



# FEEDBACK

December 2017

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## Merry Christmas!



2017 Christmas Party photo courtesy of W8AEZ

The annual SMARS Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at Clara's on the River. There were twenty-five in attendance for the evening's festivities – about the same number as last year's party. The gift exchange was held after dinner, followed by the year-end 50/50 cash drawing. Congratulations to the lucky winners Janice W8JKG, Stephanie W8AEZ, and Beverly KA8CXS (and our condolences to the the HAMS whose numbers were drawn, but who were not there to receive their prize)!

On behalf of the the Board, I'd like to wish all our members and their families a safe and wonderful holiday season and excellent DX in the New Year!

73 de W8AEZ

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## Radio Anniversaries Abound in December

Posted 12/12/2017 by [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

December is the month in which three notable events in radio history occurred — the first radio transmission heard across the Atlantic Ocean in 1901, the first broadcast of the human voice and music in 1906, and the first successful transatlantic Amateur Radio HF transmissions in 1921.

## Upcoming Radio Contests

Looking for a little action on the airwaves? You might want to check out these upcoming contests!

**ARRL Rookie Roundup** - CW  
12/17/2017

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

**Run for the Bacon QRP Contest** - CW  
12/17/2017

[www.yo5crq.ro/Rules.htm](http://www.yo5crq.ro/Rules.htm)

**NAQCC CW Sprint** – CW  
12/21/2017

<http://naqcc.info/>

**DARC Christmas Contest** – CW, Ph  
12/26/2017

<http://www.darc.de/?id=820>

**RAC Winter Contest** – CW, Ph  
12/30/2017

<http://wp.rac.ca/>

**Bogor Old and New Contest** - Phone  
12/31/017

<http://www.orari-bogor.org/>

**AGB New Year Snowball Contest**  
- CW, Ph, Digital  
1/01/2018

[http://www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agb\\_nysb.htm](http://www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agb_nysb.htm)

**IQRP Quarterly Marathon** - CW, Ph,  
Digital

1/01/2018

<http://www.arimontebelluna.it/>

**UKEICC 80-Meter Contest** - Ph  
1/03/2018

<http://www.ukeicc.com/>

**NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest**

- CW, Ph, Dig

1/04/2018

<http://www.nrau.net/>

**Kids Day** – Phone

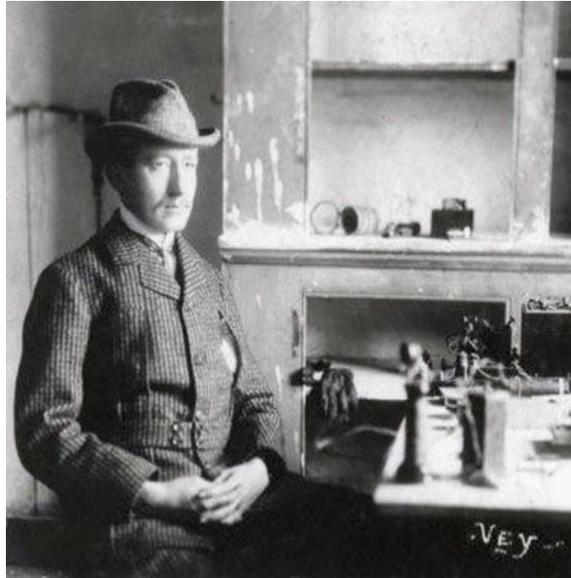
1/06/2018

<http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

*\*A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [Contest Calendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

## Marconi's 1901 Transatlantic Transmission

On December 12, 1901, Italian wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi succeeded in receiving the first transatlantic radio signal, transmitted from Poldhu, in Cornwall, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.



Marconi's team in Cornwall transmitted the letter "S" in Morse code, and this was heard by Marconi and his assistant George Kemp at a facility set up in Cabot Tower on Signal Hill in St. John's. On the Cornwall side, Marconi had erected a powerful spark-gap transmitter feeding a massive antenna. The

receiving team used a kite antenna. The experiment proved that radio signals could be transmitted beyond the line of sight, opening the door to global wireless communication.

An article in the December 2007 issue of QST suggested that absorption may have been less in 1901 than in the 21st century, perhaps contributing to the success of the feat, which occurred during daylight on the Canadian end.

## Fessenden's 1906 Broadcast from Brant Rock

On Christmas Eve 1906, experimenter Reginald Fessenden made what may have been the first radio broadcast to include speech and music. The transmission originated at Brant Rock, Massachusetts, about 30 miles from Boston.

As he's done in year's past, Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, of Forest, Virginia, will commemorate that first audio broadcast by operating WI2XLQ on 486 kHz this month, marking the 111th anniversary of the Fessenden's accomplishment. Historic accounts say Fessenden played the violin — or a recording of violin music — and read a brief Bible verse, astounding radio experimenters and shipboard operators who heard the broadcast.

"Since we now have a ham band on 630 meters, I will have a shorter transmission period this year that will only cover the Christmas holiday," Justin told ARRL. That's because he hopes to be active on the new band himself.

