



# FEEDBACK

June 2014

**Your Story:**

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor ([wr8g@arrl.net](mailto:wr8g@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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## FCC Okays Changes to Amateur Radio Exam Credit, Test Administration, Emission Type Rules

In a wide-ranging *Report and Order (R&O)* released June 9 that takes various proceedings into consideration, the FCC has revised the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to grant credit for written examination elements 3 (General) and 4 (Amateur Extra) to holders of "expired licenses that required passage of those elements." The FCC will require former licensees — those falling outside the 2-year grace period — to pass Element 2 (Technician) in order to be relicensed, however. The Commission declined to give examination credit to the holder of an expired *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE)* or to extend its validity to the holder's lifetime.

"Our decision to grant credit for written examination Elements 3 and 4 for expired licenses that required passage [of those elements] will provide some relief for former General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra class licensees," the FCC said, "and is consistent with how we treat expired pre-1987 Technician class licensees who want to reenter the Amateur Service." Pre-1987 Techs can get Element 3 credit, since the Technician and General class written examinations in that era were identical. The Commission said current rules and procedures that apply to expired pre-1987 Technician licenses "are sufficient to verify that an individual is a former licensee under our new rules."

The Commission said that requiring applicants holding expired licenses to pass Element 2 in order to relicense "will address commenters' concerns about lost proficiency and knowledge, because a former licensee will have to demonstrate that he or she has retained knowledge of technical and regulatory matters." The FCC said the Element 2 requirement also would deter any attempts by someone with the same name as a former licensee to obtain a ham ticket without examination.

In 1997 the FCC, in the face of opposition, dropped a proposal that would have generally allowed examination element credit for expired amateur operator licenses. In the past, the FCC has maintained that its procedures "provide ample notification and opportunity for license renewal" and that retesting did not im-

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## Board Meeting 06/03/2014

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G.

Treasurer's report was passed around.

Field Day 2014 – Request has been filed at the City Clerk's office. (Update – City has approved our request, form is in the mail to Jay's house). Tom offered to make a courtesy call to the airport manager. Tom will publish the date and location in the Feedback and Steph will publish on Facebook. We are counting on Lou for the food from Sonny's, also the Port-o-John. Tom has leftover pop from the Hamfest. Gary and Don have worked on the wind turbine mounting shaft, which should work better this year. Also, the rotor controllers have been modified. As a note, we will again be running QRP in the 4AB class. Batteries will again be needed.

Hamfest 2015 – Four questions were raised:

Will there be any extra charge for the electrical hookups? (Update – No).

Will our million dollar liability policy be sufficient? (Update – Yes).

Will Wings be providing ticket sellers? (Update – No).

How soon will we have to sign and pay the 50% down payment? (Update – When we are ready).

Don reported that an apparent lightning strike at the repeater site had knocked several systems awry. As of the meeting, all were back online. There is a plan to change the phone provider at the site with U-verse. Some money would be saved from the old provider, who is bumping costs.

The DStar antenna will not be installed at the WBCK site.

There is talk of placing it at the Emmett Fire station #2.

The tower there is somewhere around 150' tall.

Meeting adjourned at 1746.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

## SMARS Club Meeting Minutes May 15, 2014

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

Officers Present: Don, W8RVT; Gary, N8QC; Doc, K8OLY;  
Tom, WR8G

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions and recognition of visitors

Secretary's Report as published in Feedback: moved and approved as printed in Feedback

Treasurer's Reported as distributed at the meeting: moved and approved as distributed at the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Hamfest: Contract received from Wing Stadium and will need to be reviewed

ARES/RACES: No report

VE Testing: Busy session in April with 13 candidates with 7 new Techs, 3 Generals and 3 extras. There was a session in conjunction with the May "Ham in a Day" with 6 new Techs. Next session will be June 26 at 7:00pm.

Old Business:

Trailer cleanup on Memorial Day weekend after breakfast at Coney's at 8:30 Saturday.

New Business:

The club wishes to have operating sessions this summer. Ideas about events will be entertained. Some suggestions were another State Park contest or with one of the Lighthouse events.

Adjourned: 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted

John Davidson

Acting Secretary

**Hamfests**

06/21/2014: MILFORD HAMFEST

Milford, OH

Milford Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.w8mrc.com>

06/21/2014: West Michigan Youth Club Hamfest

Lowell, MI

West Michigan Youth Club

<http://www.westmichiganyouthclub.org>

07/12/2014: 20/9 ARC Tailgate and Hamfest 2014

Austintown, OH

20/9 Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.20over9.org>

07/12/2014: Indianapolis Hamfest

Indianapolis, IN

Indianapolis Amateur Radio Association

<http://indyhamfest.com>

07/12/2014: SWAPFEST '14

Oak Creek, WI

South Milwaukee ARC

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

07/13/2014: Fox River Radio League Hamfest & Electronics Market

Aurora, IL

Fox River Radio League

<http://frrl.org>

07/19/2014: GMARC Trunk Swap

Shelby Township, MI

General Motors Amateur Radio Club

<http://gmarc.org>

07/19/2014: NOARSFEST

Elyria, OH

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

<http://NOARS.net>

07/20/2014: 27th Annual Van Wert Hamfest

Van Wert, OH

Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

<http://w8fy.org>

07/20/2014: KARSFest

Peotone, IL

Kankakee Area Radio Society

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

07/26/2014: 2014 CMARC OUTDOOR HAMFEST

Lansing, MI

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

<http://centralmiarc.com>

07/27/2014: Portage Hamfair '14

Randolph, OH

Portage Amateur Radio Club

<http://Hamfair.com>

08/02/2014: Columbus Hamfest/Ohio Section Conference

Columbus, OH

Voice of Aladdin Amateur Radio Club (W8FEZ)

