



FEEDBACK

August 2025

Do you have a story, humorous or otherwise, about amateur radio? If so, please contact the newsletter editor (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 3rd Thursday of every month) or sent in to the Club's PO Box. The amount has increased a little this year. For 1 year it is \$20, for 5 years it is \$75, for 10 years it is \$145, for 20 years it is \$280, and for Lifetime it is \$500. For the 1 year, each additional Family Member is an additional \$5. Dues are due January 1st of each year. Newly licensed members get a year free. 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

Other News

Hams Prepare for Forecasted Busy Hurricane Season

The 2025 hurricane season has been underway for almost two months and there has activity on the both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [predicted in June](#) there would be 13 to 18 named storms, 5 to 9 hurricanes, and 2 to 5 major hurricanes (Category 3 or greater) for the 2025 season. This aligns with Colorado State University's forecast for 17 named storms, 9 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes, supported by warm Atlantic sea surface temperatures. All indications point to an above average season.

Tropical Storm Chantal made landfall in the Carolinas with high winds and flooding in July. Now, Tropical Storm Erin has formed in the central Atlantic and is moving west with 45 mile-per-hour winds. Erin is expected to become the first hurricane of the season by tomorrow, August 15. Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, ARRL Director of Emergency Management, said that Erin is expected to stay mainly off the coast but there may some impact to the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

"These early storms remind us that now is the right time for amateur radio operators to begin thinking how they can help, if and when these storms begin to ramp up and cause damage," said Johnston. "We know that conventional communications can fail, and amateur radio will be there is to fill gap."

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

September VHF

Bands: 50, 144, 222, and 432 MHz

Mode: Digital, SSB, Phone, CW

Date: 09/13 – 09/15

URL: www.arrl.org/september-vhf

EME – 2.3 GHz & Up

Bands: Above 2.3 GHz

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 09/13 – 09/14

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

10 GHz & Up Round 2

Bands: 10 GHz through Light

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB

Date: 09/20 – 09/22

URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

EME – 50 to 1296 MHz

Bands: 50 through 1296 MHz

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB

Date: 10/11 – 10/12

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

School Club Roundup

Bands: All Bands, Except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 10/20 – 10/24

URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-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>*

Johnston added that hams should check their equipment including radios, antennas, and power supplies, and know the emergency frequencies used during activation. The [VoIP Hurricane Prep Net](#) now runs weekly on Saturdays at 8 PM EDT / 0000 UTC, an active forum for situational updates, net control recruitment, and emergency coordination. The [Hurricane Watch Net](#) keeps tabs on tropical storms and hurricanes and activates its nets on 14.325 MHz (USB) by day and 7.268 MHz (LSB) by night.

“What amateur radio operators do now to prepare for these dangerous and damaging storms will make a difference,” noted Johnston, “and help save lives.” Information about the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and how you can be active in your local area can be found at www.arrl.org/ares.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/hams-prepare-for-forecasted-busy-hurricane-season>

ARRL Field Day 2025 Saw Growth in Participants and Entries

The numbers are in and showing growth. 2025 ARRL Field Day showed an increase in both participants and entries, compared to 2024. According to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, 4,369 entries detailed 31,785 people taking part in the event. That's up from last year.

“There's a growing interest in ham radio, especially after last year's hurricane season and other high-profile situations in which radio has been essential,” noted Bourque. “ARRL Field Day serves as a great chance to get engaged with your local amateur radio community.”

The uptick in numbers may not be complete, as there's still an opportunity for a few more entries to be added. “Occasionally, a club will need to update their entry. We work with them to make sure it is correct,” said Bourque.

Field Day participants should check that all the required supporting documentation related to their entries has been received by checking the Entries Received web page at field-day.arrl.org/fdentriescvd.php. If the status of your entry is listed as Pending Documents, one or more of the required documents still needs to be submitted to complete your entry. Entrants may use the link provided in the confirmation email they received to upload additional documents or to modify their entries. Currently, 223 entries are listed as being incomplete. Updates to existing entries will be accepted until August 29, 2025. If you're having difficulty completing your Field Day entry or have any questions, contact fieldday@arrl.org.

On the public outreach front, final measurement numbers of the media coverage earned by amateur radio public information volunteers have been tallied. ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, reports that the total ad value equivalence (AVE) of 2025 ARRL Field Day is \$37.9 million. “We had a tremendous response from clubs and ARRL public information volunteers this year on the heels of Ham Radio Open House into ARRL Field Day,” she said. “The ARRL Public Relations Committee prepared resources to help the volunteers succeed, but they really took it to the next level in communities across the country.”

