Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

FEEDBACK

November 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 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

Other News

Ham Radio Operators to Support Indian Ocean Tsunami Exercise

Radio amateurs from the Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL) will participate in the Indian Ocean Wave 2025 exercise (IOWave25), coordinated by UNESCO's intergovernmental coordination group for Indian Ocean tsunamis on November 5, 2025. RSSL will support the Disaster Management Centre by operating HF and VHF emergency communication networks during the exercise, which is intended to test tsunami preparedness and communication readiness across Indian Ocean nations.

RSSL is requesting all amateur radio stations within the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 keep the following HF frequencies clear and give priority to emergency communication traffic related to the exercise between 0800 – 1600 LKT (0230–1030 UTC). IARU R3 includes the Pacific and parts of Asia.

See image for a short list of the frequencies involved.

For more information and additional information about the exercise, contact the Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL) – www.rssl.lk/emergency.

ARRL thanks IARU Region 3 Secretary Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP, for sharing information included in this announcement.

Article courtesy of https://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-operators-to-support-indian-ocean-tsunami-exercise

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

ARRL November Sweepstakes – Phone
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: Phone
Date: 11/15 – 11/17
URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

160 Meter
Bands: 160 Meters
Mode: CW
Date: 12/05 – 12/07
URL: www.arrl.org/160-meter

10 Meter
Bands: 10 Meters
Mode: Phone, CW
Date: 12/13 – 12/14
URL: www.arrl.org/10-meter

Rookie Roundup – CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: CW
Date: 12/21
URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

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

ARRL Introduces New LIVE Online Course for Ham Radio Licensing

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has introduced a new, fully-interactive two-day online course for ham radio licensing. The ARRL Technician Class LIVE Video Course includes everything needed to prepare for the FCC Technician Class amateur radio license exam. Enrollment is open now for the inaugural course, which will take place December 20 - 21, 2025.

Join ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, for this interactive online class. “We’re going to have fun!,” said Greene. “I’ll guide you through operating your first ham radio to how to communicate through amateur radio satellites. We are going to get fully immersed in every question and answer with the info you need to pass the test!”

In addition to live instruction, course participants will receive the popular Technician Class prep book authored by ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, which has helped thousands of new hams get licensed with fast results. One-year of ARRL Membership is also included, ensuring these new hams will have quick access to all ARRL benefits, services, and programs.

Course Includes:

- **Two days of LIVE instruction** with expert ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF
- **Technician Class prep book** by Gordon West, WB6NOA
- **One-year of ARRL Membership**

Those who remember ARRL’s recorded video courses of the past will recall how valuable it is to see and hear lively video instruction. This new course will ensure students have an even more personal, interactive experience. Greene will present the material in bite-sized sections, demonstrating just how much fun amateur radio is!

Visit the ARRL Shop to complete the paid enrollment for a special introductory price of $99. Registrants will receive a follow-up email with instructions for registering for the live video course after completing your order. If you have any questions regarding the course, please contact the ARRL Education and Learning Department at 860-594-0285 or email ead@arrl.org.

Article courtesy of https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-introduces-new-live-online-course-for-ham-radio-licensing

Images Beamed from Space Celebrate 25 Years of Ham Radio on the ISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) will mark two major milestones this month with a special Slow Scan Television (SSTV) event aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Beginning November 12 through November 20, the station will transmit a series of 12 commemorative SSTV images, pausing only for a scheduled educational contact.

The “SSTV Spacetacular” will highlight both the recent World Scouting movement’s Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) and the 25th anniversary of

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

12/06/2025
FCARC Winter Hamfest
Location: Delta, OH
Sponsor: FCARC
Site: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest

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/

Silent Key

ARISS ham radio operations on the ISS.

ARISS first went on the air on November 13, 2000, when the ISS Expedition 1 crew made the inaugural ham radio contact using an Ericsson VHF radio. That same year, the first scheduled school contact linked ISS Commander Bill Shepherd, who had call sign KD5GSL, with students at Luther Burbank School in Burbank, Illinois. Since then, ARISS has connected an estimated 200,000 students, educators, and enthusiasts each year with astronauts living and working aboard the orbiting laboratory.

For this month's event, scouts, educators, students, and amateur radio operators worldwide are invited to receive and decode the transmitted images. Participants can upload their received pictures to the ARISS SSTV gallery to earn a commemorative electronic award certificate.

In ARISS's most recent SSTV campaign — held in early October to celebrate World Space Week — nearly 9,000 images were submitted by more than 3,600 participants on all continents, including three from Antarctica.

For the latest SSTV schedules, frequencies, and event details, follow ARISS on ARISS Facebook, X and Instagram.

Thanks to ARISS for the information in this news release.

