



FEEDBACK

OCTOBER 2008



COMMENT

I must apologize for the tardiness of Feedback this month. I had cataract surgery on both eyes leaving me with better vision but still in need of specs. I see better but there is little doubt that with glasses in couple of weeks I'll be able to function better.

Some of you received e-mails requesting that you respond by e-mail acknowledging your reception. This happened as a result of stupidity on my part. Through the years I've kept backups three deep so that a destruction of the records would not be too serious. Lately I've been only two deep and paid the penalty. My primary files were destroyed during a cleaning process and when I went to my backups, I found that the cleaning process had got into a second drive and made it impossible to boot or read. There was no current third backup and luckily I had made backups three months ago and needed to bring those up to date. That is why I made the request from several of you. Thanks for your help.

An article on building a portable antenna that is more effective than a j-pole is included. The gain is primarily in the angle of radiation. Less is radiated at high angles in this antenna than is in a j-pole. It is worth looking at.

As usual, several articles from the world of emergency planning are repeated for use by those who are serious in learning what must be done to cope with various emergency situations.

de WA8MFL

GARY SCHENSE W8IER SK

Gary became a Silent Key on Wednesday, October 9 of this year. He had been a member of SMARS for several years and was active on the various bands. Gary was well known in the area as a capable musician.

FEMA TRAINING COURSE

An apparently new FEMA on-line course covers the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #2 "Communications" of the National Response Framework (NRF). It is essential that all amateur emcomm operators understand all ESFs, but particularly ESF #2. All ESFs are central to the operations of any EOC. See <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS802.asp>.

The NRF presents the guiding principles that enable all response partners to prepare for and provide a unified national response to disasters and emergencies. It establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response. The Framework defines the principles, roles, and structures that organize how we respond as a nation. It builds upon the National Incident Management System (NIMS) <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtml>, which provides a consistent template for managing incidents. Information on the National Response Framework including Documents, Annexes, References and Briefings/Trainings can be accessed from the resource center <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nrf/> -- Thanks to Eagle-Eye David Coursey, N5FDL, EC San Joaquin County, California

SMARS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Renee has arranged with The Old Country Buffet for reserved space on the main floor for 40 people at our annual Christmas party.

Plan on starting the dinner at about 6:00 on December 13. There will be a table for the exchange of gifts as in the past. Ladies to bring a gift for ladies and men to bring gifts for men. Suggested amounts to be under ten dollars or so.

Let Renee know if you are coming and how many in your group in case she needs to reserve additional room.

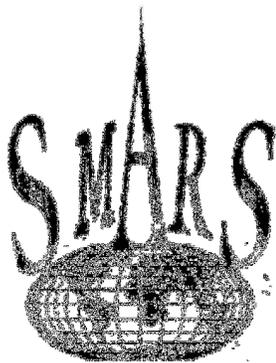
ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION

The Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicks off October 23, running until November 1 on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/auction>.

This is your chance to pick up one -of-a-kind Amateur Radio items. To see

what the Auction will offer this year, be sure to check out the Auction preview that begins October 16. Last year, the Auction attracted more than 3000 registered bidders from more than 40 countries. While the majority of buyers were from the USA, Canada and the UK, there were buyers from Australia, Malaysia, Grenada, Vietnam and Tanzania.

Many of the items have had reviews in QST. This allows the buyer to know just what he is bidding for. No bidding on a "pig in a poke".



NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Department of Homeland Security Interoperability Manual, New National Emergency Communications Plan

From the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC)-- "The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) is a collection of technical reference material for radio technicians responsible for radios that will be used in disaster response applications. The NIFOG includes information from the National Interoperability Frequency Guide (NIFG), the instructions for use of the NIFG, and other reference material; formatted as a pocket-sized guide for radio technicians to carry with them. If you are not familiar with interoperability and mutual aid communications, start with the "How to Use the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide" section. We encourage you to program as many of these interoperability channels in your radios as possible. Even if geographic restrictions on some channels preclude their use in your home area, you may have the opportunity to help in a distant state where the restrictions do not apply. Maximize your flexibility." For a copy of the manual, see:

<<http://www.npstc.org/documents/NIFOG%20v1.2%204-14-2008.pdf>> -- Mark Conklin, N7XYO, Assistant SEC, Oklahoma

DHS has also recently released the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) to address gaps and determine solutions so that emergency response personnel at all levels of government and across all disciplines can communicate as needed, on demand, and as authorized. The NECP is the nation's first strategic plan to improve emergency response communications, and complements overarching homeland security and emergency communications legislation, strategies and initiatives. More on the National Emergency Communications Plan: <http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1217534334567.shtm> and <http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1217529182375.shtm>. -- Les Rayburn, N1LF, Shelby County, Alabama EC

THE IMPORTANCE OF WALKING

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 89 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$7000 per month.

~~~~~  
My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where the hell he is.

