



# FEEDBACK

MARCH 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.

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## NOTES FROM THE "VEEP"

Greetings,

Well, Crossroads Hamfest is here! How time does fly. We are still in need of help for set-up and tear down on Friday and Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, as well as help with ticket sales and general help on the floor area. Any help you can provide would be appreciated, even if it for just a couple of hours. As all of you are aware, this is how we are able to keep the Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society in existence.

Unless we have input and help from the general membership, the club will fail. There is ample evidence on how apathy can damage an organization's

existence and success. Please do not be one of those members that lets "the other guy" do it.

In years, I have watched as one club or another dwindles due to lack of participation of the club members. Members must be involved in planning general activities and then participate in those activities if a club or group wants to remain viable.

Get involved in the SMARS and let's build our club up again. Invite former members and friends to rejoin and be involved! GO SMARS!!!

Doc, K8OLY

## In the News

The House and Senate have passed a bill that would, if signed into law (among other things) direct the FCC to "complete a study on the uses and capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief". While it isn't clear how this would benefit the ARS or the public in general, it would at least bring attention to the ARS.

Hamfest is to be held this month on the 17th starting at 8:00 AM. There will be a VE testing session beginning at 10:00 AM. Once again the hamfest will be held at the Marshall Activity Center located at 15325 W. Michigan Avenue, Marshall, MI 49068. Vendor setup begins at 6:00 AM. Please see <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest.html> for further details.

The Marshall Crossroads

(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

April 19, 2012 @ 7 pm.

### BLB Luncheon

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

### Next meeting

April 12th @ 11:30 AM

### SMARS Breakfast

1st Saturday of every month

### Next Meeting

April 7th @ 8:30

## SMARS Club Meeting February 16, 2012

Meeting was held at the First Methodist Church on Capital Ave NE.

**Officers present:** President **Gary Williams N8QC**; Vice President David "Doc" Ashbolt K8OLY; Treasurer **Don Larkin W8RVT**; Past President **Bob Kingsbury AC8GL**.

Introductions were made with 14 members present.

Secretary's report as written in FEEDBACK was approved.

Treasurer's report as written in FEEDBACK was approved.

### Committee Reports:

- ◆ Skywarn training on March 3. Two sessions; standard in morning and advanced in the afternoon.
- ◆ March of dimes expects the participation by amateurs .
- ◆ Races meeting announced for Tuesday February 21.
- ◆ There was a discussion of siren tests.
- ◆ Announcement of a Ham-in-a-Day session on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February at the Lakeview Middle School.
- ◆ The bi-monthly VE testing meeting will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month.
- ◆ Field Day was mentioned.
- ◆ Hamfest was discussed by Doc and Bob. Volunteers are needed. Table reservations are near the 100 mark. TASYLS and other groups have space reserved.

### Old Business:

- ◆ SMARS monthly breakfast on first Saturday of month at 8:30 is in need of greater participation.
- ◆ Feedback Editor is requesting material for Feedback. It should be noted that with the renewal of publishing the newsletter some previous members have returned.

### New Business:

- ◆ Bob has a 24" digital TV for anyone in need.
- ◆ Louis has a mill with tilt table for sale.
- ◆ The Battle Creek Optimists are in need of an Amateur Radio operator to speak on the subject.
- ◆ The families of local Silent Keys are in need of help in disposing of equipment.

The meeting was adjourned .

## Feedback to be available electronically

Beginning this month, Feedback will be sent to all members for which we have an email address. Since many of you may have changed you email address, this month the newsletter will also be sent via postal mail as well. I am asking that everybody that receives the newsletter by email to confirm receipt so that I know that I have a correct email address. If you wish to have your email address added to the list, please send it to me at [WR8G@omega-link.com](mailto:WR8G@omega-link.com).

