

FEEDBACK

JULY 2009



COMMENTS

I hope that each of you have responded to the H.R. 2160 and are paying close attention to PRB-1 in Michigan. Looking at the Representatives from Michigan cosponsoring H.R.2160, it must be noted that not many Michigan congressmen have signed on as cosponsors. In the adjacent column is how to go about getting their attention.

In putting together each monthly newsletter, I find it very difficult to find sources of information. More and more I regurgitate information from the ARRL. I find this worrisome for if the reader is interested in amateur radio, they are a member of the ARRL and have the information already in front of them. What is needed for publication in FEEDBACK is material from the members. That can take many forms. The contesters can tell of the contests they have found interesting or how to do contesting; the builders can tell of their constructions; travelers can tell of their travels, each have experiences when shared others will find of interest.

If things are submitted, the editor will willingly edit the material for use. That's the editors job, not go out and copy the work of others.

This editor must thank the ARRL for all the copied material presented in this issue of Feedback.

MICHIGAN PRB-1 BILL EMINENT

Michigan amateurs lead by Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK and his PRB-1 committee will soon introduce a PRB-1-like bill into the Michigan Legislature. Michigan hams are requested to be on the alert for announcements concerning the new bill and what they can do to support it. At deadline time, the bill is being put into "Legislature style" before it is assigned a number and introduced for action.

H.R. 2160

(ARRL Newsletter)

Members told the ARRL Board of Directors they want us to do something to overcome the effect of Codes, Covenants and Restrictions (CC&Rs) in private contracts. CC&Rs are the part of property contracts that prevent a great many hams from putting up outdoor antennas. ARRL has taken the first step toward this goal. Now it is time for members to do their part.

What has ARRL done? We have worked with members of the US Congress to introduce and co-sponsor US House Bill H.R. 2160. This bill is the first step toward nullifying the effect of CC&Rs on amateur antennas.

We need you to help yourself and your fellow amateurs . . . now.

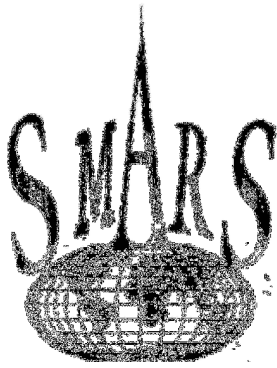
Please write letters to your US Congressman. For information on writing, go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818>. A draft letter is available through a link at this site as is special information concerning where to send your signed letter (to the ARRL Legislative Liaison in Washington, DC, please).

The name of your US Congressman -- or Congresswoman -- is shown on the left side of the Members Only opening page (click on Members Only at the top of the www.arrl.org web opening screen).

Use your US Representative's name and address on the letter, but please be certain to send a signed copy of the letter to John Chwat in DC. He will hand carry the letters he receives to the offices of your US Representatives. Doing this will make your letter more effective.

HR 2160 is titled the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. It is sponsored by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas. It has eight co-sponsors at present. Co-sponsors from the Great Lakes Division are Mary Jo Kilroy of Ohio District 15 and Brett Guthrie of Kentucky District 2.

(This is a repeat of last month's plea with regard to H.R. 2160. **It's important!**)



HOT RIG

(submitted by David VanderMolen,
AI4VF in the ARRL contestnews)

Letters: A Really "Hot" Rig

One of our local hams wanted to enjoy a recent day of sunshine outdoors but still monitor repeater activity. He moved his 2-meter radio near an open window, laid the microphone on the table, cranked up the volume and went outside for a bit of yard work confident that he could hear the rig and get back to it if he was called.

Disappointed at not hearing even one voice after at least 40 minutes he went back inside, noticing the smell of something hot. Somehow the weight of the microphone cord had pulled it down off the table and wedged it between other items with the PTT switch depressed! The rig had been transmitting at full power for a considerable length of time. The radio case was so hot it could not be touched and papers near the radio had already started to discolor and curl. He quickly turned the rig off, disconnected the power cable and carried the radio by its power pigtail outside to the cement garage floor to cool.

Would the rig have shut itself off or the fuses blown before starting an actual fire? Maybe, but indications are this operator got off lucky. No doubt he will be much more careful about laying down that microphone on any radio in the future. --

Lincoln Trail Amateur Radio Club Update/Newsletter, Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

UGLY LITTLE GERM E-NOTE

From: Ted Hartson
<awombat@earthlink.net>
Subject: Hey--- where'd everybody go!
To: smars.w8df@yahoo.com
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2009, 9:56 AM

Jeez Everyday I listen for 6 Meter traffic from Michigan. I saw N8CC once on a reflector and that's it. It is sort of like Michigan and Battle Creek, especially, disappeared from the planet
From the Ugly Little Germ...