<http://www.columbushamfest.com>

08/02/2014: UP Hamfest 2014

Escanaba, MI

Delta County Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.dcars.org>

08/02/2014: West Central Illinois Hamfest

Carlinville, IL

Macoupin County ARC & Montgomery County AR Emergency Corp

<http://www.k9mce.org>

08/03/2014: Hamfesters Radio Club's 80th Hamfest

Peotone, IL

Hamfesters Radio Club

<http://hamfesters.org>

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

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

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

2 Meter Digital/DStar 146.79/19 (-600KHz Offset)

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 (WX8BTL)**

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

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

## A Different Approach to Field Day

By George Guerin, K8GG

When SMARS decided to do a QRP Field Day with batteries and wind chargers I said it was not my "cup-of-tea". W8UVZ concurred and another ham helper said he would be unavailable that weekend. So, I informed SMARS President Gary, N8QC, we would not be participating as long as this general approach was the club choice.

That set in the back of my brain from winter until early June. At that point I asked George, W8UVZ, if he would be interested in operating Field Day from his antenna farm, and he said yes, but that we had no antenna for 40 meters and the 80 meter verticals are primarily for DXing, not stateside contacts.

With that in mind, I built and tested an 80/40 meter trapped dipole using 40 meter phone Reyco traps retuned to 40 CW (a separate story). Satisfied that it would resonate on 40 and 80 CW, we hung it off a tower at about 70 feet with the ends sloping down to 40 feet and rechecked the tuning to make sure we hadn't changed something. We also checked the Hy-Gain tri-band beam to make sure it was still operating properly. Then we made sure the old Windows 2K computer was working in the K1EA logging program and changed the Ontario Section, ON, to the four new sections, GTA, ONE, ONN and ONW.

We discussed using a generator and operating in class 1E, but decided to use commercial mains and operate as a "1D station". We chose to only operate CW in the 150 watt category as that would give us four points per QSO, two for CW times two for the power level.

Checking the rules in QST and on-line at ARRL dot org, we decided not to go for any visitations or publicity, and simply copy the field day message for 100 points and submit the log on-line for the additional 50 point bonus.

On Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, K8GG opened on 15 CW and started making contacts by calling:

"CQ FD CQ FD DE K8GG K8GG"

I stayed on 15 meters until the rate went down and then went to 20 where I could make a contact every minute. After about 4 hours on operating, W8UVZ relieved me

and ran mostly 40 CW until I returned around 10 pm (0200 UTC) and again operated 40 CW and some 80 CW until about 2:20 am local time when I went to bed. W8UVZ got up early and was on the air before 6 am, mostly on 40 with some 80 meter contacts, and we moved to 20 mid-morning, went to 15 meters before noon and made another 100 contacts, although it was not easy, as conditions were OK but not great and 10 meters really did not open on Sunday. At 2 pm (1800 UTC) I finished a QSO with a W5 but the clock rolled to 1801 so I didn't count it, as our first contact was at 1801 on Saturday.

## CQ CQ CQ WB8WXS --- NO CONTACT

**Louis has become a Silent Key.**

Please pause as we remember a very special friend.

Lou will be remembered as a Ham operator and a giving person to all he knew.

He was always ready to assist anyone with his broad knowledge of almost anything that people would ask of him.

Lou was an excellent business man operating the Grinding Service for many years. he became a fine machinist and metal professional.

Lou was a avid reader of history and science. he also loved murder mysteries. He was always loaning or recommending books that he had read.

His history reading included Civil War, World War 1 and II and the U.S. Navy, having been a Sailor during the Korean War.

Lou's talents were endless. He played the organ, painted still life, repaired antique clocks. He was a model railroad buff and also enjoyed building all types of models from navy ships, airplanes and working steam engines. he also refinished antique furniture and was restoring a 1937 Plymouth Sedan.

I don't think my pen has enough ink or my tablet enough pages to put down all of his life accomplishments.

We will all miss Lou's voice on his Sunday night net. with his wit and humor.

My Friend, God bless

(Continued from page 1)

pose an unreasonable burden. The issue arose again in 2011, with a request from the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

The FCC pulled back from its own proposal to reduce from three to two the minimum number of volunteer examiners required to proctor an Amateur Radio examination session. The ARRL, the W5YI-VEC and “a clear majority of commenters” opposed the change, the FCC said. The FCC said it found commenters’ arguments persuasive that the use of three VEs “results in higher accuracy and lower fraud than would be the case with two VEs.” In a related matter, though, the Commission embraced the use of remote testing methods.

