



# FEEDBACK

June 2024

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.

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### Club News

## Membership Renewals

Just a friendly reminder that Membership Dues are coming up. These can be paid at a Club Meeting (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month) or sent in to the Club's PO Box. The amount is still \$15.00 for one year, \$125 for 10 years, \$250 for 20 years, and \$300 for Lifetime. Donations to the club can also be sent into the PO Box or taken care of at the Club Meeting.

SMARS  
P.O. Box 934  
Battle Creek, MI 49016

## Field Day

Field Day is just around the corner (this weekend). SMARS will be having Field Day out at Calhoun County Fairgrounds. We will also be doing the ID-50 ICOM Radio drawing at Field Day, so make sure to purchase your tickets before then. We have 22 tickets left and they are \$10 apiece. The drawing will be held after lunch, which is planned for noon. More details will be discussed at the Meeting this month.

### Other News

## 2024 ARRL Field Day is Next Week!

The amateur radio event of the year is just a few short days away, June 22-23. Hundreds of thousands of hams around North America and beyond will participate in the beloved operating event. If you're still looking for a place to go, use the Field Day locator tool at [www.arrl.org/field-day-locator](http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator).

As clubs and individual operators make their last-minute checks on gear (have you checked all of your cables and jumpers?) ARRL Contest Branch Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, wants to remind organizers to check on the human factors in a good operation. "This is a good time to call everyone who said they wanted to come out and operate at Field Day and make sure they can still come," he said.

Bourque noted that June is a busy time of year for family obligations and a reminder check-in could be helpful to both clubs and operators. "You also want to make sure you have enough water and sunscreen around, or to have people bring some. It could be very hot depending on where you are, and you've got to take care of the most important aspect of the event: the people," he said.

## Upcoming Radio Contests

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

### Field Day

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 6/22 – 6/23

URL: [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)

### IARU HF World Championship

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 7/13 – 7/14

URL: [www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship](http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship)

### 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

Bands: 222 MHz thru 241 GHz

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 8/3 – 8/4

URL: [www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest](http://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest)

### 10 GHz & Up

Bands: 10 GHz thru Light

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 6/22 – 6/23

URL: [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)

### Rookie Roundup

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: RTTY

Date: 08/18

URL: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

### EME Contest

Bands: 23 GHz and Up

Mode: Phone, Digital, CW

Date: 8/24 – 8/25

URL: [www.arrl.org/eme-contest](http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest)

*\*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>*

The June 2024 issue of QST magazine has a special [Field Day section](#), which includes a checklist of all of the ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada Sections that count. "Print that out and take it with you. Use it as a fun checklist," said Bourque.

There's always a debate as to the purpose of ARRL Field Day. "It is part emergency communications exercise, part social gathering, part open house for ham radio – it is what the local club makes of it. No matter what goal your activation has, ARRL hopes it is a safe, fun, and rewarding event for each club," said ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ.

Find more information, the complete rules packet, and information on submitting logs at [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day).

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/2024-arrl-field-day-is-next-week>

## Operating Notes: LOTW still down, lots of dahs

A couple of days ago, it occurred to me that I hadn't backed up my computer log or uploaded to [Logbook of the World](#) (LOTW) for a while. The backup went well, but when I tried to upload my latest contacts to LOTW, I got an error message. It puzzled me for a bit, but then I remembered that the [ARRL had been hacked about a month ago](#), and that LOTW probably was still down.

I tried just now to log in to LOTW via the ARRL website. There was no notice on the LOTW home page, but when I clicked on the login link, nothing happens, and the attempt just times out. I think it would be a courtesy to note that LOTW is still down and that you can't log in just yet, but it's not that big a deal.

### Lots of dahs

I recently worked Miloš, OM0MM. If you're a CW operator, you know that's a lot of dahs (14, to be exact). I actually had to listen to it a couple of times before I copied the call correctly.

Being a Slovak-American, whenever I work an OM station, I like to send them an email. I asked Milos if this was a vanity call sign. He replied:

Ahoj Dan,

Thank you for nice QSO and for an email. Sorry for my bad English. 😊

About my call, yes I requested for this call sign and I luckily get it 😊 My father (OM0EE) recommended it to me because I am only a CW operator, and I liked the idea of "all dashes." 😊

So you have a Slovak roots? Very nice to hear that. You are the first Slovak ham in USA I have met. 😊

Miloš

OM0MM

Of course, Miloš' English is a lot better than my Slovak, so no worries there. In making this off-air contact, I feel that I'm doing my part to

## Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

**06/16/2024**

Monroe Hamfest  
Location: Monroe, MI  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Monroe County Radio  
Comm Association  
URL: <http://mcrca.org>

**07/20/2024**

Auburn Hamfest  
Location: Auburn, IN  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana  
Amateur Radio Association  
URL: <http://w9ou.org>

**08/03/2024**

Elkhart East Hamfest, ARRL Central  
Divison Convention  
Location: Elkhart, IN  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW  
Repeater Network  
URL: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

“enhance international goodwill” as describe in Part §97.1(e).