Article courtesy of https://www.arrl.org/news/images-beamed-from-space-celebrate-25-years-of-ham-radio-on-the-iss

Another crazy idea for the ARRL

On Mastodon, Victoria (K8VSY) (she/her) @k8vsy posted:

Looks like GMRS license holders can also send letters about the HOA bill: https://send-a-letter.org/gmrs.

For more info about the HOA bill working its way through Congress: https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation.

This got me thinking. What if the ARRL morphed itself into the "national association for personal radio" and included advocacy for services like GRMS, FRS, MURS, and other "personal" radio services? I suppose that I should have done more research before posting this, but off the top, it seems like this might be a good thing for the ARRL to do. I just did a quick internet search for "GMRS national association," but while there were links to repeater directories and associations, I didn't find an actual organization like the ARRL.

There are hundreds of thousands of GMRS licensees in the U.S., and many radio amateurs also have GMRS licenses. I have one myself. And, GMRS licensees face many of the same issues—both technical and regulatory—as radio amateurs. Doesn't it make sense for the two groups to unite? Together, we could be a stronger advocacy group than going it alone. The fight over the HOA bill might just be the impetus for this.

Article courtesy of https://www.kb6nu.com/another-crazy-idea-for-the-arrl/

Meeting Minutes 10/16/2025

Meeting Called to order at 1900

14 members 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 – No new updates at this time.
- Skywarn – Skywarn meetings are held at the American Legion Post 257 on the Third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM. During the Winter, they go on break due to lack of major weather events in the area.
- Field Day – New new updates at this time.
- Repeaters – 220/440 EchoLink is still down due to the Internet connection being down. Pending repairs by ATT.
- VE – VE Session next Thursday at 7 PM.
- POTA – Support your park weekend 19,428 contacts again. They meet on Saturdays at Café Tal for breakfast at 8 AM followed by set up and contacts at Fort custards Whitford lake. Thank you POTA.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Again, we are still sad of the passing of our former VP Gary Williams whose service was held October 17 at North Ave., Church of God followed by celebration of life at 1 PM October 18 at the American Legion on 20th St.
- Also an upcoming jamboree October 18 4:50 PM for custard Whitford lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Elections for Board Members - All current board members remain Matt Woodman president, Dan Whipple treasurer, Melanie Lake secretary, and new vice president Kevin Hoyt. Congratulations.
- Keyholder volunteer for repeaters needed thank you Dan for volunteering.

A presentation on the Battle Creek special low band antenna presented by George Gurin K8GG. Great educational and historic presentation thank you so much George.

Meeting Adjourned around 2015 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 11/06/2025

FINANCES:

- Checking $4,685.00
- Savings $6.94
- Cash on hand $70.00
- Total $4,761.94

Notes:

- Frustrations continue with the current bank. We are exploring alternatives. We also are pending 501(c)(3) status.

Meeting called to order at 1830

Tonight we have an attendance

- Matt woodman president with wife Tracy Woodman
- Dan Whipple treasurer
- Kevin Hoyt vice president
- Melanie Lake secretary
- Dan Pesch at large

Winter field day will be hosted at Dan Whipple‘s homebase January 24-25 there are also some new updates for winter field day so make sure to check the books.

We welcome our new vice president Kevin Hoyt KE8UU.

We are on the path to 501(c)(3) EIN from IRS must file taxes but this opens so many doors for us and for our club. Thank you so much Dan Whipple for taking the reins on that.

We will have to make some minor changes to the bylaws in our constitution for the 501(c)(3) but we are hoping to have this in the bag by 2026.

On that note this opens up so many opportunities for fundraisers donations more club outings more community outreach and more.

On that note we are looking to possibly extend our board members by adding a public relations and development officer this person will be the Director of communications and community outreach is responsible for promoting the mission and activities of the Southern Michigan amateur radio society through public relations fundraisers and community engagement this officer serves as a primary link between SMARS and the public amplifying the society signal three events media and partnership. We do possibly have a candidate ready to take the reins on this Miss Tracy Woodman.

On November 20 at our next meeting Bret and Air Force Mars for a presentation.

November 22 Battle Creek Christmas parade decorations and volunteers for the parade are needed walkers trailer driver our next meeting is the 20th so this gives us very little time so if you are willing to step forward and hop on this much appreciated.

Our annual Christmas party will be held December 6 at Pennfield Presbyterian Church on Saint Mary’s Lake Road, still working on the time. Looking like same as last year 5 to 8 please let us know if you will make it so we can have a general headcount and please bring a white elephant gift for our game thank you can’t wait to celebrate and cannot believe it’s almost Christmas cheers.

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: November 20th @ 7:00pm
BLB Luncheon: December 4th @ 11:30am
Board Meeting: December 4th @ 6:30pm
Club Breakfast: December 13th @ 8:30am
VE Session: February 26th @ 7:00pm

Christmas Parade: November 22nd @ TBD
Christmas Party: December 6th @ TBD