



FEEDBACK

November 2014

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (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.

Board of Directors

President

Gary Williams, N8QC
n8qc@arrl.net

Vice President

Dave "Doc" Ashbolt, K8OLY

Secretary

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR
n8arr@hughes.net

Treasurer

Don Larkin, W8RVT
w8rvt@arrl.net

Member At Large

Tom Goodson, WR8G
wr8g@arrl.net

Inside this issue:

Meeting Minutes	2
Treasurer's report	5
Hamfests	3
Club Repeaters	3
Upcoming events and local nets	6

Christmas Party

The SMARS Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 12th at 6:00pm at the Old China Super Buffet, 2580 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017.

Elections

It's that time of year again. Nominations will be presented / taken at the November 20th meeting. Elections will be held at the December 18th meeting. New and returning officers assume their duties starting in January.

Dues

And it is that time as well, time to pay your annual membership dues.

Are knobs and buttons toast?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In a recent column on EETimes (http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc_id=1324283), an old colleague of mine, Martin Rowe, says, "Knobs and buttons are slowly on their way out. Get used to it." He's referring to the controls on oscilloscopes, but if he were a ham, he might just as well be talking about amateur radio transceivers, too.

We already see this happening in amateur radio. FlexRadio, and a couple of other companies, already make transceivers with no front panel controls. You must have a computer to use them.

Might we even start to see this with handheld and portable equipment? For example, how much cheaper could they make a Baofeng if to use it, you had to also have an Android or iPhone app to act as the human interface?

To be honest, I haven't really thought about this much myself. I'm enough of a dinosaur to still prefer buttons and knobs, but having to use on-screen controls certainly doesn't turn me off. Rowe claims, however, that "as the old-timers retire (or in our case as older hams become SKs), younger engineers (or young hams) will

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

expect every user interface to function like a phone or tablet. Don't believe me? Just wait."

I got several interesting replies to this idea on my blog. Bill, AD8BC says, "What would be fun would be an open-source mobile radio. I picture an RF deck with a Raspberry Pi and touch screen for control, the Pi would simply tell the RF deck where to tune and handle the interface and scanning functions, it would ship with a stock app, but you could make your own. Built in support for SDR stuff, packet, APRS, remote operation...."

Most commenters, however, even the younger guys, still seem to prefer analog controls. Lucien, DH7LM, says, "I'm a newly licensed ham and I like both – experimenting with advanced computer stuff like SDRs and the great feeling a real radio provides!" Grant, KJ6ZZD, says, "Knobs perform some tasks better than a screen can. Knobs provide some tactile feedback that a screen just can't."

So, what do you think? Are knobs and buttons toast, or do you think there's still some life left in analog controls?

=====

When not twiddling the knobs on his HF transceiver or relatively ancient Tek 2213 analog oscilloscope, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Meeting Minutes 10/16/2014

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Doc K8OLY, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G. 30 members in attendance total!!

Secretary's report was accepted.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee reports:

Hamfest 2015 – We have received approval from the trustees of the KARC 147.000 repeater to use it for talk-ins.

Jay has checked from the parking lot to see if the repeater is accessible and it is. We can place a magnetic mount on the roof (steel construction) with a coax through the loading door to cover talk-ins. Flyers have been printed for the Kalamazoo Hamfest and more will be printed for Ft. Wayne, if someone is going there (hopefully). Brian Marsh W8BDM has volunteered to be ticket chairperson to get them printed soon. Thanks Brian! We need to have 1,000 for sale when table applications come in.

SKYWARN – One activation over the last month but nothing really developed. The next meeting is on Tuesday the 21st with a simplex check-in from wherever you want in the county, followed by the meeting at Leila Arboretum. Ken KC8QNQ will be roasting hot dogs! Mike W8MTX and Sunday KD8TKE have offered to loan a charcoal grille. Sounds like fun!

VE session – The next session will be held on the 23rd at the Maple Methodist Church in the Babcock Room (upstairs). We don't know how many people will be there but we will need VEs anyway.

Field Day 2015 – It is still early but we plan to operate at the airport, low power, with three trailers. We will make our location request around May 1st. Don reported that one of the computers didn't work properly last year and is looking for another Dell Optiplex. Terry N8LN offered one that was in his truck!! Thanks Terry! The club would like to have a Honda 2000 generator to power the computers and trailer lights and we are looking.

