



FEEDBACK

March 2018

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (w8aez@arrl.net) and get it published in FEEDBACK!

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell, purchase or swap amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.

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Have Gear to Buy, Swap or Sell?

Come to the March 17th Crossroads Hamfest!



The annual Crossroads Hamfest will be held from **8am-noon** at the **Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan**.

If you have items to sell or swap and need a table or floorspace, contact us soon as they are going FAST! Interested in testing for your first license or for a license upgrade? Drop in to the amateur radio testing session will begin at 10:00am in the upper level conference room. The fee to test is \$15, payable by cash or check made out to the ARRL VEC. Examinees who are for an upgrade should bring a copy of their current amateur radio license with them as well.

For more information or to place a table reservation, please visit the Crossroads Hamfest website <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest> or email crossroadshamfest@w8df.com. We hope to see you all there!



Color the Bands Green for Saint Patrick's Day

Posted 03/12/2018 www.arrl.org

Radio amateurs around the world will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on the air during the [St Patrick Award](#) activity. The St Patrick Award activity will get under way at 1200 UTC on March 16 and continue until 1200 UTC on March 18. (St Patrick's Day is March 17.) Radio amateurs or SWLs are invited to take part. Awards will be in four categories: SPD Station Award (for registered stations); Fixed Station Award; Mobile Station Award, and Short Wave Listener Award.

[Register](#) to be an official participating station. [Visit](#) the event's Facebook page.

— Thanks to Bobby Wadey, MIORYL

Upcoming Radio Contests

Looking for a little action on the airwaves? You might want to check out these upcoming contests!

Louisiana QSO Party – CW, Ph, Dig
3/17 – 3/18/2018
<http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/>

Virginia QSO Party – CW, Ph, Dig
3/17-3/18/2018
<http://www.qsl.net/sterling/>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest– CW
3/19/2018
qrptest.com/pigrun

RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship–
SSB
3/22/2018
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf>

SARL 80-Meter QSO Party – Ph
4/05/2018
<http://www.sarl.org.za/>

Florida State Parks on the Air– CW,
Ph
4/07 – 4/08/2018
flspota.org/rules/

Mississippi QSO Party – CW, Ph, Dig
4/07 – 4/08/2018
arrlmiss.org

Missouri QSO Party – CW, Ph, Dig
4/07 – 4/08/2018
www.w0ma.org

**Texas State Parks on the Air – CW
Party** – CW, Ph, Dig
4/07 – 4/08-2018
www.tspota.org

New Mexico QSO Party – CW, Ph, Dig
4/14 – 4/15/2018
www.newmexicoqsoparty.org

North Dakota QSO Party – CW, Ph,
Dig
4/14 – 4/15/2018
<http://www.kg0yl.net/QSO.html>

Just When You Thought It Was Safe: Chinese Over-the-Horizon Radar Appears on 40 Meters

Posted 03/12/2018 www.arrl.org

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System ([IARUMS](#)) reports that one of China's over-the-horizon radar (OTHR) installations has been causing interference in the Amateur Radio 7 MHz band. The IARUMS [February newsletter](#) reports on that intruder and others.

Other top 5 intruders include a "single-letter beacon" transmitting either the letter "K" or the letter "T" on 7039.3 kHz. The source is believed to be the Russian Pacific in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. A Russian F1B teleprinter signal (RDL) has appeared on 7193 kHz, with an encrypted frequency-shift-keyed (50-baud) signal, originating in Kaliningrad. Authorities in Germany and Switzerland have filed official complaints.

A Russian orthogonal frequency-division multiplex OFDM 60 signal has been showing up on 14.235 MHz, covering 2.76 kHz. It's said to be located in Moscow. Three Russian OFDM 60 signals were active at the same time on February 13. A Russian F1B signal has been observed on 14.308 MHz, 50 baud, 500 Hz shift, also reported to be in Moscow.

In the "miscellaneous or bad news" category, IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, reports Spanish-speaking "fishermen" on 3560 kHz (USB), heard daily at 1600 UTC or later. These signals have been heard on other 80-meter frequencies. Broadcaster Radio Hargeisa in Somaliland continued to be reported on 7.120 MHz (AM) daily. On 7.175 MHz, Radio Eritrea continues to be jammed daily with white noise transmissions attributed to Radio Ethiopia. The third harmonic of Radio Tajik on 4765 kHz is still being heard on 14.295 MHz.

