



FEEDBACK

December 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.

Board of Directors:

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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

FCC Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15; Continues Amateur Use of Four Additional 60-Meter Channels, and Updates 420 MHz Coordination Information

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited [Report and Order](#) adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meter band that was approved for world-wide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2015) [Final Acts](#). The Commission also agreed with a petition from [ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio® to continue to allow amateur operations on four existing 60-meter channels outside the international allocation with a full 100 watts. **The new rules will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.**

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service **on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP**. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions but antenna gain must be used to

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Rookie Roundup – CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 12/21

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

Straight Key Night

Bands: All Bands

Mode: CW

Date: 01/01

URL: www.arrl.org/straight-key-night

Kid's Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Date: 01/03

URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

RTTY Roundup

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

Mode: Digital (RTTY)

Date: 01/03 – 01/04

URL: www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

January VHF

Bands: Above 50 MHz

Mode: Digital, Phone, CW

Date: 01/17 – 01/19

URL: www.arrl.org/january-vhf

**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>*

calculate ERP.

The 60-meter allocation is available to amateurs holding a General Class or above license. The maximum permissible signal bandwidth is 2.8 kHz.

Amateurs are cautioned that this allocation is strictly on a secondary basis, and amateurs must avoid interfering with non-amateur stations using this spectrum. This obligation includes the responsibility to monitor for such stations using appropriate receiver bandwidths. The FCC emphasized that “allowing amateur operations in this band while fully protecting incumbent primary Federal operations is our priority, and even intermittent interference in this band could jeopardize important Federal operations.”

The Commission left open [ARRL's 2017 Petition for Rulemaking](http://www.arrl.org/petition) to implement this WRC allocation (RM-11785), stating that “we expect the Commission may address any necessary power adjustments for the new 15 kilohertz international allocation in that proceeding.” ARRL will be observing operations in the new band to evaluate the effect of the 9.15-watt limit and already has been monitoring the regulations and experiences of amateurs in other countries.

Finally, in the same Report and Order, the FCC updated 420 - 450 MHz coordination and contact information for geographic areas where the peak envelope power (PEP) of amateur stations operating is generally limited to 50 watts. There was no substantive change to the areas covered by the power limitation.

Related ARRL News Stories (Background)

World Radiocommunication Conference Approves Global 60 Meter Allocation! (ARRL News 11/18/2015)

www.arrl.org/news/world-radiocommunication-conference-approves-global-60-meter-allocation

It's a Wrap: WRC-15 Concludes in Geneva (ARRL News 11/27/2015)

www.arrl.org/news/it-s-a-wrap-wrc-15-concludes-in-geneva

ARRL Asks FCC to Allocate New 5 MHz Band, Retain Channels and Current Power Limit (ARRL News 1/12/2017)

www.arrl.org/news/arrl-asks-fcc-to-allocate-new-5-mhz-band-retain-channels-and-current-power-limit

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band (ARRL News 2/16/2017)

www.arrl.org/news/fcc-invites-comments-on-arrl-petition-to-allocate-new-5-mhz-band

ARRL Urges Comments to FCC on 60-Meter Band (ARRL News 10/30/2023)

www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-comments-to-fcc-on-60-meter-band

ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band (ARRL News 4/28/2023)

www.arrl.org/news/arrl-advocates-for-radio-amateurs-as-fcc-proposes-changes-to-60-meter-band

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-allocates-60-meter-world-wide-amateur-band-approved-at-wrc-15-continues-amateur-use-of-four-addi>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

02/21/2025

Livonia Amateur Radio Club Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Northville, MI

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

Site: <http://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop/>

02/28/2025

LaPorte Cabin Fever Hamfest

Location: LaPorte, IN

Sponsor: LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club

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

Silent Key

“Space Sailors” Seeking Download Help from Ham Radio Operators

Update 12/4/2025 (See original story, below.)

ChipSat Signals Received; Listeners Still Needed

Updating the story, ‘Space Sailors’ Seeking Download Help from Ham Radio Operators,” posted on December 2, 2025, Cornell University’s “ChipSat”-equipped light sail was successfully deployed on December 3 and several dozen telemetry signals from its ChipSat flight computers have been received and decoded. This is the first time that orbit-to-ground ChipSat data has been fully decoded, which Ph.D. candidate Joshua Umansky-Castro, KD2WTQ, calls “a huge milestone for the technology.”

Student researchers at Cornell still seek help from amateur radio operators equipped with satellite receive stations to continue monitoring for signal from the 100-milliwatt transmitters on 437.400 MHz, using the LoRa® digital protocol. It is estimated that the light sail will deorbit within 48 hours of deployment, due to the drag it creates in low-Earth orbit. Data is being collected on the TinyGS project webpage, which is also posting updates on progress.

