



FEEDBACK

August 2026

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 due. 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

Colombian Amateurs Help in Earthquake Response; Clear Frequencies Requested

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® reports that amateur radio operators in Colombia are providing significant communications support following the major earthquake and aftershocks that struck the country on August 10, 2026. The death toll has reportedly exceeded 200 people, with many more still missing, and major damage is reported to buildings and infrastructure.

International Amateur Radio Union, Region 2 (IARU R2) Emergency Communications Coordinator Carlos Alberto Santamaria González, CO2JC, provided an update Thursday morning, August 13, from Faber Mosquera, HK6F, the emergency coordinator for the Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados (LCRA), Colombia's national amateur radio association. Mosquera said amateurs from various radio clubs and associations across the country have been helping to maintain and/or restore communications in affected areas.

Volunteers from the Liga Radio Quindío were heading to Cerro Campanario, a peak at an altitude of 3,600 meters (11,800 feet) above sea level, to attempt to restore the club's repeater stations

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

EME Contest

Bands: 2.3 GHz & Up
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 09/05 – 09/06
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

September VHF

Bands: 50, 144, 222, 432 MHz
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 09/12 – 09/14
URL: www.arrl.org/september-vhf

10 GHz & Up – Round 2

Bands: 10 GHz & Up
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 09/19 – 09/21
URL: www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up

School Club Roundup

Bands: All Bands, Except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters
Mode: Phone, CW
Date: 10/19 – 10/23
URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

EME – 50 to 1296 MHz

Bands: 50 to 1296 MHz
Mode: Phone, Digital, CW
Date: 10/31 – 11/01
URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

**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>*

using solar panels and batteries. This peak hosts repeater stations for both the amateur radio service and the municipal and departmental risk management systems in the area. Another group of amateurs, from the Asociación de Radioaficionados del Eje Cafetero, was working at their repeater site at the time of the earthquake. They reported that cellular and Wi-Fi networks immediately went down, and the repeaters also failed because the backup transfer system to the power generator did not activate. However, within 15 minutes, they had reactivated not only the amateur repeaters but also those of other services that share the site. Mosquera reported that amateur radio clubs from other parts of the country were providing additional support to restore and maintain communications.

“The Colombian amateur radio community is doing vital work by making its communication systems and human resources available for rescue, recovery, and locating individuals affected by this disaster,” said IARU Region 2 Emergency Coordinator CO2JC, adding, “This makes us proud to be amateur radio operators.

CO2JC has also requested that all amateurs avoid transmitting on the IARU Region 2 emergency frequencies of 3985, 7060, 7240, 7275, 14300, and 21360 kHz, as well as 146.520 MHz for those in VHF range of Colombia, in order to minimize potential interference to emergency communications.

See ARRL News for updates to this story as they become available.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/colombian-amateurs-help-in-earthquake-response-clear-frequencies-requested>

FCC Cites GMRS Licensee for Illegal Linked Repeater Network

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has issued a [Notice of Violation](#) to Gary M. Beckstedt, Sr., of Newnan, Georgia, for operating a network of nearly two dozen linked General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) repeaters in violation of FCC rules for the service. Beckstedt is co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of North Georgia GMRS, Inc., and licensee of GMRS station WQYU407. He also holds amateur radio license WB4GMB.

According to the FCC Notice, “There are only eight repeater frequency pairs shared nationwide by more than 300,000 active GMRS licensees and millions of Family Radio Service users. Because GMRS spectrum is so limited, the service only works as intended when local users can hear each other and cooperate in the sharing of channels. Linking multiple repeaters is not in the public interest because it enables the retransmission of messages over much larger geographic areas, thereby limiting localized availability of the GMRS channels, monopolizing a limited spectrum resource, and increasing the potential for interference.” It notes that GMRS repeaters may be connected to

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

09/12/2026

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest

Location: Wyoming, MI

Sponsor: Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

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

09/13/2026

Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

Site: <http://findlayradioclub.org>

09/19/2026

BARA Trunk Swap

Location: Berrien Center, MI

Sponsor: Blossomland Amateur Radio Association

Site:

<https://www.w8mai.org/index.php/club-information/bara-trunk-swap>

09/20/2026

Adrian Hamfest

Location: Adrian, MI

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

Site: <http://w8tqe.com>

10/03/2026

Kalamazoo Hamfest and Vintage Electronic Expo

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

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

Site:

<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.org>

10/10/2026

Williams County ARA Hamfest

Location: Montpelier, OH

Sponsor: WCARA

Site: <http://ka8ofe.weebly.com>

10/17/2026

Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest

Location: Muskegon, MI

Sponsor: Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc.

Site:

<https://mcecs.net/old-site/Hamfest.htm>

the telephone network “or other networks” (such as the internet) only for the purpose of remote control. Repeater linking is permitted in the Amateur Radio Service, but not for GMRS communications for the reasons explained in the Notice.

