



FEEDBACK

August 2017

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (ac8ps@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.

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Inside this issue:

Field Day Article	1
Meeting Minutes	2
Club Repeaters	4
Upcoming events and local nets	4

Field Day 2017 is "in-the-books!"

As a result of new fees and additional requirements to use our prior site at the W.K. Kellogg Airport, the Field Day Committee sought an alternate location to hold operations for Field Day 2017. Fort Custer Recreation Area graciously offered use of the Equestrian Staging Area/Whitford Lake site, the same area from which SMARS had activated the special event station for the Michigan State Parks on the Air Event the first weekend in May.

Among the many visitors to the Field Day site were several campers, new HAMS, a local newspaper reporter, and Channel 3 News. One HAM family conducted an impromptu fox-hunt at the site, much to the delight of those who had the chance to witness it!

Plenty of operators and the ideal weather and band conditions contributed to the success of the event. We operated QRP, powered by batteries that were charged via renewable resources (e.g. wind and solar power), modes of operation included voice, CW, and PSK-31. Robert KI4OZJ provided a GOTA station as well.

Many thanks to all the club members and others (hint hint!) who helped make Field Day 2017 a smashing success. In addition, special thanks to:

Tony Trojanowski and the staff of Fort Custer Recreation Area

Jay N8ARR for his negotiation skills with the City Clerk's Office and Ft. Custer management and for "feeding the masses" of SMARS members at his mobile canteen (and Kathy for her role as hostess)

Smoky N5NKY for his assistance in securing the site and to "Lit'l Bit," for providing on-site security

Tom WR8G for maintaining logging software

Kyle W8KDB, Tom KE8GDN, Brian W8BDM, and Terry N8LN for towing equipment trailers

...and our apologies to any participants who we may have inadvertently overlooked.

We look forward to seeing all of you at Field Day 2018!

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie W8AEZ

Board Meeting 07/11/2017

Officers present: Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR, Tom WR8G.
Others present: Smokey N5MKY, John W8JRD, Kyle W8KDB.

Called to order at 1730.

GLARA – Tom volunteers to go to MIS for the GLARA meeting on the 15th of this month.

Field Day – Tom has acquired 5 refurbished computers, all the same and all running Windows 7. He will keep one for backup/standby and the other 4 will be used for FD trailer logging. The board unanimously agreed to reimburse him for the four. Question was raised whether we will be running QRP again next year. Several members have expressed a desire to run higher power to try for more contacts. Knowing that we won't gain as many points but we may get more operators. Something to ponder and will be brought up at the next general meeting. The other question is whether we want to return to Custer Recreation area again. Smokey agreed to check with Tony to see if we can get the weekend on the calendar.

Hamfest – Checking with the Toledo/Maumee Amateur Radio group proves that their Hamfest will be on March 18th, 2018. Jay has left a message with Emilie at Wings to reserve our spot on the 17th. She has not called back yet to confirm so Jay will make another call to firm things up, find out this year's cost and when they would like a down payment.

Don has raised the question of a fourth TS440 being in the inventory of the trailers. A survey has not turned one up and there isn't any record of what has been stored in the trailers. Three are accounted for. Jay has offered to bring his TS440 for next year, if it is determined that a fourth is required.

VE – John will be returning to the position of VE boss as Gary is dropping it.

Meeting adjourned at 1820.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

Meeting Minutes 07/20/2017

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

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G. 24 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report (verbal) was accepted.
Treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee reports:

Field Day – All required documentation has been filed with ARRL. Now we see how well we estimated our bonus points.

SKYWARN – The next meeting will be moved to August 8th because the regular Tuesday will be during the county fair and several members will be working there. A SET will be scheduled for September of October, TBD.

HIAD – Next is scheduled for October 14th at the DPW on Kendall.

MSPOTA – Would like to activate again on September 9th at Custer Rec Area.

VE Session – Two candidates, both passed, 1 Tech and 1 Extra.