Original story 12/2/2025

A group of students at Cornell University is seeking participation from radio amateurs who are equipped with satellite stations for help in listening for signals from a retroreflective laser sail that is scheduled to be deployed later this week. The sail is currently attached to a 1U CubeSat that was launched early Tuesday, December 2, 2025, from the International Space Station, but will separate and become its own free-flying spacecraft equipped with four tiny “ChipSat” flight computers that will transmit telemetry data back to Earth.

This is the first flight of their ChipSats, and it is this data that the students seek help detecting, according to Ph.D. candidate Joshua Umansky-Castro, who has an amateur radio license; call sign KD2WTQ. The light sail’s ChipSats will be transmitting data using the LoRa® digital protocol on 437.400 MHz. The sail, stowed within the CubeSat, is expected be released a couple of days after deployment — tentatively this Thursday, December 4 — and will likely function independently for no more than 48 hours due to the drag created by the sail.

Additional information, including LoRa parameters and links to a list of compatible receivers and the decoder file, may be found at alphacubesat.cornell.edu in the ChipSat Ground Station Guide (docx).

It is hoped that the ChipSat and light sail will become the trailblazer for future missions around the solar system, and one day to our closest stellar neighbor, Alpha Centauri.

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/space-sailors-seeking-download-help-from-ham-radio-operators>

Meeting Minutes 11/20/2025

Meeting Called to order at 1900

16 members in attendance.

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion made to accept, Motion was passed. The Board Proposed the Club move the bank account to another bank, which was approved as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – No new updates at this time.
- SkyWarn – Meeting this week was canceled due to work conflict. Net was conducted instead. Siren upgrades and or repairs are underway.
- Field Day – No new updates at this time.
- Repeaters – Everything has been working for the past 6 weeks. Internet service was interrupted and restored in October. The Club owns two spare repeaters, 2M and 70cm. One is with Kyle Brown the other is at the repeater site. Plans to replace the old 2M Motorola with one of the newer spares; Yaesu model DR-1. This will require an additional control module to enable Voice Announcement of callsign and time of day, approximately \$40 each. Dan Klueter and Dan Pesch agreed to work the project. Proposal to buy two control modules: Approved.
- VE – 1 Person tested and was upgraded. Due to Holidays our December Testing is canceled.
- POTA – Last Sunday 259 contacts were made. This morning 31 contacts were made by Kevin Hoyt and Dan Pesch at North Country Trail. Goal is 21,000 contacts for the club by Thanksgiving. Going back to Fort Custer next Saturday. Breakfast at Cafetal at 0800. Setup at Whitford Lake at 0930. On air 0945. Everyone is encouraged to come out and participate.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Club Holiday Party – December 6th 5-8pm, Pennfield Presbyterian Church 7979 St Marys Lake Rd. Start with Dinner and then exchange white elephant gifts. Bring a gift to exchange.
- Non Profit – The club has obtained an EIN number and submitted an application to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status. Due to government shutdown we don't expect approval until around Christmas. Additionally our club Constitution requires modification to meet the Non Profit requirements. Two articles need to be amended; our club purpose and the details about what happens when the club is dissolved. Dan Whipple emailed all of the current club members with a PDF that shows all the changes. Expect to vote for approval at the December club meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- No new business.

PRESENTATION:

The one we planned for tonight was not ready for presentation: Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS). Instead Dan Pesch shared a video by TheSmokinApe Ham Radio about Coax Cable myths and truths. Video and discussion occurred.

Meeting Adjourned around 2003 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Whipple, WF8S
on behalf of the absent Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 12/04/2025

FINANCES:

- Checking \$4,697.79
- Savings \$6.94
- Cash on hand \$70.00
- Total \$4,774.73

Notes:

- Accounts have been moved to another bank successfully
- EIN for 501(c)(3) status has been issued

Board meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the American Legion on 20th St.

And attendance tonight we have Matt and Tracie Woodman, Kevin Hoyt, Dan Whipple, Dan Pesch, and Melanie Lake

Christmas party Saturday sixth of December at 5 PM Pennfeild Presbyterian Church 7979 Saint Mary's Lake Road make sure you bring your appetite and a white elephant gift for the game.

Thank you to those who participated in the Christmas parade it was nice to have our trailer back in the game.

It is a go for Winter Field Day Dan and Stephanie Whipple will host in Gillsburg same as last year. Dan will register us for Winter Field Day set up 12 PM on Friday. Winter Field Day starts at 11 AM on Saturday, January 24 through the 25th

December meeting Kevin and Hoyt will bring in Radio for Air time.

A vote will take place to update our constitution for 501(c)(3) we are set to go.

Our next club meeting will be on Thursday, December 18 at 7 PM at the Maplehurst United Methodist Church on capital Avenue. All club members are welcome or those who are interested are welcome.

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

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: December 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: January 1st @ 11:30am Board Meeting: January 1st @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: January 10th @ 8:30am VE Session: February 26th @ 7:00pm Events on January 1st might be canceled or rescheduled.
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