



# FEEDBACK

August 2014

### 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.

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

### Board of Directors

#### President

Gary Williams, N8QC  
n8qc@arrl.net

#### Vice President

Dave "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY

#### Secretary

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR  
n8arr@hughes.net

#### Treasurer

Don Larkin, W8RVT  
w8rvt@arrl.net

#### Member At Large

Tom Goodson, WR8G  
wr8g@arrl.net

### Inside this issue:

Meeting Minutes	2
Board Meeting Minutes	2
Treasurer's report	3
Hamfests	3
Club Repeaters	3
Upcoming events and local nets	4

## ARRL support for clubs could use some improvement

Often, when you hear ARRL officials speak, they extol the virtues of amateur radio clubs, saying things like, "Clubs are the lifeblood of amateur radio." For example, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, in response to my e-mail congratulating him on his appointment as the new ARRL Great Lakes Division director, said that his "plans are to push to keep things local, club-related, and bottom-up driven."

Of course, that kind of set me off. When it comes to club support, the ARRL is more talk than action.

One example of this lack of support is that there hasn't been an issue of the ARRL Club News newsletter for years. Even so, if you log into the ARRL website and look at your e-mail subscriptions page, you'll see that it says that it's supposed to be a monthly newsletter.

I'll also note that the ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, left this particular newsletter off the list of available newsletters in his June QST column. I don't know who at HQ is responsible for producing this newsletter, but the fact that there hasn't been one for so long speaks volumes to me.

Another example is the club commission program. Under this program, clubs get a \$15 commission when they sign up a new member. That's not bad, but the commission falls to only \$2 for renewing members. According to a former treasurer of ARROW, my club here in Ann Arbor, MI, \$2 just wasn't enough to make it worth his while to process renewals.

To be fair, it's not all bad news. The ARRL website does have a page with information on how to set up and run an active club (<http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-resources>). The ARRL also has a club liability insurance program is a decent deal for clubs, but that program probably doesn't require much effort on the ARRL's part. The ARRL is also supposed to refer new hams to clubs, but I'm not sure exactly how they do that, and I don't think ARROW's gained any new members from this recently.

Let me ask you. Is your club getting the support it needs from the ARRL? If so, I'd like to hear about what you think they're doing right. If not, I'd like to know what you think they should be doing to help your club.

When he's not writing this column for club newsletters, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Meeting Minutes 07/17/2014

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

Officers present - Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Tom WR8G

Secretary's report - Motion was made by Doc K8OLY to accept, motion seconded by John W8JRD. Motion was accepted by all members present.

Treasurer's report - Motion was made by Doc K8OLY to accept, motion seconded by Tom WR8G. Motion was accepted by all members present.

Committee / meeting reports:

Hamfest 2015 - Tom WR8G confirmed the contract for Wings Stadium Annex was signed and down payment submitted. Additional discussion is needed regarding the talk-in frequency. The flier is now ready for final review.

SKYWARN - Dave W8RDX reported that there were a couple of successful formal nets this month. Reminder that there will be a Ham-in-a-Day session on Saturday, July 19th at Miller College with VE session beginning at 3:00 p.m.

VE Session - John W8JRD advised there was 1 candidate for the June VE session and that candidate earned his ticket. The new question pool for Technician class took effect on July 1st. There are upcoming changes in VE procedures which will be shared accordingly. The FCC has requested vanity call sign fees be increasing from \$16.10 to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. Judy KD8SHK will pass along the number potential candidates for the upcoming Ham-in-a-Day on July 18th.

Field Day 2014 - Don W8RVT has electronically submitted the Field Day report. The club accrued approximately 4000 points in this year's competition, which was an increase over last year's event. Participants felt that the new logging software installed by Terry N8LN worked well. Doc K8OLY thanked all who helped out at Field Day, and a special thank-you was extended to Bev KA8CXs for her assistance with the food. Two visitors to the event thanked the club for the warm welcome they received at the event and felt everyone was helpful and friendly.

SMARS Board - Per Gary N8QC, the board has decided to sell the 5 kW Generac generator, asking price \$300.00.

Proceeds from the sale will go toward the purchase of a Honda generator.

Old Business - Terry N8LN reported the D-Star antenna was installed on July 7th at 190' on the tower located on D Drive and 9 Mile Road (old Emmett Township Fire Station #2). Dave AB9HK was on the tower for about 9 hours. Amateur radio friends at Comcast/Xfinity set up the cable modem and ran the cable to the tower. The gateway is synchronized and they are on the internet. Dave W8RDX stated that they were able to successfully talk from Larry Camp WB8R's driveway in Coldwater back to the repeater.

New Business - There was discussion of when and where to hold the club Christmas Party. Suggestion made by John W8JRD to have the party at Coney Island or Maple United Methodist Church.

Dave W8RDX asked the club to consider picking up the cost of the monthly internet connection to the D-Star repeater.

