



# FEEDBACK

November 2016

## Equipment to Sell or Swap?

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  
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## News Flash.....News Flash.....News Flash.....



Plans are underway for the Premier Ham Radio Event in Michigan to take place at Michigan International Speedway in early October, 2017!

ARRL Michigan Section Manager Larry Camp, WB8R, will be presenting the exciting details of this event at our next club meeting on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> following the 7pm business portion of the meeting. All local HAMs are cordially invited to come and learn about this event. Feel free to spread the word about Larry's presentation to all with whom you are in contact!

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## Will we ever get the license structure right?

November 6, 2016  
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Ever since the incentive licensing fiasco of the 1960's, amateur radio operators have been complaining about the licensing structure. I'm not sure why we seem to constantly debate the topic. I guess hams think that if we just keep tweaking it, we'll finally get it calibrated just right and everyone will be motivated to upgrade to Extra and the bands will be jammed 24/7. One of the latest proposals is on eHam. There, W2EV, asks us to consider giving Technicians some limited phone priveleges on the HF bands. He writes:

“Technicians already have (vastly unused) CW privileges on 80 meters, 40 meters and 15 meters. Suppose they had HF voice privileges on those same bands, too! Something as simple as the same spectrum that General Class licensees enjoy, but restricted to 10 watts (I'm just spit-balling the power-level, for discussions' sake).”

Of course, this proposal was met with much opposition, many of whom said that the General Class test is not that much harder than the Tech test, and it's really not that much to ask that people who want to operate HF upgrade to



**Editor's Note:**

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor and get it published in FEEDBACK.

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General. Another interesting comment was that Techs be given digital privileges in addition to CW privileges. I kind of like that idea. Another, more radical approach was proposed by that iconoclast, Jeff, KE9V. He suggests doing away with testing altogether. I think a lot of what he has to say is true, but there are several problems with his approach. First, article 25.6 of the ITU Radio Regulations states:

25.6 2) Administrations shall verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station. Guidance for standards of competence may be found in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544. (WRC-03)

That is generally taken to mean administering tests, although Recommendation IRU-R M.1544 does seem to give some leeway. It recommends, "that administrations take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station." I suppose this verification could take place by a method other than by testing.

Therein lies the rub. Jeff doesn't really propose a new method for issuing licenses, except to suggest that local clubs somehow facilitate the process. I've been to a lot of clubs over the past ten years or so, and I don't think that many of them are really set up to do this. Nor do they have the desire or wherewithal to do it.

I don't think we're ever going to get it right. Besides, if we did, what would we complain about?

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](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). When he's not pondering the vagaries of the U.S. licensing system, you'll find him working CW on the HF bands.



**SMARS Meeting Minutes 10/20/2016**

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

Officers present – Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG. Board member absent; Brian W8BDM. 19 members in attendance total.

Secretary’s report was accepted.  
Treasurer’s report was accepted.

**Committee reports:**

Hamfest 2017 – Committee member list confirmed. Chair, Jay; Promotions, Smokey; Printing, Brian; Table layout, Tom; Reservations, Jan. Flyers and tickets have been printed and are in hand. Contact with ARRL and CQ Magazine has been initiated by Smokey, awaiting computer problem rectification for submission. Jay will be listed as Public Contact. Phone number on flyer is for a Google answering system. Tom will train contact in how to use. No tickets will be sent to vendors; tickets must be picked up at the door. Flyers will be given to Terry who plans on attending the Fort Wayne Hamfest in November. Discussion regarding door prizes along with acquisition will begin in January.

SKYWARN – Terry did an ID-51 presentation at the last meeting (10/18). Smokey informed the group that there is a plan to have a Ham EXPO/CERT/SAR promotion on a Saturday in April (maybe the 15<sup>th</sup>) at the Marshall FG. Free food may be served!! The hope is that a trailer from the club could be set up and operating. The idea is to promote CERT/SAR but with a slant to amateur radio involvement in same. Smokey was asked to be liaison regarding this.

VE session – Coming up Oct 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at Maple United Methodist Church. Terry has two people interested in testing.

Field Day – Members agreed to meet at airport, assuming we can reserve the land. June 24/25 are the dates. Members agreed that Hogzilla will be fine for food.

