Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

FEEDBACK

June 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 Renews

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

Items for Sale

Don, W8RVT, has some items he is looking to sell. If you are interested, please reach out to him at 269-963-7797 or via the W8DF Repeaters. Items that he does not sell will be put up on. Below is what he is selling:

- 1 KW cantenna dummy load in a 1 gallon oil filled can (Free, just need to pick it up from him)
- WAVETEK 3001 signal generator
- HP1725 275 MHz oscilloscope
- Kenwood TS450SAT, with digital adapter works with PSK31, FT8 and slow scan TV.. Will include power supply
- Butternut HF6V vertical antenna with manual
- APRS tracker includes Kenwood TM201A, TINYTRAK3 and GPS receiver

Field Day – SMARS

Field Day is just around the corner (the last weekend of the month, June 28 – 29). W8DF will be operating at Calhoun Fairgrounds, however we will not be out front as we were the last couple of Field Days. We will be towards the back of the Fairgrounds on the other side of the Grand Stands (near Clinton Street entrance). We will also only be operating out of two Trailers instead of the three. More details will be discussed at the Club Meeting this week, so please stop by to provide input, or information, for Field Day 2025.

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Kids Day
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters
Mode: Phone, Digital
Date: 06/21
URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

Field Day
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters and above 50 Mhz
Mode: Digital, Phone, SSB, CW
Date: 06/28 – 06/29
URL: www.arrl.org/field-day

IARU HF World Championship
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters
Mode: Phone, CW
Date: 07/12 – 07/13
URL: www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship

222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
Bands: 222 MHz through 241 GHz
Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB
Date: 08/02 – 08/03
URL: www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest

10 GHz & Up
Bands: 10 GHz through Light
Mode: Phone, CW, Digital, SSB
Date: 08/16 – 08/18
URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

EME – 2.3 GHz & Up
Bands: Above 2.3 GHz
Mode: Phone, CW
Date: 08/16 – 08/17
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

Rookie Roundup
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters
Mode: RTTY
Date: 08/17
URL: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

A more thorough listing of upcoming Contests can be found on the ARRL's web page* **ContestCalendar, **http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar**

We normally start setup on Friday around 3 PM to get the trailers ready for the start of Field Day (this is subject to change, details at the Club Meeting). Some stuff will be setup Saturday morning before the start of Field Day at 2 PM EST (1800 UTC). As long as people want to operate, the trailers will be open all night.

Other News

2025 ARRL Field Day - Are You Ready?

You can almost hear the synthesizer lead from the musical act Europe's 1986 hit, "The Final Countdown," playing in the air — we are just two weeks away from 2025 ARRL Field Day, taking place on June 28 – 29. As the excitement builds, 1067 sites are listed on the station locator tool. Each of them has a lot of work to do between now and the first "CQ Field Day" transmission.

Now is the time to check (and double-check) everything, according to ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "Check all your gear and accessories. Put it on the air, and make sure there are no problems. Organize your power chain – from the generator to all the cables," he suggested.

Going through all the equipment, including antennas and antenna support structures, will keep any nasty surprises at bay when it's time to activate for the event.

It is also time to check on your people and places. "Reach out to everyone who said they wanted to come and make sure they are still able to. Build an operating schedule," said Jahnke. It's also a prudent time to check with the property owner where you intend to hold the activation. Follow up with local media and town officials that have been invited.

With the heat of summer bearing down, make sure there's enough water and sunscreen for the activation. A double-check of supplies now could spare you from unplanned errands during Field Day.

"More than anything, being prepared now will help you be present during Field Day," said ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. "This is a great opportunity to share the joy and community of amateur radio with people who may not get a chance to participate in it often – or it could be a first introduction. Prepare now so you can have fun the weekend of," she said.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has many resources to help your activation thrive during the event. All the rules and information are at www.arrl.org/FieldDay. Order your 2025 ARRL Field Day merch by Thursday, June 19, to ensure your shipment arrives in time for Field Day.

ARRL also encourages clubs to use Field Day as an opportunity to onboard new members – both into the club and into amateur radio. Have a plan for prospective hams to become a part of the action through licensing classes, exam sessions, demonstrations, and future club activities. Invite them to your next club meeting and make them feel welcome. Exchange contact information and follow up with them. Field Day is a great outreach opportunity!

Article courtesy of https://www.arrl.org/news/2025-arrl-field-day-are-you-ready

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

07/19/2025
Auburn Hamfest
Location: Auburn, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association
Site: http://w9ou.org/

07/26/2025
BARA / MCRN Trunk Swap
Location: Berrien Center, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Blossomland Amateur Radio Association and the Midwest Classic Radio Net
Site: https://www.w8mai.org/index.php/club-information/bara-trunk-swap

08/02/2025
Elkhart East Hamfest
Location: Elkhart, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network
Site: http://elkharteasthamfest.com/

13 Colonies Event Founder Passing the Reins After 16 Years

The 13 Colonies 2025, a popular summer operating event, will take place less than a month from now, on July 1, 9:00 AM to July 7, midnight EDT (July 1 – 1300 UTC – July 8 – 0400 UTC).

