



# FEEDBACK

February 2018

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor ([w8aez@arrl.net](mailto:w8aez@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.

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Photo courtesy of arrl.org

### Amateur Radio Etiquette and Providing Guidance--

Mike Russell KQ8N, [KQ8N@arrl.net](mailto:KQ8N@arrl.net)

Many radio historians document the initial use of the phrase 'Amateur Radio Operators' at the end of the First World War, when 'Professional Radio Operators' made reference to those operating Radio Broadcast stations. Amateur Radio Operators at that time were experimenters and shortwave listeners relegated to what the government thought were useless frequencies. The 'Professionals' irreverently referred to Amateurs as hams. Since that time, hams have been involved in the advancement of science, have been there in times of emergency, and have no doubt saved lives.

While we are still affectionately known as amateur radio, or hams, there is nothing really amateur about the way we operate or conduct ourselves. Which brings me to my topic...Radio Etiquette. The best way to describe etiquette is: the unwritten rules. A dictionary defines etiquette as; "the customary code of polite behavior in society or among members of a particular profession or group". There is no FCC rule about how to call another station or join into a group discussion, but we have our customary code that defines our group as a step above our unlicensed friends on CB and family radio (FRS). As the older, 'well seasoned hams', we expect the new hams on the air to have been listening to us for the right way to do things while they waited for their license to post on the ULS. But as many of us remember, many brain cells fade when the mouth opens for the first time on the air.

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

**ARRL International Dx Contest – CW**  
2/18/2018

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

**Feld Hell Sprint - Dig**  
2/18/2018

[sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub](http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub)

**Run for the Bacon QRP Contest – CW**  
2/20/2018

[qrptest.com/pigrun](http://qrptest.com/pigrun)

**South Carolina QSO Party– CW, Ph, Dig**  
2/25 – 2/26/2018

<http://scqso.com/rules/>

**North American QSO Party, RTTY– Dig**  
2/25-2/26/2018

[www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

**North Carolina QSO Party– CW, Ph, Dig**  
2/26-2/27/2018

[rars.org/ncqsoparty](http://rars.org/ncqsoparty)

**NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest – CW, Dig, Ph**  
3/02/2018

[www.nrau.net/activity-contests](http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests)

**ARRL International DX Contest, SSB- Ph**  
3/04 – 3/05/2018

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

**DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest - Dig**  
3/05/2018

[www.darc.de](http://www.darc.de)

**AGCW YL – CW Party - CW**  
3/07/2018

[www.agcw.org](http://www.agcw.org)

*\*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>*

I count at least 15 newly licensed hams in Calhoun County in 2017, not to mention those licensed over the years before that haven't been on the repeaters for various reasons, and are now on the air. We need to be encouraging and help guide the newbies. If you hear something that makes you cringe, try to contact the newbie by e-mail or phone, or in person at a club meeting and politely guide them the right way! On the air correction can be embarrassing.

To the new hams: Welcome! I would debate anyone about amateur radio operators being among the most courteous and helpful hobbyists on earth. Get on the air! Give your callsign on the repeater slowly with use of the phonetic alphabet, and say you are listening. This helps the rest of us know and remember your callsign. So many of the new calls sound similar. When calling another station, use their callsign first, then yours.

You don't always have to talk about radio...weather always seems to be a popular topic, or about any other hobby you might have. Be mindful of the personal stuff you bring up as others can be listening in. If you'd like to join in on an in-progress group discussion and it cannot wait until the end, say your call at a break and remember; once in the conversation, direct the flow after your 'piece' to the next ham in the group...if you don't give their callsign, no one knows who is next. You will learn the lingo soon...just use plain English for now. CB habits may be hard to break, but you are discouraged from using any of the common phrases used from that realm. You passed a test to get your license...you are a cut above!

Attend club meetings and meet others that are interested in our hobby. If you have a question about etiquette, ASK! To all us elders, remember we were new once too! Be patient, but don't forget to provide guidance so our hobby's unwritten code can continue on for generations to come.



Image courtesy of <http://webpages.charter.net>

## Meeting Minutes 01/18/2018

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

**Officers present:** Kyle W8KDB, Jay N8ARR,  
Jan W8JKG.

25 members in attendance total.

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

### Committee reports:

**Hamfest 2018** – Signs to be updated with day and times. Sign shop to make “bumper stickers” that Jay will add to the top of each sign to eliminate any confusion. A discussion was held concerning door prizes. Jay will proceed with normal acquisition as in past years.

**Skywarn** – Next meeting will be held February 20th. Next siren test will consist of two siren blasts as both normal and backup transmitter will be used. Backup transmitter has never been Skywarn training to be held at Lakeview Middle School February 24th, 10:00am-12:00noon. Next HIAD March 10th at DPW office on Kendall. VEs will be needed. Last siren test was 100% covered and successful.

