field Day – 821 contacts certificate of participation. Thank you, Dan and Stephanie Whipple for hosting winter field day. It was a cold one this year. Summer-field day will be June 27 through the 28th Calhoun County fairgrounds.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- None discussed.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- ARRL representative for the state of Michigan we welcome Ralph Katz AA8RK to our Mars club meeting thank you for coming and sharing information with our club.

### PRESENTATION:

- None

Meeting Adjourned around 2000 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes 03/05/2026

### FINANCES:

- Checking \$2,081.06
- Savings \$1,505.08
- Cash on hand \$119.00
- Total \$3,705.14

Board meeting is held at the American Legion on 20th St., Post 298 on the first Thursday of the month and member is more than welcome to join. Meeting is at 6:30.

Our club again wants to thank Ralph Katz for coming to our monthly meeting to speak.

Field day, place Calhoun County Fairgrounds. We did talk about looking into different locations, but it seems like this location. Everybody was pretty happy with so we will go again with Calhoun County fairground.

We will be doing a raffle drawing field day tickets will be available soon at \$10 a ticket first prize being \$500 second prize will be 250 third prize will be 125 Kevin. Hoyt has been working on getting the tickets thank you, Kevin.

Ham fest so far slow sales for tables only 25 sold at this time, but that should change the closer we get to our ham fest date.

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: March 19th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: April 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: April 2nd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: April 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: April 23rd @ 7:00pm
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