Repeater – Weather conditions haven't been good for tower climbing so nothing has been done about the 220 antenna troubles. If the weather is good on Sunday, something might be done.

Old Business: Louie's estate has finally been taken over by the attorneys. The tower and antennas still need to be removed, when weather and climber can coincide. There will be a memorial for Louie on Saturday, November 15th at 12:30 p.m. at Clara's Restaurant. Please contact Dave Kellogg KC8NZY to put your name on the attendance list. The list has to be turned in by November 1st.

New Business: Elections are coming up at the end of the year and nominations will be taken at the November meeting. Gary is willing to be President again but Doc,

(Continued on page 4)

Hamfests

12/06/2014 | Fulton County ARC Winterfest
 Location: Delta, OH
 Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://k8bxq.org>

12/07/2014 | LCARC Hamfest/Swap
 Location: Harrison Township, MI
 Sponsor: L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://www.qsl.net/n8lc/>

01/10/2015 | 43rd Annual Midwinter Swapfest
 Location: Waukesha, WI
 Sponsor: West Allis Radio Amateur Club
 Website: <http://www.warac.org/swap/index.htm>

01/11/2015 | Hazel Park ARC Swap
 Location: Hazel Park, MI
 Sponsor: Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://hparc.org>

01/18/2015 | S.C.A.R.F Hamfest
 Location: Nelsonville, OH
 Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
 Website: <http://www.scarfarc.com>

01/18/2015 | WCRA's 48th Annual Mid-Winter Hamfest
 Location: St. Charles, IL
 Sponsor: Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
 Website: <http://wheatonhamfest.org>

02/01/2015 | NOARS Winter Hamfest & Computer Show
 Location: Elyria, OH
 Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
 Website: <http://www.noars.net/>

02/14/2015 | 42nd Annual Amateur Radio Swap & Shop
 Location: Traverse City, MI
 Sponsor: Cherryland Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://www.cherrylandarc.com>

02/14/2015 | Hendricks County Hamfest
 Location: Brownsburg, IN
 Sponsor: Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society
 Website: <http://www.hcars.org/>

02/14/2015 | MRAC & MAARS Mid Winter Interclub Swapfest
 Location: Brookfield, WI
 Sponsor: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club & Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.w9rh.org>

02/15/2015 | Livonia ARC Swap-N-Shop
 Location: Livonia, MI
 Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

02/15/2015 | Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest
 Location: Mansfield, OH
 Sponsor: InterCity Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://www.W8WE.org>

02/28/2015 | DARC Hamfest
 Location: Dugger, IN
 Sponsor: Dugger ARC

03/14/2015 | Michigan Crossroads Hamfest and Radio Swap
 Location: Kalamazoo, MI
 Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society
 Website: <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest>

03/28/2015 | MOVARC HamFest
 Location: Gallipolis, OH
 Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley ARC
 Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>

04/11/2015 | Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 61st Annual Hamfest
 Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH
 Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club
 Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php>

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

Other Area Repeaters: Skywarn/ARES/RACES (WX8BTL)

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



(Continued from page 2)

Don, Jay and Tom are all willing to pass their positions to others. We know of 4 members who have expressed an interest in running!

Don reported a \$200 donation from Mr. Hal Thomas N8HAL of Kalamazoo. He is very pleased that the D-Star repeater is up and running which allows the 5th District Hospital net to run digitally. A letter has been sent to Mr. Thomas thanking him for his donation. There was also a \$40 donation from someone who has had help from one of our members. Neither name was provided.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Secretary

Board Meeting 11/04/2014

Attendees: Gary N8QC, Don W8RVT, Jay N8ARR, Tom WR8G, John W8JRD, Steph W8AEZ, Bev KA8CX5.

Called to order at 1700.

Treasurer's report was passed around.

Christmas Party – Set for December 12th at China Buffet's back room at 6:00 p.m. We will ask for a \$20.00 limit for gift exchange. Tom was asked to be sure notice is placed in the Feedback.

