



# FEEDBACK

August 2016

### Your Story

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor and get it published in FEEDBACK.

### Equipment to Sell or Swap?

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](mailto:n8qc@arrl.net)

#### Vice President

Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ  
[w8aez@arrl.net](mailto:w8aez@arrl.net)

#### Secretary

Brian Marsh, W8BDM  
[brianmarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:brianmarsh@yahoo.com)

#### Treasurer

Jan Goodson, W8JKG  
[janice.goodson@omega-link.com](mailto:janice.goodson@omega-link.com)

#### Member At Large

David Ashbolt, K8OLY  
[tomahawk.jockey@gmail.com](mailto:tomahawk.jockey@gmail.com)

### Inside this issue:

KB6NU Article	1
Article: Dayton Hamvention	2-3
Estate / Equipment sales	2-3
Meeting Minutes	4
Club Repeaters	4
Upcoming events and local nets	5

## 5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

*Charlie – M0PZT @M0PZT*

*Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters <http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/> #hamradio*

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

**R5:** Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

**R4:** Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

**R3:** Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

**R2:** Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.



**Editor's Note:**

Scott Scriber, AC8PS, will be taking a short medical leave-of-absence from his role as editor of the FEEDBACK. In the meantime, Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ, has offered to act as newsletter editor. We wish Scott a speedy recovery and look forward to his return to the editor's desk!

**ESTATE SALES:**

The family of Russ Beutler, N8UU, still has several HAM-related items for sale:

Kenwood TS570S with PowerSupply	\$600
TenTec Jupiter with Power Supply	\$700
Kenwood TS440S	\$450
Kenwood TS940S	\$650
Kenwood SP-930 Speaker	\$30
Kenwood PS-430	\$100
TenTec Centaur Amp	\$400
TenTec 307 Speaker	\$75
TenTec Argonaut	\$450
Alinco DX70	\$400
MFJ Versa Tuner 3	\$200
Heathkit SB-1000 Amp	\$700

....and more...

To make an offer or for more information, contact **Scott** at **269-317-4139**

**R1:** Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable. Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.

**NEWS FLASH!**



**New Hamvention Venue: "You Will Be Very Impressed," Chairman Assures**

Dayton [Hamvention®](#) is moving on after 52 years at Hara Arena, and 2017 preparations at the show's new venue in Xenia, Ohio, now are in full swing, two Hamvention officials explained this week on the [Amateur Radio Roundtable](#) webcast hosted by Tom Medlin, W5KUB. Hamvention announced on August 1 that it would relocate to the [Greene County Fairgrounds](#), after Hara Arena made it known that it would close at month's end. Hamvention 2017 General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, and official spokesperson Mike Kalter, W8CI, fielded questions from Medlin and callers during the hour-long August 9 show. Cramer said some members of the Amateur Radio community entertain preconceived notions about the new venue that are "far off base," and he and Kalter wanted to set the record straight.

"Change is hard for everyone, but I think this is a very good move for us," Cramer said. "You will be very impressed." Kalter echoed the sentiment. "We want to start out great and get awesome," he said. Kalter said there's been a lot of second-guessing, but that "a lot of overriding factors" and year-long search led to the selection of Greene County Fairgrounds.

Kalter assured those planning to attend Hamvention that Fairgrounds buildings — particularly those used for showing livestock during the county fair — are "absolutely clean" and well maintained (see attached layout map). He and Cramer expressed confidence that everyone will find plenty of available parking and room for all traditional Hamvention activities — more than may be evident at first glance. Vendors who have already visited the new site to get the lay of the land went away "excited," they said.

At this point, no hard-and-fast decisions have been made as to how Hamvention will put the available buildings and space to use next spring, but Cramer and Kalter said the Fairgrounds staff has been especially helpful. "We're all working together now to make this happen," Kalter said, and that Hamvention officials remain open to questions and suggestions.

Cramer took time to quash one misconception about Hara Arena. "Even though they

**ESTATE SALES (continued):**

Cleaning house!