BULLETINS

It was just such welcome news that it seemed appropriate to run this item from SpaceWeather.com as a bulletin: "Solar observers haven't seen an active region like [#1024] in more than two years. It is big, complex, and rapidly growing. The magnetic polarity of the sunspot, revealed by SOHO magnetograms, show that it is a member of new Solar Cycle 24. This makes sense: New research shows that solar jet streams are beginning to stimulate new-cycle sunspot production.

Sunspot 1024 appears to be a sign of the process at work, heralding more to come."

FIELD DAY

ARRL Field Day was in the spotlight in both New York City's Times Square and Las Vegas <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/23/10904/?nc=1>>. More than 1600 Field Day sites registered their locations this year with the ARRL Field Day Locator. W1AW was on the air with the help of League staffers <<http://www.arrl.org/log/2009%20Field%20Day>>.

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SHOW THE FLAG

There sure were lots of Field Day "media hits" this past week-end with newspapers, Web sites, and video cameras poking into tents and trailers around the US and Canada. Great exposure for ham radio, of course, but now what? Do we disappear for another year until emerging like cicadas to sing our Field Day song? Ham radio isn't and never has been much of a "spectator sport", so how do we avoid being the Great Disappearing Act?

A clue to both the symptom and the solution appeared in a recent thread on the VHF Contesting Reflector about introducing non-contesting hams to a VHF contest. A question was asked about "loaning" these hams a radio to make a contest QSO. The responses, quite correctly, pointed out that a radio could only be used with one call during a contest, but in general, ignored the opportunity to publicize and promote the sport. We're all very good about knowing the minutia of our chosen field, but really quite bad at communicating to others why it is that we like to pursue it!

This can be extended to ham radio in general. In our various basements and spare bedrooms, we rule supreme. Everything is hooked up just so, with the daedal arcanery of our stations deployed for arms-reach activation - masters of the airwaves! Yet, ask someone not in the know about ham radio and a frequent response is, "You mean they still do that?" For that instant of exposure around the end of June, perhaps following some kind of emergency, and in the occasional portrayal as antique putterers, we are noticed.

Otherwise, we don't exist.

This is not because there is a shortage of opportunity to correct the situation. Pick up the newspaper and every single week-end in any community of size, there are fairs, picnics, parades, festivals, and events that often beg for participation. All it takes is a phone call to the organizers and an offer to set up a booth or display. And there is no reason to restrict one's efforts to formally organized events. Just go set up and do ham radio from a public place! Set up in the park some Sunday afternoon. Go where the people are and put up a portable station. Try setting up a small station at the local baseball or soccer fields on Saturday and you will have a steady stream of kids, moms, dads, uncles, and aunts all dropping by before, after, and during games to see what you're doing. You don't have to work the antipodes to get their interest - just display your gear, have a one-page flyer on ham radio in your area with a few Web URLs to browse, and be prepared to explain what all the stuff is.

Even better if you're in a contest, making contacts around the country!

The amateur astronomy community faces many of the same challenges as amateur radio. Technology is changing, recreation patterns are changing, exposure to the topic is changing. One response is "Sidewalk Astronomy Night" in which a telescope is set up at the mall parking lot, on a street corner, anywhere there are people and something visible in the sky. So what if it can't image the Trifid Nebula in full color? Most people have never even looked at the moon with binoculars! Doing this kind of simple presentation simply puts the activity where people are, can see it, and learn about it.

The recent MakerFaire in San Mateo, CA drew around 80,000 in attendance to watch all sorts of interesting crafts and hobbies and, yes, Amateur Radio. That's four times the Dayton Hamvention's attendance, by the way. Take a look at some of the YouTube.com videos of APRS, ATV, building kits, and emergency communications. An education day brought more than 200 kids into the booth. One comment, "Morse code rocks!" What kind of presence could a contest club, such as yours, bring to such an event?

73, Ward N0AX

SIN NO MORE!

Father Norton woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf.

So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away.

This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole.

IT WAS A 420 YARD HOLE IN ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

COST OF VANITY CALLS INCREASES

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The cost of a vanity call sign will go from \$12.30 to \$13.40 for 10 years.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs involved in the program. The fee is payable when applying for and when renewing a vanity call sign. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site.

Vanity call signs issued before 1996 are exempt from this fee. These "heritage" vanity call signs are not listed as vanity licensees in the FCC database.

ARES / RACES Report for May 2009 in Calhoun County

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

8 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 122 People = 122hrs
122hrs Total

Public Service Events

Siren Test 10 People@ 1hrs each= 10 hrs
10 hrs Total

Administration Hours, 30hrs Total

Emergency Operations 12 People @ 3hrs Each= 36hrs Total

Equipment Hours 3 People @ 60 hrs Each=180hrs Total

Travel Hours 3hrs Total

Expenses- Out of Pocket \$160.00 Total

Travel Miles 105 Miles Total

Members 34

Dave Smith
KC8COT
E-12
City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County
RACES, Emergency Coordinator

