



FEEDBACK



April 2018

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (w8aez@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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D-Star in SW Michigan still going strong!

By Mike Russell KQ8N

Many hams in our area have gotten bitten by the D-Star bug. For those unfamiliar with this mode, it provides near perfect voice quality by converting your transmitted info (voice or data) to 1's and zero's, aka digital. The receiver then converts the info back into its original form and the result is near noiseless. There is no background hash from being a marginal distance from the receiver. As long as the receiver successfully processes the 1's and zero's, the info comes through perfectly as if you were standing feet away from the receiver. D-Star is presently used on UHF, VHF, and HF. Equipment is available from Icom AND Kenwood, and has come down significantly in price. The VHF/UHF radios also work great in FM mode.

[Battle Creek is fortunate to have D-Star VHF and UHF repeaters.](#)

This system was donated by local hams that saw real potential in this mode, and it has flourished. Our system is referred to as a Gateway. A Gateway is internet connected and allows a repeater to be linked to any other connected D-Star repeater on earth at any time. Further, there are Reflectors that link an unlimited amount of repeaters and users together. A simple, free registration process (just your name, callsign, and email address) is required by all users to gain access to all that D-Star has to offer. At present, our Gateway alone has over 180 registered users. We keep our UHF repeater linked to the most active Reflector in the US. D-Star repeaters are linked and unlinked by control in your hand... not permanently set by the owner.

Other D-Star systems in SW Michigan are on the air due to funding grants from Homeland Security to help bolster emergency amateur radio/hospital communications. Presently, SW Michigan D-Star has repeaters on the air in Coldwater, Paw Paw, Sumnerville (north of Niles), St Joseph, Charlotte, Grand Rapids, and our system in Battle Creek. At present, Coldwater, Paw Paw, and Sumnerville are not Gateways as internet solutions to the repeater sites are still being worked out.

Still on the fence? Many new innovations in D-Star technology continue. D-Star is the only digital mode that was created BY

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest –
CW, Ph, Dig
5/03/2018
www.nrau.net/activity-contests

Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest –
CW, Ph
5/05 - 5/06/2018
www.avhfc.com

10-10 International Spring Contest–
CW
5/05 – 5/06/2018
www.ten-ten.org

7th Call Area QSO Party - CW, Dig, Ph
5/05 – 5/06/2018
ws7n.net/7QP

Indiana QSO Party – CW, Ph
5/05 – 5/06/2018
www.hdxcc.org/inqp

FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint –CW
5/05/2018
fistsna.org

Delaware QSO Party – CW, Ph
5/05 – 5/06/2018
www.fsarc.org

New England QSO Party – CW, Ph,
Dig
5/05 – 5/06/2018
www.neqp.org

Arkansas QSO Party – CW, Ph, Dig
5/12 – 5/13/2018
<http://www.arkqp.com>

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint – CW, Ph
5/14/2018
<http://www.4sqrp.com>

Portuguese Navy Day Contest – CW,
Ph, Dig
5/18 – 5/20/2018
nra.pt/portuguese-navy-day-contest---2018.html

hams FOR hams. An example is a small device called a [DVAP](#). When connected to the internet through your home/laptop computer or a small transportable computer called a [Raspberry Pi](#), it allows you to connect to repeaters and reflectors all over the world from where ever you are using your D-Star radio.

Terry (N8LN) and I have done presentations to several clubs over the last few years. If there is additional interest locally, ask your club to invite us for a demo. See what D-Star has to offer!

I hate to keep beating a dead horse, but...

april 9, 2018 by [dan kb6nu](#)

In response to one of my latest blog posts, [We need better data to really figure out how to grow amateur radio](#), a reader wrote:

“I’ve been thinking about this issue of late. Your post helped keep that fresh for me. In particular, since I’m a fairly new ham (2+ years now), and along the way I befriend the folks at a local contesting and DX club. The majority of the folks are 70+. Typically about 15-20 show up fairly regular at meetings. All good souls.

I have attended numerous meetings over the last year and have received some outstanding coaching and Elmering along with getting to work a couple big damn stations. I’m generally one to reach out and meet folks (as you know) so I have been willing to just keep plugging away until someone will work with me and help me learn about contesting and how to be a good op in general.

Here’s the rub, though. They are tired. At the last meeting, there was a club vote about whether or not support the local annual hamfest in Austin. The club decided they did not want to support the event anymore. I was amazed.

I think this is the beginning for the club. In many ways, it’s the end of an era. In a way, it’s painful. As you keep saying , younger hams want mentoring and more contemporary challenges, but the older generation doesn’t seem to see that. This is a divide that needs to be crossed.”

I replied:

“My question to you would be, What has this club done to recruit new members? They may all be good souls, but I bet that they haven’t done diddly to keep their club going. That’s OK, if they don’t really care, but it sounds like they’ve worked hard to make their club successful in the past. They should care.”

Upcoming Radio Contests (Continued...)



UN DX Contest – CW, Ph
5/19/2018
undxc.kz/bez-rubriki/2015-2

His Majesty King of Spain Contest -
CW
5/19 – 5/20/2018
<https://concursos.ure.es/en>

EU PSK DX Contest – Dig
5/19 – 5/20/2018
www.eupsk.com

Feld Hell Sprint – Dig
5/19/2018
sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub

Baltic Contest – CW, Ph
5/19 – 5/20/2018
lrsf.lt/bcontest/english

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest– CW
5/21/2018
qrptest.com/pigrun

RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship –
CW
5/24/2018
<https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/>

QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint – CW
5/28/2018
www.qrparci.org

*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>

I am a member of the local Rotary club, and it's the same with Rotary clubs. Rotary International is constantly trying to get Rotary clubs around the world to not only recruit more members but to recruit younger members. Rotary sees that unless clubs continue to recruit, they won't continue to be vital parts of their communities and will eventually fade away. The ARRL pays lip service to this idea, but when push comes to shove, they really have nothing to offer."

