



# FEEDBACK

May 2012

### Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (wr8g@omega-link.com) and get it published in FEEDBACK.

You don't have to be a professional writer, or even a writer at all. If you're comfortable with writing, great! If not, relate the story in the fashion that you are comfortable with and let the editor do the rest.

I'd Like to thank those who contributed articles to this month's Feedback. Thanks to you, I had the problem of finding enough space to fit every thing into the 6 pages of this newsletter. I'm looking forward to more articles from the members in the coming months.. —WR8G

### Inside this issue:

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Treasurer's Report             | 4 |
| Secretary's Report             | 2 |
| Board Meeting Minutes          | 3 |
| Hamfests                       | 4 |
| Club Repeaters                 | 4 |
| Upcoming events and local nets | 6 |

## Field DAY

It starts with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). What is the ARRL? Quite simply, an organization founded in 1914 by and for amateurs. I encourage you to Google **Wikipedia ARRL** and read about us.

Google **Wikipedia ARRL field day** and you will find the following opening paragraph followed by more information. Although intended to be an exercise for emergency communications, it has evolved into more of a North American contest which runs for a 24 hour period always the last full weekend of June.

Field Day is an annual amateur radio exercise, widely sponsored by IARU regions and member organizations, encouraging emergency communications preparedness among amateur radio operators. In the United States, it is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country, with over 30,000 operators participating each year.

Since the first ARRL Field Day in 1933, radio amateurs throughout

North America have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.

To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and of each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component, and many clubs also engage in concurrent leisure activities (camping out, cookouts, etc.). Operations typically last a continuous twenty-four hours, requiring scheduled relief operators to keep stations on the air. Additional contest points are awarded for experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts via satellite, and involving youth in the activity.

(Continued on page 3)



### Board of Directors

#### President

Gary Williams, N8QC  
n8qc@arrl.net

#### Vice President

Dave Ashbolt, K8OLY  
k8oly@arrl.net

#### Secretary

John Davidson, W8JRD  
w8jrd@arrl.net

#### Treasurer

Don Larkin, W8RVT  
w8rvt@arrl.net

#### Past President

Bob Kingsbury, AC8GL  
kings-boo@yahoo.com

### Club Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month  
Maple United Methodist Church  
342 Capital Avenue NE  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

### Next Meeting

Jun 21st, 2012 @ 7 pm.

### BLB Luncheon

2nd Thursday of every month  
Mancino's  
1791 W. Columbia Avenue  
Battle Creek, MI 49015

### Next meeting

July 12th @ 11:30 AM

### SMARS Breakfast

1st Saturday of every month

### Next Meeting

July 7th @ 8:30

### Silent Key Notice

It is with great sadness that I announce that **Marion Russell Davidson, 84, WA8MFL** became a Silent Key May 30, 2012. Marion was born December 9, 1927 in Coldwater, MI. Marion graduated from Coldwater High School and began his college studies at the University of Michigan. The War called Marion after his freshman year and he was drafted into the Army Air Force in 1945 Marion served until 1948. He returned to college at Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) receiving his Degree. He enrolled at Western Michigan University where he earned a Masters Degree in School Administration. He taught school for one year in Ionia before moving to Harper Creek, where he taught Math and Physics classes. Marion taught for more than 30 years retiring in 1984.

Marion married the former Rosemary Renshaw in Coldwater at the First United Methodist Church in 1952. They were married for nearly 60 years. Surviving are his wife, Rosemary and 4 children; Mary, Susan, John and Diane. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Samantha and Allan and great-grandchildren Mackenzie Patterson and Brady Atton. Marion was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Battle Creek.

Marion loved aviation and earned his Private Pilot License and was a pilot for more than 35 years. Marion attained the rank of Major in the Civil Air Patrol, where he was involved in Search and Rescue for many years. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, and looked forward each year to the trips to Oshkosh, Wisconsin with their camping trailer. Marion was also a licensed Amateur Radio Operator and a member of the Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society since 1960. He was the former editor of the "Feedback" newsletter for many years. Marion will be missed by all who knew him and by the many students he taught over the years.

Memorials may be made to either the Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society or the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles program.

God Speed, Marion.