Launch of "SpaceBEEs" Unauthorized, FCC Tells California Technology Developer

Posted 03/13/2018 www.arrl.org

On the same launch as an Amateur Radio satellite in January from India, some tiny 0.25 U CubSats called SpaceBEEs — not to be confused with the fantasy insects in the "Futurama" TV cartoon — also went into space when they apparently should not have.

Last December, in a letter to their developer, [Swarm Technologies Inc.](#) of Los Altos, California, Anthony Serafini, the Chief of the FCC's Experimental Licensing Branch, advised that the FCC was unable to grant the company's application for an Experimental authorization in association with deployment and operation of "four spacecraft smaller than 10 cm in one of their three dimensions."

In dismissing the application without prejudice, the FCC said the spacecraft were below the size threshold "at which detection by the

Upcoming Radio Contests

(Continued...)



Georgia QSO Party – CW, Ph, Dig
4/14 – 4/15/2018

<http://www.georgiaqsoparty.org/>

Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest
-CW

4/14 – 4/15/2018

<http://gc.qst.ru/en/section/32>

ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB – Ph
4/15/2018

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

Holyland DX Contest – CW, Ph, Dig
4/20 – 4/21/2018

<http://iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest>

Nebraska QSO Party – CW, Ph, Dig
4/21 – 4/22/2018

<http://qcwa.org/chapter025.htm>

Michigan QSO Party – CW, Ph
4/21 – 4/22/2018

<http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm>

Ontario QSO Party – CW, Ph
4/21- 4/22/2018

<http://www.va3cco.com/oqp>

Florida QSO Party – CW, Ph
4/28 – 4/29/2018

<http://floridaqsoparty.org/rules>

**A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

Space Surveillance Network (SSN) can be considered routine.” The FCC said the proposed addition of KU-band radar reflectors would overcome the issue only with respect to the small portion of the SSN that utilizes the KU band.

“In the absence of tracking at the same level as available for objects of 10 cm × 10 cm × 10 cm, and in the event of a conjunction with an operational spacecraft, the ability of operational spacecraft to reliably assess the need for and plan effective collision avoidance maneuvers will be reduced or eliminated,” the FCC said.

Last week, the FCC e-mailed Swarm Technologies that its application for an additional experimental authorization had been set aside and was “in a pending status for further review.”

“The International Bureau requested that the grant be set aside in order to permit assessment of the impact of the applicant’s apparent unauthorized launch and operation of four satellites, and related statements and representations, on its qualifications to be a Commission licensee,” the FCC informed Swarm Technologies.

Swarm told the FCC in an appendix to its experimental radio authorization application that it was seeking to demonstrate “two-way communications satellites to serve as a cost-effective low-data rate Internet of Things (IoT) network connectivity solution for remote and mobile sensors.”

Operating notes: icy antenna, 30m DX, homebrew rigs

march 4, 2018 by [dan kb6nu](#)

Weather here in Michigan is crazy, especially when the seasons turn. On Wednesday, for example, the temperature here was in the 60s. On Thursday, however, the temperature dropped to around freezing, and we got nearly six inches of snow.

The snow was the heavy, wet kind, and it coated [my Cobra antenna](#) and the support ropes. I should have taken a picture. The snow coating was about two inches in diameter.

I’m used to having to re-tune the antenna when the 450 Ω ladder line gets wet, but this was a completely different situation. I couldn’t get a good match at all. I just turned the radio off and waited until the next day when all the ice and snow had melted off the antenna.

30m DX

30m seems to be picking up after the winter doldrums. Yesterday, the band was alive with DX from Europe. The first indication of that was that DDK9, the German RTTY weather station on 10100.8 kHz was S9 here.

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

03/17/2018

2018 Michigan Crossroads Hamfest

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL

Hamfest Sponsor: Southern

Michigan Amateur Radio Society

www.w8df.com/hamfest

03/18/2018

Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest & Computer Fair

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio

www.tmrahamradio.org

04/29/2018

1st Annual GMARC Swap & Shop

Location: Madison Heights, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: General Motors Amateur

www.gmarc.org/SwapInfo



Silent Key Notice

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Eric Gerber, KD8UJT, father of Dave Gerber AB8HK and daughter-in-law Rene Gerber KC8SLI. Eric will be remembered for his willingness to lend a hand, such as setting up for our Hamfests and at Field Day. Eric's other passion was aviation and flying with his son, Dave. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Eric's friends and family as they grieve his loss.

I worked several Europeans, including J42CPMV (Greece), F4HEC, and F6FGB. The latter actually answered my CQ. I love it when DX answers your CQ.