“Allowing VEs and VECs the option of administering examinations at locations remote from the VEs is warranted,” the FCC said. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in 2002 endorsed experimental use of videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. The Anchorage VEC has long pushed for the change, citing the expense to provide Amateur Radio test sessions to Alaska residents living in remote areas.

The FCC declined to address “the mechanics” of remote testing, which, it said, “will vary from location to location and session to session.” The Commission said specific rules spelling out how to administer exam sessions remotely “could limit the flexibility of VEs and VECs.” The FCC stressed the obligation on the part of VECs and VEs “to administer examinations responsibly” applies “in full” to remote testing.

The FCC amended the rules to provide that VEs administering examinations remotely be required to grade such examinations “at the earliest practical opportunity,” rather than “immediately,” as the rule for conventional exam sessions requires.

Finally, the FCC has adopted an ARRL proposal to authorize certain Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the Amateur Service. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau in 2013 granted an ARRL request for a temporary blanket waiver to permit radio amateurs to transmit emissions with designators FDX, FXE, and F7E, pending resolution of the rulemaking petition.

“Commenters strongly support amendment of the rules

to permit these additional emission types,” the FCC noted. “The commenters assert that the proposed rule change ‘is consistent with the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service,’” and will allow repurposing surplus mobile relay equipment from other radio services in the Amateur Service, the Commission added.

The FCC said it also will make “certain minor, non-substantive amendments to the Amateur Service rules.” It is amending Part 97 “to reflect that the Commission amended its rules to eliminate the requirement that certain Amateur Radio Service licensees pass a Morse code examination,” the FCC said in the *R&O*. It also said it was correcting “certain typographical or other errors” in Part 97.

**The new rules become effective 30 days after their publication in *The Federal Register*, which is expected to happen this week.**

(From the ARRL Web site, published 6/10/2014)

### Income and Expense Statement

5/1/14 Through 5/31/14

Category Description	5/1/14- 5/31/14
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues: 2014	10.00
<b>TOTAL Dues</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Equipment: Maintainance	43.54
<b>TOTAL Equipment</b>	<b>43.54</b>
Insurance: Liability	320.00
<b>TOTAL Insurance</b>	<b>320.00</b>
Meetings: Refreshments	10.00
<b>TOTAL Meetings</b>	<b>10.00</b>
Utilities: Telephone	140.44
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<b>140.44</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>513.98</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>-503.98</b>

# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

## FEEDBACK

### Walt,K8AEM SK

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Walt Wilson, K8AEM, on June 14, 2014. In memorium, the following is an except of the February 15, 2014 interview with Walt conducted by Dave "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY and John Davidson, W8JRD.

Walter built his first radio - a crystal set - in 1939. As an apprentice for the railroad, Walt learned American Morse, which had several characters that were different than International Morse Code. "You went by "clicks" as there was no oscillated tone and space between the sound." Before there were radios on trains, the old manual blocking system was used, and every rail station had a block operator. He also recalled building a regenerative receiver. When asked if his radio equipment ever got him into trouble with neighbors, Walt quipped "Oh, I might have occasionally. You know, people back then with the type of radios...the old spark gap. That was the only thing we had back then. Get your fingers just right and you could get a burn!"

During the Korean War, Walt was assigned protection duty on top of the Soo Locks. That's where he met Verna, who would later become his wife and partner for the next 62 years. "Yeah, that's how I got into all my trouble. But, ya know, in all those years, we had one argument...she won it, of course, and I learned to keep my mouth shut!"

#### Club Meeting

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

#### SKYWARN Coffee

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

#### 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 3 for offsets and PL tones

In 1953, Walter earned his first amateur radio license, however the path to his upgrade was far from easy. Russ Beutler, N8UU remembered how nervous Walter would get before heading to the FCC office in Detroit to take his upgrade test under the critical eye of Richard Cotton, W8DX. "We tried Walt on Darvon and every nerve medication to try to calm him before his test," recollects Russ. After several tries, Walt did achieve success and earned his Advanced ticket.

An active member of the Amateur Radio community, Walt has operated on all bands and was net control for many years on the VHF net and 8pm Wednesday 10 meter (38.365 MHz) SMARS net. One of his most memorable contacts was made above the Arctic Circle. "We drove on a lot of brush road to get about the Arctic Circle and operated from there just to say that we'd done it...heard a lot of Chinese and Japanese up there, and Russian, of course."

Walter served as an ARRL Volunteer Examiner for over 20 years and participated in a total of 127 VE sessions. Many of us "newbies" in the hobby earned our ticket under his watchful eye. He was quite a presence in our community and he will be sorely missed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ

#### BLB Luncheon

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

#### SMARS Breakfast

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

### Upcoming events:

**Club meeting: June 19th @ 7:00 PM**

**VE Testing: June 26th @ 3:00 PM**

**FIELD DAY: June 27th - June 29th**

**Siren test: July 5th @ 1:00 PM**

**SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test**

**BLB Lunch: July 10th @ 11:30 AM**

**SMARS Breakfast: July 12th @ 8:30 AM**