



# FEEDBACK

SEPTEMBER 2009



## IDEAS

RACHELLE RILEY a columnist for the Detroit Free Press recently wrote of a person that she had met, Eldredge Ryans. Eldredge described his way of becoming better educated. At the beginning of each year, he had made a resolution of studying three topics in depth during the course of that year.

Think of this self-education. Such a wonderful idea. There so few things in this world that we have studied thoroughly enough to have a valuable opinion. Most of our understandings are based on observations of our surrounding world and those observations are only as valid as our observation tools. ( I saw it with my own eyes.)

And has long been noted, our most unreliable observations are made with our eyes. All of us are aware of the different descriptions given to police at the scene of a incident. (The black sedan, bright yellow pickup, little foreign roadster, purple limo, all being identified by witnesses as the culprit car at an accident.)

We also use other ways to come to conclusions. Many such decisions are based on happenings we have experienced. If you just walked out of a tax tribunal where you had pleaded the case for your property taxes and lost and then heard one of the rantings about taxes, you'd very likely agree without a lot of thought. Under these circumstances you'd be very susceptible to propoganda about taxes.

Decisions we make need to be made as a result of a thorough study of a subject. Looking at all sides of a topic. Evaluating the author presenting an argument. Having an open mind while studying. Ryans' recommendation of a study in depth of a least three subjects each year makes a lot of sense.

## PROGRAM

The September program will be presented by the Branch County Amateur Radio Club. Their members have been conducting fox-hunting for a while and would like to share their knowledge about the activity with us. Come and watch their presentation.

## SUITSAT-2 NOW CALLED ARISSAT-1

The SuitSat-2 project -- an Amateur Radio satellite housed in a Russian spacesuit -- now has a new name to go with a new shape: ARISSat-1. On Wednesday, August 19, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>> Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, announced the new name for the satellite and project. According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, the project team is moving ahead, using the same hardware that was to fly in the Russian Orlan suit. Russia will continue to call the satellite Radioskaf-2, so ARISS is designating it ARISSat-1/ Radioskaf-2.

Plans to launch a second SuitSat-spacesuit-turned-satellite were the subject of discussions and presentations at the November 2006 AMSAT Space Symposium and ARISS International Delegates' meeting. Despite a weaker-than-anticipated 2 meter signal, SuitSat-1 sparked the imagination of students and the general public and turned into a public relations bonanza for Amateur Radio <<http://www.arrl.org/ARISS/Suitsat.pdf>>. ARISS hopes to capitalize on the concept by building an even better SuitSat that will include ham radio transponders.

## MORE HAMS

We Keep Growing and Growing

New amateur licenses seem to be overcoming the blip in licensing figures brought on by the onset of the 10-year license. There are about 14,000 more licensees now than a year ago.

Last year's increase brings the number of ham licensees in the US to over 674,000. This total is just under the all-time high for US licensees. If we add another 14,000 this year, we will have exceeded the all-time high for ham licensees.

Therefore, current facts do not support the contention being spread by many amateurs that ham radio is a dying avocation. We may not be in a teen-age growth spurt, but we are growing. Don't count Amateur radio out.



## GET READY FOR THE UPCOMING ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY

September is here, and according to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, that means the VHF bands are getting a workout. "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the ARRL September VHF QSO Party <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sepvhf.html>> is a great place to start.

"With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities -- and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well -- any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands," he said. "Getting on the VHF bands is simple," he said. "If you have a radio that can transmit on both CW and SSB, that's great, but you can operate on either mode." When operating on VHF, Kutzko explained that your Maidenhead grid square is the common geographical information exchanged <<http://www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html>>.

While there will be some contest activity on FM simplex (especially near large population centers), Kutzko said that most long-distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB; that means horizontally polarized antennas: "A dipole for 6 meters is only 9 feet, 4 inches long and is an easy construction project," he explained. "Try to get the dipole in the air as high as possible, but even 15 feet off the ground will make some QSOs. If you have an antenna tuner that can handle 6 meters, you can try loading up another of your antennas on 6 meters with reasonable success. For 2 meters and 70 cm, a horizontal loop will work nicely for SSB and CW contacts." You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the Technical Information Service area of the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/other-v.html>>, in the Antennas chapter of The ARRL Handbook <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-HB2009>>, or in the VHF and UHF Antenna Systems chapter of The ARRL Antenna Book <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876>>.

Kutzko advises that there are a few things to know about operating on 6 meters: In the US and Canada, there is a "calling frequency" on 50.125 MHz USB. Most SSB activity will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250 MHz. If conditions are exceptional, Kutzko said you may hear signals above 50.250: "CW signals can be found from 50.100 MHz to 50.080 or so. The frequencies between 50.100 and 50.125 MHz are a 'DX Window,' meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations. Please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in the DX Window."

Because VHF+ antennas are relatively small, Kutzko said that many amateurs operate from portable locations, such as a hilltop or a campground. Others operate the contest as a "rover," operating from their car or truck while transmitting from multiple grid squares over the contest period. "Tracking rovers during the contest is almost as much fun as the contest itself," he said.

