



# FEEDBACK

May 2016

### Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor ([ac8ps@arrl.net](mailto:ac8ps@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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### Inside this issue:

KB6NU Article	1
Meeting Minutes	2
VE Liaison Report	3
Swap Shop	3
Club Repeaters	3
Upcoming events and local nets	4

### I'm EXTRA Ignorant

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

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When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well--operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com), and you can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## SMARS Meeting Minutes 04/21/2016

Meeting called to order at 19:00

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Brian W8BDM, Janice W8JKG

21 members in attendance

Secretary's report accepted as published in the "Feedback" and as passed around.

Treasurer's report not available.

### Committee reports:

Hamfest: 617 Ticket Sales. All of the Tables were sold out and them a few extra. Thank you to all helped make it a success. Next year we are planning for March 18th. We need to start think about a new chairperson and committee. The VE session had 29 people test and kept the VEs very busy.

Skywarn: They acquired a new Net Controller (Roy Lafountain). They also conducted a SET drill on simplex last Saturday. HQ was the Marshall Fair Grounds.

Field Day: Brian W8BDM and Jay N8ARR did some work on the VHF trailer. All wheel bearings re-packed. Repaired the break-away system. Put air in the tires and validated the operation of the brakes. We have at least one brake that needs further repairs.

Repeater Site: The condition of the computers isn't too good at analog club repeater site. Terry N8LN reported that the UHF D-Star repeater is ready to be installed. Just waiting for the right opportunity and a climber. The 5th District Project is still progressing with three D-Star towers (PawPaw 350', Somerville 250', Coldwater 350'). Looking for a donation of internet service.

### Old Business:

Due to vacancy of treasurer, a motion was made to ratify the recommendation of the Board. The motion was passed.

### New Business:

Jay N8ARR will be contacting city to secure site for field day again.

### Presentation:

· None

Quote of the Meeting: "Let's let them fight over who goes first"

Closed: 19:48

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

## SMARS Board Meeting Minutes 05/03/2016

The Board meeting was called to order at 5pm, at the Coney Island restaurant as usual.

Board members present were: Gary-N8QC, Stephanie-W8AEZ, Doc-K8OLY and Jan-W8JKG. Recent VE totals are as follows:

- April 28th (regular VE session), 1 person showed up and went home a Technician.
- H.I.A.D. on May 5th – 18 new Technicians and 2 upgraded Generals. Field Day was discussed;
- Jay-N8ARR and Doc-K8OLY will order the Saturday night food. We will have pulled pork once again, this year being pulled, not shredded.
- Jay-N8ARR will order the Port-A-Potty.
- We will need a 3rd computer. Gary-N8QC has a laptop that might work sufficiently. He will check and report back to Tom. If it will work, it will be donated to the club. All the cabling and routers are in the trailers.
- At the last club meeting it was discussed that Jay/Brian-N8ARR/W8BDM would check on prices for tires (2 new for each trailer). The Board will follow up on his recommendations.
- The topic of a Generator was brought up once again. Stephanie will check into the availability to use Rosie's Honda, used on previous Field Days. The generator is only used to maintain the computers used to log contacts. As of the meeting: The generator is available to purchase so Gary-N8QC will buy and club can use it when needed.
- Due to Dayton, Gary will not be available to run the Club meeting on May 19th. Stephanie has graciously voluntold to chair the meeting. After a great meal, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

## VE Liaison Report

April was a busy month for the Volunteer Examiner Team. There were two testing sessions in April: the SMARS VE session on April 28th, and the Ham-In-A-Day test session on April 30th sponsored by Battle Creek CERT.

We had one examinee from the Jackson area who tested at the SMARS VE session and achieved his Technician's license. There were a total of 24 examinees at the HIAD session held at the Public Works Department. Always looking for ways to improve the efficiency of the VE Team and accuracy of the session paperwork, Gary N8QC and Terry N8LN piloted a new sorting-rack for exams. It was a very busy session for all VE's who assisted, which saw 18 people earn their Technician's license and 2 new General licensees.

Many thanks to all of the VE's who give their time and effort in the name of Amateur Radio. Your work is greatly appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Williams, N8QC  
VE Liaison

*Note from the Editor:*

*A typo was found in the SMARS repeaters section: the 70cm repeater was listed as 443.59MHz, while it is actually 443.95.*

## Swap Shop!

FOR SALE

TS440S has auto antenna tuner, YK88C cw filter and YK88N SSB filter. Radio is very clean, works great and includes mic and power cable. Asking \$450.

TS440S has suto antenna tuner. Radio is clean, works great and includes mic and power cable. Asking \$395.

I also have a PSK31 interface adapter, MB430 mounting bracket and a 40/80 meter dipole with 1:1 balun and 50 feet of RG8X. Any or all three can be included with either radio at asking price.

KDK FM240 2 meter transceiver that has transmit and receive CTCSS. This is a compact mobile radio that has a DTMF speakermike. Asking \$40.

Contact Don-W8RVT at [w8rvt@arrl.net](mailto:w8rvt@arrl.net) or Echolink or 269 963-7797 or any SMARS repeater.

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

- 2M Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 2M DStar 146.79MHz, -600KHz offset
- 70cm Repeater 443.95MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz
- 1.25M Repeater 224.24MHz, -1.6MHz offset
- APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39MHz

70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via echolink.

### Other Repeaters

- 2M Repeater 147.12MHz, +600KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2Hz
- 70cm Repeater 442.35MHz, +5MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz

# SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

<p><b>Club Meeting</b> 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017</p>	<p><b>SKYWARN Coffee</b> 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>BLB Luncheon</b> 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b> 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p><b>SMARS Nets:</b> Monday—Friday 11:30 AM, 146.66 Sunday Evening 8:00 PM, 146.66 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 <b>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b> Club Meeting: May 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am Siren Test: May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm Skywarn Coffee: Immediately after Siren Test SMARS Breakfast: May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am</p>
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