Christmas party – Group is booked into Clara’s for Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 pm. Steph is planning on meeting the manager to discuss the menu for the evening. A head count will be taken during the November meeting. A \$20 limit is suggested for gift exchange.

**SMARS Board Meeting Minutes 11/01/16**

Meeting called to order at 17:00

Attendees –  
Gary Williams N8QC (President)  
Stephanie Halbert W8AEZ (Vice-President)  
Brian Marsh W8BDM (Secretary)

Jay Jarrett N8ARR  
Tom Goodson WR8G  
Smokey N5MKY

**Business:**

Hamfest Preparations-  
-We submitted listing with ARRL  
-Terry (N8LN) will be taking our flyers to Fort Wayne Ham Fest  
-General discussion about prizes. No decisions.

Discussion about Michigan State Park on the Air Events (MSPOTA)

Grand Opening is Field Day 2017  
Reminder of the upcoming Ham Fest event  
Fort Wayne Ham Fest – November 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

Quote of the Meeting: "I had to get my doggie taken care of"

Closed: 18:05

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Marsh W8BDM, secretary

**Treasurer's Report  
Income & Expenses 10/01/16 - 11/12/16:**

Total Income:	0.04	Dividends
Expenses:		
10/05/16	20.00	State of MI certificate renewal
10/25/16	10.00	Refreshments
10/25/16	127.16	Tables
10/25/16	271.09	Brakes & Hamfest flyers
<hr/> Total Expenses:	428.25	

Respectfull submitted,

Jan Goodson, W8JKG, Treasurer

## SMARS Meeting Minutes 10/20/2016 (Continued)

Old Business:

Nominations were opened before the vote, no new names entered.

Election was held; results are: Pres., Gary; VP, Steph; Treasurer, Jan; Secretary, Jay; Member at Large, Tom.

New Business:

A letter received from Maple United Methodist Church advised that items have been missing from the church property. All users of the property were sent this letter. Gary has complete confidence that no one from our group would "borrow" anything from the church. We must remain vigilant regarding building security to prevent losing the venue for our meetings.

Larry Camp, ARRL, will be at our next meeting, presenting the idea of a state-wide Hamfest that would be held at MIS in Brooklyn next October. The thought is to try to get clubs and hams from the southern tier of Michigan to attend. This will be discussed at length after next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett N8ARR, acting secretary

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### Ham Humor

#### Great Ham Lies – by AC6V

I only own one radio!  
Ur 599 (ur call again please).  
Your QSL is in the Mail  
I'll Never Build Another Kit Project

I bought my mint TS-950SDX for \$300.00.  
I worked em on the first call.  
I never worked DX on a net!!

<http://ac6v.com/humor.htm>



## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

**NAQCC CW Sprint** – 11/17/2016

<http://www.yo5crq.ro/>

**All Australian 160 Meter Contest** – 11/19/2016

<http://www.oevsv.at/>

**Feld Hell Sprint** – 11/19/2016

<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub>

**ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB** – 11/19/2016

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

**Homebrew & Oldtime Equipment Party-**  
11/20/2016

<http://www.qrpcc.de/>

**Run for the Bacon QRP Contest** – 11/21/2016

<http://qrptest.com/pigrun>

**SKCC Sprint** – 11/23/2016

<http://www.skccgroup.com/>

**RSGB 80 Meter Club Spring, CW** – 11/24/2016

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf>

**CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW** – 11/26/2016

<http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

**NRAU 10-Meter Contest** – 12/01/2016

<http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests>

**ARRL 160-Meter Contest** – 12/02/2016

<http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

**ARRL 10-Meter Contest** – 12/10/2016

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

**International Naval Contest** – 12/10/2016

<http://www.marinefunker.de/>

\*A more thorough listing of October 2016 Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page Contest Calendar, <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

# 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, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>	<p><b>SMARS Breakfast</b> 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI</p>
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<p><b>SMARS Nets:</b> 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><b>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz</p> <p><i>Please see page 3 for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b> Club Meeting: Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm *Guest presenter: <b>Larry Camp, WB8R</b> BLB Luncheon: Dec. 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm SMARS Breakfast: Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am <b>SMARS Christmas Party:</b> Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm Clara's on the River – Banquet room Club Meeting: Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm SMARS VE Session: Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00pm</p>
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