I hate to keep beating a dead horse here, but I think it's a high enough priority to keep doing so. Rotary spends quite a lot of resources supporting their clubs in many different ways, and even so, membership growth is tepid at best.

The ARRL spends next to nothing on supporting clubs and membership is declining. This is not sustainable. When is the ARRL going to see the light and start working in earnest to truly support amateur radio clubs, and thereby increase its own membership?

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Need Transportation to the Dayton Hamvention? Check out the Arrow Club Bus!

Once again, it is that time of year when lots of hams around the world start thinking of the Dayton Hamvention. After all, with 29,296 attendees from all amateur radio interest areas, what's not to like!

Don't you wish you were going? You're not looking forward to that long drive? Don't drive! Take the Arrow bus! It's inexpensive and easy. Even if you come from out of the Metro Detroit Area, you still relieve yourself of more than 8 hours of drive time!

As in years past, The Arrow Communication Association is sponsoring a bus trip from Ann Arbor, Michigan to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio and back. The date is Saturday, May 19. We leave the park-and-ride at **5:00 am** and get to the show at 9:00 am. We leave Xenia at 5:30 pm and arrive back to our large park-and-ride site by 9:30 pm. A continental breakfast is included on board. What more could you ask for?

Please Note:The departure time is **5:00 am** this year because **Xenia is one-half hour farther and the doors open up this year at 9:00 AM. The cost is \$65.00.** For more information, check out the [Arrow Club website](#).

73,

John Wasciuk, WA8TON / VO1TON / VO1HV
Activities Coordinator, ARROW Communication Association

Meeting Minutes 02/15/2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Jay N8ARR, Jan W8JKG. 25 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report was accepted.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee reports:

HAMFEST 2018 – Table sales finally caught up to expectations. Set up will commence at 3:00 on Friday. Hoping for a good walk in crowd.

SKYWARN – Training cancelled due to excessive flooding in the region. No reschedule until next spring. The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 20th.

VE Session – Next will be at Hamfest on Saturday. Next after that will be on March 24th at the Kalamazoo Sheriff's office. Next after that will be on April 26th at Maple Methodist Church.
HIAD – 7 new Tech licenses granted, 1 upgrade to General, 3 unsuccessful candidates.

Field Day – At Custer again this year, operating full power for this one year. We need to have the brakes repaired on the one trailer beforehand.

BCES – CERT training to be held on 3/23, 24 and 31.

MSPOTA – May 5th at Ft. Custer. One trailer will be used as last year. Saturday siren test (and lunch) will interrupt for those who have an assigned location. Again, like last year. Setup on Friday starting around 3(?).

Old Business

Nothing brought up.

New Business

Don W8RVT brought a 220 transceiver that worked and it was going to a good home for any price, even free.

George K8GG brought a CW training CD that went to Ivan.

Eric's (KD8UJT) viewing on Monday 2-4 & 6-8, funeral Tuesday at 1. He will be sorely missed.

Meeting adjourned at 19:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

Board Meeting 4/03/2018

Officers present: Kyle W8KDB, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR.

Others present: Tom WR8G, Smokey N5MKY.

Called to order at 17:30.

HAMFEST 2018 – 656 tickets sold. No report about the amount of money collected but we made money. Copy of final invoice given to Jan who will write a check and mail to Melissa at Wings. Several club members were praised regarding the outcome and the venue. Vendors and attendees alike were impressed. Good job to all who worked to make this as successful as it was. Next year's Hamfest will be on March 16th at Wings. The venue has already been reserved. Work now begins on that one. Anyone who would like to volunteer for the committee will be welcomed with open arms!

We have received an offer from Ms. Linda Holden to purchase her husband's (SK) Ten-Tec transceiver. The board would like to offer it as the Grand Prize at next year's Hamfest and they agreed to make an offer of \$500 to acquire it. Going price on the open market is running around \$750. Jay will get in contact with Ms. Holden to make the offer and follow up.

MSPOTA – May 5th, Saturday. Setup will begin on Friday at 1500 at the equestrian form-up area just as last year. One trailer will be used and we hope to be able to acquire the BCES generator and light stand as we did last year. Volunteers will be needed to help with the setup and operators will all be welcomed, again with open arms! Lets have a great turnout and make this a successful outing.

A local ham has offered to bring his drone out to get some aerial video of the location. Smokey has asked Tony if that will be acceptable and he has said yes, provided the drone is not used above the treetops.

D-STAR – A letter has been received from Mike KQ8N asking if the club would be able to help with the support costs of the local D-STAR repeater. The club offered once in the past and the offer was declined. We will make the offer again to Terry N8LN to see whether this is necessary, and to determine what level of financial help we can support.

Meeting adjourned at 18:05

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, 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

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, and also available via Echolink.

Other Repeaters

2m Repeater 147.120 MHz, +600 KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 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: April 19th @ 7:00pm VE Session: April 26th @ 7:00pm Board Meeting: May 1st @ 5:30am BLB Luncheon: May 3rd @ 11:30am Club Breakfast: May 12th @ 8:30am *Dayton Hamvention (Xenia): May 18th-20th</p>
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