Working guys with homebrew rigs

One of the other contacts I made was with a guy using a homebrew rig. I answered his CQ, but then he seemed to disappear on me. I did notice a signal on the band scope about 400 Hz down the band, though. I couldn't hear it because I had the filter set so tight. I tuned down and sure enough it was him. (Actually, that's why the RIT is set to -0.43 in the IC-7300 screenshot above.)

After my next transmission, the same thing happened. He obviously had to re-tune his rig, so that he could hear me. I learned my lesson and left my dial right where it was.

So, I learned a couple of lessons:

1. Don't set the filters tighter than you have to. You might miss someone that's slightly off your frequency for some reason.
2. If a station disappears on you, scan the bandscope or tune around. The other station's transmitter may have shifted frequency for any number of reasons. That's no reason to lose a contact.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Meeting Minutes 02/15/2018

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

Officers present – Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Jay N8ARR, Jan W8JKG.
23 members in attendance total.

Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were accepted.

Committee reports

Hamfest 2018 – Signs have been updated with day and time. Door prizes are on hand as well as gift packages from ARRL. Tables are very slowly getting ordered. Emails sent to regular vendors.

Skywarn – Next meeting will be held February 20th. A problem was found with the backup transmission so there wasn't a second test. Perhaps it will happen next month.

SKYWARN training to be held at Lakeview Middle School February 24th, 10:00am-noon.

Next HIAD March 10th at DPW office on Kendall. VEs will be needed.

Last siren test was 100% covered and successful.

VE Session – Coming up on February 22nd at Maple Methodist Church.

Field Day – Paperwork has been submitted to Ft. Custer and has been approved. This year FD will be June 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Insurance riders have been received and forwarded to Custer. Board has decided to operate at full power for this one year to see if we get more contacts, even though it will mean fewer points.

MSPOTA – May 5th at Ft. Custer. One trailer will be used as last year. Saturday siren test (and lunch) will interrupt for those who have an assigned location. Again, like last year.

Old Business

Nothing brought up.

New Business

George K8GG still has several years of QST magazines on disc that are looking for a new home. (Late update: someone has expressed an interest).

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

Board Meeting 3/06/2018

Officers present - Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR, Gary, N8QC.

Others present - John W8JRD

Called to order at 1730.

Hamfest – Modified signs are on hand and will be placed on Friday afternoon the 16th. A meeting will be held with Melissa at Wings to make sure all our ducks are in a row. We have sold nearly 120 tables at this time and will ask Melissa to rent another 30 just to cover late purchases.

John mentioned that John Tucker from the Kalamazoo club has a TS430 from an estate that he would like to have placed on a table to be sold. The board agreed that he could place it on our front table without a charge to further relations with the local club.

HIAD – To be held at DPW on Kendall on Saturday the 10th. So far we understand that there may be 18 candidates and 8 VEs have mentioned they will be available.

Doc's equipment – Randy has mentioned that we have until near the end of March to do something about the equipment in the basement. Randy may be moving out of the house on the 17th. After which time the bank trustees will have to worry about it. Very little interest has been shown in getting the equipment.

A discussion of the possibility of holding the Christmas party at the new banquet room at Coney Island. Steph and Terry will discuss with the management soon. The board would like to bring more business to Coney Island because of the care and interest we get from them. Also, attendees would be able to order right off the menu rather than selecting from a short list. If it is possible, the idea will be brought before the entire membership later.

Meeting adjourned at 1822.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

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 146.79 MHz, -600 KHz offset

*1.25m Repeater 224.240 MHz, -1.6 MHz offset

APRS Digipeater/igate, 144.39 MHz

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

70cm DStar Repeater 442.7625 MHz, +5 MHz offset

***Note:** 70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via Echolink.

Other Repeaters

2m Repeater 147.120 MHz, +600 KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

<p>Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p>SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>SMARS Nets: Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 MHz Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 MHz Monday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz Wednesday 7:00 PM, 224.24 /443.95 MHz Wednesday 8:00 PM, 28.365 MHz Saturday 8:00 PM, 224.24 / 443.95 MHz</p> <p>Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Club Meeting: March 15, 2018 @ 7:00pm *Crossroads Hamfest: March 17th, 8am-12pm *Hamfest VE Session begins @ 10:00am Board Meeting: April 3rd @ 5:30am BLB Luncheon: April 5th @ 11:30am Club Breakfast: April 14th @ 8:30am Club Meeting: April 19th @ 7:00pm VE Session: April 26th @ 7:00pm</p>
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