



FEEDBACK

August 2012

What can the ARRL offer teachers? Check out their outreach programs!

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (wr8g@omega-link.com) and get it published in FEEDBACK.

You don't have to be a professional writer, or even a writer at all. If you're comfortable with writing, great! If not, relate the story in the fashion that you are comfortable with and let the editor do the rest.

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Although many amateur radio operators are aware of some functions of the American Radio Relay League, few are familiar with the outreach programs it offers. I was recently a beneficiary of one such program: the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology.

I was on the arrl.org website looking for Extra class study materials when I came across the link for information on the Teachers Institute. Offered through the Education & Technology program, this ARRL program is open to elementary through university level teachers. Its goal is to provide teachers with tools and strategies for integrating radio theory, satellite and space technology, and basic robotics into their science programs. Prior knowledge of radio science and an amateur radio license are not required to apply, however it was noted that many participants either obtain their amateur license before they attend or they do so shortly after completing the program. Sessions are four days in length and are limited to about 12 participants to allow for individual attention and to give ample opportunities for participation in the activities. This sounded like a great opportunity, and with the majority of the costs being covered by the ARRL, I decided to apply.

I submitted the application, radio theory pre-test, essay, and the supporting statement from my school's principal to the program coordinator for review. I was a bit nervous as to whether or not I'd "make the cut" and be accepted for the program as I'd sent my application at the deadline and I wasn't entirely confident with some of my answers on the pre-test. Within a couple days I received an email from the ARRL letting me know that I'd been accepted for TI Session 1 to be held in Rocklin, California. Excitedly, I began making preparations for my trip!

Leaving Battle Creek, Michigan on July 4th, I began the scenic drive to California. After making several overnight stops along the way, I arrived in Rocklin, California on July 8th and checked into the hotel. Early the next morning, I and the other participants met in the hotel lobby with our ARRL instructor, Tommy Goeber N5DUX, arranged the carpool to Parallax, Inc., the site where our sessions would be held, and off we went.

We began our first class session with general introductions. I learned that my fellow participants had come from a variety of places (California, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, and Ohio), most were middle or high school teachers, and sev-

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n8qc@arrl.net

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Club Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month
Maple United Methodist Church
342 Capital Avenue NE
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Next Meeting

August 16th, 2012 @ 7 pm.

BLB Luncheon

2nd Thursday of every month
Mancino's
1791 W. Columbia Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49015

Next meeting

September 13th @ 11:30 AM

SMARS Breakfast

1st Saturday of every month

Next Meeting

September 1st @ 8:30

(First timer, continued from page 1)

eral had just obtained their Technician license right before arriving at the session. For the next four days of the session our instructor covered radio theory, electronics, satellite tracking, wireless technology, and basic robotics. In addition to Tommy's presentations and class discussions, there were several hands-on activities to highlight the topics we covered: arranging and soldering the components for a basic digital clock, making contact with the Dayton, Ohio TI-2 ARRL class via VHF satellite, locating an electronic "fox" with a handheld radio and antenna, and constructing and programming a small robot ("Boe-Bot") from a kit. The new Weller soldering station and some lead solder that I purchased at the local Frey's Electronics store made me realize how much I had enjoyed making two Heathkit projects when I was a teen. Robotics was the most challenging of the activities for me as I had no prior experience with either building or programming a robot. On our last day of the session, each participant received a generous goody-bag of materials – a set of ARRL reference books on radio and electronic theory, a pendant soldering project and electronics microcontroller kit from Parallax – in addition to the materials we had been given in class to take home with us, all free of charge.

I'm grateful to the ARRL for offering this program and look forward to using many of the ideas presented in the Teachers Institute with my science students. If you are an educator or you know of an educator who could benefit from this program, I highly recommend it!

For more information on the Teachers Institute, you may visit www.arrl.org/teachers-institute-on-wireless-technology

73 de W8AEZ, Stephanie Halbert



Satellite tracking with N5DUX

Photographs by W8JRD, John Davidson



W8AEZ assembling BoeBot

Previously Published in Feedback

BATTERY TIPS:

Q: How should I dispose of Lithium Ion batteries?

A: Lithium ion batteries, like all rechargeable batteries are recyclable and should be recycled. They should never be incinerated since they might explode. Most places that sell rechargeable batteries will also accept them back for recycling.

Q: Quick charging NiMH batteries will reduce their life?

