



FEEDBACK

May 2013

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.

Inside this issue:

Meeting Minutes	3
Board Meeting Minutes	5
Treasurer's report	5
Hamfests	4
Club Repeaters	4
Upcoming events and local nets	6

What's a Field Day?

Every year amateur radio operators gather together in some place or other and take part in a contest that is not a contest --- HUH? Field Day is not supposed to be a contest, instead, the idea is to see how well amateurs can function as communicators under adverse conditions, either as individuals or in groups. This is an opportunity for all hams to participate. Here a technician licensed ham can make HF contacts if an appropriately licensed ham is by his side as a control operator. There will be plenty of general class hams to help.

Finding a site for this activity can be interesting – our club SMARS has used a farm field, a hill top, a deep woods forest, an abandoned radar site and more recently an airport. Each of the above places has had interesting activities associated with them. The farm field wasn't very good as far as contacts being made, but it was exciting when a VHF tower fell across the campfire late at night. The hill top (known as MOA's Hill) was the highest spot in the county. Many a night was spent with cups of Ted's gunpowder soup (made with plenty of peppers, tomatoes and other goodies, remembering always to empty the Tabasco bottle in the tub and then tossing in the bottle). Fort Custer supplied the deep woods together with an ample supply of poison ivy,

Perhaps the old radar site has the richest of memories. For several years in a row, one of our members and his wife prepared a large turkey that always seemed to disappear. Another member and his father had a pig roasting setup that gave many members a satisfying meal. The ladies always brought or prepared much of the necessities for meals. Not to be forgotten was the time the ladies started their cooking on top of one BIG wasp nest. Sometimes the left hand and the right hand don't talk to each other enough. One late evening a police patrol came near our site and when he saw so many lights and people called in about a riot and wild party going on --- he was much relieved when dispatch told him what was happening. Message: always let the authorities know what you're doing.

Never to be forgotten were the years at Cornwell's Turkey farm using a non-commercial power source --- an old fashioned steam tractor with a large belt driving a couple alternators that powered all the needs of the site. There is nothing that gets your attention like the whooping of a steam whistle nearby. (Does anyone still have one of the small tooters that were used?)

What is Field Day? It's fun, crazy, and a chance for hams to have a great time.

73, Marion WA8MFL (SK)



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

May 16th, 2013 @ 7 PM

BLB Luncheon

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

Next meeting

June 13th @ 11:30 AM

SMARS Breakfast

1st Saturday of every month
Homespun, 210 E. Columbia Av
Battle Creek, MI

Next Meeting

June 1st @ 8:30 AM

SKYWARN Coffee

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

Next Meeting

June 1st

Notes From the VE Team

The VEs from SMARS were busy these last few weeks. The regular April session resulted in 2 new Techs and one new General.

There was also a VE session held at the May 4th "Ham in a Day" put on by the local RACES/CERT/SAR organization. That one was a doozie with a total of 39 candidates and 28 new Techs and 4 new Generals.

The next VE session is scheduled for June 27, 7pm at the Maple United Methodist Church. Walk-ins are always welcome.

The April VE team: **Walter, K8AEM; Erv, N8YEA; Gary, N8QC; Stephanie, W8AEZ; Doc, K8OLY and Tom, WR8G.**

The May VE team: **Gary, N8QC; Tom, WR8G; Don, W8RVT; Doc, K8OLY; Terry, KD8TCE (his first!); and Stephanie, W8AEZ.** An I'd also like to thank the helpers Chris Williams; **Janice, W8JKG; Rosemary, WA8VXE; Judy, KD8SHK; Don, KB9IAR and Jim, KD8MNQ.**

Anyone with a General Class license or above that is interested in becoming a VE, please contact me for more info.

That's all for now.

73,

John W8JRD

ARRL VE Team Liaison

Meeting Minutes 04/18/2013

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 with changes. Treasurer's report accepted.