Enforcement Bureau agents monitored several of Beckstedt’s GMRS repeaters this past February, according to the Notice, and observed that the repeaters were connected via the internet and “were being used to convey messages to multiple repeaters for simultaneous transmission on the repeaters’ respective over-the-air output frequencies, in violation of section 95.1749 of the Commission’s rules.”

Beckstedt was given 20 days to “fully explain the violation” and spell out “the specific action(s) taken to correct the violation and preclude recurrence.”

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrrl.org/news/fcc-cites-gmrs-licensee-for-illegal-linked-repeater-network>

10-Year-Old Receives Ham License and More

A brand-new young ham in Arizona got more than he was expecting after passing his amateur radio Technician class license exam earlier this month. Along with getting his call sign, KM7HFU, from the FCC, 10-year-old Reynaldo Mangual was presented by the Maricopa Amateur Radio Association (MARA) with an almost-new Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF multimode transceiver, an LDG YT-100 automatic antenna tuner, and power supply. The station had been donated anonymously to the club with the stipulation that it be presented to a deserving young person upon successfully earning an amateur radio license. In addition the club reports that, in an effort to introduce him to Morse code, Reynaldo was also given a fully-restored World War II-era J-38 telegraph key by club member Steve Miller, W6DSM, who collects and restores historic keys.

Reynaldo joined ARRL this week! He is also a member of the Pinal County 4-H Amateur Radio Club, whose youth program is supported by 4-H, MARA, the Arizona 4-H Foundation, and a grant from the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona. Reynaldo is now MARA’s youngest member. The Maricopa Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL-Affiliated Club.

ARRL offers a no-cost membership option for full-time students aged 21 years or younger. Free Student Membership is available at <http://www.arrrl.org/student>.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrrl.org/news/10-year-old-receives-ham-license-and-more>

Meeting Minutes 07/16/2026

Meeting Called to order at 1900

14 in attendance for today's meeting

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.
- Skywarn – Skywarn meeting are held the third Tuesday of the month at the American Legion on the corner of Beale Lake Road and B drive across from Harper Creek schools 6:30 PM.
- Field Day – Field day report fun times thanks for everyone who helped and participated came out and made contacts always a good time. One of the trailers was not up and running had some cable problems, generator worked great, Stubbs helped to filter out other radios over 500 contacts and lots of points. Thank you Garth for double points for CW and Dan Whipple FTA.
- Repeaters – Repeaters still sound like poo work in progress. Thanks for everyone's work on this. We will get it up and run in soon.
- VE – Test Session next month. Two people showed up last month and passed.
- POTA – POTA is on Saturday meet up at café Tal for breakfast at 8 AM followed by set up and Contacts, Whitford Lake pavilion Fort Custer recreational area. Five operators at the last POTA broke 28,000 contacts woo hoo good job guys and gals.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- We did sell our old butternut antenna.
- Looking to put together a HamFest committee for future.

PRESENTATION:

- Dan Pesh did a presentation on Ionosphere and how it affects Amateur Radio.

Meeting Adjourned around 2015 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 08/06/2026

FINANCES:

- Checking \$3,299.69
- Savings \$3,005.33
- Cash on hand \$100.00
- Total \$6,405.02

Monthly board meeting is held at the American Legion on 20th St. at 1830hrs.

DSTAR: Was offline, is now back on. Service interruption due to building being put up for sale. Is located at Emmett Twp Fire Station 2, 8890 D. Dr N.. Building is 680 sq ft, on 1 acre listed for \$99,000. Would make a great SMARS club location with tower. We will wait and see if we can coordinate continued use after property is sold.

W8DF VHF repeater; Replaced by Dan Klueter and Matt Woodman, many thanks! Still need to adjust announcement volume in reference to traffic volume. Will be worked this week.

Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Exercise scheduled for 3 October. SMARS looking to participate with VHF trailer. Coordinating with SKYWARN.

Cookout/ BBQ; planned for 26 September. At Whitford Lake, Fort Custer State Recreation Area. AD8KA, Matt will reserve the pavilion and will be bringing Pulled Pork. Bring a dish to share.

KE8DW Dan passed on N5MKY's Icom 7300 original box to AD8KA Matt. The manual will be put in with the radio in its travel box.

Festival of the Forks. For the past 3 years, AD8KA Matt has had a table and promoted Amateur Radio but with little result. He has decided not to participate this year.

Kalamazoo Hamfest is coming up on October 3. NW8P Kelly plans to have a table to help sell SMARS equipment and donated equipment.

Club Meeting: Next meeting is 20 August. WB8KC Dan will be prepared to show an educational video.

W8DF.Com, further discussion about revamping the club website. AD8KA and WB8KC working on details. The domain name was recently renewed and is paid for through June 2031.

Meeting adjourned at 1940hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan 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 20th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: September 3rd @ 11:30am Board Meeting: September 3rd @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: September 12th @ 8:30am VE Session: August 27th @ 7:00pm
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