



# FEEDBACK

September 2017

## Board of Directors:

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# WE WANT YOU!

Image courtesy of <http://lotrminecraftmod.wikia.com/wiki/File:Unclesam-we-want-you-1-.jpg>

It's quickly approaching the time for annual S.M.A.R.S. Board elections, and we want YOU to consider running for office! Being a board member is not difficult or time consuming. Board members attend one Board meeting lasting less than an hour and one meeting of club members per month. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer have some duties (such as taking notes at meetings, keeping track of the club's finances) that require a little time but are not burdensome. A couple of hours a month is a small investment that pays big dividends, both to you in the form of experience in helping run a charitable organization, and also to our club by the introduction of new ideas and talents that help us to keep up with the changing times.

So, as Board member who has contributed her talents and who has acted in good faith on behalf of the many members of our club, I ask you to consider "tossing your hat into the arena" in the upcoming October 19<sup>th</sup> Board election. We want YOU to join us in making the Southern Michigan Amateur Radio club a place that strives to promote Amateur Radio and welcome all into the Amateur Radio community!



## Upcoming Radio Contests:

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

**Maine QSO Party** - CW, Phone  
9/23 – 9/24/2017  
<http://www.qsl.net/ws1sm>

**Texas QSO Party** – CW, Phone, Dig  
9/23 – 9/24/2017  
<http://www.txqp.net/>

**RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Series, Data**  
9/28/2017  
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/>

**Russian WW MultiMode Contest**  
9/30 – 10/02/2017  
<http://rdrclub.ru/news-radio>

**UK/EI DX Contest, SSB**  
9/30 – 10/01/2017  
<http://www.ukeicc.com/>

**N American SSB Sprint**  
10/01/2017  
<http://ssbsprint.com/rules>

**YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest**  
10/06 – 10/08/2017  
<http://ylrl.org/>

**Russian WW Digital Contest** - Phone  
10/07 – 10/08/2017  
<http://www.rdrclub.ru/>

**California QSO Party** - CW, Phone  
10/07 – 10/08/2017  
<http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

**FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint** - CW  
10/07/2017  
<http://fistsna.org/>

**10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint**  
10/10/2017  
<http://www.ten-ten.org/>

**Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB**  
10/14 – 10/15-2017  
<http://sactest.net/blog/rules>

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

## Ten Steps to Mastering Morse Code

June 2, 2015

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

[BoingBoing](#), a blog about popular culture that I love reading, recently published a post titled, "[The only technique to learn something new](#)" by James Altucher. Altucher is one of those guys that seems to be able to do just about anything. [His Wikipedia page](#) says that he is "an American hedge fund manager, entrepreneur, bestselling author, and podcaster." The blog post details his ten-step technique for learning—actually mastering—new things. Here's how I'd apply his advice to mastering Morse Code:

### 1. LOVE IT.

If you don't love Morse Code, then don't try to learn it. It will only frustrate you and take you away from learning other things that will be more interesting and useful to you.

### 2. READ IT.

You can read about the various methods to learn the code, but honestly, I think Morse Code is more of a "learn by doing" than a "learn by reading" kind of thing. You're better off just proceeding to #3.

### 3. TRY IT. BUT NOT TOO HARD.

Get hold of a couple of code courses—I normally recommend the [G4FON CW Trainer](#) or the [K7QO Code Course](#). There are also many good smartphone apps. Try them all—but not too hard—and choose the one that you like using the best. If after trying it, you don't love it, don't do it. (See #1.)

### 4. GET A TEACHER.

Find a code buddy, that is someone to help you learn the code. Many clubs have started code classes, but if your club doesn't you can still find someone to help you. FISTS has a [code buddy program](#) and CWOps has what they call the [CW Academy](#).

### 5. STUDY THE HISTORY. STUDY THE PRESENT.

Morse Code has a storied history. Studying the history will give you a perspective that will motivate you to learn it. If it does not motivate you, quit. (See #1.)

Studying the present will give you a perspective on how the art is practiced today. Rather than being stuck in the past, you'll be able to use Morse Code as it's being used today. That sounds kind of strange, but it's true. You'll have more fun if you use modern practices.

To reinforce what you learned, Altucher says, "Write down the things you learn from reading."

### 6. DO EASY PROJECTS FIRST.

I'm not sure that there are "easy" Morse Code projects, but let's look at this another way. Most people learn Morse Code to either participate in contests, work DX, or ragchew with other hams. As far as contests go, you can participate in slow-speed contests. FISTS, for example, runs slow-speed sprint contests every quarter. For ragchewing, FISTS has an activity called "Get Your Feet Wet" activity days. You can find more information about these activities on the [FISTS Operating Activities](#) page.

