



# FEEDBACK

December 2018

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor [w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdb@arrl.net) and get it published in **FEEDBACK!**

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

### Board of Directors:

*President*

Kyle Brown, W8KDB  
[w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdb@arrl.net)

*Vice President*

Thomas Goodson, WR8G  
[thomas.goodson@omega-link.com](mailto:thomas.goodson@omega-link.com)

*Secretary*

John Davidson, W8JRD  
[w8jrd@arrl.net](mailto:w8jrd@arrl.net)

*Treasurer*

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

*Member At Large*

Glenn "Smokey" McCray, N5MKY  
[n5mky@arrl.net](mailto:n5mky@arrl.net)

### Inside this issue:

Club News.....	1
Other News.....	2-3
Upcoming Radio Contests.....	2
Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions.....	2-3
Meeting Minutes.....	4
Board Meeting Minutes.....	4
Silent Key.....	4
Club Repeaters.....	5
Nets & Upcoming Events.....	6

### Club News

## Merry Christmas from W8DF!



The annual SMARS Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at Coney Island in their new party room. We had about twenty-five in attendance for the evening's festivities. The gift exchange was held after dinner, followed by the year-end 50/50 cash drawing.

Congratulations to the lucky winners Smokey N5MKY, Don W8RVT, and Beverly KA8CXS (and our condolences to the HAMs whose numbers were drawn, but who were not there to receive their prize)!



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

73 de W8KDB

Images taken and provided by W8JRD

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Straight Key Night

Bands: All Frequencies, Mainly HF

Mode: CW

Dates: 1/1/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/straight-key-night](http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night)

### Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Dates: 1/5/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/kids-day](http://www.arrl.org/kids-day)

### RTTY Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters

Mode: Digital

Dates: 1/5 - 1/6/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup)

### January VHF

Bands: All Frequencies above 6 Meters

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Dates: 1/19 - 1/21/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/january-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf)

### School Club Roundup

Bands: All Except 60, 30, 17, 12 Meters

Mode: CW, Phone

Dates: 2/11 - 2/15/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup)

### International DX

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: CW

Dates: 2/16 - 2/17/2019

URL: [www.arrl.org/arrl-dx](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)

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

---

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

### 02/17/2019

Livonia ARC's 49th Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

## Other News

# Are we losing knowledge in this hobby?

On reddit, someone asked:

"Are we losing knowledge in this hobby that used to be common?"

The other day I was listening to a conversation on the local repeater, and it was a relatively recently licensed General giving some "advice" to a new Technician who was hoping to upgrade soon, and who had some HF gear and an antenna but who hadn't transmitted yet on HF.

What I heard coming from General was appalling. He recommended that the guy get an automatic antenna tuner, and regales him with a tale of how he managed to burn up the finals on a radio because he couldn't manage to adjust a manual antenna tuner properly.

This is something I learned how to do as a Novice. In fact, I built my first antenna tuner from a kit (Heathkit HFT-9A QRP tuner). I still have and use it, as a matter of fact.

I was just boggled that a General class ham radio operator didn't know how to adjust a manual antenna tuner. It was so difficult for him that he managed to damage a radio in the process.

I didn't speak up, though, because I didn't want to be "That guy", you know, the type of old fogey know-it-all ham radio operator that's commonly railed against in this subreddit. There were a few other bits of "advice" he passed along that were sketchy.

So I'm wondering if we are losing a bit of the institutional knowledge that long-experienced hams know, in the rush to get as many hams licensed and on the air as possible. We used to "Elmer" new hams, and if we aren't bothering to do that anymore, the knowledge of how to do things is going to die out."

When I read this, I thought, "Yeah. We really are losing it in amateur radio." On second thought, though, I'm I'm not so sure.

Yes, there are a lot of new hams on the air with perhaps not as much Elmering as they could use, but hey, you can't expect every ham to know everything. I know that when I passed the General Class test (at the FCC office in downtown Detroit, none this VE "rubbish," as Davey

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club  
[www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop](http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop)

**02/23/20019**

La Porte County Amateur Radio Hamfest  
Location: La Porte, IN  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: La Porte County Amateur Radio Club  
[lpcarc.org](http://lpcarc.org)

**03/16/2019**

2019 Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap  
Location: Kalamazoo, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society  
[www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest](http://www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest)

**03/17/2019**

Hamfest and Computer Fair  
Location: Perrysburg, OH  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association  
[www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org)

**06/01/2019**

FCARC Summer Swap  
Location: Wauseon, OH  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club  
[k8bxq.org/hamfest](http://k8bxq.org/hamfest)

**10/19/2019**

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest  
Location: Muskegon, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.  
[mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf](http://mcecs.net/Download/HamfestFlyer2019a.pdf)

Jones of eevblog might say), I was still pretty clueless. And, how do you learn how to do things? Well, often it's by blowing something up.