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Written by Doc, K8OLY

### Note from Rosemary, WA8VXE and John, W8JRD

We just wanted to say thanks to all that attended Dad's memorial service on Saturday, June 9.

The service was very nice, Doc's organ playing was inspired, and the turnout was more than expected. We thank everybody for their kind words and cards.

**Rosemary, WA8VXE**  
**John, W8JRD**

## Hamfests

06/16/2012: Midland ARC Hamfest  
Midland, MI  
Midland Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.w8kea.org/hamfest>

06/16/2012: MILFORD HAMFEST  
Milford, OH  
Milford Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.w8mrc.com>

06/17/2012: Monroe Hamfest  
Monroe, MI  
Monroe County Radio Communications Association  
<http://www.mcrca.org>

06/17/2012: Six Meter Club of Chicago's 55th Annual Hamfest  
Wheaton, IL  
Antique Radio Club of Illinois & Midwest Classic Radio Net  
<http://k9ona.com>

07/07/2012: SMARC Swapfest 12  
Oak Creek, WI  
South Milwaukee ARC  
<http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe/>

07/14/2012: Indianapolis Hamfest  
Indianapolis, IN  
Indianapolis Hamfest Association  
<http://www.indyhamfest.com>

07/15/2012: FRRL Hamfest and Electronics Market  
Aurora, IL  
Fox River Radio League  
<http://frrl.org>

07/21/2012: NOARSFEST  
Elyria, OH  
Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society  
<http://www.noars.net>

07/22/2012: Karsfest  
Peotone, IL  
Kankakee Area Radio Society  
<http://w9az.com/>

07/22/2012: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Hamfest  
Van Wert, OH  
Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.w8fy.org>

07/28/2012: 2012 CMARC Trunk Sales/AR & Computer Equipment Hamfest  
Lansing, MI  
Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.centralmiarc.com>

07/29/2012: Portage Hamfair '12  
Randolph, OH  
Portage Amateur Radio Club  
<http://www.hamfair.com>

08/04/2012: Angola Hamfest  
Angola, IN  
Land of Lakes Amateur Radio Club  
<http://llarc.tripod.com/>

08/04/2012: Columbus Ohio Hamfest  
Columbus, OH  
Voice of Aladdin ARC (W8FEZ)  
<http://www.aladdinshrine.com/hamfest.htm>

Do you know of a amateur radio related event that isn't listed in this news letter? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (WR8G, Thomas Goodson, [wr8g@omega-link.com](mailto:wr8g@omega-link.com), 269-962-8007) with details and I'll try to get it into the next edition of Feedback.

*(Field day, continued from page 1)*

The **Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society (SMARS)** is a Battle Creek area radio club incorporated under that name in 1966. SMARS has participated in Field Day for more years than anyone remembers. We begin station setup on Friday afternoon and teardown at the close of Field Day on Sunday.

SMARS always welcomes anyone, licensed amateur or not, to visit our site. Any visitor is more than welcome to operate and make a few contacts. We are easy to find on the South end of the Battle Creek airport about 500 feet Southeast of the control tower. Visit [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and find **Field Day Locator**. The Locator will show our location on a map. Another way to find us is [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi). In the upper right corner of the screen, find the box labeled **Track Callsign**

and enter **CQ FLDDAY** then click the Search box. While you are at it, click the **Show All** box.

SMARS looks forward to seeing lots of new amateurs at Field Day this year. As long as you are on the internet, look at the SMARS website **www.w8df.com**.

### Classified

Classified ads due by 1st Sunday of publication month.

Radio Handbooks, 13th, 16th & 19th editions hard cover. .... \$5/ea.  
 ARRL Handbooks, 1977, 1979, 2004 editions. .... \$5/ea.  
 Also Collins Manuals:  
 516E-1 12 volt DC Power Supply ..... \$2.00  
 32S-1 Transmitter ..... \$15.00  
 32RS-1 Transceiver ..... \$10.00  
 KWT-6 Transceiver ..... \$10.00.

Bound 6 issue volumes of QST magazine. Older smaller size books. Free to good home. Most issues from 1968 thru the 1980's when the size was changed to 8.5 x 11 inches.