HAMFESTS

1 Aug Escanaba, MI
UP Hamfest 2009
Delta County Amateur Radio Society
Bay de Noc Community College
2001 North Lincoln /road
Http://www.dcars.org
Talk-In 147.15 100.00 Hz)
Contact: John W Anderson WD8RTH
Phone: 906-399-4490
e-mail: wd8rth@dcars.org

8 Aug Hale MI
I Care Swap and Shop
Iosco County Amateur Radio Enthusiasts
Plainfield Township Hall
220 North Washington (M65)
Talk-In 146.640
Contact: Clifford Dolliver N8HA
Phone: 989-735-3186
email: n8ha@centurytel.net

9 Aug Port Huron MI
Seaway Trunk Swap
Eastern Michigan Amateur Radio Club
Vantage Point Maritime Center
51 Watr St
Tqjk-In 146.72
Contact: Bob Herbert K8WMW
Phone: 810-982-1561
e-mail: k8wmw@arrl.net

HQ MUST KNOW THE SITUATION

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, explained — that when ARES activates in response to any tropical event, it is crucial that information flows up through the Section and is reported to Headquarters. "These reports allow us to develop the situational awareness and disaster intelligence that is required for us as an organization to support the Sections that are impacted" he explained. "In this way, we are able to respond to relevant requests from the media and finally to coordinate with the governmental and non-governmental organizations. This information also allows us to make the decision at Headquarters on whether to stand up our Incident Management Team to support and coordinate the operations."

QUOTE

It is crucial to have the knowledge from the FEMA and ARRL EC training or we are basically in the Stone Age at today's incident site. We have to provide a unified front of quick, reliable and competent operators to be a valued useful partner today.

WHAT IS?

A communications emergency can be caused when a critical communication system failure can put the public at risk. This failure can include, but is not limited to, overload or damage to critical day-to-day communication systems caused by State telephone lines or radio towers destroyed, an increase in a communication system activity that causes overload, or the failure of any key component in a system that can cause widespread consequences.

(Isn't this stepup time for the amateur?)

BIC - an abbreviation for the most potent contest winning technique ever discovered; Butt In Chair. With plenty of BIC, all things are possible. Without it, you're toast.

Income & Expense Statement

6/1/09 Through 6/30/09

SMARS Board Meeting

June 29, 2009

Category Description	6/1/09- 6/30/09
INCOME	
50 50	24.00
Dues	10.00
TOTAL INCOME	34.00
EXPENSES	
Administration: PO BOX	22.00
TOTAL Administration	22.00
Feedback: Postage	17.60
Printing	41.98
TOTAL Feedback	59.58
Field Day: Food	33.74
Fuel	64.92
Misc	6.23
Field Day-Other	42.11
TOTAL Field Day	147.00
Insurance: Liability	320.00
TOTAL Insurance	320.00
Maintenance: Repeaters	53.00
TOTAL Maintenance	53.00
Utilities: Telephone	62.71
TOTAL Utilities	62.71
TOTAL EXPENSES	664.29
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-630.29

Called to Order: 6:18 PM

Officers Present: Ned WB4BKO, Don W8RVT, John KC8WMM.

Others Present: Marion WA8MFL, Bob KC8PRL

Topics Discussed:

Bob KC8PRL volunteered to fill the President's position until elections. The Board voted to approve this.

Thanks Bob.

Field Day: There is a shortage of operators signed up for the weekend. Efforts are ongoing to recruit operators.

Technical Engineer: Don requested funds to replace the shelving in the repeater station. Funding was approved.

Hamfest: Kelly from Marshall indicates the janitorial service will not be submitting a bill, due to an error at the janitorial service. The lease for the MAC needs to be signed. Table layout needs to be done. Still need chairman. The fall situation still not resolved.

Entertainment: Nothing yet for this month, but Don can do a presentation.

Spring Arbor: Trip went well with 15 attending.

Digipeater: Working well so far.

Financial: Monthly profit/loss statements are to be published in Feedback.

Participation: We all need to increase participation in Club events. Possibilities include group projects or workshops.

Adjourned: 7:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson KC8WMM
SMARS Secretary

SMARS Club Meeting

June 8, 2009

Officers Present: Don W8RVT, John KC9WMM

No Quorum present, therefore no official meeting this month

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson KC8WMM
SMARS Secretary

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



JULY 2009

SMARS
P.O. BOX 934
BATTLE CREEK MI 49016

FIRST CLASS MAIL



SMARS NETS

Before Lunch Bunch
Monday-Friday 11:30 A.M.
146.66

Sunday Evening 8:00 P.M.
146.66

Monday 7:30 P.M.
224.24

Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
443.95

Wednesday 8:00 P.M.
28.365

Saturday 8:00 P.M.
443.95

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN.NET
Monday 7:00 P.M. 147.12

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING JULY 16
HAMFEST ESCANABA AUG 1
SMARS BOARD AUG 3
SMARS BREAKFAST AUG 8
HAMFEST HART AUG 8
HAMFEST PORT HURON AUG 9
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH AUG 13
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING AUG 20