Old business:

George K8GG suggested that the club inform City authorities about why we didn't use the airport. He feels that because of the service that amateur radio provides to government, we shouldn't have to follow the inspection rules. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

GLARA Hamcon needs volunteers to register. Go to GLHAMCON.com to do so. Tom visited MIS for a meeting and reported that there is a lot of space available at the track.

Elections – Nominations are coming up in September with elections in October. Gary has announced that he will not be submitting his name for reelection and Steph has announced that she will not be running for President, either. This could make for an interesting year.

Jay has been going through the trailers and removing a lot of "stuff" that is never used during Field Day and it is being stored in his shed. A list will be created and submitted to the board for decisions about what to do with it.

New Business:

Trailers – Jay reported that there is a lot of extraneous material in each of the trailers that probably don't need to be toted around to every place we wish to set up. One trailer has been purged and an inventory of what this material is will be provided soon so dispensation can be determined. In the meantime it is being stored at Jay's house. Also, the small generator needs to be taken for a checkout; it was leaking fuel at the end of FD. This will be done before the next MSPOTA in September.

FD computers – Tom reported that he has purchased 5 "newly used" desktops, all alike, and all with Windows 7 installed and updated. Four will be used in the trailers, one for each transmitting station and the fifth will be kept for spares. These were acquired for \$100 each and the board approved the purchase. All logging software has been installed, too.

Winter FD – The SKYWARN club will be running winter field day at Uncle Larry's farm on 1/28 & 29.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

Calhoun County SKYWARN Club meeting 07/18/2017

Called to order at 1830. Bret KD8RHB presiding. 19 in attendance.

Budget has \$324.09, same as last month. No activity in the last month.

17 people attended the meeting last month which was held at WWMT with Keith Thompson as our guide and speaker. All were impressed with the facilities and Keith was very appreciative of the help provided by amateur radio spotters.

An EFO "land spout" was spotted near Grand Junction on July 1st. No damage done and no injuries.

There was 100% coverage of the last siren test with only one siren that partially malfunctioned; there was a tone but no rotation.

The Tekonsha siren is run by the township and is not part of the Calhoun County system. It has apparently not yet been tested.

The next HIAD is scheduled for Oct 14th at the DPW on Kendall Street.

The GLARA Hamcon at MIS is on Oct 7th and 8th.

There was no District 5 meeting this month so no report is available.

This Saturday (22nd) is the Keep Your Colon Rollin' walk/run at Bailey Park. Help will be needed on the course. Next Saturday (29th) is the Triathlon and a golf tournament is the same day. Traffic might be a problem.

"Around the Room" – Smokey reported on the Field Day results at Custer Rec Area; good turnout and good conditions, lots of contacts.

Dave – There are at present 32 operators on the DSTAR list and 29 checked in for the digital SKYWARN net on Tuesday night after the .120 net.

CERT – The county fair is coming up August 14-19 and help will be requested. Background checks have started for those who have already volunteered. RACES card updates are in the works. The question was raised if the fair could use the Dist 5 trailer for comm. Most thought it could be.

Jim – FD at Uncle Larry's was also a success with lots of wedding attendees checking out what was going on on the grounds! Whatever it takes to get interest! Winter FD will be January 28th & 29th, same location. Also, a plan must be developed for the occurrence of the .120 repeater going down; how do we get word to all that operations have been moved to the .66 repeater or to .44 simplex?

Other – The August meeting will be during the fair so it has been moved one week earlier to the 8th. Mark your calendars!

Will plan an SET for sometime in September. This will be discussed at the 8/8 meeting.

Another hot dog burn needs to be scheduled also!!

Happy Birthday to Dave Smith W8RDX who turned 80 on the 19th. He says he doesn't feel a day over 90!

Meeting adjourned at 1907.
Respectfully submitted, Jay N8ARR.

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

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

Other Repeaters

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

<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, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>SMARS Nets: Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 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 Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12</p>	<p>Upcoming Events: SKYWARN Coffee: September 2nd after siren test Board Meeting: September 5th @ 5:30pm BLB Luncheon: September 7th @ 11:30am SMARS Breakfast: September 9th @ 8:30am Club Meeting: September 21st @ 7:00pm</p>
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