



FEEDBACK

August 2013

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (wr8g@arrl.net) 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.

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell or purchase amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.



My First Field Day

By Jay Jarrett

I wasn't able to do much on the 2012 Field Day other than some setup and some teardown. I didn't know what I had missed!

This year, at the airport, my schedule was cleared and I was available for the entire weekend. The setup on Friday went well, as I had thought it would be because it was very straight forward; show up and work. Weather was good although rather warm and we managed to get the work done with no loss of limbs or digits. And everyone was still talking to each other when we quit for the day!

Saturday, late morning, I arrived with my motorhome, expecting to spend a couple of hours in one of the trailers with many more hours sitting around under the awning, sipping sodas. That changed when I was pressed into service completing the setup. More physical labor, more sweat. I began to think that FD would be a real chore and nothing that was going to keep my interest. Another mistake.

When FD started I was a bit shy of jumping in and calling or responding so I stood over the shoulder of WR8G who was working 15m. Contacts were there but our QRP signals weren't blasting through the pileups very well. Now I began to think that FD was going to be a futile attempt to get hoarse and finger cramps with nothing to show for it. Then the contacts began to happen. Now I see that there is a reason for being here! When Tom took a break, I sat down and tried for a few contacts myself. I couldn't believe my exhilaration when a station repeated our W8DF call! Would I remember what I was supposed to say in reply? With some trepidation I answered (I don't think my voice cracked at this time) and reported our location with our class. Of course, I had to explain the 4AB class more than once but it was gratifying when stations mentioned that we were the first 4AB they had contacted.

As it turned out I spent many more hours in the trailer than I had expected. And I had more fun than I EVER expected. I'm already planning on Field Day 2014! Hope to see you there!

Look for Jay's pictures from field day through out this edition of Feedback. There are too many to fit in a single edition, so look for more next month.

—Editor, WR8G



Board of Directors

President

Gary Williams, N8QC
n8qc@arrl.net

Vice President

Dave "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY

Secretary

Jay Jarrett, KD8OXR
kd8oxr@hughes.net

Treasurer

Don Larkin, W8RVT
w8rvt@arrl.net

Member At Large

Tom Goodson, WR8G
wr8g@arrl.net

Club Meeting

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

Next Meeting

August 15th, 2013 @ 7 PM

BLB Luncheon

2nd Thursday of every month
Coney Island, N.E. Capital
Battle Creek, MI

Next meeting

September 12th @ 11:30 AM

SMARS Breakfast

1st Saturday of every month
Coney Island, N.E. Capital
Battle Creek, MI

Next Meeting

September 7th @ 8:30 AM

SKYWARN Coffee

1st Saturday of every month
Immediately after Siren Test
Coney Island, N.E. Capital
Battle Creek, MI

Next Meeting

September 7th

SMARS Club Meeting Minutes July 18, 2013

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

Officers Present: Don W8RVT Gary N8QC Doc K8OLY Tom WR8G

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions and recognition of visitors

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback: postponed for a month

Treasurer's Reported as distributed at the meeting: Motion Doc K8OLY Second Steve KD8VAU Approved

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: Tom WR8G is producing a new flyer. It will ready shortly.
- ARES/RACES: Ken KC8QNQ reported a record number of sirens observed and volunteers for the July test. WX8BTL has an account set up for event supplies and other expenses. The next "Ham in a Day" is July 27 10 AM to 3 PM with testing at 3 PM at the Public Works Building. Contact Judy KD8SHK for registration. There was 1 Skywarn net of 48 minutes. Judy KD8SHK and others had a well received presentation about Amateur Radio at the Calhoun County Gun Owner Association meeting.
- VE Testing: Next session is at 3 PM July 27 in conjunction with the "Ham in a Day" session. Judy KD8SHK and David W8RDX had some suggestions for reducing the noise for test takers.

Old Business:

David W8RDX asked about who the fees for the VE exams should go to.

New Business:

Tom WR8G said there would not be a Feedback issue this month.

Field Day:

Doc K8OLY thanked all for their participation. There were more people operating and many more visitors with the new site. The total point count was higher than it had been for several years. The membership voted for low power/ natural sources again for next year.

Other:

Louie WB8WXS asked about a more permanent way to store materials for his Foundation scholarship applications.

Adjourned: 7:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted

John Davidson

Acting Secretary

Board Meeting 07/02/2013

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR, Stephanie W8AEZ, John W8JRD, Tom WR8G.

Hamfest 2014 - Discussion included prices for wristbands, which cost far more than tickets would. We will stick with tickets, but will change the layout slightly to have the stub include email addresses.