## Hot off the Wires...



### FCC Opens 630- and 2200-Meter Bands; Stations Must Notify UTC Before Operating

Posted date: September 10, 2017

The FCC has announced that the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for 3 years, the information-collection requirement of the Commission's March 29 *Report and Order (R&O)* that spelled out Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands — 630 meters and 2200 meters. Notice of the action appears in today's edition of the *Federal Register*. Before using either band, stations must **notify** the Utilities Technology Council (**UTC**), formerly the Utilities Telecom Council, that they plan to do so, and if UTC does not respond within 30 days, they may commence operation.

Last March 27, the FCC adopted the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) implementation Report and Order (ET Docket 15-99), amending its Amateur Radio rules to — in the FCC's words — “provide for frequency-sharing requirements in the 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472-479 kHz (630-meter) bands.”

Section 97.313(g)(2) of those rules requires that, prior to starting operation in either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of

### 7. STUDY WHAT YOU DID.

Altucher says in his BoingBoing post, “Someone told me a story about Amy Schumer, one of my favorite comedians. She videotapes all her performances. Then she goes back to her room and studies the performance second by second...She wants to be the best at comedy. She studies her every performance.”

Altucher goes on to say, “If you aren't obsessed with your mistakes then you don't love the field enough to get better. Don't ask lousy questions, such as, “Why am I no good?” Instead ask, “What did I do wrong and how can I improve?”

When you're starting out—or even if you're an old timer like me—it might be worthwhile to record your contacts and then play them back, listening critically to both sides of the contact. When the other station is sending, listen for what you might have missed the first time. When you're sending, listen critically to the code you send.

To be honest, I hadn't really thought about recording my contacts before reading this blog post. I figured that I am already pretty good, and if I just kept practicing—by making contacts or working contests—I'd get better. Maybe if I start recording my contacts, though, and critically appraising them, I'll get better faster.

The question is how obsessed should one be? This is just a hobby, after all. That's a personal decision that I'll leave up to you. I think I'm obsessed enough about this that it's something that I'm going to try.

### 8. YOU ARE THE AVERAGE OF THE FIVE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.

Altucher says, “Humans are tribal mammals. We need to work with groups to improve.” At the most basic level, this means getting on the air. Code courses and code programs are all well and good, but the proof of the pudding is getting on the air and making contacts or working contests.

Not only that, it matters who you hang out with once you do get on the air. If you aspire to operate at 30 words per minute, don't just search for slow-speed contacts. Listen for operators that are sending good code at speeds slightly faster than what you're comfortable at copying and make an effort to copy them and work them. Hanging out with good operators will help you get better. Hanging out with poor operators will not.

Altucher notes, “Find the best group, spend as much time with them, and as a “scene” you become THE scene. You each challenge each other, compete with each other, love each other's work, become envious of each other, and ultimately take turns surpassing each other.”

### 9. DO IT A LOT.

Over the past twelve years, I have averaged more than three contacts per day, and it's gotten to the point where I feel bad if I don't get my three CW QSOs in every day. You don't have to be as obsessed about this as I am—it is a hobby, after all—but if you can spend more time at the key, you'll become a better CW operator. It's as simple as that.

### 10. FIND YOUR EVIL PLAN.

I'm not sure that I like the way Altucher titles this section, but his point is that, after all this study and practice and appraisal, you need to find your own path.

their antenna's fixed location. The new rules do not permit any mobile operation.

"Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies," the FCC said. PLC systems are unlicensed. "This notification process will ensure that amateur stations seeking to operate [on 630 or 2200 meters] are located beyond a minimum separation distance from PLC transmission lines, which will help ensure the compatibility and coexistence of amateur and PLC operations, and promote shared use of the bands."

The FCC announced that it is making effective immediately the Part 97 rule amendments, § 97.3, 97.15(c), 97.301(b) through (d), 97.303(g), 97.305(c), and 97.313(k) and (l), which do not require OMB approval

Click [HERE](#) to access the UTC notification website.

Article courtesy of <http://qrznow.com/fcc-opens-630-and-2200-meter-bands-stations-must-notify-utc-before-operating/>



By doing these things, you'll discover what works best for you, and in doing so, develop your own unique perspective on what it means to be a good CW operator.