**Contact Charlie, W0CD (269) 964-7982**

#### FOR SALE From Estate of KG8GZ

Pyramid 20 Amp Power Supply ..... \$50  
 ICT 12012-20A Switching Power Supply . \$45  
 MFJ 422B-X Keyer ..... \$70

**Contact Don, W8RVT (269) 963-7797**

### SMARS Website, W8DF.COM

The SMARS club website at <http://w8df.com> has been successfully renewed and transferred to the new server space. Expect to see changes in the look of the site in the near future.

## Income and Expense Statement

5/1/12 Through 5/31/12

| Category Description                 | 5/1/12 -5/31/12 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                        |                 |
| 50 50                                | 28.00           |
| Interest Inc:                        |                 |
| Checking                             | 0.68            |
| <b>Total Interest Inc</b>            | 0.68            |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                  | 28.68           |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                      |                 |
| Administration:                      |                 |
| Supplies                             | 8.54            |
| <b>TOTAL Administration</b>          | 8.54            |
| Feedback:                            |                 |
| Postage                              | 44.10           |
| Printing                             | 29.40           |
| <b>Feedback-Other</b>                | 28.50           |
|                                      | 102.00          |
| Ham-Misc                             | 62.90           |
| <b>TOTAL Hamfest</b>                 | 62.90           |
| Insurance:                           |                 |
| Liability                            | 320.00          |
| <b>TOTAL Insurance</b>               | 320.00          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                | 493.44          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME - TOTAL EXPENSES</b> | -464.76         |

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

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

2 Meter Repeater 146.660 MHz  
 -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8

70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz  
 +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8

1.25 Meter Repeater 224.240 MHz  
 -1.6MHz offset

70cm and 1.25 meter repeaters are linked. Also available via echolink.



## SMARS Outing May 26, 2012

On a rainy Saturday morning, several SMARS members brought out one of the club trailers, and set up an operating station at the Fort Custer Chapel. The rain cleared up shortly after noon, but not before an organ recital played by **Doc K8OLY**. Randy grilled up some hot dogs and other SMARS brought other tasty dishes for a picnic. **Ron K1RKD** and **Don W8RVT** got the club Butter-nut set up and worked several stations on 40 meters. Daniel and Bryan made their first HF contacts, and among other stations worked were the special event station at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and an Augusta station worked long path.

A good time was had by all, and this same type of activity will happen again before long.

Cast of usual suspects:

- **Bryan KD8RWD**
- **Daniel KD8NOG**
- **Doc K8OLY**
- **Don KB9IAR**
- **Don W8RVT**
- **Gary KD8JBT and Lynn**
- **Gary N8QC and Chris**
- **Jacques N8YFL**
- **John W8JRD**
- **Randy Green**
- **Ron K1RKD**
- **Stephanie W8AEZ**
- **Tom WR8G**

Reported by **John, W8JRD**

## SMARS Club Meeting May 17, 2012

Called To Order: 7:03 PM

Officers Present: **Bob, AC8GL; Don, W8RVT; John, W8JRD; Gary, N8QC; Doc, K8OLY**

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Secretary's Report: approved as reported at the Club

Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: approved as reported at the Club Meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Hamfest: Date reserved for next year, March 17, 2013.
- ARES/RACES: Last "Ham-in-a-day" session went well. Only 1 walk in this time.
- SMARS should contact new hams, especially as Field Day and May 26 operating sessions coming up soon. March of Dimes walk went well with more participation than last year.
- Field Day: Airport site secured. New chairs are to be purchased. Need to find if anyone available for CW, but we will have PSK, satellite, APRS, etc. Lou willing to do food again if he can get an estimate. NA software may need to be updated.
- VE Testing: Next session is June 28 at Maple United Methodist. Walk-ins allowed at the "Ham in a Day" session on April 28. 54 candidates have been tested this year so far.

Old Business:

- Jeff, N8CC, is willing to host a field trip to his station. He will need a little notice because of his work schedule.

New Business:

- Club will bring one of the trailers out to Fort Custer Chapel on May 26 to operate, with a picnic and an organ performance to follow. Times 10-3?
- Other possible operating areas were suggested.
- Volunteers for the PIO position were solicited. There were no takers.

