



# FEEDBACK

July 2017

### 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.

### Board of Directors

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### Ham researcher to investigate effects of solar eclipse

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

August 21 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many in the U.S. to see a total eclipse. It's also an opportunity for a team of Virginia Tech researchers to study the effects of the eclipse on changes in the upper atmosphere that have an impact on HF propagation and the global positioning system (GPS). Backed by research funding from NASA and the National Science Foundation, the team is headed by Dr. Greg Earle, W4GDE.

The Virginia Tech team plans to gather data from a variety of sources, including radar systems, transceivers, satellites, ham radio, and GPS receivers, in order to analyze the effects of the solar eclipse on the conductive region of the atmosphere.

"Whether military radar, or consumer GPS signals, the eclipse is going to have effects on the medium that we would like to understand better, so that we can either mitigate them or use them to our advantage," said Earle.

Here are a couple of links to news stories on the research team and the experiments:

\* Virginia Tech team prepares for special project during total solar eclipse  
<http://wset.com/news/local/virginia-tech-team-prepares-for-special-project-during-total-solar-eclipse>

\* Virginia Tech expert to study August solar eclipse effects on radar, ham radio, GPS  
<http://wtkr.com/2017/07/17/virginia-tech-expert-to-study-august-solar-eclipse-effects-on-radar-ham-radio-gps/>

Let's party!

In conjunction with the eclipse, the HamSCI and the ARRL are sponsoring the Solar Eclipse QSO Party <http://www.hamsci.org/seqp>. (SEQP). According to an article in the August 2017 issue of QST, the goal of the SEQP is to "flood the airwaves with contacts, all measured by the automated receiver networks of the Reverse Beacon Network, PSKReporter, and WSPRNet." Once all the logs are in, researchers will analyze the data to see what effect the eclipse had on radio propagation.

A YouTube video of a presentation at Dayton on the SEQP can be found at <https://youtu.be/3EviY2Cuxpo?list=PLihPo8xWmo8-xDYAtP9BWX9QnhUoT7k4>

The SEQP will run from 1400Z - 2200Z on Monday, August 21. This is well before the eclipse is due to begin on the West Coast. The reason it starts before the eclipse is to establish a baseline for radio propagation conditions.

SEQP organizers urge you to make as many contacts as you can on as many bands as you can operate. Like nearly every contest, contacts are not allowed on 60m, 30m, 17m, and 12m. CW, RTTY, and PSK31 are the preferred modes because automated receivers can record those contacts, but phone and other digital modes count, too.

An interesting twist to this contest is that, like Field Day, you can earn a number of bonus points, including:

- \* Operating outdoors (100 points)
- \* Operating in a public place (100 points)
- \* Operating a wide-band automated receiver at your station (100 points)

Hams have had a long history of supporting scientific research. They provided communications for some of the early polar explorations and listened for Sputnik as it flew overhead. The Solar Eclipse QSO Party continues this tradition, and it's going to be a lot of fun as well. Visit the HamSCI website <http://www.hamsci.org/seqp> for more information.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and the CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun With Morse Code." You can reach him by emailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

### Meeting Minutes 06/15/2017

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

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G. 23 members in attendance total.

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

#### Committee reports:

Field Day – Food, trailer towing and computers are all prepared. New plans for wifi connectivity between the trailers is under investigation. Tom feels that most computers will work ok but one might need a hardwired connection. Tom has found a source for Windows 7 loaded desktops for \$100 each online. He is ordering four for use in each trailer with one spare.

SKYWARN – The next meeting will be Tuesday and we will meet at WWMT on West Maple Street in Kalamazoo. We expect to meet with Keith Thompson to get an overview of how they broadcast the nightly weather.

HIAD – CERT of BC is scheduling an HIAD for October 14 th at the DPW building on Kendall. CERT training is also scheduled for September 22 nd , 29 th and 30 th . More information will be forthcoming and can be found on BCES.org. There was a good turnout of operators for the breakfast table!

MSPOTA – We will be activating Custer again during Field Day so contacts from FD will be submitted.

VE Session – Session is scheduled for June 22 nd in the Babcock Room.

No old business was discussed.

#### New Business:

Gary reports he is having personal problems and will not be running for reelection this year

Repeater – No problems have been experienced over the last month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

#### **Treasurers Report Jun-17**

Income and Expenses

Dividend 0.05  
Income 20.00

Expenses  
76.00 PO BOX  
39.00 ATT

Total Expenses  
115.00

Net  
-94.95

# 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 146.79MHz, -600KHz offset
- 1.25M Repeater 224.24MHz, -1.6MHz offset
- APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39MHz
- 70cm Repeater 443.95MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 70cm Repeater 442.7625MHz, +5MHz offset

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

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| <p><b>Club Meeting</b><br/>3rd Thursday of every month<br/>Maple United Methodist Church<br/>342 Capital Avenue NE<br/>Battle Creek, MI 49017</p> | <p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b><br/>1st Saturday of every month<br/>Immediately after Siren Test<br/>Coney Island, N.E. Capital<br/>Battle Creek, MI</p> | <p><b>BLB Luncheon</b><br/>1st Thursday of every month<br/>Coney Island, N.E. Capital<br/>Battle Creek, MI</p> | <p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b><br/>2nd Saturday of every month<br/>Coney Island, N.E. Capital<br/>Battle Creek, MI</p> |
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| <p><b>SMARS Nets:</b><br/>Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66<br/>Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66<br/>Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95<br/>Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95<br/>Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365<br/>Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95<br/><b>Other Nets:</b><br/>Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p> | <p><b>Upcoming Events:</b><br/>Board Meeting: August 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30pm<br/>BLB Luncheon: August 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11:30am<br/>SKYWARN Coffee: August 5<sup>th</sup> after siren test<br/>SMARS Breakfast: August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am<br/>Club Meeting: August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm</p> |
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