



# FEEDBACK

June 2013

### Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (wr8g@arrl.net) 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.

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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## JUNE 2013 NOTES FROM THE VEEP

June is upon us and this month brings us Field Day. What is so special about Field Day? Well, it gives us the opportunity to take our mobile ham shacks out for some exercise. Not only that, but the new amateur operators have the chance to make some long-distance contact via high frequency radio, and make as many as they can. You don't need to be a general class or higher to do this, as our station license allows for anyone to operate during this event. It is great experience for new operators and old alike. It is also an opportunity meet and greet those from the club as well strangers that might come along to join in the fun. We usually have food for Friday evening and Saturday evening as well, so come out, lend a hand setting up and then join us on Saturday and Sunday for operating and fun. There is lots of fun and friendship. Come see old friends and maybe make some new ones as well. See you for Field Day 2013.

### Setting things straight.

Recently there has been some confusion about the locations of some of the club events. In looking back at the last issue of Feedback, I realize that this might be, in part, my fault. I apologize for any confusion that this may have caused. I had failed to update one sidebar with the current information. I have now done so, but in the interest of being clear and complete, here are the correct locations:

SMARS Breakfast, BLB Luncheon, and Skywarn Coffee: Coney Island Café, 962 Capital Avenue NE, Battle Creek, MI 49017

SMARS Field Day: South West corner of Territorial Avenue and Helmer Road. (This is a new location for this year)

RACES Field Day: 15596 15 Mile Road, Marshall, MI.

### Ideas needed

One of the biggest problems with editing this newsletter is coming up with ideas for articles. So I'm asking you, our members, what you would like to see as a features in this newsletter. Please e-mail me with your ideas at wr8g@arrl.net.



### Board of Directors

#### President

Gary Williams, N8QC  
n8qc@arrl.net

#### Vice President

Dave "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY

#### Secretary

Jay Jarrett, KD8OXR  
kd8oxr@hughes.net

#### Treasurer

Don Larkin, W8RVT  
w8rvt@arrl.net

#### Member At Large

Tom Goodson, WR8G  
wr8g@arrl.net

### Club Meeting

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

### Next Meeting

June 20th, 2013 @ 7 PM

### BLB Luncheon

2nd Thursday of every month  
Coney Island, N.E. Capital  
Battle Creek, MI

### Next meeting

July 11th @ 11:30 AM

### SMARS Breakfast

1st Saturday of every month  
Coney Island, N.E. Capital  
Battle Creek, MI

### Next Meeting

July 6th @ 8:30 AM

### SKYWARN Coffee

1st Saturday of every month  
Immediately after Siren Test  
Coney Island, N.E. Capital  
Battle Creek, MI

### Next Meeting

July 6th

## Meeting Minutes 05/16/2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR.

Secretary's report accepted.

Treasurer's report accepted.

### Committee reports:

- Hamfest 2014 – This will be taken up after Field Day.
- RACES – Dave, W8RDX, reported that there were 18 volunteers for the Spring Into Action run/walk at Bailey Park. There were 12 volunteers for the March of Dimes March for Babies at Binder Park Zoo.
- Ham In A Day – May 4<sup>th</sup> saw 35 registered testers with 4 walk-ins. 28 new Technician and 3 General tickets were earned!
- Colon Cancer Awareness walk/run – June 1<sup>st</sup> at Bailey Park. Volunteers, about 15, will be needed.
- Siren test – May 4<sup>th</sup> tested 27 sirens throughout the county and city. This included 7 new locations added to the list. The next test will be June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- VE session – 2 new Technician and 1 General upgrade ticket earned.

### Old Business:

- Photoshop images of what the trailers would look like after signage is added were passed around for comment. No dissent was heard so the plan is to get them done before Field Day.

### New Business:

- Still looking for a volunteer to provide coffee for the meetings.
- Field Day – Pursuing a spot at the end of Territorial Road, inside the fence. Louie will pursue location as well as permits from the city. Food will also be provided, but Plan B will be the fast food places along Columbia Ave. The club coffee pot will also be available.
- Doc offers to provide lemonade and Erv offers his large pop cooler for the trailers. Louie will also arrange for Port-a-johns.
- Some batteries will be needed, some members already have some to bring.

Presentation: Doc had a presentation about traffic handling.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett KD8OXR, Secretary

## HEATHKIT

There seems to be another effort to resurrect the Heath Company. The website below produces an explanation of this along with a rather detailed survey asking for opinions from potential customers.