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

09/06/2025

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest

Location: Wyoming, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Site: <https://w8dc.org/grand-rapids-area-hamfest/>

09/07/2025

Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

Site: <http://w8ft.org/>

09/13/2025

Swap Meet/Hamfest

Location: Toledo, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lucas County ARES

Site: <http://www.lucasares.org/>

9/14/2025

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: AARC

Site: <http://w8tqe.com/>

10/04/2025

2025 Kalamazoo Hamfest and

Vintage Electronic Expo

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club, Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team, Vintage Electronics Expo

Site:

<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.org/>

10/11/2025

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

Site: <http://mcecs.net/Hamfest.htm>

AVE measures the amount of money that would have to be spent to buy ads in media and social media to replace the news coverage volunteers secured with press outreach. The \$37.9M figure measures only mentions of ARRL Field Day from January 1 – July 31 of each year. In 2024, the figure was \$20M, and \$18M in 2023. Harrop hopes to see further strengthening of public information volunteers leading into 2026, which ARRL has designated as the Year of the Club. Hams seeking to serve as an ARRL public information volunteer may express interest to their ARRL Section Manager.

The overall growth is encouraging to ARRL. "I'm very pleased with the amount of active ARRL Field Day participants this year. It's nice to see more and more people participating!" said Bourque.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrrl.org/news/arrrl-field-day-2025-saw-growth-in-participants-and-entries>

Interesting battery failure

My wife, Silvia, is a stickler for keeping the garage door closed, even if I'm just outside doing some gardening. So, I have a garage door control that I keep in my gardening toolbox, so that I can close the door when I'm outside and then get back in when I'm done.

The other day, the control quit working. That's not unusual, really. The 9 V battery that powers the thing doesn't last forever. In this case, though, I found it odd because I replaced the battery not long ago. That got me thinking that perhaps the electronics had gone bad somehow, and that I'd have to replace the control altogether. That could be a problem, since the garage door opener is so old. I'm not sure that I could get a replacement.

Anyway, last night I opened the case, and found the battery shown at right. Somehow, the negative terminal became disconnected from the battery. Very strange, no? I've never seen a battery fail this way.

I plan to send an email to Duracell and see what they have to say. I'll update this post if I get a reply. If you have had a battery fail like this, or in some other weird way, please add a comment below.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/interesting-battery-failure/>



Meeting Minutes 07/17/2025

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

22 in Attendance

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

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

OPENING NOTE:

- Sold four items totaling \$745. The game, radio, canopy, and an A.M. transmitter. We still have four or five radios to sell look into make and put some money in our checking Kenwood TS 40 if anyone is interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Hamfest pause for now one in Elkhart August 2.
- Skywarn – Nothing to discuss during this meeting.
- Field Day – Field day score not tallied yet. We had fun made lots of contacts, good shade in the back of the park. Next year reminder to use ban filters for radios issues with overlapping.
- Repeaters – Everything is good with the Repeaters.
- VE – VE session update from June one past. Next VE session August 28 at Maple United Methodist Church on Capitol Avenue at 7 PM.
- POTA – Pota report 16,663 contacts only 67 on the previous Saturday Pota is on Saturday at Whitford lake Fort Custer breakfast at 8 AM at Café Tal followed by set up and contacts.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Looking to expand and engage with younger crowd jamboree, KCC outreach, start up some youth ham programs.
- Upcoming event August 2 in Homer hog fest Mars will have a space at the hog fest

8 AM.

- September 21 festival of the Forks Albion we will set up a table there as well more to come on this.
- Teamrubiconusa.org if anyone is interested in doing more outreach programs involving emergency services
- Also we've been thinking about becoming a 501(c) three need a trustee members to apply for this and see what benefits can come for the club. Will discuss this further.

Meeting Adjourned around 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 8/7/2025

FINANCES:

- Checking \$4,823.22
- Savings \$6.94
- Cash on hand \$70.00
- Total \$4,900.16

Notes:

- DSTAR Internet services April-June still due out (\$197.85).

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

Present officers, Woodman, Williams, Whipple, Pesch

Absent officers, Lake

The 3rd annual MI-POTA Meet-up has been scheduled for 2026. Hartwick Pines State Park, 3612 State Park Dr. Grayling, MI 49738.

Future Meetings Plan:

- Aug – possible presentation on Tape Measure Yagi
- Sep – possible presentation on Fox Hunting – awaiting response from Tom Worthington
- Oct – Presentation by Goeorge Guerin on the Battle Creek Special Antenna, Month to Vote in new club officers.
- Nov – New officer installation, Planning for Winter Field Day.

VE Session on 28 August. Kyle Brown will be out of town. John Davidson agreed to step in as VE Liaison.

Discussion about the expense of having internet service at both the W8DF repeater and the DSTAR repeater. Called Terry Tassos. It does not appear there is any way to co-locate the hardware at this time. Club budget is tight and we need to look at ways to stretch the budget.

Two of the club radios have sold. One of them is being shipped back with an investigation into the damage that apparently occurred in transit. The one that sold is expected to bring the club \$250. Waiting until the other sale is settled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Whipple, KE8DW
SMARS Treasurer

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

Club Meeting 3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	SKYWARN Coffee 1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	BLB Luncheon 1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	SMARS Breakfast 2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI
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SMARS Nets: 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 Other Nets: Skywarn Net: Tuesday 7:00 PM, 147.12 MHz <i>Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones</i>	Upcoming Events: Club Meeting: August 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: September 4th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: September 4th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: September 13th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 28th @ 7:00pm
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