### Pro tip

While it is sad that more Americans don't know more than one language, it would be difficult for U.S. hams to master all the languages out there. Having said that, when I want to gauge how well a ham that I've contacted is comfortable with English, I look at their QRZ.Com page. If it's written in English, then I reach out to them in English, as I did with Miloš.

I have also tried doing a Google translate to send an email, but my results have been mixed. I'm not sure if it's because I'm sending a Google translation (I always note that I used Google to translate the message) or what, but I get fewer replies with a translated email.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-lotw-still-down-lots-of-dahs/>

## ARRL making headway on antenna legislation, looking for help

I received this from Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, yesterday via the CWOps mailing list:

While ARRL suffered on other fronts recently, the ARRL Legislative Activities Committee enjoyed a big win. On May 14th, the Vice-Chair of the relevant subject matter committee in the U.S. Congress (Rep. Randy Weber, R-TX-14) signed on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 4006, our bill to aid HOA residents. We now hope to get others on the relevant sub-committee of the House Energy & Commerce Committee to co-sponsor (“to sign on to”) our bill. Can you help?

To find a list of the members of the Sub-committee on Communications & Technology, see

<https://democrats-energycommerce.house.gov/subcommittees/communications-and-technology>. Do you know any of these people? Even if you don't live in a district listed, if you are member of a club based in that district, please let me know.

If you would like to see a copy of the bill, just ask me.

Your two ARRL volunteer lawyers engaged in lobbying this bill in Washington are Gulf Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, and me. The bill has already been introduced in the Senate with both a Republican and a Democrat as co-sponsors. If you can help us lobby another member of the House Communications & Technology subcommittee, please let me know.

CWOps #57

Fred Hopengarten, Esq. K1VR

[Hopengarten@post.harvard.edu](mailto:Hopengarten@post.harvard.edu)

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-making-headway-on-antenna-legislation-looking-for-help/>

## Meeting Minutes 05/16/2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

**Secretary's Report:** Motion made to accept, Motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion made to accept, Motion was passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Hamfest** – Nothing to report at this time, but we need to start planning for next year after Field Day.
- **Skywarn** – Next Tuesday is the Skywarn meeting and a HIAD June 1<sup>st</sup>. Nothing else to report for Skywarn.
- **Field Day** – five possibly six volunteers have excepted to meet at Tom's house to work on the trailers May 18. Work in progress. Field Day well on the move. ARRL was contacted and invited to Field Day. CW to also run at Field Day (if you wish to operate CW, please bring your own Key). We plan to operate 4 radios, but you can bring your own radio to hook up to the antenna (the club is not responsible for any damage caused to the radio or personal equipment used).
- **Repeaters** – Repeaters are all good thanks to Don and Matt.
- **DSTAR** – Nothing to report.
- **POTA** – Nothing new to report.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Trailer work continues in preparation for Field Day.
- Researching venues for Ham Fest. Nothing to update regarding this.

### NEW BUSINESS

- It was brought up at the meeting to start a committee and recruiting new hams made contact with schools and the public to bring a rise and ham radio.
- It was also brought up in the meeting that the Facebook page needs reworking will follow up.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ  
SMARS Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes 06/07/2024

This meeting was mainly for field day which is coming up in a flash my friends June 21 set up we will establish time for that at our next monthly meeting. And field day June 22 at Calhoun county fairgrounds main entrance set up will be right in the front like last time.

Lunch will be served at noon and following lunch will be the drawing for the ID-50 ICOM radio with memory card and friends we only have 22 tickets left. Only \$10 apiece proceeds go to the club.

Sounds like there has been work done to the trailers not sure where we are on those since the last meeting.

please come and join us for field day.

Also need to remind Matt to bring the Tumbler for the drawing.

We also owe Calhoun county fairground 150 for use of their park.

After field day we will have a vote on membership fees Hamfest entry fees and table fees.

### Account Balances as of 6/7/2024

- Checking - \$5,302.71
- Savings – \$6.94
- CoH - \$185.00
- Total: \$5,494.65

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ  
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, CTCSS 94.8 Hz

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.

All repeaters are available via EchoLink (70cm and 1.25m are W8DF-R; 2m is W8DF-L)

## Other Repeaters

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

70cm Repeater 442.350 MHz, +5 MHz offset, CTCSS 186.2 Hz

<b>Club Meeting</b> 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	<b>SKYWARN Coffee</b> 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	<b>BLB Luncheon</b> 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	<b>SMARS Breakfast</b> 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI
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<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  <b>Other Nets:</b> Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz  <i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i>	<b>Upcoming Events:</b>  Club Meeting: June 20th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: July 4th @ 11:30am (May be moved since it is 4th of July) Board Meeting: July 4th @ 6:30pm (May be moved to the 5th) Club Breakfast: July 13th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 27th @ 7:00pm  Field Day Setup: June 21rd @ 3:00pm Field Day: June 22th thru June 23th @ 2:00pm
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