Readers of the electronic edition of Feedback should be able to click on the link below. Paper readers will need to enter the link manually in the browser.

<http://heathkit.com/survey/index.php/278489?lang=en>

## Never Is a Very Long Time

Many of us make statements and vows that, later, we find we might have to rescind.

After a hitch in the Air Force, I swore that I would never wear a uniform again. Later, while working at Eaton Corporation I found that I was spending a lot of money on laundry and dry cleaning bills when the company would provide me with a... wait for it... uniform! Well, eating words can be easier with some good Cajun seasoning.

At the end of nearly 30 years at Eaton, I swore that I would never work in a cubicle, ever again. Then along comes this amateur radio hobby.

This hobby *can* be limited to equipment no larger than a handheld transceiver, of course, but, being a guy, equipment just needs to get bigger and better. My shack started out as an area in the basement that contained several old and odd- sized and shaped folding tables along with some left over, home-made computer desks. From one side of the shack to the other there were three different levels of desktop. This worked well to stop rolling pencils, of course, but made moving from one station to another an exercise in knee-bashing. Add to this a burgeoning collection of parts and pieces that just naturally accumulate in a shack, with boxes and bags covering much of the tabletops.

The first attempt to bring order to this chaos was the purchase of several small, clear, shoebox-sized storage boxes. These were then labeled and filled with connectors, cables, adapters, computer parts and wall warts. In other words, the indispensable stuff.

Having the stuff sorted but piled box upon box only partially solved the problem. The clutter was organized but it was still clutter. The next step then, was to buy some open shelving on which to store the storage boxes. This also provided an opportunity to re-arrange the radios and computers that, as you know, must be in a proper shack. The only problem now was the uneven tabletops which made for staggered shelving. Something else, obviously, was required.

Now we return to the vows/threats/statements of the past. What would offer consistent working surfaces along with ample storage? Does the word cubicle come to mind? Yes, break out the Cajun seasoning again!

A quick search of the Yellow Pages brought me to a business in Kalamazoo that deals in used office furniture, including cubicle items. A call, a sketch, an agreement,



and the equipment to assemble two cubicles was acquired; storage bins, file cabinets, work surfaces, under-cabinet lights, all the stuff that made working life a common drudge. And now it is assembled in my basement.

I now have three distinct areas in which to work. The primary area, of course, is the operating station. The second area comprises the "working" space with soldering equipment, task lighting and electronic parts and components. Of course super glue and bandages are there too. This third area is where the ancient VHS tapes in my collection can be transferred to DVDs. This is also where the old vinyl music gets converted, too.

The one thing that I can feel good about is the fact that time spent in this cave is not work but fun and enjoyment. As Phil would say, "I'm happy, happy, happy."

Submitted by **Jay, KD8OXR**

Editor's note: The print edition is in black and white, but the online edition has all the pictures in color.

## Hamfests

07/06/2013: Swapfest '13

Oak Creek, WI

South Milwaukee ARC

<http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe>

07/13/2013: Indianapolis Hamfest

Indianapolis, IN

Indianapolis Amateur Radio Association

<http://www.indyhamfest.com>

07/14/2013: FRRL Hamfest

Aurora, IL

Fox River Radio League

<http://frrl.org>

07/20/2013: GMARC Summer Trunk Swap

Utica, MI

GM Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.GMARC.org>

07/20/2013: NOARSFEST

Elyria, OH

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.noars.net>

07/21/2013: KARSFEST

Peotone, IL

Kankakee Area Radio Society

<http://w9az.com/karsfest.html>

07/21/2013: Van Wert ARC Hamfest

Van Wert, OH

Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

<http://w8fy.org>

07/25/2013: Central States VHF Society 2013 Conference

Elk Grove Village, IL

Central States VHF Society

<http://www.csvhfs.org>

07/27/2013: 2013 CMARC Outdoor Hamfest - Amateur

Radio, Electronics & Computer Equipment

Lansing, MI

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.centralmiarc.com>

07/28/2013: Portage Hamfair

Randolph, OH

Portage Amateur Radio Club

<http://Hamfair.com>

08/03/2013: Great Lakes Division Convention & Columbus Hamfest

Columbus, OH

Voice of Aladdin ARC

<http://www.columbushamfest.com>

08/03/2013: Lakes Area ARC's 3rd Annual Freefest

Lyons, WI

Lakes Area Amateur Radio Club

<http://sites.google.com/site/laarcradioclub/>

08/03/2013: UP Hamfest 2013

Escanaba, MI

Delta County Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.dcars.org/hamfest>