50/50 Drawing winner - Jack N8LS

Presentations - Jack N8LS shared several photographs of the July 7th D-Star antenna installation. John W8JRD presented on his recent trip to ARRL Headquarters and sight-seeing stops.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ (for Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary)

## SMARS Board Meeting Minutes August 6, 2013

Called To Order: 5:00 PM

Officers Present: Don W8RVT Doc K8OLY Gary N8QC

Others Present: Bev KA8CXs Stephanie W8AEZ John W8JRD Chris Williams

Topics Discussed:

Club Constitution: Not passed around at the last club meeting. This needs to be on the agenda for the September meeting.

State Corporate Filing: Same as last years with Jay named as Secretary. Don will file by the October 1 deadline.

Hamfest: The status of the flier is unknown. Check with Tom on his return. No deposit has been made on the MAC. Don is not concerned about the March 15 date.

(Continued on page 4)

**Hamfests**

**Income and Expense Statement**

7/1/14 Through 7/31/14

08/23/2014: Circus City Swapfest  
Baraboo, WI  
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club  
<http://yellowthunder.org>

08/23/2014: Owen Monroe Amateur Radio Hamfest  
Spencer, IN  
Owen County Amateur Radio Association & Bloomington  
Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.owencountyara.org/>

08/23/2014: West Virginia State Convention  
Weston, WV  
West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council (WVSARC)  
<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/>

08/24/2014: The Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 6th Annual Tail-  
gate Hamfest  
Stow, OH  
Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club  
<http://cfarc.org/tailgate2014.html>

09/07/2014: Findlay Hamfest  
Findlay, OH  
Findlay Radio Club  
<http://www.w8ft.org>

09/13/2014: GRAHamfest  
Wyoming, MI  
Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association  
<http://www.w8dc.org>

09/13/2014: Radio Expo 2014  
Belvidere, IL  
Chicago FM Club  
<http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

09/14/2014: Adrian Hamfest  
Adrian, MI  
Adrian Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.w8tqe.com/>

09/19/2014: W9DXCC Convention  
Schaumburg, IL  
Northern Illinois DX Association  
<http://w9dxcc.com>

09/20/2014: Hancock ARC Hamfest  
Greenfield, IN  
Hancock Amateur Radio Club of Hancock County  
<http://www.w9atg.org>

09/20/2014: Peoria Superfest  
Peoria, IL  
Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.w9uvi.org>

Category Description	7/1/14- 7/31/14
<b>INCOME</b>	
Gift Received	10.00
Interest Inc: Checking	0.22
<b>TOTAL Interest Inc</b>	<b>0.22</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10.22</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Equipment: Maintainance	36.74
<b>TOTAL Equipment</b>	<b>36.74</b>
Field Day: Food PortaJohn	215.41 90.00
<b>TOTAL Field Day</b>	<b>305.41</b>
Hamfest: Facility	1,300.00
<b>TOTAL Hamfest</b>	<b>1,300.00</b>
Meetings: Refreshments	15.59
<b>TOTAL Meetings</b>	<b>15.59</b>
Utilities: Internet Telephone	62.00 2.69
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<b>64.69</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,722.43</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>-1,712.21</b>

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

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society  
2 Meter Repeater 146.660 MHz -600KHz offset, PL 94.8  
2 Meter Digital/DStar 146.79/19 (-600KHz Offset)

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](http://www.aprs.fi)

**Other Area Repeaters:  
Skywarn/ARES/RACES (WX8BTL)**

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



# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

*(Continued from page 2)*

One complaint from last year was the lack of new equipment dealers. A couple of possibilities were discussed and Doc will follow up. A decision needs to be made soon on whether to charge extra for electricity.

Field Day: A question was raised about what needs to use the big generator when the club is operating on low power. John discussed a remote fueling system to allow one of the small generators to run without refueling.

Outing: One of the club trailers will be moved to the Fort Custer Chapel on Labor Day weekend for operating. Which day is still to be decided.

Program: Terry KD8TCE will discuss the internet.

Ham in a Day: The next session is proposed for September 28.

Adjourned: 5:52 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
Temporary Secretary

## FOR SALE

3 each Kenwood TS440SAT \$475-\$465

All have auto antenna tuner

Kenwood TM-201 \$50

Kenwood TM221 \$60

Kenwood TM231 \$75

Kenwood TM261 \$75

Don W8RVT any SMARS repeater  
or 269 963-7797 or w8rvt@arrl.net

### Club Meeting

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

### SKYWARN Coffee

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

### BLB Luncheon

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

### SMARS Breakfast

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

### 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 3 for offsets and PL tones

## Upcoming events:

**Club meeting: August 21st @ 7:00 PM**

**VE Testing: August 28th @ 3:00 PM**

**Siren test: August 2nd @ 1:00 PM**

**SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test**

**SMARS Breakfast: September 13th @ 8:30 AM**

**BLB Lunch: September 11th @ 11:30 AM**