



# FEEDBACK

November 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
Treasurer's report	5
Hamfests	3
Club Repeaters	3
Upcoming events and local nets	6

## Free Stuff!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm a sucker for free stuff. Below, you'll find links to a free transistor amplifier design program, a free printed circuit board design program, and a free tutorial on antennas. All of these look to be worth a look.

### TransistorAmp 1.1

This is free software for designing bipolar transistor amplifiers. I found the link to this software (<http://en.transistoramp.de/>) on the AMRAD mailing list. Phil, M1GWZ, who posted the link, says, "A transistor circuit that I'm developing needed a 5x voltage gain stage. I could have thrown in a single op amp with split power rails and all that DIL8 real estate, but a single transistor stage would suffice. Trouble is, I'm an EE by inclination, not training, and all those calculations - working out those capacitor reactance values - well, I don't do them often enough for them to be easy. And I want voltage gain, not current. And then I found Transistor Amp 1.1."

"It's a nice piece of software," says Phil, "It installs easily and did the job for me quickly and easily. Oh, and when I built the circuit for real - voltage gain of 5x!"

[[ NOTE: A screen shot of the software that you can use for the article can be found at <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/specify-common-base-circuit.png> ....Dan]]

### Altium CircuitMaker

CircuitMaker (<http://www.circuitmaker.com>) is a free printed circuit

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

board design tool for hobbyists, people like you and me. Maxfield Parrish of EETimes says, "one key aspect of CircuitMaker is its intuitive and easy-to-use interface -- all of the important "stuff" is presented in an easily accessible manner in a ribbon at the top of the display. Another major consideration is that Altium has decided to make CircuitMaker all about "Community," so users can easily share ideas and designs, comment on designs and offer suggestions for improvement, and generally help each other along the way."

### Free antenna tutorial

For a limited time, Rohde & Schwartz and the IEEE Communications Society are offering a free tutorial on Antenna Basics (<http://www.comsoc.org/form/tutorial-registration-antenna-basics>). This tutorial explains the basic functionality of an antenna, starting with Hertz's antenna model. It also includes a short introduction to the fundamentals of wave propagation, the important general characteristics of an antenna and parameters, such as antenna gain, radiation pattern, bandwidth or VSWR. A more detailed explanation of the functionality of some selected antenna types (e.g. dipole or monopole) is also given.

Maik Reckeweg, Product Manager Antennas, Rohde & Schwarz GmbH, Munich, Germany, who is responsible for all the company's monitoring, measurement and communications antennas is the tutorial's [creator - ed].

The video is kind of dry, but I think Reckeweg does a pretty good job of discussing antenna basics. The video is also accompanied by a white paper that delves into these topics a little more completely. Overall, there's a bit more math than in most amateur radio discussions of antennas,

but this makes the discussion a little more comprehensive.

When not scouring the Internet for free stuff, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, working CW on 40m, or blogging about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

## GOVERNMENTIUM

Livermore Laboratories has discovered the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, Governmentium (Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-I like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert; however, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second, to take from 4 days to 4 years to complete.

Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2-6 years. It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually in-

(Continued on page 4)

**Hamfests**

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/n8lc/>

01/10/2015 | 43rd Annual Midwinter Swapfest

Location: Waukesha, WI

Sponsor: West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Website: <http://www.warac.org/swap/index.htm>

01/11/2015 | Hazel Park ARC Swap

Location: Hazel Park, MI

Sponsor: Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://hparc.org>

01/18/2015 | S.C.A.R.F Hamfest

Location: Nelsonville, OH

Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation

Website: <http://www.scarfarc.com>

01/18/2015 | WCRA's 48th Annual Mid-Winter Hamfest

Location: St. Charles, IL

Sponsor: Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Website: <http://wheatonhamfest.org>

02/01/2015 | NOARS Winter Hamfest & Computer Show

Location: Elyria, OH

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.noars.net/>

02/14/2015 | 42nd Annual Amateur Radio Swap & Shop

Location: Traverse City, MI

Sponsor: Cherryland Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.cherrylandarc.com>

02/14/2015 | Hendricks County Hamfest

Location: Brownsburg, IN

Sponsor: Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.hcars.org/>

02/14/2015 | MRAC & MAARS Mid Winter Interclub Swapfest

Location: Brookfield, WI

Sponsor: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club & Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.w9rh.org>

02/15/2015 | Livonia ARC Swap-N-Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

02/15/2015 | Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest

Location: Mansfield, OH

Sponsor: InterCity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.W8WE.org>

02/28/2015 | DARC Hamfest

Location: Dugger, IN

Sponsor: Dugger ARC

03/14/2015 | Michigan Crossroads Hamfest and Radio Swap

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest>

03/28/2015 | MOVARC HamFest

Location: Gallipolis, OH

Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley ARC

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>

04/11/2015 | Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 61st Annual Hamfest

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php>

**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



*(Continued from page 2)*

crease over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of morons promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as critical morass.

When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

## **Board Meeting 12/02/2014**

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G, John W8JRD, Steph W8AEZ, Rosemary WA8VXE.

Called to order at 1700.

Treasurer's report was passed around.

Hamfest 2015 – Two reservations have been received so far. This is typical for this time of the year. Many more will be expected beginning the first of the year.