# Income and Expense Statement

2/1/12 Through 2/29/12

Category Description	2/1/12 - 2/29/12
<b>INCOME</b>	
50 50	7.00
Dues	
2012	<u>114.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Dues</b>	114.00
Hamfest Inc:	
Tables	720.00
Tickets	<u>275.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Hamfest Inc</b>	<u>995.00</u>
	1,116.0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	0
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	
Postage	3.96
Supplies	<u>38.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Administration</b>	41.96
Feedback	
Postage	31.50
Printing	<u>14.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Feedback</b>	45.50
Hamfest2012	
Door Prizes	209.85
Facility	544.50
Tickets	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Hamfest2012</b>	754.35
Meetings	
Refreshments	<u>10.39</u>
<b>TOTAL Meetings</b>	10.39
Utilities	
Telephone	<u>64.24</u>
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<u>64.24</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	916.44
<b>TOTAL INCOME - TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	199.56

## SMARS Board Meeting February 27, 2012

Called to Order: 5:04 PM

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

**Topics:**

- ◆ Tom WR8G prepared and mailed a new issue of Feedback. This issue was well received and has brought several new (or renewed) memberships.
- ◆ The "Ham in a day" session went well, with more than 10 new hams and upgrades.
- ◆ Skywarn training is March 3 at the Lakeview Middle School from 10am until noon and an afternoon session for more advanced topics.
- ◆ Most of the meeting involved tasks involved with the upcoming Hamfest.
- ◆ Tasks include ticket sales, concessions, parking and VE session. Everything seems to be on schedule.

Adjourned: 6:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

*(In the news, continued from page 1)*

The Amateur Radio Club at San Diego's Mt. Carmel High School launched a weather balloon and was able to track it to a point greater than 100,000 feet. Onboard were 4 video cameras, a still camera and sensors for air pressure, internal temperature, external temperature, magnetic compass, gyroscope, 3 axis accelerometer and 2 GPS systems. Telemetry was received through out almost the entire flight from the onboard UHF radio operating at 20 milliwatts.

The Battle Creek Enquirer has a story online about the local Skywarn seminar that was held Saturday, March 3rd. This story has been linked to by several national ham news services.

There were approximately 100 people in attendance for the presentation by Jim Maczko. A major point made during the seminar was the importance of trained spotters even with advances in technology. There is much information that cannot be recorded without the assistance of the spotter.

## Hamfests

03/10/2012: MOVARC Hamfest

Gallipolis, OH

Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club

<https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>

03/10/2012: Terre Haute Hamfest and Computer Expo

Terre Haute, IN

Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association

<http://w9uuu.org>

**03/17/2012: Crossroads Hamfest 2012**

**Marshall, MI**

**Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society**

**<http://www.w8df.com/hamfest.html>**

03/18/2012: Hamfest 2012

Jefferson, WI

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club -- W9MQB

<http://w9mqb.org/>

03/18/2012: TMRA Hamfest/Computer Fair

Perrysburg, OH

Toledo Mobile Radio Association

<http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

03/30/2012: AES SUPERFEST 2012

Milwaukee, WI

Amateur Electronic Supply

<http://www.aesham.com>

03/31/2012: Columbus Hamfest

Columbus, IN

Columbus Amateur Radio Club

<http://carcnet.org>

04/07/2012: ARGYL Hamfest & Computer Show

Lowell, MI

Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell

<http://www.argyl.org>

04/14/2012: Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 58th Annual Hamfest

Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2012.html>

04/14/2012: Madison Hamfest

Stoughton, WI

Madison Area Repeater Association

<http://www.qsl.net/mara/swapfest.html>

04/14/2012: Milford Swap and Shop

Highland, MI

Milford Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk>

Hamfest/Convention

04/15/2012: AAROFest 2012

Galva, IL

Area Amateur Radio Operators (AARO)

<http://aa9ro.com>

04/21/2012: 2012 Jackson County ARC Hamfest

Jackson, OH

Jackson County Amateur Radio Club

<http://jacksoncountyararc.org/index.html>

04/21/2012: North Central Indiana Hamfest

Mexico, IN

Grant County, Miami County, Cass County, & Kokomo ARCs

<http://nci-hamfest.net>

04/22/2012: Arthur Hamfest

Arthur, IL

Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub

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

Do you know of a amateur radio related event that isn't listed in this news letter? If so, please contact the news-letter 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.

