



FEEDBACK

September 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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matthewfwoodman@gmail.com

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mel1853@hotmail.com

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Member at Large

Daniel Pesch, WB8KC

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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

National Preparedness Month – Ham Radio Supply List

National Preparedness Month – Ham Radio Supply List As the tornadoes that struck Massachusetts on September 6, 2025, demonstrate, you need to be ready for an emergency ahead of time. Radio amateurs were able to serve their communities and the National Weather Service because they were prepared.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has released a [list of supplies](#) [PDF] to keep in an emergency supply kit, which includes things like food, water, medications, a first aid kit, and other useful items – but hams may want to take it a step further.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, says hams should make sure their stations are resilient. "Have a battery backup, or alternate means of power. The grid may go down. Make sure all your antennas are functional and that you have backups in case they are damaged. It may be a good idea to keep a few baluns and some spools of wire to quickly erect wire antennas, if needed," he said.

In addition to having these items, Johnston says to test and exercise the equipment throughout the year. "Consider getting your emergency gear out and doing a shakedown of it during a Parks on the Air operation – it puts your station to the test, gets you active on the air, and can be a fun activity done year-round."

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

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

ARRL November Sweepstakes – CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters
Mode: CW
Date: 11/01 – 11/03
URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

EME – 2.3 GHz & Up

Bands: 2.3 GHz and Up
Mode: Phone, CW, Digital
Date: 10/20 – 10/24
URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

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

**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>*

Find more information about resilience and preparedness through amateur radio at www.arrl.org/ares.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/national-preparedness-month-ham-radio-supply-list>

Amateur Radio Serves During New England Tornadoes

Amateur radio volunteers serving in the [ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service®](http://www.arrl.org/ares) (ARES®) and the National Weather Service SKYWARN® program were active over the weekend. They were serving their communities in New England as tornado-warned storms moved across New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Five EF1 tornadoes struck the central Massachusetts communities of Paxton, Holden, Berlin and Stow.

A squall line of severe thunderstorms that would eventually have embedded tornadoes in central Massachusetts swept across the region. SKYWARN nets activated on repeaters across the area. Reports came in rapidly of downed trees and wires, as well as hail up to ¾" in diameter in western Massachusetts, with radio amateurs sharing critical damage reports from this area. In addition, reports of damage were received in all of the tornado path areas in near real time and were shared with the National Weather Service, Boston / Norton Weather Forecast Office, [WX1BOX](http://www.wx1box.com), amateur radio team direct via repeaters, using various applications, email, social media that the amateur radio team utilizes.

"It had been a below normal 2025 severe weather season with only one large-scale severe weather event [in July] across Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts," said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and SKYWARN Coordinator. "That all changed on September 6th."

Southern New England averages 2 tornadoes per year. The 6 states of New England average 8 tornadoes per year and there had been none in 2025 until Saturday, 9/6, when 2/3 of the average yearly total occurred. This outbreak also put southern New England above average for tornadoes in the 2025 season.

All active SKYWARN nets were secured around 6:30 PM Saturday. Andrew Loconto, Lead Meteorologist NWS Norton MA, commented, "Thanks to the entire team for all the reports today!" A complete summary of the severe weather in southern New England can be seen on the [WX1BOX web site](http://www.wx1box.com).

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-serves-during-new-england-tornadoes>

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

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>

10/11/2025

Williams County ARA Hamfest

Location: Montpelier, OH

Sponsor: Williams County ARA

11/15/2025

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer
Expo

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur
Radio Technical Society

Site:

<https://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/>

Silent Key

Gary Williams – NK2M

Ham YouTubers Boost ARRL Teachers Institute

The [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) is getting a boost, courtesy of the ham radio community on YouTube. A group of the content creators gathered for a cookout at this year's Huntsville Hamfest and raised \$6425 for the program. "We have a tremendous amount of support from the YouTubers," said ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. "They're on track to raise and donate \$50,000 for TI this year."

The support flows through the [ARRL Education and Technology Fund](#), which makes the program possible.