The ARRL September VHF QSO Party runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, September 12 through 0300 UTC Monday, September 14. Be sure to use those extra bands on your transceiver and get in on the fun you've been missing on 6 meters and up! <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sepvhf.html>>

## REMINDER

The ARRL Great Lakes Division Symposium will be held in Findlay, Ohio on Saturday, September 12, 2009 - the day before the Findlay Hamfest. The Symposium is being sponsored by the Findlay Radio Club, and is open to anyone interested in attending. Admission is free.

### Board of Directors

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KC8PRL  
Kings-boo@yahoo.com

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## DECAULKIN'

Here's a product designed to un-do all that hard work you put in on waterproofing your connectors. Made by 3M, it's called "caulk remover" and it's designed to soften up even silicone sealants so they can be removed. It's available from home improvement stores and on-line.

ARRL Contest Newsletter

## EMAIL AFLOAT

For those who like to spend their time sailing and still would like to maintain email connections, the SAILMAIL website contains much information. Grounding can become quite challenging, but by entering the SAILMAIL site and scrolling to "RF GROUND", much useful information is available. The site describes a commercial program, but the information given should help anyone looking for a "ham" program.

## SPACE TRAVEL

You, too, can make the trip to the Red Planet. This would be one of the greatest "roves" ever! Your name and call could be headed to the Red Planet in 2011 printed on a microchip in the Mars Science Laboratory Rover. According to a report by VK2SKY in the Amateur Radio Newsline report for August 7th, what you have to do is log on to the JPL Web site for the mission and enter your name and call.

## HAMFESTS

12 September Lowell MI  
GRA Hamfest 2009  
Grand Rapids ARA  
Kent County Fairgrounds  
225 South Hudson  
Talk-In 147.26 (PL 94.8)  
<http://www.grahamfest.org>  
Contact: Jack Amelar NY8D  
616-897-6885  
[Grahamfest09@w8dc.org](mailto:Grahamfest09@w8dc.org)

20 September Adrian MI  
Amateur Radio Swap  
Adrian ARC  
Lewanee County Fairgrounds  
602 Dean St  
Talk-In 145.37 (PL85.4)  
[Http://www.W8TQE.com](http://www.W8TQE.com)  
Contact: Marjie Wiley KB8TMM  
517-467-6303  
[maggie214@frontiernet.net](mailto:maggie214@frontiernet.net)

## A MODERN DAY WILL ROGERS (REDNECK VERSION)

Larry's Proverbs

1. A day without sunshine is like night.
- 2.. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
3. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot..
4. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
5. Remember, half the people you know are below average.
6. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
7. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm..
8. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.
9. Support bacteria. They're the only culture most people have.
10. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
11. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines
12. If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
13. How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis?  
Raise my hand.
14. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
15. When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
16. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
17. How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
18. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
19. What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?
20. Why do psychics have to ask you your name?
21. Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, 'What the heck happened?'
22. Just remember -- if the world didn't suck, we would all fall off.
- 23.. Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
24. Life isn't like a box of chocolates. It's more like a jar of jalapenos. What you do today, might burn your butt tomorrow.

## PRAYING FOR LEROY

"Anyone with needs to be prayed over, come forward, to the front at the altar," the Preacher says.

Leroy gets in line, and when it's his turn, the preacher asks: "Leroy, what do you want me to pray about for you."

Leroy replies: "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing."

The preacher puts one finger in Leroy's ear, and he places the other hand on top of Leroy's head and prays and prays and prays, he prays a blue streak for Leroy.

After a few minutes, the Preacher removes his hands, stands back and asks, "Leroy, how is your hearing now?"

Leroy says, "I don't know, Reverend, it ain't til next Wednesday!"

# GET SET FOR THE 2009 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

It's time to get ready for the 2009 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test! ARRL Field Organization leaders are planning an event that will actively involve members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) and many other related groups that prepare for and respond to emergencies. Public service agencies and organizations in your community, ARRL Section or state will also be invited to participate. You, too, are invited to be a part of this ARRL sponsored nationwide exercise on October 3-4, 2009, or whenever it is held in your area.

Although October 3-4 is the focal point weekend, ARRL Sections, ARES teams and nets may conduct their exercises anytime -- and especially during September through December. If you don't know who to contact, please touch base with your ARRL Section Manager and/or Section Emergency Coordinator or Section Traffic Manager for assistance. See page 16 of QST for Section Manager contact information or check the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/sections/>>. From there, you'll find links to ARRL section pages with appropriate contact information. There can be a role for you no matter what your level of experience. After all, it is a training opportunity to try out something new under simulated emergency conditions, learn or practice useful skills in traffic handling and net operation, and observe emergency communications protocols and management.

ARRL Field Organization officials in your area and Section are planning the simulated emergency scenarios that will be used during the SET event. These scenarios are designed to help you gain valuable operating experience, or to practice what you have learned previously or to put your Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training into action. In any emergency -- real or simulated -- a number of public service or public safety agencies and organizations are often also involved in the response.