A: For practical purposes with batteries that are designed to be quick charged, for example, Sanyo, GP, that is not true. It is important to use a battery charger that has been specifically designed to rapid charge NiMH cells. Actually there is a much greater likely hood of reducing the life of a NiMH battery by using an "overnight" charger than by using a smart fast charger. Overnight

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chargers rely on the fact that you will unplug them after a number of hours. If you forget to unplug them they can continue to charge the batteries longer than they should. Overcharging WILL reduce the life of batteries. From a strictly technical sense, a battery that is always slow charged will likely last a little longer than one that is always rapid charged. However, the difference is so small that it is not likely to be noticeable for most users.

Q: Can you discharge NiMH/NiCad cells to <1.0 volts and get away with it? Say down to .3V-.4V..

A: A single cell can be discharged to zero volts without damaging it. However in a pack there is always the danger of reverse charging one of the weaker cells when the pack voltage gets too low. This causes damage to the cell, which makes it liable to be reverse charged even deeper the next cycle, etc.

Hamfests

08/18/2012: East Central Illinois Hamfest
Oakwood, IL
Vermilion County ARA
<http://vcara-hamfest.info>

08/18/2012: West Virginia State Convention
Weston, WV
West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council (WVSARC)
<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc>

08/19/2012: Lapeer County ARA's 13th Annual Swap & Shop
Lapeer, MI
Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association
<http://w8lap.com>

08/25/2012: Sixteenth Annual Circus City Swapfest
Baraboo, WI
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.yellowthunder.org>

09/08/2012: GRAHamfest
Wyoming, MI
Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.grahamfest.org>

09/14/2012: W9DXCC Convention
Elk Grove Village, IL
Northern Illinois DX Association

<http://www.w9dxcc.com>

09/16/2012: Adrian Hamfest
Adrian, MI
Adrian Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.w8tqe.com/hamfest.htm>

09/16/2012: GCARA Hamfest
Cincinnati, OH
Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.gcara.org>

09/22/2012: Illinois State Convention (Peoria Superfest 2012)
Peoria, IL
Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>

09/23/2012: Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show
Berea, OH
Hamfest Association of Cleveland
<http://www.hac.org>

09/29/2012: Ozaukee Radio Club's Fall Electronics, Computer & Hobby Swapfest
Cedarburg, WI
Ozaukee Radio Club
<http://ozaukeeradioclub.org>

10/06/2012: Hoosier Hills Hamfest
Bedford, IN
Hoosier Hills Ham Club
<http://www.w9qyq.org>

10/13/2012: Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest
Muskegon, MI
Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services (MCECS)

10/21/2012: Kalamazoo Hamfest
Kalamazoo, MI
Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club (KARC) & Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team (SMART)
<http://www.KalamazooHamfest.Com>

Do you know of a amateur radio related event that isn't listed in this news letter? If so, please contact the news-letter editor (WR8G, Thomas Goodson, wr8g@omega-link.com, 269-962-8007) with details and I'll try to get it into the next edition of Feedback.

Classified

Classified ads due by 1st Sunday of publication month.

Radio Handbooks, 13th, 16th & 19th editions hard cover. \$5/ea.
 ARRL Handbooks, 1977, 1979, 2004 editions. \$5/ea.
 Also Collins Manuals:
 516E-1 12 volt DC Power Supply \$2.00
 32S-1 Transmitter \$15.00
 32RS-1 Transceiver \$10.00
 KWT-6 Transceiver \$10.00.

Bound 6 issue volumes of QST magazine. Older smaller size books. Free to good home. Most issues from 1968 thru the 1980's when the size was changed to 8.5 x 11 inches.

Contact Charlie, W0CD (269) 964-7982

For Sale

Kenwood TS570D \$575.00
 Wall transformers, Microphones, Cigarette lighter plugs, Project boxes, Fans, PL259 connectors, reducing adapters, SO239 Connectors, 9v Battery clips, SWR/Power meters, TV Antenna amplifiers, Power supplies, Coax (RG8/U & RG58), Transformers, Frequency counter and lots of other stuff, too much to mention.

Call Bev Williams, KA8CXS at (269) 964-3197

FOR SALE From Estate of KG8GZ

MFJ 422B-X Keyer \$70

For SALE by W8RVT

Icom IC229 2 Meter Transceiver \$95

Kenwood TM241 2 Meter Transceiver \$95

Contact Don, W8RVT (269) 963-7797

Vanity call signs

Every amateur radio operator can obtain a vanity call sign. Here are some reason you might want one:

- You have a deceased relative and you wish to obtain their call sign.
- You might have a call similar to others in your local area
- You might get a call with unfortunate alternate meanings

- You might get a call that is hard to say or send in morse code
- You might want a call with your name, initials, college, etc.