Not only that, at that point, you'll be ready to pass this knowledge and experience on to others. Altucher says, "Now it's your turn to teach, to mentor, to create, to innovate, to change the world." I think this applies to just about any topic, even something that's been around as long as Morse Code.

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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).



**Great Lakes HamCon is nearly here!**

The first Great Lakes HamCon at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan is less than a month away! Several VIP's are expected to attend, including ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR and Youth Activities Committee Chairperson Carole Perry WB2MGP. Many [forums](#) on a variety of topics have been scheduled for this event, including *Museum Ships*, *QRP*, and *Kit Building Techniques*.

All ARRL members are invited to take part in the traditional [Wouff Hong ceremony](#). According to the legend, the "Wouff Hong" (as shown here) was created by ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim just after World War I. Legend has it that this tool was designed to "punish" those Amateur Radio operators who exhibit poor operating practices. It is proudly displayed at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut.



The initiation ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm. Those wishing to participate in the ceremony are asked to register in advance via the following [link](#).

All Great Lakes HamCon visitors are invited to drop by Special Event Station K8MIS, which will be managed by the South Lyon Area Amateur Radio Club.

For updates and information on tickets, lodging/camping, accessibility and more, visit the event's official website <http://glhamcon.org/>.

## SMARS Meeting Minutes 08/17/2017

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions

**Officers present:** Gary N8QC, Stephanie W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Tom WR8G.

Secretary's report was accepted.  
Treasurer's report was accepted.

### SKYWARN:

There will be a Ham-In-A-Day at the Department of Public Works building on Kendall St. in October.

**VE session:** The next VE session will be held on August 24th at 7:00pm at Maple United Methodist Church.

### Old Business:

A reminder that the SMARS Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 16th beginning from 6:00-8:00pm at Clara's on the River. Copies of available menu items have been distributed at tonight's club meeting for members to examine, select their top three choices, and submit to Stephanie W8AEZ. Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange should bring a gift labeled as "For a Lady" or "For a Man." A \$10-20 limit is suggested for gift exchange. The 50/50 cash drawing will also be held that evening.

Meeting adjourned ~ 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Williams, N8QC

## Board Meeting 09/05/2017

**Officers present:** Gary N8QC, Steph W8AEZ, Jan W8JKG, Jay, N8ARR, Tom WR8G.

**Others present:** Bev KA8CXS, Kyle W8KDB.

Meeting called to order at 1730.

**Elections in October** – A survey was taken among those in attendance to see who was willing to stand for reelection. Steph, Jay and Jan all volunteered to remain in office for another year, if no one else wishes to accept the positions. Tom announced that he was interested in the role as President. Other names brought forth included Steve W8AAK or Eric KD8UJT, both are regular meeting attendees. Gary would serve as Past President, negating the need for a Member at Large. Also, Tom believes that, should he be elected President, Jan would have to resign as Treasurer and another elected or appointed as the two offices should not be held by family members.

**Constitution** – Tom also put forth a couple of ideas for changes to the Constitution which he will bring to a future meeting for club member approval.

**Christmas party** – Confirmed that December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 pm at Clara's on the River.

Meeting adjourned at 1800.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jarrett, N8ARR, Secretary

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## Ham Humor

For Leo WD8DCA and all others who have recently "tricked out" their mobile unit...

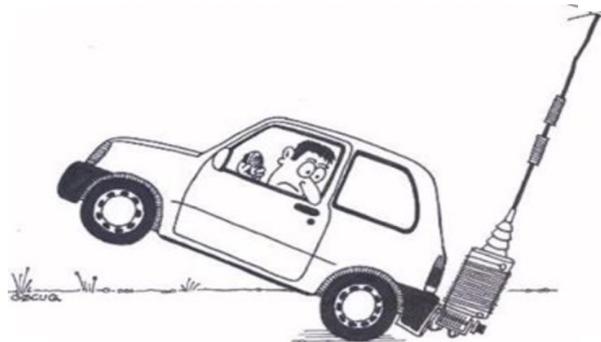


Image courtesy of <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/73605775135713095/visual-search/?x=12&y=7&w=378&h=239>

# **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>  Club Meeting: Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm  *Board Meeting: Oct. 3<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm  Coney Island Cafe, 962 Capital Ave NE  BLB Luncheon: Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am  Great Lakes HamCon @ MIS: Oct. 7th-8th  SMARS Breakfast: Oct.14<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am  Club Meeting &amp; Elections: Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:0pm</p> <p>*Note the change in the meeting time (effective February 7, 2017)</p>
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