This year the event will honor founder Ken Villone, KU2US, who is passing the torch to Tony Jones, N4ATJ. Villone has led the event for 16 years by working with state and bonus station coordinators and has grown from making approximately 12,000 contacts in 2009 to making 292,496 contacts around the world in 2024.

This year, one station will be operating in each of the 13 original British colonies, K2A – K2M, along with three bonus stations — WM3PEN, Philadelphia; GB13COL, England, and TM13COL, France — each representing their city, state, or country's role in America's colonial period.

Villone said event actually started 2008, right after he finished participating in the ARRL Sweepstakes.

"I remembered how fun it was but I could not figure out why there were not more of these types of special events on the air," said Villone. "So I decided to try my luck and create one, for one year only, to see what happens and to have some fun. I knew we had to offer a special QSL card and/or certificate plus have on hand a printer and supplies. The hard part was deciding what the event would commemorate and when to do this. I needed a theme that all could relate to and the event would have to be the type with multiple event stations involved, like the ARRL Sweeps."

"Then it hit me...13 colony states, during the 4th of July week and offer a certificate with the theme for the year. I made sure the theme was different each year with a different certificate design, to make it interesting and to also make the cert collectable. The theme would highlight some event or thing connected to the American Revolution."

"The inaugural event was held July 1st to the 4th, 2009, 4 days, with no advertising except on QRZ. I had a hard time getting 13 different ops, one from each colony state, but it worked out. All in all it was a success!"

Amateur radio operators and SWLs can participate in the event. Complete information about the call for each colony station and the bonus stations can be found on the event website or on Facebook at 13 Colonies Special Event Community.

Article courtesy of https://www.arrl.org/news/13-colonies-event-founder-passing-the-reins-after-16-years

Meeting Minutes 05/15/2025

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Hamfest Saturday, June 7th set up time 3 PM vendors can show up at 5 PM this is our first time at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds for our 63rd annual CrossRoads Hamfest.
- Skywarn – Nothing to report. Ham in a Day (HIAD) had 10 people show up, 7 passed.
- Field Day – Field day will be at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds back by the Clinton Street entrance due to a horse show at the same time we will use two trailers for field day versus 3 and 1 pop-up Eskimo tent run as 4 Alpha.
- Repeaters – Repeaters are all good.
- VE – Three passed and one was upgraded. Next VE Session is at the Hamfest June 8th at 10 AM, and another at the Church on June 26th at 7 PM.
- POTA – POTA is up to 14,916 now contacts again this is on Saturday at Fort Custer Whitford lake 9 AM for set up and contact. With breakfast at Café Tal at 8 AM this is so much fun and we have a great set up so come out and join the fun. POTA Meet up will also happen at the same location on June 7th at 10 AM.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion about Hamfest as it was coming up soon.

PROGRAM

Dan Pesch, WB8KC, gave a wounder presentation on call signs and how they have changed through the years to what we know today. It was very interesting and informative. We appreciate your time and enthusiasm to teach us all something new.

Meeting Adjourned around 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 06/05/2025

FINANCES:

- Checking $1,560.80
- Savings $6.94
- Cash on hand $970.00
- Total $2,537.74

Notes:

- Cash on hand is for change at Hamfest.
- Recently paid off Fairgrounds rental fee for Hamfest.
- Recently paid $200 for door prizes.
- DSTAR Internet services coming due soon ($197.85).

SMARS Monthly board meeting is held 6:30 PM the first Thursday of the month at the American Legion on 20th St. anyone is welcome to participate

Ham fest this weekend get ready set go!

Ham fest will be at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds Sunday, June 8 at 8 AM to 1 PM.

We will be using the comfort center for bathrooms due to a leak in the other bathrooms we were going to use. Not too much of an inconvenience but still an inconvenient upgrade.

We will be selling three of our club radios at ham fest to donate the money back to the club since we are not using them and still have many other radios available.

Don’t forget hamfest set up June 7th 3 PM Calhoun County Fairground.

There will be an ATM machine and a food truck at our ham fest this year.

We have sold 52 tables so far.

And don’t forget about the Pota meet up on Saturday, June 7 at 10 AM.

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	**SKYWARN Coffee**	**BLB Luncheon**	**SMARS Breakfast**
3rd Thursday of every month Maple United Methodist Church 342 Capital Avenue NE Battle Creek, MI 49017	1st Saturday of every month Immediately after Siren Test Coney Island, N.E. Capital Battle Creek, MI	1st Thursday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI	2nd Saturday of every month Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI

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

Please see previous page for offsets and CTCSS tones

Upcoming Events:

Club Meeting: June 19th @ 7:00pm
BLB Luncheon: July 3rd @ 11:30am
Board Meeting: July 3rd @ 6:30pm
Club Breakfast: July 12th @ 8:30am
VE Session: June 26th @ 7:00pm

Field Day Setup: June 27th @ 3:00 pm
Field Day: June 28th thru June 29th @ 2:00 pm