



# FEEDBACK

November 2018

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor [w8kdb@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdb@arrl.net) and get it published in **FEEDBACK!**

If you would like to place a classified ad to sell, purchase or swap amateur radio related items, please contact the editor.

### Board of Directors:

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### Club News

## SMARS Christmas Party!

Join us **Saturday, December 15, 2018** at **Coney Island** from **6:00 – 8:00 PM** for our annual holiday celebration!

This is a different format then it was at Clara's on the River in that we have the whole menu to choice from. Also, each member will be responsible for their own check paid directly to Coney Island. Coney Island is located at 962 Capital Ave NE in Battle Creek Michigan.

Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange are asked to bring a gift (less than \$20), labeling it "for a man" or "for a lady." Our end of year cash prize 50/50 drawing will also take place.

**Come and celebrate the holiday season with us!**

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### Other News

#### AMSAT's Fox-1Cliff CubeSat Set to Launch on November 19

[AMSAT](#) is counting down to the launch of the next Fox-1 satellite, Fox-1Cliff. According to Spaceflight Now, the launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base of Spaceflight's SSO-A SmallSat Express mission, on a SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle, is currently scheduled for November 19 at 1832 UTC.

Fox-1Cliff carries the Fox-1 U/v FM repeater, AMSAT's L-Band Downshifter, the flight spare of the AO-85 Vanderbilt University Low Energy Proton (LEP) radiation experiment, and the standard Fox-1 Penn State University-Erie MEMS gyroscope experiment. Virginia Tech provided a video graphics array camera that's similar to the one on AO-92 but which will provide images at a higher 640 × 480 resolution.

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Nov. Sweepstakes

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters  
Mode: Phone  
Dates: 11/17 - 11/19/2018  
URL: [www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes)

### EME Contest

Band: 50 to 1296 MHz  
Modes: CW, Ph, Dig  
Dates: 11/24 - 11/25/2018  
URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

### 160 Meter

Band: 160 Meters  
Mode: CW  
Date: 11/30 - 12/2/2018  
URL: [www.arrl.org/160-meter](http://www.arrl.org/160-meter)

### 10 Meter

Band: 10 Meters  
Modes: SSB, CW  
Dates: 12/8 - 12/9/2018  
URL: [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter)

### Rookie Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters  
Mode: CW  
Date: 12/16/2018  
URL: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

*\*A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page [ContestCalendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar), <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>*

More information about the launch and early operations phase will be released prior to launch.

Fox-1Cliff is named in honor of long-time AMSAT member, contributor, and benefactor Cliff Buttschardt, K7RR (SK), who died in 2016. His contributions to AMSAT and other Amateur Satellite programs — including his service as an adviser during the initial development of the CubeSat specification at California Polytechnic State University — earned him the Lifetime Achievement Award from Project OSCAR in 2006.

As part of launch preparations for Fox-1Cliff, AMSAT is making Getting Started with Amateur Satellites available for a limited time as a download with any paid new or renewed membership purchased via the [AMSAT Store](#). Updated annually, the 186-page Getting Started is considered the top primer of satellite operation.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/amsat-s-fox-1cliff-cubesat-set-to-launch-on-november-19>

## WB2ITX wants ARRL to focus on the future of amateur radio

A [recent news story](#) on the ARRL website reports on Howard Michel, WB2ITX and some of the things he's working on early in his tenure as ARRL's CEO. It notes:

“Michel would like to see ARRL focus on the future of Amateur Radio (sic) and not become the redoubt of a particular generation of radio amateur or interest group. He said, ‘Ham radio shouldn’t abandon the old guardians of the hobby, but at the same time, it needs to have new things that appeal to people who have different interests and different passions.’

...

Acknowledging the incessant push to get more young people into Amateur Radio, Michel wants to explore ways ‘to morph some of the League’s processes and services and products into something that would appeal to the newer generation of hams.’

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**11/17/2018**

Central Division Convention  
Location: Fort Wayne, IN  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society  
[www.fortwaynehamfest.com](http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com)

**12/01/2018**

FCARC WinterFest  
Location: Delta, OH  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club  
[k8bxq.org/hamfest](http://k8bxq.org/hamfest)

**2/17/2019**

Livonia ARC's 49th Annual Swap & Shop  
Location: Livonia, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club  
[www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop](http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop)

**2/23/2019**

La Porte County Amateur Radio Hamfest  
Location: La Porte, IN  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: La Porte County Amateur Radio Club  
[lpcarc.org](http://lpcarc.org)

**3/16/2019**

2019 Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap  
Location: Kalamazoo, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society  
[www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest](http://www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest)

...

Michel said he definitely wants to encourage partnerships with other organizations with which ARRL might share some common ground, including IEEE. 'We can't do everything ourselves. We have to find partnerships,' he said. Some IEEE operating units would be applicable to Amateur Radio, and he's already heard from two unit heads that are both hams."