~~~~~  
I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me

~~~~~  
The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

~~~~~  
I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing..

~~~~~  
I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

~~~~~  
Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

~~~~~  
I do have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

~~~~~  
The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, "Well, he looks good doesn't he.

~~~~~  
If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

~~~~~  
I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years,..... just getting over the hill.

~~~~~  
We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.

~~~~~  
That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

~~~~~  
Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

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## COAXIAL ANTENNA FOR ENCOMM

There are many antennas that may be purchased or constructed and carried in your emcomm kit. Small dipoles, J-Poles and many other antennas that can be rolled-up, placed in a zip-lock type bag and stowed in your kit. But what about the all but forgotten coaxial antenna?

The coaxial antenna is basically a quarter-wave piece of 52 Ohm coax. (RG8X or RG174 are my cables of choice). Construction for a two meter coaxial antenna follows:

1. Remove 19 inches of the outer jacket from a four foot or long piece of coaxial cable.
2. Carefully remove about 18 inches of the exposed shield. The shield will be used as a sleeve.
3. Slide the shield (removed in the above step) up the coax from the far end to the point where the jacket begins and the one inch of shield remains.
4. Using a relatively low Wattage soldering iron, tin the top of the sleeve.
5. Carefully fold the one inch of shield over the top of the sleeve.
6. Using the low Wattage soldering iron, solder the shield the top of the sleeve.
7. Check all work. What you should see is eighteen inches of dielectric along with the center conductor and eighteen inches of sleeve with any length of coax after the sleeve.
8. Check for shorts and opens with an Ohm meter.
9. Add the coax connector of your choice to the end of the length of coax.
10. Check for shorts and opens again.
11. Carefully affix a loop of string or a plastic wire tie to the top of antenna using a good quality tape or heat shrink. The whole antenna can be covered with heat shrink. You may utilize the extra one inch of wire at the top by stripping of the dielectric from the top and soldering the wire into a loop. The extra one inch must be removed or utilized so as not to be part of the antenna.
12. The antenna can now be hanged from the support of your choice and when finished, it can be stowed very easily.

Some additional thoughts:

Coaxial antennas are quite useful above 30 meters. However, they become physically unwieldy below 30 meters. This type of antenna does have a lower angle of radiation than the popular J-Pole with the added bonus of some slight gain.

If the numbers look familiar, that is because we are dealing with quarter-wavelength sections. The upper portion is a quarter-wavelength and the lower (sleeve) is a quarter-wavelength. -

Jay Musikar, AF2C, District EC, East-Central District, Northern Florida Section

## W1AW SUPPORTS ECHOLINK OPERATIONS DURING IKE

Throughout the course of Hurricane Ike, operators at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, hooked into the HF radio of ARRL West Gulf Vice Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV, via EchoLink <<http://www.echolink.org/>>.

According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, the link enabled hams in Newington to monitor the Texas Emergency Net. "Through Dr Woolweaver's initiative, we could use EchoLink in this fashion to assist ARRL HQ staff monitor critical Net operations using HF -- a capability we have never taken advantage of before."

Carcia said that the reason the HF/EchoLink connection was used was due to the frequency the Texas Emergency Net was using. "The Net was on 75 meters," Carcia said, "and propagation did not favor us here in New England to be able to hear the transmissions. By using Dr Woolweaver's link, we could hear everything on the Net."

During the monitoring sequence, Woolweaver changed the frequencies on EchoLink to enable ARRL HQ to stay on top of and monitor conversations related to message relays, Coast Guard contacts and Health and Welfare traffic from across Texas and the surrounding states. According to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, this capability will be critical to future emergency communication response at ARRL Headquarters: "Without the EchoLink/HF connection, we here at ARRL would not have able to be in contact with ARRL South Texas Section Leadership."

Woolweaver is working on getting more Texas stations involved in the EchoLink network to help out with future emergencies. He said that EchoLink can be successfully utilized to monitor and to engage stations on VHF and HF. "Using stations with EchoLink node capabilities and access to VHF and HF equipment, W1AW and other personnel at HQ will be able to become active participants and consultants in local and regional operations," he said. "You cannot underestimate the value of first hand information. The EchoLink to remote HF connection allows W1AW and ARRL staff to monitor and participate in local and regional operations any where any time. It does not get much better than that!"