**VE Session** – Last session had 4 candidates, 3 obtained Tech and 1 obtained General.

**Field Day** – Paperwork has been submitted to Ft. Custer and has been approved. This year FD will be June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Insurance riders will be obtained to comply with Custer request.

**MSPOTA** – May 4th at Ft. Custer. One trailer will be used as last year. Saturday siren test will interrupt for those who have an assigned location. Again, like last year.

## Old Business

John W9JRD is going to talk to librarians at Willard Library to see why booklets that the club has donated have come up missing. If we can get a reasonable answer we will consider more books in the name of our recent Silent Keys. A new Tech book will be needed this year for sure.

## New Business

Don KB9IAR is looking for anyone who would like to get together for CW practice. Anyone interested should send him an email at [KB9IAR@ARRL.net](mailto:KB9IAR@ARRL.net).

John W8JRD mentioned that contact has been made by Randy Green that Doc's radio equipment has to be removed from the basement of the house and very soon. A “party” has to be held to clean out the basement and then find a place to store it while determining what to do with it.

Winter Field Day will be held the last weekend of January at Uncle Larry's, like past years. Come out and enjoy winter propagation!

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

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## Board Meeting 2/06/2018

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

**Others present:** Tom, WR8G

Called to order at 1730.

**Hamfest** – No call from the sign shop regarding the modifications to the signs. Will make an attempt to visit the shop this week. (Weather prohibited this visit. Maybe next week)  
At the present time there have only been 13 tables sold, not a good sell rate at this time. A few calls have come in through the Google Phone but not a lot!

## Board Meeting 2/06/2018 (continued)

The board was queried regarding what to do next year if this year turns out to be a loss and the unanimous decision was to cancel. The venue costs too much to not make money on the Hamfest. All agreed that the Internet has unfortunately made Hamfests superfluous on the local level.

**MSPOTA** – Forms have been submitted along with the insurance rider, so we are booked in for May 5th. Setup will be on the 4th in the afternoon (time to be determined). Many operators may have to leave in the afternoon of the 5th to help with the siren test, just like last year. It is hoped that operators who are not part of the siren team will be around to continue operating while the test is conducted.

**Doc's equipment** – No further word has come from Randy regarding the necessity of moving the equipment from the basement. We know that it needs to be done and we believe that if we don't get it it will be left to the trustees of the estate to do something, even if it is sold as scrap. Very little of the equipment known to members has any intrinsic value and it will take a large truck and a crane to move some of it! It is unfortunate, but the value of the stuff was only to Doc. Good intentions appreciated but...

Meeting adjourned at 1800.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

## Items for Sale or Donation

George K8GG has 3 or 4 disk sets of QST View. Each is 5 years on 3 CDs, probably 1980-84, 1985-89 and 1990-1994. Get to review all without going on line. Originally \$30 or \$40 each set. Buy all 3 or 4 for \$10, or donate \$20 to SMARS to take them home.

For more information, contact [k8gg@voyager.net](mailto:k8gg@voyager.net)

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

### 02/18/2018 - Livonia ARC's 47th Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

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

### 02/24/2018 - La Porte County ARC Hamfest

Location: La Porte, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: La Porte County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://lpcarc.org>

### 03/17/2018 - 2018 Michigan Crossroads Hamfest

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society Website:

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

### 03/18/2018 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest & Computer Fair

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

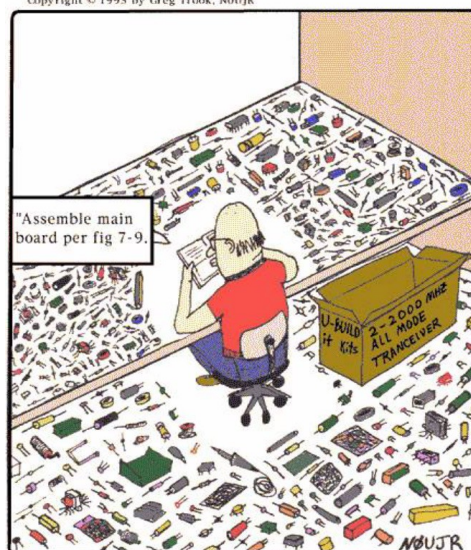
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

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

-Submitted by John Davidson W8JRD

## HAM Humor

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Kit fun.

Courtesy of <http://www.repeater-builder.com>

# **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: Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm  VE Session: Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00pm  Board Meeting: March 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm  BLB Luncheon: March 1<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30am  SMARS Breakfast: March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am  *<b>Crossroads Hamfest:</b> March 17<sup>th</sup>, 8am-12pm  Board Meeting: April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:30am  BLB Luncheon: April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am  Club Meeting: April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm  VE Session: April 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm</p>
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