Kenwood TS-830S: 10-160m coverage. Matching external speaker and desk mic included \$400

Yaesu FT-7900R 2M/70CM mobile rig. Includes external speaker and separation kit \$175

Kenwood TM-231a: 2m mobile \$50

Power supply for either above mobile \$20

Kenwood TM-631: 2m/1.25m mobile rig \$150

For more information or to make an offer, contact **John Davidson**, W8JRD, at **269-339-1908** or via email [w8jrd@arrl.net](mailto:w8jrd@arrl.net)

had air conditioning," he said, "air conditioning was never used there. The doors were open, and they did not want to turn on the air conditioning unless the doors were closed. So, I don't think air conditioning was used at all — at least in the last 10 years."

Some air conditioned space already available at the new venue may be suitable for such activities as forums, and the Fairgrounds is looking to upgrade existing ventilation systems in non-air conditioned buildings. "We're looking at the possibility of air conditioned 'chalets' for forums," Kalter said.

The prime area under consideration for the popular outdoor flea market is inside the racetrack oval, they said, and additional adjacent space is available, if it's needed.

The venue will have wireless Internet coverage. "We've already moved some of the equipment out of Hara, and we think it will do a good job there," Cramer said. Kalter added that the Fairgrounds staff is working on upgrading the Internet "pipe" to the venue.

As for the admission price, "We're still working on that," Kalter said. "We have not made a decision. We may leave it at the same price or slightly more than that, but no great increase." Tickets this year were \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate for all 3 days.

Cramer and Kalter said Hamvention anticipates being ready to start selling tickets and vendor spaces by November — and perhaps earlier.

Kalter stressed that the sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (**DARA**) puts "an awful lot back into ham radio in donations," all raised entirely through Hamvention.

"We need your help. We need your support," Kalter said. "Hamvention needs to move on, and we intend to make it happen, with everybody's help.

8/10/2016, [arrl.org](http://arrl.org)

### Ham Humor

*Did you hear about the two amateur operators who got married and combined their antenna farm?*

The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was spectacular.



## SMARS Meeting Minutes 07/21/2016

Meeting was called to order.  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Janice W8JKG

(As there was not a quorum of officers present for the July meeting, there was no formal discussion of club business; likewise there was no Secretary's report.)

50/50 drawing winner: W8RDX

Meeting dismissed.

---

## SMARS Board Meeting Minutes 08/09/2016

Meeting was called to order.

Attendees –

Gary Williams N8QC (President)  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ (Vice-President)  
Janice Goodson W8JKG (Treasurer)

Don Larkin W8RVT  
Tom Goodson WR8G  
Kyle Brown W8KDB

Treasurer's report was not available

---

Stephanie W8AEZ brought up that the club-donated General Class exam reference materials at Willard were out-of-date and the Technician materials were unaccounted for and assumed lost or stolen. She will order replacement ARRL and Gordon West study guides for both the General and Technician exams. Gary N8QC recommended that we verify the date of the most recent ARRL Handbook on file at Willard; if it is more than a couple years old, a new one should be purchased and given to the library as well.

Club elections were discussed. Nominations will be taken at the September 15<sup>th</sup> club meeting for elections at the October 20<sup>th</sup> club meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ

## Reminders

Nominations for club officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) are now open! All club members are encouraged to run for office. Nominations will be taken now through the September 15<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Elections for club officers will occur at the October 20<sup>th</sup> club meeting.



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

2m Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset,  
CTCSS 94.8Hz  
2m DStar 146.79MHz, -600KHz offset  
70cm Repeater 443.95MHz, +5MHz offset,  
CTCSS 94.8Hz  
70cm Dstar 442.7625, +5MHz offset  
1.25m Repeater 224.24MHz, -1.6MHz offset  
APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39MHz

70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and are also available via echolink.

### Other Repeaters:

2m Repeater 147.12MHz, +600KHz offset,  
CTCSS 186.2Hz  
70cm Repeater 442.35MHz, +5MHz offset,  
CTCSS 94.8Hz

# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

<p><b>Club Meeting</b> 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b> 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>BLB Luncheon</b> 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b> 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
---	---	---	--

<p><b>SMARS Nets:</b> 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><b>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b> Club Meeting: August 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm SMARS VE Session: August 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: September 1<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30am Siren Test: September 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1:00pm Board Meeting: September 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm SMARS Breakfast: September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am *Club Meeting: September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm</p> <p>*Nominations taken for Club Officer elections</p>
---	---