



FEEDBACK

July 2016

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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Calhoun County's second DStar Repeater is On The Air!!

From Terry Tassos N8LN and Mike Russell KQ8N

On Monday June 13, 2016 the second DStar digital repeater for Calhoun County went on the air and carries the callsign of the SMARS club, W8DF. The repeater operates on 442.7625 output with the input 5.0MHz up. The new CommSpec UHF antenna is at a height of about 160 feet and fed with hardline. This repeater complements the VHF DStar repeater that has been on the air since July of 2014 on 146.790 at a height of 170 feet.

Both of these repeaters were provided at little or no expense to our membership by private contributions.

Besides Calhoun County, nearby DStar repeater systems already on the air include Charlotte, Grand Rapids, and St. Joseph. Additional repeaters are slated to be put on the air soon in southern Michigan: Coldwater, Paw Paw, and Sumnerville (west of Cassopolis). These systems are being provided by 5th District Emergency Management.

DStar is a digital signal that only occupies about one third the bandwidth of FM. If you try to listen to DStar with a standard FM receiver, it resembles packet audio. DStar repeaters that are tied to the internet (as our repeaters are) have chat rooms called reflectors which can be accessed by ANY DStar user and worldwide communications are possible on your handheld, mobile, or home radio.

Currently, Icom is the only distributor of DStar radios, HOWEVER, Kenwood recently displayed a DStar/FM tri-band handheld radio at Dayton Hamvention! It should be available soon.

We would like to thank the following individuals who assisted us with their donations of time, sweat, and or equipment to this latest project: Ron Cathcart WA8RC, Tony Newton KB7YQY, Don Larkin W8RVT, Dave Gerber AB8HK, Roy LaFountain W8BCK, Joel Laupp KE8DJR, and Ray Novak N9JA.

If you would like more information about DStar, please contact Terry or Mike.

SMARS Meeting Minutes 06/16/2016

Meeting called to order at 19:00
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Brian W8BDM, Janice W8JKG

23 members in attendance

Secretary’s report accepted as published in the "Feedback".

Treasurer’s report was not available.

Committee reports:

Skywarn: Meeting next Tuesday at 6:30pm

VE Sessions: Next Thursday here at the Church at 7pm

Hamfest Report: We verified that Emily did receive our check and we are reserved for next year. Jay N8ARR volunteer'd to lead next year's event. Help would be appreciated.

Trailers: Brian W8BDM and Jay N8ARR reported on the work that has been completed on Trailers and the work still needing to be done.

Technical: Terry N8LN reported that the UHF D-Star is up and running. 442.76250MHz +5.000

Silent Keys: Eric Talbot W8LTJ; Lyndell Myers N8ZHR

Old Business: None

New Business:

Field Day: Setup on Friday at 3pm at Battle Creek Airport. Please come and help. Food is on order for Saturday Night Dinner. We will be operating 4AB w/ a GOTA station.

Presentation:

· Intro to WinLink2000 ... WinLink.org Thank you Dave!

Quote of the Meeting: "Silence!"

Closed: 20:05

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

SMARS Board Meeting Minutes 05-July 2016

Meeting called to order at 17:15

Attendees –

Gary Williams N8QC (President)
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ (Vice-President)
Brian Marsh W8BDM (Secretary)
Janice Goodson W8JKG (Treasurer)

Tom Goodson WR8G
Jay Jarrett N8ARR
Kyle Brown W8KDB

Treasurer’s report was not available. (Or I didn't see it)

Business:

Jay N8ARR submitted receipted from Field Day for reimbursement.

One motion was made and voted upon

(1) Purchase 4 New Tires and Rims for Trailer.
Purchase 4 sets of Brake Assemblies. Brian took action to go and purchase.

General Reports:

Jay and Brian have been working on trailers.

Tom reported that we had about 110 total contacts for Field Day.

Quote of the meeting: "Why is his bed wet?"

Meeting adjourned at 17:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

Amateur 47 GHz Allocation Avoids 5G Juggernaut in the US for Now, Worldwide Defense Continues

There's good news regarding the future of Amateur Radio's primary allocation at 47 GHz in the US. Still a test bed for point-to-point propagation experimentation by dedicated enthusiasts, the 47-47.2 GHz band is among those under consideration at the next World Radiocommunication Conference in 2019 (WRC-19) to accommodate so-called 5G wireless broadband devices. Early this year, some FCC commissioners indicated they would include bands on the WRC-19 agenda in the Commission's "Spectrum Frontiers" 5G initiative. As the Commission put it this week as it made nearly 11 gigahertz of spectrum above 24.25 GHz available for licensed, unlicensed, and shared use: "High-band millimeter wave spectrum is key to unlocking the potential for 5G." The FCC's Spectrum Frontiers included several of the bands set for consideration at WRC-19, but not the 47 GHz band — although it did target 47.2-50.2 GHz.

"Maintaining the status quo in the 47-47.2 GHz band is a win for continued Amateur Radio use of the band in the United States, and amateurs continue to do great things there," ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, allowed. He pointed to the new US-Canada distance record of 215 kilometers set recently by radio amateurs from both countries. But, he suggested, Amateur Radio could be doing more there.

Spectrum in the millimeter range has come under increasing scrutiny, because the demand for greater throughput has driven demand for bandwidth — hence, the greater focus on spectrum above 24.25 GHz for next-generation 5G wireless broadband applications. As Price explains, it's easier to find 200 megahertz of spectrum in the millimeter range than at UHF.

Price noted that radio amateurs have set up broadband networks on several lower microwave bands — nearly all of them allocated to hams on a secondary basis. "The 47 GHz band is allocated to the Amateur Service and the Amateur-Satellite Service on a worldwide primary and exclusive basis," Price pointed out. "We don't have to work around others in this space."

He suggested that Amateur Radio broadband experimenters consider and develop upon the work of Ted Rappaport, N9NB — the founding director of NYU Wireless at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering — whose investigations have demonstrated that the millimeter waves may serve next-generation broadband systems. "For a long time, millimeter waves were thought to be most suitable for the point-to-point work that radio amateurs perfected and continue to advance," Price said. "Ted's work indicates that point-to-multipoint systems are feasible at this range, and the world has taken notice."

Price stressed the need going forward for the worldwide Amateur Radio community to maintain a staunch defense of all spectrum allocated to the Service, as the 47 GHz band remains under consideration by other countries. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is organizing the protective effort on this and other issues as it continues to get ready for WRC-19.

7/20/2016, arrl.org

S.M.A.R.S. W8DF Club Repeaters

- 2M Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 2M DStar 146.79MHz, -600KHz offset
- 70cm Repeater 443.95MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 1.25M Repeater 224.24MHz, -1.6MHz offset
- APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39MHz

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

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

<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><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: August 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: August 4th @ 11:30am Siren Test: August 6th @ 1:00pm Skywarn Coffee: Immediately after Siren Test SMARS Breakfast: August 13th @ 8:30am</p>
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