## Dues are Due!

Club membership dues for 2018 are due. Yearly dues are \$10.00, with \$1.00 for each additional family member. It's the best bargain in town, and the funds raised help to sustain our club

activities, such as upkeep of our repeaters.

Dues may be paid in-person at the club meeting, at the Christmas Party, or mailed to:

**SMARS**  
**P.O Box 934**  
**Battle Creek, MI 49016**

We thank you for your continued support of SMARS!



## Silent Keys Notice

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of two HAMs:

[David "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY](#), passed away November 30, 2017 at Bronson Battle Creek Hospital following an extended illness. Doc was active in SMARS, Skywarn, and the Michigan Traffic Net and was a staple as net control operator for the monthly emergency siren test. He will be greatly missed.

[Earl R. Goodrich II, WB8ZIG](#), son of former SMARS member Earl Goodrich, K8UCG, passed away suddenly on November 11, 2017 following an accident. He will be missed by family and friends.

Justin will begin his transmission on December 24 at 1700 UTC and continue until December 26 at 1659 UTC. For his transmitter in 1906, Fessenden used an ac alternator modulated by placing carbon microphones in series with the antenna feed line. Justin's homebuilt station is slightly more modern, based on a 1921 vacuum tube master oscillator power amplifier (MOPA) design, using a UV-202 tube. The transmitter employs Heising AM modulation, developed by Raymond Heising during World War I.

[Send](#) listener reports directly to Brian Justin, WA1ZMS.

## The ARRL Transatlantic Tests Revisited

In 1921, ARRL sponsored two series of transatlantic tests to see if signals from previously qualified Amateur Radio stations could be heard at a receiving station in Ardrossan, Scotland. The second series succeeded, with several ham stations heard on the receiving end, using equipment far superior to what had been available to Marconi just 20 years earlier. "The Story of the Transatlantics" chronicled the events in the February 1922 issue of *QST*, to great fanfare. As Mike Marinaro, WN1M, recounted in "The Transatlantic Tests," in May 2014 *QST*, the first signal "unofficially" heard in Scotland was actually that of a pirate, identifying as 1AW and not using the prearranged transmission format.

The "rough listening post" in Scotland, staffed by receiver designer Paul Godley and D.E. Pearson of the Marconi Company, was equipped with a superheterodyne and regenerative receiver connected to a 1,300-foot Beverage antenna, 12 feet above ground.

On December 10, the CW signals of official entry 1BCG, owned by Minton Cronkhite, "were solidly heard on 230 to 235 meters," Marinaro wrote in 2014. "This signal derived from the specially designed and constructed station of the Radio Club of America at Greenwich, Connecticut — the only station heard that morning."

Connecticut radio amateur and radio history buff Clark Burgard, N1BCG, will be among those celebrating the 96th anniversary of the first transatlantic shortwave transmission in Greenwich, Connecticut. Several other stations will take part by establishing contacts between the US and Europe, including GM7VSB in Ardrossan, Scotland. No specific bands and frequencies were set in advance, in order to "permit flexibility due to propagation."

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Clark Burgard, N1BCG, has posted [additional information](#) on his QRZ.com profile page.

Chris Codella, W2PA, provides [additional radio history](#) on his "Ham Radio History" website.

## Meeting Minutes 11/16/2017

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

**Officers present** – Kyle W8KDB, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jay N8ARR, Jan W8JKG. 23 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report was accepted.  
Treasurer's report was accepted.

### Committee reports

**HAMFEST 2018** – The Committee was formed, initially. Jay is still Chair, Smokey will deal with Promotions, Jan will handle the monies and Tom will, with Smokey, handle vendor emails. We don't have anyone specifically chosen to handle table assignments. This must be done quite soon!

**SKYWARN** – Meeting set for Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> so no report available.

**VE Session** – There were plenty of VEs available which helped as we were split into two groups.

**Field Day** – Smokey has volunteered to get the paperwork for Custer Rec Area ready for signing by Kyle. They will be submitted as soon as ready to secure the weekend at the equestrian staging area.

**Tech** – Don reported that the interference on the 220 repeater that cropped up again a couple of weeks ago was gone after a couple of days. Still no cause is known.

### Old Business

**Christmas Party** – December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6pm 'til 8pm at Clara's On the River. Bring exact change or a check to pay Jan that evening. No change will be given on cash payments. There will be four entrees from which to choose. Tax and an 18% gratuity will be figured into the charges.

### New Business

**Presentation** – Larry Camp WB8R, the Michigan Section Manager, presented a synopsis of the recent GLARA HamCon held at Michigan International Speedway (MIS) in early October. Being the first ever gathering, there were some teething problems but nothing that couldn't be overcome and all were learning opportunities.

## Board Meeting 12/05/2017

**Officers present** - Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR, Gary, N8QC.

**Others present** - Tom, WR8G, Smokey N5MKY

Called to order at 1730.

Jan reported that she has been able to "crack the code" for the AT&T online access and has updated the information and has set up AutoPay.