At the risk of being accused again of being a fanboy, I like this approach. I think collaboration with the IEEE could be a really good thing. I'm a member of the IEEE myself, and in January, will be teaching a one-day Tech class under the auspices of our local IEEE chapter.

In the [amateurradio subreddit](#), there is a [post discussing this news story](#). The comments are really worth reading. While hams of all ages are [/r/amateurradio](#) subscribers, the list does skew younger. It's not surprising, then that some of the comments point to some of the challenges that younger hams face. For example, one commenter said:

"I only got into ham [radio] because of RTL-SDRs. I only got my Tech because I could afford a Baofeng and the book. I like the idea of HF, but I hate the idea of a \$500+ transceiver. I've been looking at QRP kit transmitters because I can actually afford that.

Older people in general need to realize how many more bills us young people have to pay. Cell phones and the internet are required these days and they aren't cheap. That leaves little for hobbies."

Another replied:

"And they need to realize the young people haven't had fifty years to amass wealth with little debt which they can use to buy radio stuff."

There are many other great comments in this post.

I emailed WB2ITX and told him that I thought it would be worth his while to read the post. He emailed me back and said,

## Silent Key Notice

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of the following HAM:

[Steven Belson, W8AAK](#), passed away on October 29th, 2018 at Borgess Hospital, Kalamazoo, with his family by his side. Steve was active in SMARS, Skywarn, and VE Sessions, and was always up beat and a joy to chat with. He will be greatly missed.

“Thanks Dan, I did check it out. I'm glad to see hams engaged in the discussion. FYI, I intend to use that platform to engage our members in discussion about important issues.”

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/wb2itx-wants-arri-to-focus-on-the-future-of-amateur-radio/>

## Meeting Minutes 10/18/2018

Meeting called to order at 1905.  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions

**Officers present** – Kyle W8KDB, Steph W8AEZ, Jay N8ARR, Jan W8JKG. 13 members in attendance total.  
Secretary's report was accepted.  
Treasurer's report handed out and accepted.

### Committee reports:

HAMFEST 2019 –Contract with Wings Event Center has been signed. Contract is the same as last year.  
Management at Wings is very happy to host us as we are quiet and clean and leave the center in great shape when we leave! Emails regarding the Hamfest are already coming in. ARRL has approved our hamfest and notice will be posted in QST.

**SKYWARN** – Meeting held on the 16th. See minutes posted in this newsletter.

**VE Session** – Our next will be on 10/25 in the Babcock Room at the church.

**HIAD** – Held 10/13/18 at DPW on Kendall. 14 tested, 8 passed, 1 upgrade to Extra, 1 passed Tech & Extra.

**Repeaters** – Trouble with the Cumulus software. Don found an older copy on a retired computer which was installed in the newer computer and it is now back on the air. Still looking for volunteers to help Don with maintenance of the repeater site.

### Old Business:

Dues for 2019 will be \$15/year. Constitution has been updated and posted for more than 30 days. Approved by all members present.

Reminder of Christmas party at Coney Island on December 15th from 6-8:30 pm. We will be in the banquet room and will order from the regular menu. We will be paying our personal bills that

night rather than submitting to Jan. Like the high-powered Field Day operation, this is a one-time trial; if attendees like it, we will continue there.

### New Business:

Elections – Kyle W8KDB as President, Tom WR8G as Vice President, Jan W8JKG as Treasurer and John W8JRD as Secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 1955.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jarrett N8ARR, Outgoing Secretary

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## Board Meeting Minutes 11/6/2018

Called to Order: 5:32 PM

**Officers Present:** Kyle W8KDB Tom WR8G Jan W8JKG John W8JRD

**Others Present:** Stephanie W8AEZ Smokey N5MKY Jay N8ARR

New officers received the briefcases from the former officers.

Insurance for the club trailers, now at Tom KE8GDN's, is to be priced.

Member at Large position for the board is to be voted at the November General Meeting. Smokey indicated that he would be willing to run. It would give him a reason to have dinner company.

The SMARS scrapbooks, now residing at Jay's, will be given to Jan to digitize.

Adjourned: 6:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson W8JRD  
SMARS Secretary

# **SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY FEEDBACK**

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

2m Repeater 146.66MHz, -600KHz offset, CTCSS 94.8Hz

2m DStar 146.79 MHz, -600 KHz offset

\*1.25m Repeater 224.240 MHz, -1.6 MHz offset

APRS Digipeater/Igate, 144.39 MHz

\*70cm Repeater 443.950 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

70cm DStar Repeater 442.7625 MHz, +5 MHz offset

**\*Note:** 70cm & 1.25 meter repeaters are linked, and also available via Echolink.

## **Other Repeaters**

2m Repeater 147.120 MHz, +600 KHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

<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 previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p>Club Meeting: Nov 15th @ 7:00pm  BLB Luncheon: Dec 6th @ 11:30am  Board Meeting: Dec 4th @ 5:30pm  Club Breakfast: Dec 8th @ 8:30am  VE Session: Dec 27th @ 7:00pm  Club Christmas Party: Dec 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm  @ Coney Island</p>
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