Committee reports:

- **Hamfest 2014** – No advanced tickets will be sold for next year; all will be sold at the door, even to club members. Vendors will get theirs with confirmation letters.
- **RACES** – Ken reports that there are 25 sirens on the test list. Several more siren locations have been added to the test list. Extra volunteers will be needed to cover them all. Most recent check-ins to the SKYWARN net were 38 to the VHF repeater, 35 on the simplex frequency and 30 on the UHF repeater. This is out of 57 names on the list. The Emergency Preparation Fair in Marshall had K8BRY and the RACES trailer showing Amateur Radio to those present. 160 people attended the SKYWARN training which was twice the attendance of last year. Two community service opportunities are coming up: 4/27 is the Walk into Spring @ Lakeview High School and the March of Dimes Walk at Binder Park Zoo. Each opportunity requires several radio operators as well as the RACES trailer.
- **Ham In A Day** – May 4th 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the BC Dept of Public Works, 150 S. Kendall. This being a Saturday, parking should not be a problem. Note that this is also a siren test Saturday.
- **Field Day** – Trying to get the airport lot at the end of Territorial Road to make it more visible

to the general public. Doc will contact Don Baumer for approval. Another location at 15 Mile Road.

Old Business:

- Library Donation – John reports that books have been ordered for the library in Marion's name. Thanks to Steph for her help.
- We are still in need of a coffee provider, if anyone is willing to volunteer.
- Jerry Longman's widow still wants to get rid of his old radios.
- The Michigan QSO party is on the 20th but no interest was shown to get trailers out and placed to participate.
- Trailer signage is still open. This needs to be expedited if it is to be done by Field Day.

New Business:

- A vendor is expected on site for the HIAD who will have some radios and programming cables
- Presentation: John and Steph showed pics of their visit to the USAF museum.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett KD8OXR, Secretary

Hamfests

05/17/2013: Dayton Hamvention
Trotwood, OH
Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)
<http://hamvention.org>

06/01/2013: Fulton County ARC Hamfest
Tedrow, OH
Fulton County Amateur Radio Club
<http://k8bxq.org>

06/01/2013: Independent Repeater Association W8IRA/R
Hamfest
Hudsonville , MI
Independent Repeater Association
<http://www.w8ira.org>

06/02/2013: Chelsea Radio Swap 'n Shop
Chelsea, MI
Chelsea Amateur Radio Club
<http://wd8iel.net>

06/02/2013: Starved Rock Radio Club's (W9MKS) 2013
Hamfest
Princeton, IL
Starved Rock Radio Club
<http://www.w9mks.org>

06/15/2013: Midland Hamfest
Midland, MI
Midland Amateur Radio Club
<http://w8kea.org>
Eastside Christian Church

06/15/2013: MILFORD HAMFEST
Milford, OH
Milford Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.w8mrc.com>

06/16/2013: Monroe Hamfest
Monroe, MI
Monroe County Radio Communications Association
<http://www.mcrca.org>

06/16/2013: Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest
Wheaton, IL
Six Meter Club of Chicago
<http://k9ona.com>

07/06/2013: Swapfest '13
Oak Creek, WI
South Milwaukee ARC
<http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe>

07/14/2013: FRRL Hamfest
Aurora, IL
Fox River Radio League
<http://frrl.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>

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, 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

**Other Area Repeaters:
Skywarn/ARES/RACES**

2 Meter: 147.12, +600KHz offset, PL 186.2
70cm: 442.350, +5MHz offset, PL 94.8



Board Meeting 05/07/2013

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

Field Day – Don wants to have at least 4 batteries on hand for the transmitting positions. There are enough computers on hand to cover and the logging software will work.

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 again, we hope. Doc will bring lemonade and water.

Other – Gary will bring his 1:1 balun for the Mosley beam antenna.

Trailers – It was suggested that once the trailers have signage on them, they will no longer be insured by the towing vehicle’s policy. This has not been confirmed and should be looked into.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, KD8OXR, Secretary

Income and Expense Statement

4/1/13 Through 4/30/13

Category Description	4/1/13-4/30/13
INCOME	
50 50 Interest Inc: Checking	12.00
	0.32
TOTAL Interest Inc	0.32
TOTAL INCOME	12.32
EXPENSES	
Equipment Hamfest: Administration	25.00
Door Prize	87.45
	151.33
TOTAL Hamfest	238.78
Memorial Fund	200.00
Utilities: Telephone	79.06
TOTAL Utilities	79.06
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	542.84
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-530.52

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

Upcoming events:

Club meeting: May 16th @ 7:00 PM
SMARS Breakfast: June 1st @ 8:30 AM
SKYWARN Coffee: June 1st after siren test
BLB Lunch: June 13th @ 11:30 AM
Club meeting: Jun 20th @ 7:00 PM
VE Testing: June, 27th @ 7:00 PM