If it were me hearing this conversation, I would have definitely piped up and said that there's some value to learning how to adjust a manual antenna tuner. Not only that, I may have even volunteered to come over and have a look at the guy's setup. I can understand the poster's reluctance to be "that guy," but if he's not going to step up and help this newbie, who is?

What do you think? Are we losing this kind of basic knowledge in amateur radio? If you're a "long experienced" ham, do you volunteer to help out when you hear something like this on the local repeater?

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-losing-knowledge-in-this-hobby>

## AMSAT runs on your donations

This appeared in my Twitter feed the other day:

"[AMSAT](#) [@AMSAT](#)

Now is a good time to remind us all that AMSAT runs on your donations and membership. Join up and help Keep Amateur Radio In Space today at [amsat.org/shop/](http://amsat.org/shop/)"

With the recent launch of the Fox 1 – Cliff satellite, it is a good time to remind everyone that AMSAT is not funded by the government, nor by the ARRL, but by hams like you and me. The annual dues of \$44/year, includes:

- a free copy of the AMSAT Satellite Frequency Chart
- a subscription to the AMSAT Journal
- voting rights for the AMSAT Board of Directors
- discounts on some of the items at the AMSAT Online Store
- free, digital download of Getting Started with Amateur Satellites (2018 Edition)

I just renewed my membership. I hope you will consider doing so as well.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/amsat-runs-on-your-donations>

## Meeting Minutes 11/15/2018

Called to Order: 7:03 PM

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KDB Tom WR8G Jan W8JKG John W8JRD

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback: Motion Jay N8ARR Second Arnold WA8VRA Approved

Treasurer's Report as distributed at the meeting: Motion Tom WR8G Second Dave W8RDX Approved

### Committee Reports:

**Hamfest:** Fliers sent to Fort Wayne

**ARES/RACES:** Next meeting on 11/20 will be a hot dog roast at the Emmett Township hall.

**Field Day:** Next year to be high power. Results are in last QST. Winter Field Day will be Jan 26-27, 2019 at Uncle Larry's.

**VE Testing:** None this month. Next session is Dec 27.

**Technical Engineer:** No problems with repeaters

**Old Business:** Christmas Party is Dec 15 at Coney Island. Member at Large elected by unanimous voice vote. Thank You Smokey N5MKY.

**New Business:** none

Adjourned: 7:53 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

---

## Board Meeting Minutes 12/04/2018

Called to Order: 5:36 PM

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KDB Tom WR8G Jan W8JKG John W8JRD Smokey N5MKY

**Others Present:** Stephanie W8AEZ Jay N8ARR

**Topics:** VE Session on 12/27 may be large, need to check with church on social hall

Decided to award 3 gifts from the 50/50, plus rebate from Coney as awards

First registrations coming in for Hamfest. It has been approved by ARRL, still needs to be listed with CQ, etc.

**Adjourned:** 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

---

### Silent Keys

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of [Rosemary \(Renshaw\) Davidson](#), WA8VXE, on December 5, 2018 at the Calhoun County Medical Care Center. She was the spouse of the late Marion "Russ" Davidson, WA8MFL, who became a silent key in 2012, and mother of John (W8JRD) and Mary (KD8WRR) Davidson.

Rosemary received her first amateur radio license in 1967 and she worked her way up to an Advanced class license courtesy of her CW skills. In recent years and prior to a decline in her health, she was an active member of the "SMARS ladies VE team," assisting at licensing testing sessions. Rosemary and Marion were longtime members of SMARS and the Experimental Aircraft Association, making yearly trips to Rockford and later to Oshkosh to share their love of aviation with close friends. Rosemary's favorite airplane was a Bleriot XI, the plane that Harriet Quimby flew across the English Channel in 1912.

Services for Rosemary were held December 18, 2018 at First United Methodist Church in Battle Creek. Please keep John, Mary, and the rest of their family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

# **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>
---	---	--	---

<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></p> <p>Club Meeting: Dec 20th @ 7:00pm  BLB Luncheon: Jan 3rd @ 11:30am  Board Meeting: Jan 1st @ 5:30pm  Club Breakfast: Jan 12th @ 8:30am  VE Session: Dec 27th @ 7:00pm</p>
--	---