VE session – The December session will be on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> because the fourth Thursday is Christmas. We will use the Babcock room upstairs at the Maple Methodist Church.

Repeater – No further work has been done on getting PL added to the 220 repeater

Elections – Ballots have been printed for the upcoming election.

Logo items – We will take up the idea of logo printed materials after the first of the year, perhaps after the Hamfest. We will start talks with Gold Medal Ideas soon, as a possible source.

Louie's house is expected to be placed on the market at the end of December, at least that is what the lawyers are hoping. Before that happens, the club needs to get the tower and antennas removed. If they aren't, we will have to negotiate with any new owners. No firm plan was suggested although several were proposed.

The contract for the meeting rooms will expire at the end of December and the board agreed that we would support renewal of said contract. We don't expect any increase in the charge.

At the end of the meeting we celebrated Gary's birthday with a delicious cake. Congratulations Gary and have a pleasant and prosperous year.

Meeting adjourned at 1809.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

## **FOR SALE**

Kenwood TS450 w/Autotuner	\$500
Kenwood TS440 w/Autotuner	\$450
Kenwood TS440	\$375
Kenwood TM231 VHF Mobile	\$65
Kenwood TM221 VHF Moblie	\$50
Yaesu FT8500 VHF/UHF	\$185

W8RVT-Don Larkin on any SMARS repeater, Echolink or 963-7797

## **FOR SALE**

Kenwood TM-V71 dual band 2m/70cm mobile with original box, manual and all cables. Power cable has been modified to use Anderson Power Pole connectors. This radio is about 1 year old and in excellent working condition. \$300. Contact Tom, WR8G, 269-962-8007 or via any of the local repeaters.

## Income and Expense Statement

11/1/2014 Through 11/30/2014 (Accrual Basis)

Category Description	11/1/2014- 11/30/2014
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues 2015	81.00
<b>TOTAL Dues</b>	<b>81.00</b>
Interest Inc	
Checking	0.18
<b>TOTAL Interest Inc</b>	<b>0.18</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>81.18</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Hamfest	
Tickets	108.23
<b>TOTAL Hamfest</b>	<b>108.23</b>
Meetings	
Refreshments	10.00
<b>TOTAL Meetings</b>	<b>10.00</b>
Utilities	
Internet	30.00
Telephone	36.34
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<b>66.34</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>184.57</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-103.39</b>

Hamfest 2015 – Not much new to report. Only one application received so far but hopes are high. Information regarding the Hamfest has been submitted to ARRL and they have assured Jay that the information will appear in QST magazine at the appropriate time. Since the winter has started very early, we might just expect a snowstorm before the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, which will make the change to the new location just right; plowed, paved parking.

SKYWARN – John W8JRD attended the meeting and reported that not much was discussed, but Jim W8JMZ showed off the radar interpretation software that was approved at the last meeting. The software has been described as very interesting.

Field Day 2015 – Still a ways away so nothing to report.

VE session – The last session had two applicants and both were successful; one new Tech and one upgrade to General. The next session will be on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Maple Methodist Church in the Babcock room.

Repeater – Don’s attempts to add PL to the 220 repeater have not gone well. He is not too sure what is wrong but he is continuing to pursue this. The interference on the input that brought about this desire has eased some but is still there intermittently. Many thanks to Dave AB8HK for bringing about the coax change that cleared up the majority of the repeater problems.

Old Business: FD 2014 – Results of FD 2014 have been posted in QST magazine and our club finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 10 clubs. It was noted that the three clubs that finished ahead of us are specialty clubs that operate QRP all the time. So that means we were first among the “regular” operating clubs! Hooray for us, eh?

## Meeting Minutes 11/20/2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G. 28 members in attendance total.

Secretary’s report was accepted.

Treasurer’s report was accepted.

Committee reports:

Louie’s memorial – There was a great turnout for the memorial at Clara’s and everyone had fine memories and great reminiscences of their association with Lou. He will be missed. Thanks go to Dave KC8NZY for the work he has done to arrange the gathering as well as cleaning out Lou’s residence.

Christmas party – We will meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Old China Super Buffet on Capital SW. Gift exchange is voluntary with a \$20.00 limit. Men find a gift for a man and ladies find a gift for a lady.

# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

*(Continued from page 5)*

New Business: Tom WR8G brought in some remnants of an estate of Charles Dewey (call unknown). By the end of the meeting, nearly everything had found a new home.

Elections – Nominations were held and the following names were placed: President, Gary N8QC; Vice President, Stephanie W8AEZ; Treasurer, John W8JRD; Secretary, Brian W8BDM and Jay N8ARR; Member at Large, Diane KD8WXA. Ballots will be printed for the December meeting when the elections will take place. Other nominations can be entered before the actual voting.

Presentation – Gary KD8JBT and Lynne presented a slide show of their visit to Alaska. Thanks for the show!

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

## **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

## **Upcoming events:**

**Club meeting: December 18th @ 7:00 PM**

**Siren test: January 3rd @ 1:00 PM**

**SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test**

**SMARS Breakfast: January 10th @ 8:30 AM**

**BLB Lunch: January 8th @ 11:30 AM**