Also, the Club's credit union has changed its name and charter and is now charging \$2 to mail statements. The board approved the change to paperless billing to save \$24 per year.

John asked that the Club Contact and phone number be changed on the ARRL website to reflect the fact that a new contact is needed and the number listed is no longer active. Jay will change to contact to himself as Secretary, and this will be a task that will follow successive Secretaries after elections. The phone number will be changed to the Google Hamphone which is currently ported to Jay's cell.

**Hamfest** – Jay wants to have additions made to the directions signs for Hamfest. Current signs do not indicate either the day or times and, since they are put up on Friday afternoon and not removed until after the teardown (typically around 2), someone may think the swap is happening Friday or late Saturday. Hopefully the sign shop can make a sticker that can be placed at the top of each sign, both sides that state "Sat 8a-Noon". This will be pursued soon. Hopefully it will be an inexpensive alteration; all new signs will be very costly.

**Christmas Party** – December 16th from 6 – 8 pm at Clara's on the River. The menu choices will be listed in the next Feedback. Payment can be made at the dinner. Checks or exact change please. Prize money will be probably \$50, \$30, and \$20. It all depends on how much money is in the pot.

**Field Day** – Smokey has volunteered to be PIO again this year and will get press releases together for distribution to local outlets.

Meeting adjourned at 1800

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

Some changes are in the works and another call went out for volunteers for next year's event which will be held October 6th and 7th, 2018. The accounting department at MIS is still going over the financials so no exact report of breakeven is known at this time. The officers of GLARA are happy that the turnout was what it was, despite some inclement weather on the first day. Support was good and a special thank you was directed to Kyle for his help during the entire weekend.

Some changes proposed are; taking over the selling of the tickets, both advance and at the door as MIS took a cut of the gate, and elimination of the HIAD, although a VE session is still being considered.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

## FCC Proposes \$25,000 Fine for Breaking Now-Voluntary Labeling Rules

Posted 12/13/2017 by [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

The FCC has proposed fining Acuity Brands Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia, \$25,000 for apparently marketing radio frequency devices that were not labeled in accordance with Commission Part 18 rules at the time. The FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)* on November 21. Compliance with the particular rule at issue now is voluntary.

"Specifically, Acuity marketed three models of consumer-grade electronic fluorescent lighting ballasts — two since 2006 and one since 2009 — that did not have the FCC logo affixed to them," the FCC said in the *NAL*. Application of the FCC logo, which the FCC no longer requires, was to inform purchasers that a device had undergone compliance testing. The FCC also said Acuity continued to market two models of the ballasts at issue for approximately 6 months after being notified, causing the Commission to up the penalty.

"We take this action today as part of our duty to ensure that radio frequency devices are marketed in accordance with the Commission's rules," the FCC said.

(continued -->)

"Consistent with this goal, we find it necessary to enforce the rules requiring that devices subject to equipment authorization are properly labeled to inform a consumer that such devices have been tested for compliance under the Commission's technical rules, because those devices could easily cause interference if they do not conform to those rules."

In January 2016, the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) conducted tests on Acuity's AccuPro Model AP-RC-432IP-120-1 fluorescent lighting ballast after receiving complaints of interference said to have been caused by the ballasts. The matter was referred to the FCC Enforcement Bureau, to determine whether Acuity marketed the model at issue before receiving equipment authorization. In a *Letter of Inquiry*, the Bureau directed Acuity to submit a sworn written response to questions regarding its "marketing of potentially non-compliant fluorescent lighting ballasts."

A footnote in the *NAL* points out that the use of the FCC logo became voluntary on November 2, but Acuity's alleged violations occurred before that. The FCC adopted a rule that allows the FCC logo to be physically placed on a device at the discretion of the responsible party consistent with §18.209, but "only if [the] device complies with the applicable equipment authorization rules." Presence of the logo "will not obviate the need to provide required compliance information or maintain pertinent records related to device testing," the FCC said in adopting the change.

Acuity submitted test reports showing that the two types of fluorescent lighting ballasts it markets did comply with relevant technical requirements, but the company conceded that three models of its consumer-grade lighting ballasts did not have an FCC logo affixed for nearly 10 years.

After receiving the *LOI*, the FCC said, Acuity "took preliminary steps to bring the labeling of the subject ballasts into compliance."

ARRL has in the past — and without response — complained to the FCC regarding the marketing and sale of interference-causing lighting ballasts, as well as about a lack of required compliance notifications.

# **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 146.79 MHz, -600 KHz offset

\*1.25m Repeater 224.240 MHz, -1.6 MHz offset

APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39 MHz

\*70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

70cm DStar Repeater 442.7625 MHz, +5 MHz offset

**\*Note:** 70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via Echolink.

## **Other Repeaters**

2m Repeater 147.120 MHz, +600 KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

<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>
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<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 previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b>  Club Meeting: Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm  VE Session: Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm  *Board Meeting: Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:30pm  BLB Luncheon: Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am  SMARS Breakfast: Jan.13<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am  Club Meeting: Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm</p> <p>*Note the change in the meeting time (effective February 7, 2017)</p>
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