Hamfest 2015 – More flyers have been printed. Hopefully someone will be available to take some to the Ft. Wayne Hamfest in November (15th & 16th). We have been granted permission to use the .00 Kalamazoo repeater and it is easy to make contact from the parking lot. Tickets have also been printed.

Repeater – The 220 repeater antenna has been repaired and all reports have been good, although Don has heard some interference but not serious. What interference there is is only opening the squelch. He may add a PL (94.8) to the frequency in the future.

Field Day 2015 – Two used computers have been donated by Terry N8LN for trailer use. Thanks Terry!

HIAD – We will see if we can use the church Babcock room for the December VE session, on the second Thursday instead of the fourth, which is Christmas.

Elections – We continued the discussion about holding elections in October beginning next year. Board members thought it had merit and will be pursued. Also suggested was a two year term with offices alternating, i.e. President and Treasurer elected on year and VP/ Secretary the next. This would allow an overlap to help with transition.

A decision was made to hold on to the Kenwood TS440 from Louie's estate to replace the iCom HF rig in the trailer. This would mean all trailers would have the same radio available. Then the iCom could be placed in a "loaner" status for new hams.

Meeting adjourned at 1747.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

Calhoun County SKYWARN Club meeting 10/21/14.

Held at Leila Arboretum with hot dogs on the grill, which was donated to the club by George Mooch.
Called to order at 1930. Ken KC8QNN presiding.

Financial report – No financial report this month.

Jim Zoss reported that he has been trying to get a software package to access better radar information. A program called GR Level 3 is available and has been downloaded free for a 21 day sample. It can be purchased with a lifetime charge of \$80. This will read all radar wind profiles. It will be loaded on the county's computer which has been loaned to Jim. Voted and passed to spend the money.

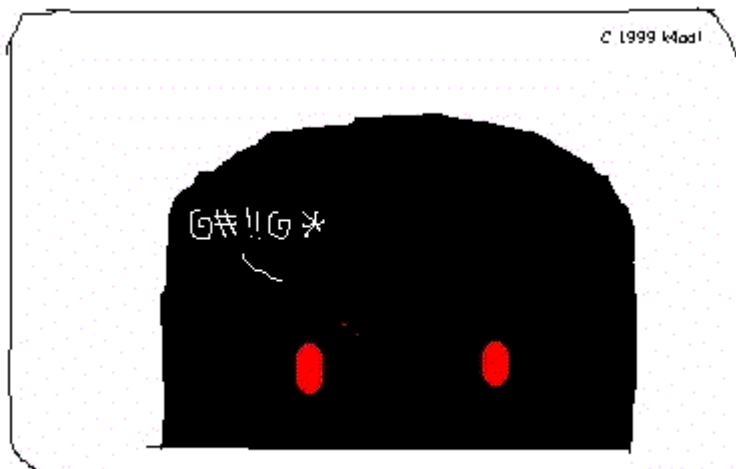
Meeting adjourned at 1936.

Respectfully submitted, Jay N8ARR.



Income and Expense Statement
10/1/14 Through 10/31/14

Category Description	10/1/14- 10/31/14
INCOME	
Dues:	
2015	51.00
TOTAL Dues	51.00
Gift Received	40.00
Hamfest Inc:	
Tables	120.00
Tickets	5.00
TOTAL Hamfest Inc	125.00
Interest Inc:	
Checking	0.18
TOTAL Interest Inc	0.18
TOTAL INCOME	216.18
EXPENSES	
Hamfest:	
Flyers	33.92
TOTAL Hamfest	33.92
Meetings:	
Refreshments	15.59
TOTAL Meetings	15.59
Utilities:	
Internet	22.00
Telephone	72.67
TOTAL Utilities	94.67
TOTAL EXPENSES	144.18
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	72.00



AT THE EXACT MOMENT THE RARE DX STATION RETURNS HIS CALL, EUGENE ENTERS THE TWO-MILE-LONG MOUNTAIN TUNNEL.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK

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

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

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

Upcoming events:

Club meeting: November 20th @ 7:00 PM

Siren test: December 6th @ 1:00 PM

SKYWARN Coffee: after siren test

SMARS Breakfast: December 13th @ 8:30 AM

BLB Lunch: December 11th @ 11:30 AM