## ECHOLINKS

W8DF 220 repeater had 75 echolink connects during September. A lot were the normal connects, but among the "DX", the log showed a M1, EH1 a G7, a G8 and a G6. It sure would be good if our club members made a little effort to listen to the 220 repeater and talked to some of these far-off fellow amateurs! This Echolink thing is a great toy. USE IT! You should be able to view the September log book on [w8df.com](http://w8df.com).

Don-W8RVT

**ARES / RACES Report for September in Calhoun County  
RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training**

|                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 Skywarn Training Nets              | 1 hr each @ 98 People = 98 hrs |
| Total NETS and Training Seminars,    | 108 People =108hrs             |
| Public Service Events                | 0 People 0hrs                  |
| Total Public Service Events,         |                                |
| Emergency Operations                 | Total 2hrs @ 5People = 10 hrs  |
| 1 Tornado Warning Net,               |                                |
| Administration Hours, Total for JULY | Total = 25hrs                  |
| Travel Hours for JULY                | 5 hrs                          |
| Expenses- Out of Pocket              | Total = \$75.00                |
| Travel Miles for JULY                | 100 Miles                      |
| Members                              | 34                             |

Dave Smith  
KC8COT  
E-12  
City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County  
RACES, Emergency Coordinator

**HAMFESTS**

18 Oct Holland MI  
The Great Lakeshore Super Swap. Holland ARC.  
West Ottawa West Campus, 3600 152nd Avenue.  
Talk-In 147.06+(PL94.8)  
Contact: John Seidelmann WD8BWK 616-394-9821  
email: swap@hollandarc.org

26 Oct Sterling Heights MI  
USECA Hamfest  
Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association  
Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane Drive  
Talk-In 147.180 (PL100)  
Contact: Larry Logarta W8NIC 586-864-4563  
email: w8nic@yahoo.com

15-16 Nov Fort Wayne IN  
Indiana State Convention  
(Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo)  
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum,  
4000 Parnell Avenue  
Talk-In 146.88  
Contact: James Boyer KB9IH 260-579-2196  
email: chairman@fortwaynehmfest.com

**TREASURY**

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| SEPT BEGINNING BALANCE: | \$1594.56 |
| REVENUES                | 0.00      |
| EXPENSES                | 72.54     |
| SEPT ENDING BALANCE:    | \$1522.02 |

RENE KC8SLI

**STUD ROOSTER**

A farmer went out one day and bought a brand new stud rooster for his chicken coop.

The new rooster struts over to the old rooster and says, 'OK old Cock, time for you to retire.'

The old rooster replies, 'Come on, surely you cannot handle ALL of these chickens. Look what it has done to me. Can't ! you just let me have the two old hens over in the corner?'

The young rooster says, 'Beat it: You are washed up and I am taking over.'

The old rooster says, 'I tell you what, young stud. I will race you around the farmhouse. Whoever wins gets the exclusive domain over the entire chicken coop.'

The young rooster laughs. 'You know you don't stand a chance, old man. So, just to be fair, I will give you a head start.'

The old rooster takes off running. About 15 seconds later the young rooster takes off running after him. They round the front porch of the farmhouse and the young rooster has closed the gap.

He is only about 5 feet behind the old rooster and gaining fast. The farmer, meanwhile, is sitting in his usual spot on the front porch when he sees the roosters running by.

The Old Rooster is squawking and running as hard as he can. The Farmer grabs his shotgun and

- BOOM -

he blows the young rooster to bits. The farmer sadly shakes his head and says, can't believe it..... third gay rooster I bought this month.'

Moral of this story?

Don't mess with the THE OLDER GENERATION  
Age, skill, wisdom, and a little treachery  
always overcome youth and arrogance!

## SMARS Board Meeting

October 2, 2008

Called To Order: 7:02 PM

Officers Present: Bill KD8CDS, Renee KC8SLI, Ned WB4BKO, John KC8WMM. Others Present: Marion WA8MFL, Bob KC8PRL, Don W8RVT, Stephanie W8AEZ.

### Topics Discussed:

Ned will miss the October SMARS meeting. His wife is having surgery that week.

Boy Scout Jamboree will be the weekend of the 18th. Ned has the club ICOM 718 radio and it appears to work just fine. Don stated that whatever the problem was at Marshall, it wasn't the antenna. Setup for the Jamboree will probably be the Friday before at 4 P.M.. Bill will stay with the trailer overnight. Ned will try to contact Ray Davis from the Boy Scout for any last minute changes.

Don thought it might be possible to use Echolink for contacts over the internet. There is a phone line at the site, or it might be possible to reach the 220 repeater. One of the Boy Scout leaders wondered about an AirCard. ARRL website has listing of stations around the world participating. Don thought SMARS should use one of the tri-band antennas on a rotor to maximize contacts.

A crew will meet on the 6th to get whatever is needed out of the other trailers.