Presentation: none

Adjourned: 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

## SMARS Board Meeting April 30, 2012

Called to Order: 5:01 PM

Officers Present: **Gary, N8QC; Doc, K8OLY; John, W8JRD; Don, W8RVT**

Others Present: Chris

### Topics:

- SMARS will purchase pizzas for the Field Day Saturday dinner, with amount depending on the number of participants. **Gary, N8QC**, purchased new chairs from Sam's Club.
- The next HIAD on June 16 needs VEs. A total of 8 would be nice.
- (On June 5 at the SAR meeting, the June HIAD was cancelled)
- Field Day was added to the Channel 3 Community Bulletin and will be announced in the local papers. Need to find an elected official to attend. The 2 Georges will probably not be at Field Day this year. A letter needs to be sent to new hams about FD. Any youths that operate add bonus points.
- Baluns were obtained from Bev to repair club antennas.
- **Justin, KD8CXQ**, wishes to purchase one of the club generators. His offer was accepted.
- Club will look into obtaining 501c non-profit status. More to be discussed at the July 2 board meeting.
- Club will give away another Wauxun handheld at Field Day. Winner must be a club member, and help setup or teardown, and operate for least 2 hours.

Adjourned: 6:00 PM

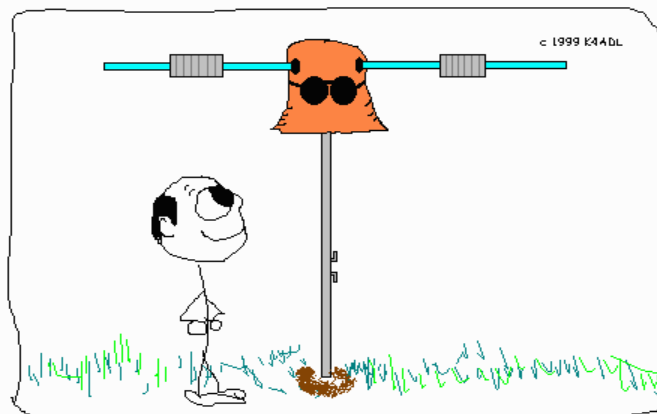
Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

### From the editor

What makes a great newsletter? Well it certainly isn't the editor. All that takes is the right software and the willingness to use it. No, it is the content that makes a great newsletter. Therefore, I once again wish to say thanks to those of you who have taken the time and effort to submit material for Feedback. Without you, Feedback would be shorter and less interesting.

## In The News

- It looks like your vanity call signs will cost you more the next time that you renew. The current FCC budget calls for the fee to go up from \$14.20 to \$15.00 for the 10 year term.
- QST magazine is now available in electronic form.
- Jessica Rosenworcel and Ajit Pai have been sworn in as FCC Commissioners. This brings the FCC back to full strength.
- If you were counting on using Vysotskij Island (R1M) for your CQ DX award, sorry, it has been dropped from the CQ's country list.
- Morse code has been designated as a language by the Boy Scouts of America, which has added it to the list of "interpreter strips" that scouts may earn. The strips indicate proficiency in either a foreign language or sign language, and now, Morse code.
- Cuban hams get new digital modes. These new modes include Olivia, MFSK, JT65 and most PSK variants. In addition a mechanism for Cuban amateurs to apply for approval of additional mode in the future has been added.
- This is a bit old, but many may not have heard: ARRL has restructured the fees for the DXCC program. For details, go to: <http://bit.ly/ysrIFb>
- South Sudan has been assigned a call sign block: Z8A-Z8Z by the International Telecommunication Union.
- Field day is June 23rd and 24th this year.



WARREN REALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A "DISGUISED FLAGPOLE ANTENNA."

Found at [www.qsl.net/k4adl](http://www.qsl.net/k4adl).

# Field operations

Here are some pictures from the May field operating day taken by Dan, KD8NOG.  
Thanks Dan



# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

## FEEDBACK



SMARS

P.O. Box 934

Battle Creek, MI 49016

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### SMARS NETS

Before Lunch Bunch  
Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66

Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66  
Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24  
Wednesday 7:00 PM, 443.95  
Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365  
Saturday 8:00 PM, 443.95

### Upcoming events:

**Club meeting: June 21 @ 7:00 PM**  
**VE Testing: June 28 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Field Day: June 23 & 24**  
**SMARS Breakfast: July 7 @ 8:30 AM**  
**BLB Luncheon: July 12 @ 11:30 AM**