There are several ways to get a vanity call sign:

- The ARRL can handle this for you for a fee (\$5 for members, \$15 for non-members) plus the vanity fee from the FCC (currently \$14.20) see: <http://www.arrl.org/vanity-call-signs>
- W5YI can handle the entire process for you for a flat fee (\$39.95) see: <http://www.w5yi.org/page.php?id=269>
- For those that want to do it themselves, you can apply directly with the FCC, either online or through the mail. The cost for this is \$14.20. see: http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=cft&id=amateur&page=cft_get_call_sign

Some things to consider:

- Technician and General class operators are limited to 1x3 or 2x3 call signs, such as W8ZZZ or WA8ZZZ
- Advanced and Extra class operators can have the above, plus 2x2 call signs, such as KC8ZZ
- Extra class operators can have 2x1 or 1x2 call signs, such as KD8Z or K8DZ
- All US call signs start with K,N, or W, plus A for extras only. There are several region restricted and protected call signs , so do your homework first.

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S.M.A.R.S. W8DF Club Repeaters

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

2 Meter Repeater 146.660 MHz
 -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8

70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz
 +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8

1.25 Meter Repeater 224.240 MHz
 -1.6MHz offset

70cm and 1.25 meter repeaters are linked. Also available via echolink.



(Vanity, continued from page 4)

There are several sites you can use to see if a particular call sign is available, including but limited to:

- <http://www.arrl.org>
- <http://www.qrz.com>
- <http://www.ae7q.com>

Make sure to pick several call signs in case the one you really want becomes unavailable.

John W8JRD
w8jrd@arrl.net

Meeting Minutes

SMARS Club Meeting July 19, 2012

Called To Order: 7:00 PM

Officers Present: Bob AC8GL Don W8RVT John W8JRD Gary N8QC

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Secretary's Report: approved as reported at the Club Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: approved as reported at the Club Meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: No report.
- ARES/RACES: No report.
- Field Day: Report printed in Feedback, copy passed around. One suggestion was to use a lower power class or an alternative power source such as steam, wind, battery, etc/
- George K8GG willing to do CW next year if there is support, but doesn't want to do low power.
- VE Testing: No session this month.

Old Business:

- CW class starting in mid-October ~8 weeks. A sign up list was passed around for interested parties.
- The SMARS website has moved to a new server with new content.
- Bev KA8CXS has moved a lot of items into her garage for sale.

New Business:

- A lack of response has been noted on the local repeaters. Many times someone will call out and nobody will respond. This needs to be a priority, especially on club meeting nights.
- A committee was formed to address information for new hams.
- Charlotte Longman still has many of Jerry's antique radios and she would like to sell these.
- Notices to both the Shopper and the Marshall Advisor might bring in more interest in the CW class.
- Field Day: All 3 trailers to go to the airport. Club will operate 4A this year.
- Need at least a couple of computers for logging. The club will give away a HT for participants at FD.

Presentation: none

Adjourned: 8:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD

SMARS Secretary

Income and Expense Statement

6/1/12 Through 7/30/12

Category Description	6/1/12-7/30/12
INCOME	
50 50 Dues	26.50
Interest Inc: Checking	10.00
	1.30
TOTAL Interest Inc	1.30
Memorials	240.00
Sales: Equipment	150.00
TOTAL Sales	150.00
*TOTAL INCOME	427.80
EXPENSES	
Administration: PO BOX	29.00
Postage	18.00
WebHosting	11.97
TOTAL Administration	58.97
Equipment: Chairs	136.68
Maintainance	16.29
Equipment-Other	16.00
TOTAL Equipment	168.97
Feedback: Postage	13.50
Printing	13.50
Feedback-Other	-28.50
TOTAL Feedback	-1.50
Field Day: Fuel	52.70
PortaJohn	87.00
TOTAL Field Day	139.70
Hamfest2012: Tickets	0.00
TOTAL Hamfest2012	0.00
Meetings: Refreshments	17.31
Rent	120.00
VE Rent	60.00
TOTAL Meetings	197.31
Utilities: Telephone	202.57
TOTAL Utilities	202.57
TOTAL EXPENSES	766.02
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-338.22

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



SMARS

P.O. Box 934

Battle Creek, MI 49016

FIRST CLASS MAIL



SMARS NETS

Before Lunch Bunch
Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66

Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66
Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24
Wednesday 7:00 PM, 443.95
Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365
Saturday 8:00 PM, 443.95

Upcoming events:

Club meeting: August 16th @ 7:00 PM
SMARS Breakfast: September 1st @ 8:30 AM
BLB Luncheon: September 13th @ 11:30 AM