**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

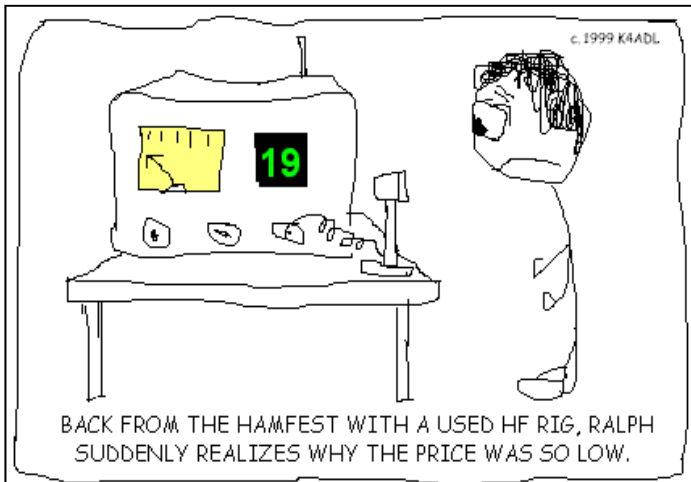
70cm and 1.25 meter repeaters are linked. Also available via echolink.



**Ham in a day class to be offered**

There will be a ham in a day class offered on April 28th. Both tech and general training are scheduled. As always, the class sessions will be followed by a VE testing session. The fee for the class is \$35 which includes the VE testing fee. For persons that wish to test only, the standard VE testing fee of \$15 applies. Please check the April edition of Feedback for details on location, times and contact information.

**Humor**



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

**A happy ham:** One who's XYL (or OM) just passed her (or his) license exam.

**Transmatch:** A dating service for cross-dressers.

**How to have everybody think you're a LID:** Get on the air and ask them to report your SWR. Works best when you ask several people in a row the same thing. (I actually had someone ask this a while back. Even my XYL who isn't a ham and has no interest in becoming one, knew better. I'm really hoping that the guy was pulling my leg.—WR8G)

**Classified**

Classified ads due by 1st Sunday of publication month.

**For Sale**

All sorts of ham radio Equipment and antennas.

**Call Bev Williams, KA8CXS 964-3197**

**FOR SALE From Estate of KG8GZ**

Get it now or at CROSSROADS SWAPSHOP	
Kenwood TM241 VHF Transceiver	\$75
Kenwood TM621 VHF/220-225Mhz Dual Band	\$200
Astron 35 Amp Power Supply	\$75
Pyramid 20 Amp Power Supply	\$50
ICT 12012-20A Switching Power Supply	\$45
MFJ 422B-X Keyer	\$70
Uniden BC175XL Scanner	\$15
Radio Shack PRO-2026 Scanner	\$30

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

**Editorial**

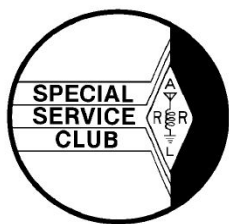
The success of this newsletter, like any other, depends on having articles available to include in the content. So, this is a call to everybody that is or has done something of interest involving ham radio (that should be every one of you) to spend some time writing it down. Don't worry if you aren't a great writer, editors need to do something. The length can be from a couple of paragraphs to many pages.

Of special interest are "how I did it" articles. These need not be "best" way of doing something, just how you got the task done. I belong to several computer clubs and the how I did it segments almost always get the most interest.

On another note, I've noticed that turnout at some of the club events is rather light. I try to attend as many of these as I can, but it sure would be nice to see some new faces. If you know any ham (or anybody interested in being a ham), drag them kicking and screaming to the next regularly scheduled event.

# 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: Mar 15 @ 7:00 PM**

**Marshall Hamfest: Mar 17, 8:00 AM—12:00PM**  
(VE Testing at 10:00 AM)

**SMARS Breakfast: Apr 7 @ 8:30 AM**

**BLB Luncheon: Apr 12 @ 11:30 AM**

**Club meeting: Apr 19 @ 7:00 PM**

**Ham in a day: Apr 28 @ 10:00 AM (Tech / General)**  
(VE Testing 3:30 PM)