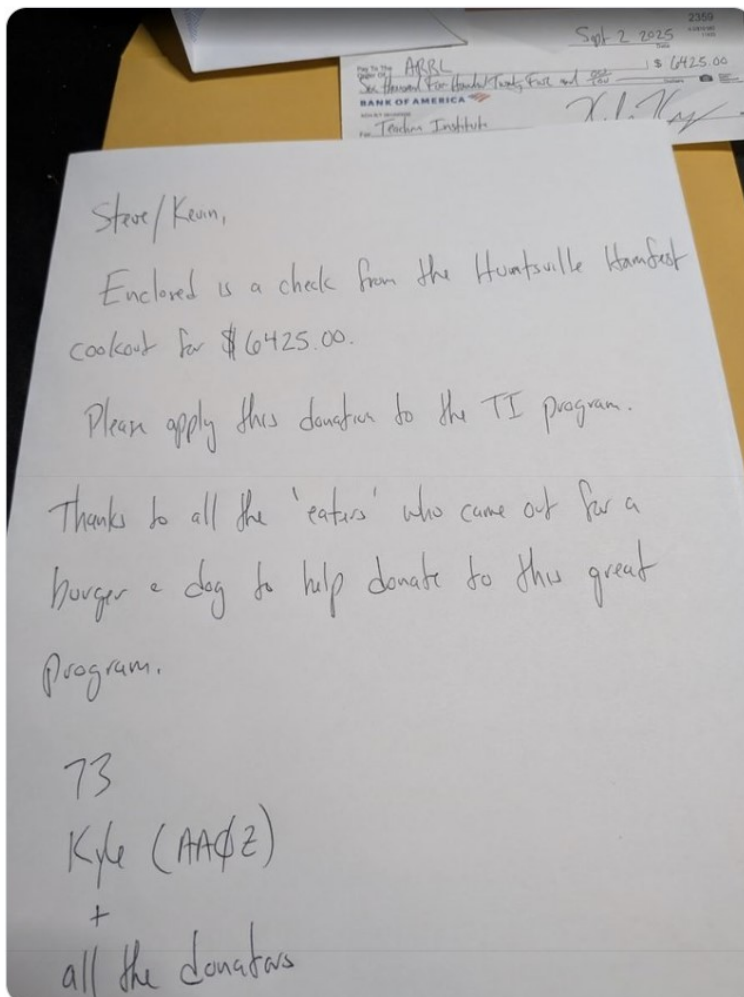
A tweet from Kyle Kreig, AAØZ, announced the gift.



Kyle - AAØZ
@kyleaa0z



Check was cut today for \$6425 for the @arrl teachers institute from the @hsvhamfest YouTubers Friday lunch cook out at Monte Sano. Thanks to all those who donated and helped make this a reality to smash our \$3k donation goal! Next year lets hit 7K!!!!



Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/images/view/News/Kyle%20Tweet.jpg>

Meeting Minutes 08/21/2025

Meeting Called to order at 1900

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

Treasurer's Report: Motion made to accept, Motion was passed. Will be adding Matt Woodman to the Account as Dan was the only person with access to the accounts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Nothing new with our Hamfest at this time. Kalamazoo Hamfest is coming up Oct 4th at the Kalamazoo Fairgrounds and EXPO Center.
- Skywarn – Meeting this past week was cancelled due to facility conflict. Siren repairs are underway. State AUXCOM Test scheduled for 4 Oct.
- Field Day – No new updates at this time.
- Repeaters – Working but some fading of signal issues. Don Larkin, W8RVT has moved out of our local area. He Serviced our repeaters since the 1970s. Many THANKS for his service to the Club and the Hobby. The Club owns two spare repeaters (YAESU DR-1X), a 2M and a 70CM. One is with Kyle Brown the other believed to be at the repeater site.
- VE – VE session next week. 7 PM at Maple United Methodist Church on Capital Avenue. At least one from Canada expected.
- POTA – W8DF at Fort Custer State Rec Area. Last week approx 240 contacts were made. 2 new awards earned. Nearing 18,000 contacts from this park. Will be out on Sunday this weekend instead of Sat. 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 President purchased and staffed a W8DF club table at the Homer Hogfest. Promoting Amateur Radio and inspiring people to join the hobby and the club.

- Equipment for Sale, The Club has sold 2 older radios. Unfortunately 1 was damaged in shipping.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John W8JRD encouraged more people to check into the local nets and to answer calls.
- AD8KA suggested we have a Ladies Night Net on 31 August.
- The Albion Festival of the Forks is coming on 20 Sept. There will be a club table Promoting Amateur Radio and inspiring people to join the hobby and the club. Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- ARRL Section Leader Larry Camp is stepping down. Interested individuals should contact him, wb8r@arrl.net.

Meeting Adjourned at 1957 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Whipple, KE8DW
SMARS Treasurer

Board Meeting Minutes 09/04/2025

FINANCES:

- Checking \$4,871.58
- Savings \$6.94
- Cash on hand \$70.00
- Total \$4,948.52

Notes:

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

Meeting called to order at 6:35

Present tonight:

- President Matt Woodman and wife Tracy Woodman
- Treasure Dan Whipple
- Secretary Melanie Lake
- At large Dan Pesch

Tossing around the thought of moving our SMARS club meeting to another building or facility maybe do some thing a little less costly. Maybe eagles lodge on M 66.

Dan PEsch to do a presentation C and SWR September 18.

September 20 festival the forks 8 AM set up club trailer to go through the parade thanks Tom Worthington festival the forks is in Albion 8 to 3 our main goal public engagement.

D-star funding. To be brought up at meeting.

38 awards for Pota and a new one for park to park making that are eight.

Bridge Park North County Trail is a state park for those who would like to do Pota there.

October is our yearly vote for board members.

We have sold three radios still have five left to sell.

14 members still have yet to pay their dues

And again for 2026 we are still looking into becoming a 501 C3 if possible

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: September 18th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: October 2nd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: October 2nd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: October 11th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 23rd @ 7:00pm
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