ARRL Section Leaders and local or district-level leaders are encouraged to work closely with these served agencies, and the SET is a great chance to demonstrate the capabilities of Amateur Radio in the community and beyond. For more information on whom the ARRL maintains a National Memoranda of Understanding with, check this page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/>>. Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms for ARRL Section and Field Leaders will be posted online <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/>>. Please report your SET activities to your Section Leaders and to HQ.

# RACES

Requirements for 2009 in The City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County.

Battle Creek Emergency Service will be offering Training Sessions for RACES Requirements soon. Details for Time, Date, and Place will be sent latter.

All Amateur Radio Operators with a interest in Emergency Communication, Public Service, and Skywarn are welcome, All will pass the Exams.

Note: All weather Spotters Must attend at least one Severe Weather Training Sessions every two years.

Dave Smith  
KC8COT  
E-12  
City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County  
RACES Emergency Coordinator.  
E-Mail: [kc8cotham@aol.com](mailto:kc8cotham@aol.com)  
TX: (269) 317-8440

## CALHOUN COUNTY R.A.C.E.S. REQUIREMENTS

DAVE SMITH E.C. KC8COT / E-12  
08-05-09

### Requirements in the City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County for RACES Membership

- 1 **SKYWARN TRAINING (At least one training session within the last two years)**
- 2 **FEMA, IS-0022, Are You Ready?**
- 2 **FEMA, IS-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System**
- 2 **FEMA, IS-700, National Incident Management System**
- 2 **BACK GROUND CHECK, (Call me on this one)**
- 2 **1" SQ. DIGITAL PHOTO OF YOU, (Passport type photo will do)**

**E-Mail me the the Certificates of Completion for the FEMA Courses and the Photo**

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

E-Mail: [kc8cotham@aol.com](mailto:kc8cotham@aol.com)  
Tx: (269) 317-8440

## SMARS Club Meeting

August 20, 2009

## SMARS Board Meeting

August 31, 2009

Called To Order: 7:00 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL, Don W8RVT, John KC8WMM

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Secretary's Report: approved as published in Feedback.

Treasurer's Report: approved as reported at the Club Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Hamfest: New location for next year. Vendors will get letter confirming that there will be a hamfest for 2010 and details on the new location. Club members are asked to pass the word on the various nets.

Field Day: Bob gave his thanks to all that participated this year, and especially to Lou. Construction at airport may force a new location for 2010. Various alternative locations were discussed.

ARES/RACES: New trailer has been completed.

VE Testing: Test session is next Thursday, August 27.

Business:

Mention was made of the passing of Walter Cronkite and his support of amateur radio.

Antenna structure was discussed with info on fractal geometry used in cell phones. Antenna layout is the most popular subject in QST. Jerry has a butternut for the club.

Jack Cox has been cleaning out Keith Adams W8BAY (SK) home. He has parts to give away.

The 440 repeater has been moved to the WBCK tower with the other repeaters. It needs antenna tuning.

Presentation: Don W8RVT gave a talk on APRS.

Drawing: Won by Don W8RVT

Adjourned: 8:27 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson KC8WMM  
SMARS Secretary

Called to Order: 6:10 PM

Officers Present: Bob KC8PRL, Don W8RVT, John KC8WMM, Russ N8UU, Ned WB4BKO

Topics Discussed:

September 12 has the Fly and Drive-In in Marshall. The board decided that the club should try to participate as it has in years past. We will try to set up Friday afternoon and will contact Marshall for a location.

Ned WB4BKO tendered his resignation. He will not be in the area for the next several months. A new VP will be selected at the next club meeting.

Hamfest: Crew to measure the MAC 91 at 1pm. There is concern over the payment schedule. Check on room prices. Hours will be 8 until 2 with the tables being \$10. Refreshments will be coffee and donuts. Letters going out to vendors with new info.

440 repeater antenna needs to be moved. Discussion on what would be the easiest and safest to do.

There was discussion about interference on the links system. One idea was to listen on the input frequency to determine if the interference is local, and if so, try to locate it. The Branch County group is putting on a presentation on foxhunts at the September meeting and something similar could be tried to locate the interference.

Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Davidson KC8WMM  
SMARS Secretary

### Income & Expense Statement

8/1/09 Through 8/31/09

Category Description	8/1/09- 8/31/09
<b>INCOME</b>	
Interest Inc: Checking	1.30
<b>TOTAL Interest Inc</b>	<b>1.30</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1.30</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration: Corp File	20.00
<b>TOTAL Administration</b>	<b>20.00</b>
Utilities: Telephone	62.60
<b>TOTAL Utilities</b>	<b>62.60</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>82.60</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>-81.30</b>

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

# FEEDBACK



SEPTEMBER 2009



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

HAMFEST LOWELL SEPT 12  
GREAT LAKES SYMPOSIUM SEPT 12  
THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING SEPT 17  
HAMFEST ADRIAN SEPT 20  
SMARS BOARD SEPT 28  
SMARS BREAKFAST OCT 3  
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH OCT 8  
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING OCT 15