The Hamfest flyers also need to be modified to reflect that children under 12 will be admitted at no charge.

The updated Constitution was presented and discussion provided a couple of changes that will be included. The final version will be posted on the website before the next general meeting (July) and the membership will be requested to offer their own ideas so that it can be ratified at the August meeting.

Field Day – Next year we should find a way to cover 80m and 160m for overnight operation. The idea of keeping the trailers in a circle was agreed to because it helps to keep power cables in a central location.

Speaking of the trailers, an inventory is needed. At present the 1st Saturday in August has been selected to have the task done. We will make an announcement at the next General Meeting (July 18th) to try to get volunteers. That Saturday would encompass breakfast, inventory of trailers, siren test, coffee, then finish the invento-

(Continued from page 2)

ry, if required.

One of the 2m antennas in the trailers should be set up near the Mouse Mobile/canopy to cover talk-ins.

The trailers have been updated with “fairly new” computers and flat screen monitors so the old CRTs and computers need to be taken to the Goodwill drop-off site. This will reduce weight and remove obstacles on the floors.

The wind turbine must be looked at to decide if it will be kept and reused. The rudder needs to be improved for better function and the central joint has to be re-engineered to improve installation.

The board agreed that the QRP operation went well and certainly could be done again next year.

Finally, someone needs to bring a real compass for next year!!

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, KD8OXR, Secretary

Meeting Minutes 06/20/2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR. 24 other members in attendance!

Secretary’s report accepted. Treasurer’s report accepted.

The meeting began with the introduction of a possible change to the handling of meeting schedules. Perhaps we would begin each meeting with a presentation before the regular business is conducted. We will try this at the next meeting.

Committee reports:

- Hamfest 2014 – No advanced ticket sales next year. The ideas of hand stamps or wristbands were discussed with no conclusion. Perhaps the tickets will be just stubs only for the drawings. We need to have flyers available by mid-September.
- RACES – There will be a walk on the linear trail on Saturday, June 22nd. Check-in will be at 9:00. The walk should last about 2 hours, leaving time to get to Field Day setup.
- Field Day – There will be two different FD sites; one

at the Kellogg airport and one on 15th St. in Marshall.

- Siren testing – Many more sirens have been added to the request list, many out-county. The Marshall Twp. Supervisor sent a not thanking us for checking siren operation.
- The Colon Cancer Walk was very successful with a good turnout of volunteers to cover the course.
- Ham in A Day – Perhaps another HIAD in August or October. John, W8JRD, will be unable to cover a July meeting. No plans have yet been made to cover by someone else.
- VE session – Next session will be June 27th at 7:00 at the Maple Methodist Church. The Kalamazoo Sheriff’s office will conduct a session on July 20th.

Old Business:

- Three trailers have been covered with the decals and are ready for Field Day.

New Business:

- Arnold, WA8VRA, has volunteered to provide coffee and such whenever he can.
- The contract for using the church is coming up for renewal. Because of the excellent attendance numbers of late, we are considering moving to the Fellowship Room on the lower level where there is more space. Gary will approach the church leaders to see if we can move and to determine if there will be any increase in rental fees.
- The Davidsons reported that the ARRL books were installed at the library and they thanked the members for their contributions to the memorial fund.

Program:

- Field Day – Setup will begin Friday at 2:00. Trailer delivery arranged through John, Terry and Jordan. Food will be available on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday morning. Porta-john will be delivered.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett KD8OXR, Secretary

Hamfests

08/17/2013: 6th Annual Ripley County ARC "Tailgator"
Hamfest
Batesville, IN
Ripley County Amateur Radio Club
<http://rcarc.net/HamFest.html>

08/17/2013: West Virginia State Convention
Weston, WV
West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council (WVSARC)
<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/>

08/18/2013: TechFest
Ingleside, IL
Western Lake County Amateur Radio Society (WeLCARS)
<http://www.welcars.org>

08/18/2013: Warren Hamfest
Cortland, OH
Warren Amateur Radio Association
<http://warrenhamfest.blogspot.com/>

08/24/2013: Circus City Swapfest
Baraboo, WI
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
<http://yellowthunder.org>

08/24/2013: Owen Monroe Amateur Radio Hamfest
Spencer, IN
Owen County ARA & Bloomington ARC
<http://www.owencountyara.org/>

08/24/2013: SARA Swap & Trunk Sale
Owosso, MI
Shiawassee Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.w8qqq.org>

08/25/2013: 5th Annual CFARC Tailgate Fest
Stow, OH
Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club
<http://cfarc.org/tailgate2013.html>

09/07/2013: GRAHamfest 2013
Wyoming, MI
Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association
http://www.w8dc.org/grr_images/2013GRAHamFestFlyer.pdf

09/07/2013: Hamfest & Swapmeet
South Bend, IN
Michiana Amateur Radio Club (MARC)
<http://w9ab.org/>

09/07/2013: Radio Expo 2013
Belvidere, IL
Chicago FM Club
<http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

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.