Don reports that there is a possibility of moving the 440 repeater to the same tower that is used by the 2 and 220 repeaters. He and Dave AB8HK will evaluate the antenna currently on the tower. The antenna on the current site is used by IRA. Total cost to move the 440 repeater will be about \$20 and SMARS will save on tower rental as the site with the 2 and 220 repeaters is provided at no cost. Don thinks he can have all the info by the end of the year when the next rental payment is due.

There is interest in APRS among club members. Don says he can do a short presentation for the club.

Bill offered \$100 for the club equipment that he retrieved. His offer was more than the minimum that SMARS had set and was accepted.

Election of officers to serve in 2009 is coming up fast. An election committee needs to be discussed at the October club meeting.

Rene mentioned that no date has been setup for the Holiday Party. She will call Old Country Buffet to reserve a date. There will be a gift exchange with a limit of \$10 with the same format that was used in years past. SMARS had promised a \$300 grand prize this year. It was decided this would be a gift card for AES or someplace similar.

Marion brought up that SMARS needs to get information about the Hamfest to World Radio and others. Renee said money at next year's Hamfest needs to be separated for better tracking.

Adjourned: 8:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Davidson KC8WMM  
SMARS Secretary

## SMARS General Meeting

September 18, 2008

Called To Order: 7:00 PM

Officers Present: Ned WB4BKO, Renee KC8SLI, John KC8WMM, Lou WB8WXS.

### Special Event:

Ray Davis from the Boy Scouts was present to solicit club help with the upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree on the weekend of October 17-19. There will be activity with amateur clubs around the world helping Boy Scouts with Jamboree on the Air. There will be other scout activities with Boy Scouts from all over the area at the same event. A verbal vote was made of SMARS members interested in participating. Some rough plans for setup were made, pending more information from Ray.

Secretary's Report: approved as published in Feedback.

Treasurer's Report: approved as published in Feedback.

### Committee Reports:

Hamfest: Stephanie W8AEZ agreed to be Chairperson for 2009. Bob KC8PRL will again be her assistant. New flyers will be made including table rental does not include admittance and only FCC approved equipment can be sold. Bob reported chairs can be made available from Grand Rental Station at less than \$.50 each. Club could rent these and make a little money.

### ARES/RACES:

Ron Cathcart from Radio Communications is planning to launch a high altitude balloon equipped with a beacon and GPS. He is asking local hams and SAR teams for help in recovering this.

The recent storms caused the Skywarn net to activate with 19 check-ins. The storms damaged portions of Paw Paw and had the potential for severe damage locally.

### Field Day:

Bob reports that the site at the Battle Creek Airport will be available for the next couple of years. Expansion plans there have been delayed. ARRL now shows the SMARS Field Day report as having been received. Final standings should be released in the next few months.

### VE Testing:

Gary reports that 3 testees tested at the August session. All 3 passed with 1 new Tech, 1 General, and 1 Extra. The Extra testee asked if he had gotten the correct test since it was easier than expected.

### Old Business:

The Club equipment that has been a matter of discussion for the last few meetings has been reprieved. Bill KD8CDS has expressed an interest in purchasing it for himself. A motion was made to allow the sale to Bill as long as he offered more than \$80.

The Marshall Fly-In was held Labor Day weekend. Attendance was light, with many feeling it was over too soon. SMARS set up their trailer but did not make any contacts. Before the Boy Scout Jamboree, the radio and antennas will need to be checked. Jerry will donate a butternut antenna and mast to the club. Dave asked about getting flat screen monitors for the trailer. Gary will donate a 15" to the club to use in the trailer.

The 440 repeater site has been mowed and cleaned up.

### New Business:

Don asked about the Club antenna analyzers. There should be 2 and he asked who had them.

### Presentation:

John Davidson presented a program on LINUX operating system.

### Drawing:

Steve from the Boy Scouts won, but was not present at the drawing. He will hopefully receive his huge reward at the Jamboree.

Adjourned: 8:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson KC8WMM  
SMARS Secretary

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

# FEEDBACK



OCTOBER 2008



SMARS  
P.O. BOX 934  
BATTLE CREEK MI 49016

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



## SMARS NETS

Before Lunch Bunch  
Monday-Friday 11:30 A.M.  
146.66  
Sunday Evening 8:00 P.M.  
146.66  
Monday 7:30 P.M.  
224.24  
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  
443.95  
Wednesday 8:00 P.M.  
28.365  
Saturday 8:00 P.M.  
443.95

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN.NET  
Monday 7:00 P.M. 147.12

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING OCT 12  
HAMFEST HOLLAND OCT 18  
HAMFEST STERLING HEIGHTS OCT 26  
HAMFEST FORT WAYNE NOV 15-16  
SMARS BOARD NOV 6  
SMARS BREAKFAST NOV 1  
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH NOV 13  
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING NOV 20