08/04/2013: Hamfesters Radio Club HAMFEST

Peotone, IL

Hamfesters Radio Club

<http://hamfesters.org>

08/10/2013: 6th Annual Racine Megacycle Freefest 2013

Sturtevant, WI

Racine Megacycle Club

<http://www.w9udu.org>

08/17/2013: West Virginia State Convention

Weston, WV

West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council (WVSARC)

<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/>

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, 269-962-8007) with details and I'll try to get it into the next edition of Feedback.

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

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

2 Meter Repeater 146.660 MHz

-600KHz offset, PL 94.8

70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz

+5MHz offset, PL 94.8

1.25 Meter Repeater 224.240 MHz

-1.6MHz offset

70cm and 1.25 meter repeaters are linked.

Also available via echolink.

W8DF-5 144.39Mhz Digipeater/Igate

Find it on [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi)

### Other Area Repeaters:

#### Skywarn/ARES/RACES

2 Meter: 147.12, +600KHz offset, PL 186.2

70cm: 442.350, +5MHz offset, PL 94.8



**Willard Library receives a donation of books in memory of Marion Davidson, WA8MFL**

April Dillinger of Willard Library sent these pictures of the collection purchased with funds donated by members of SMARS and others in Dad's memory. As a life long teacher, Dad would think that no better investment could be made than one in education. Purchased were all 3 license class manuals, as well more advanced subjects including Satellite Communications, Digital modes, and everybody's favorite, the Antenna Manual. Lots of good reading for those just starting out, or trying to gain a better understanding of this great hobby.

Many thanks to those whose donations made this memorial gift possible.

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



**Board Meeting 06/04/2013**

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay KD8OXR, Stephanie W8AEZ, John W8JRD, Tom WR8G.

Don received the new insurance policy from the insurance company but they had dated it for 2012/2013. He contacted them and they agree to send a new policy with the correct dates. Even if it doesn't arrive right away, the date ends with July 1<sup>st</sup> so it will cover the current Field Day.

Field Day – Menu was discussed and it was decided that pulled pork from Hogzilla's would be the top item, enough to feed 24 people.

Food – Louie will be contacted and plan B will be the Columbia Avenue fast food places. Gary will bring his

coffee pot. Erv will be contacted to see if he will bring his pop cooler. Port-o-johns will be Louie

Trailers – Terry picked up the trailers and had them "signed" so all are ready.

Setup – Help will be needed beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Hamfest 2014 – Talk of using wristbands to identify attendees. Doc will check into availability and costs. Will want 1500. The flyer for 2014 needs to say that "children 12 and under free" to avoid problems. Mike will handle tickets again.

Other – Arnie has offered to provide the coffee to the General meetings when he can!

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jay Jarrett, KD8OXR, Secretary

Income and Expense Statement	
5/1/13 Through 5/31/13	
Category Description	5/1/13-5/31/13
<b>INCOME</b>	
50 50 Dues	13.00
Interest Inc: Checking	10.00
	0.70
<b>TOTAL Interest Inc</b>	0.70
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	23.70
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration: Signage	1,050.00
Administration-Other	21.20
<b>TOTAL Administration</b>	1,071.20
Equipment	38.23
Insurance: Liability	320.00
<b>TOTAL Insurance</b>	320.00
Utilities: Telephone	79.07
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	79.07
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	1,508.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	-1,484.80

# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

## FEEDBACK



SMARS

P.O. Box 934

Battle Creek, MI 49016

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

«CALL»  
«NAME»  
«ST\_ADDRESS»  
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

### SMARS NETS

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

Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66  
Monday 7:00 PM, 147.12 (Skywarn)  
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

Please see page 4 for offsets and PL tones

### Upcoming events:

**Club meeting: June 20th @ 7:00 PM**  
**Field Day: 24 hours starting June 22nd @ 2:00 PM**  
**VE Testing: June, 27th @ 7:00 PM**  
**SMARS Breakfast: July 6th @ 8:30 AM**  
**Siren test: July 6th @ 1:00 PM**  
**SKYWARN Coffee: July 6th after siren test**  
**BLB Lunch: July 11th @ 11:30 AM**  
**Club meeting: July 18th @ 7:00 PM**