



FEEDBACK

November 2015

Your Story:

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (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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n8qc@arrl.net

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w8aez@arrl.net

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brianmarsh@yahoo.com

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w8jrd@arrl.net

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turtlelakediane@yahoo.com

Inside this issue:

- KB6NU Article
- Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Christmas Party Info
- Club Repeaters
- Upcoming events and local nets

A new Heathkit! So, why am I not excited?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago I got an e-mail from Heathkit. Yes, the NEW Heathkit. you might remember that a couple of years ago, there was all this hype about a "new" Heathkit and how they were going to start designing new kits as well as revive popular old designs.

Then, nothing. They went completely quiet—until a couple of weeks ago. In an e-mail sent to their "insiders," they say:

"Dear Heathkit Insider,

'What I really hope Heathkit will produce,' a Silicon Valley colleague recently told me, 'is a new radio kit with a beautiful finish, maybe in rosewood.' Something great to enjoy building and learn from, and also visually stunning, so he could put it in his living room and keep it forever.

Today, my friend gets his wish.

They then go on to explain all of the work they've been doing in relocating Heathkit to Santa Cruz, CA, acquiring a second company, and securing all the intellectual property rights to the old Heathkit manuals and logos (meaning no more bootleg copies on the Internet). The e-mail continues:

"That's a lot, but there's more. We've designed and developed a wide range of entirely new kit products. We authored the manuals for these kits, complete with the beautiful line art you rely on, preserving and respecting our iconic historic Heathkit style. We developed many new inventions and filed patents on them.....We built the back office infrastructure, vendor and supply chain relationships, systems, procedures, operations methods, and well-thought-out corporate structure that a manufacturing company needs to support its customers, to allow us to scale instantly the day we resume major kit sales. All this effort enables us to introduce a fleet of new kits and helps ensure Heathkit can grow, prosper, and continue to bring you great new products for a very long time."

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So, what's the exciting news? A new QRP transceiver? Maybe a shortwave radio? A new 100-in-1 experimenter kit for Makers?

Uh-uh. Sorry. The "exciting" news is a tuned radio frequency (TRF) AM band (yes, I said AM band) radio kit that costs \$150 (<https://shop.heathkit.com/>). Not only is that crazy expensive for an AM radio, it doesn't even come with a speaker. On top of that, there's no soldering. You screw all of the components to the board. I'm speechless (well, figuratively, not literally).

I'm not sure what the target market is for this product. It's certainly not amateur radio operators, who expect a lot more (in terms of both functionality and "fun") for their money. Nor is it the "Maker" folks, who want something more challenging than an AM radio. I think that if I took this to show off at the local Ann Arbor Maker group, they'd laugh me out of the place.

I really hope that they have something better up their sleeves. A strong Heathkit would be good for the Maker movement and for ham radio.

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When not thinking about what kit to build next, Dan, KB6NU, operates CW on the HF bands (mostly 40m and 30m). His #1-rated amateur radio blog can be found at KB6NU.com, and you can e-mail questions, comments, or complaints to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

SMARS Meeting Minutes 10/15/15

Meeting called to order at 19:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Brian W8BDM, Tom WR8G, Diane KD8WXA

26 members in attendance

Secretary's report accepted as published in the "Feedback"

Treasurer's report accepted as published in the "Feedback"

Committee reports:

· Hamfest 2015 – Met with Wings Stadium and signed contract for HamFest. We are planning for 160 tables. Tickets and Flyers are printed.

· SKYWARN – We burn'd hotdogs

· VE sessions - Kalamazoo Hamfest (Oct 18th); SMARS (Oct 22nd); Barry County EOC HIAD (Nov 7th); City HIAD - Kendall Street (Nov 21st);

· Tech Committee - Motorola's are currently in place at repeater site. Still working on Fusion interface setup

Old Business:

· Reserved back room for Christmas Party at Clara's. Party will be Saturday, December 12th @ 6pm

New Business:

· Election of new 2016 officers:
Gary N8QC, President
Steph W8AEZ, Vice President
John W8JRD, Treasurer
Brian W8BDM, Secretary
Doc K8OLY, Member at Large

· Tom W8RG reported that the only item left from Louie's tower is the G5RV antenna.

· A special thanks to Doc for letting us utilize his property to store club trailers. All of the trailers have been relocated.

Presentation:

· Larry Camp presented an update on PRB-1

Quote of the Meeting: "Did you hear that?"

Closed: 20:17

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

Treasurer's Report:

Income and Expense Statement 10/1/2015 Through 10/31/2015 (Accrual Basis)

10/30/2015

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Category Description	10/1/2015- 10/31/2015
INCOME	
Hamfest Inc	
Tables	110.00
TOTAL Hamfest Inc	110.00
Sales	
Equipment	50.00
TOTAL Sales	50.00
TOTAL INCOME	160.00
EXPENSES	
Hamfest	
Flyers	102.27
TOTAL Hamfest	102.27
Meetings	
Rent	100.00
TOTAL Meetings	100.00
Utilities	
Internet	30.00
TOTAL Utilities	30.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	232.27
OVERALL TOTAL	-72.27

With the holiday season fast approaching, it's time to make plans to attend this year's SMARS club Christmas party! Clara's on the River will be hosting our event on Saturday, December 12th from 6:00-8:00pm. By popular vote at last month's club meeting, the four entree choices offered will be Club Car Chicken Hawaiian, Fettuccine Alfredo, Meat Lasagna, and Club Car Top Sirloin. The price per person is \$16.99 (with the exception of the Top Sirloin entree, cost of which is \$18.99) and includes pop, tea, or coffee. Other beverages will be available on a cash-bar basis. We will also do an optional gift-swap: men are invited to bring a gift for another man, and ladies may bring a gift for another lady. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ
SMARS Club Vice President

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 443.59MHz, +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>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, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p>SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p>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</p> <p>Please see page 3 for offsets and PL tones</p>	<p>Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: November 19th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: November 5th @ 11:30am Siren Test: November 7th @ 1:00pm Skywarn Coffee: Immediately after Siren Test SMARS Breakfast: November 14th @ 8:30am</p>
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