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

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

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

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

1.25 Meter Repeater 224.240 MHz
-1.6MHz offset

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

W8DF-5 144.39Mhz Digipeater/Igate
Find it on www.aprs.fi

Other Area Repeaters: Skywarn/ARES/RACES

2 Meter: 147.12, +600KHz offset, PL 186.2
70cm: 442.350, +5MHz offset, PL 94.8



VE June Session Report

On June 27, 2013, a session was held at the Maple United Methodist Church. Turnout for both candidates and for the examiners was more than expected, leading to a lively session. The session served 7 candidates, who earned 3 Technician, 2 General, and 2 Extra license grants.

The VE team consisted of:

- Walter K8AEM (his 125th session!)
- Erv N8YEA
- Gary N8QC
- Tom WR8G
- Stephanie W8AEZ
- Ned WB4BKO

Meeting 07/02/2013

Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR, Stephanie W8AEZ, John W8JRD, Tom WR8G.

Discussion included prices for wristbands, which cost far more than tickets would. We will stick with tickets, change the layout slightly to have the stub include email addresses.

Post flyers also need to be modified to reflect that children under 12 will be admitted at no charge.

Constitution was presented and discussion provided a couple of changes that will be included. The final version posted on the website before the next general meeting (July) and the membership will be requested to offer ideas so that it can be ratified at the August meeting.

Next year we should find a way to cover 80m and 160m for overnight operation. The idea of keeping the trailers was agreed to because it helps to keep power cables in a central location.

For the trailers, an inventory is needed. At present the 1st Saturday in August has been selected to have the task. We will make an announcement at the next General Meeting (July 13th) to try to get volunteers. That Saturday would be breakfast, inventory of trailers, siren test, coffee, then finish the inventory, if required.

2m antennas in the trailers should be set up near the Mouse Mobile/canopy to cover talk-ins.

Computers have been updated with "fairly new" computers and flat screen monitors so the old CRTs and computers need to be taken to the Goodwill drop-off site. This will reduce weight and remove obstacles on the floors.

The rudder must be looked at to decide if it will be kept and reused. The rudder needs to be improved for better installation and the central joint has to be re-engineered to improve installation.

It was agreed that the QRP operation went well and certainly could be done again next year.

Someone needs to bring a real compass for next year!!

Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

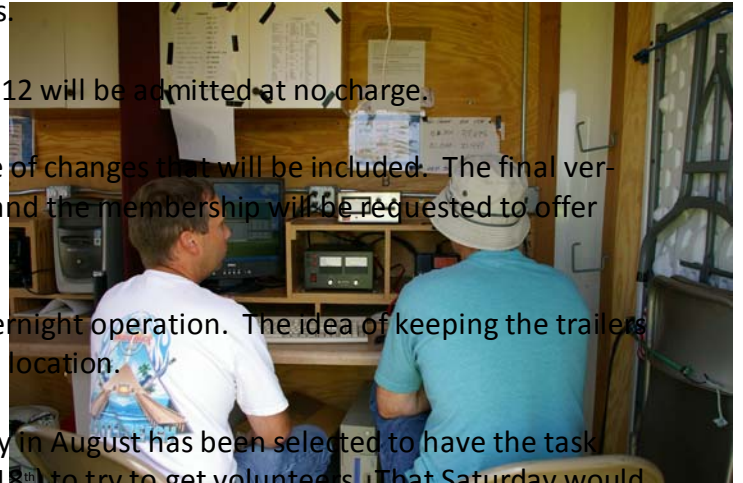
Minutes submitted,
Jay KD8OXR, Secretary

Meeting minutes 06/20/2013

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Allegiance

Minutes



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 7:00 PM, 147.12 (Skywarn)

Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95

Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95

Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365

Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95

Please see page 4 for offsets and PL tones

Upcoming events:

Club meeting: August 15th @ 7:00 PM

VE Testing: August 29th @ 7:00 PM

SMARS Breakfast: September 7th @ 8:30 AM

Siren test: September 7th @ 1:00 PM

SKYWARN Coffee: September 7th after siren test

BLB Lunch: September 12th @ 11:30 AM

Club meeting: September 19th @ 7:00 PM