



FEEDBACK

January 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

Obsolete Part 97 Rules to be Deleted February 10, 2026

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October 2025 adopted a Report and Order to delete almost 400 obsolete rules pertaining to its wireless services. As [previously reported by ARRL](#), among the deletions were four in Part 97 that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

ARRL reports that the notice of the Report and Order has now been published in the [Federal Register](#). Unless an objection is raised by January 2 that the Commission finds to deserve its consideration, the following four Part 97 provisions will be deleted as of February 10, 2026:

§ 97.27. This provision is duplicative of a statutory provision related to the FCC's right to modify station licenses.

§ 97.29. This provision specified an obsolete procedure to replace paper licenses. ARRL proposed deleting this section in comments filed earlier this year.

§ 97.315 (b)(2). This obsolete provision grandfathered HF amplifiers purchased before April 28, 1978 by an amateur radio operator for use at that operator's station, and grandfathered those manufactured before April 28, 1978, for which a marketing waiver was issued.

§ 97.521(b) and Appendix 2. This rule and appendix relate to obsolete VEC regions.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/obsolete-part-97-rules-to-be-deleted-february-10-2026>

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

January VHF

Bands: Above 50 MHz

Mode: Digital, Phone, CW

Date: 01/17 – 01/19

URL: www.arrl.org/january-vhf

School Club Roundup

Bands: All Bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 02/09 – 02/13

URL: www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

ARRL DX

Bands: Above 50 MHz

Mode: Digital, Phone, CW

Date: 01/17 – 01/19

URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

**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>*

What are amateur radio's top three priorities in the next three years?

Steve, N8GNJ, publishes a newsletter called Zero Retries. Steve describes the newsletter as “an independent newsletter about technological innovation in Amateur Radio (sic), promoting Amateur Radio as (literally) a license to experiment with and learn about radio technology.” It's a great newsletter, and I'd encourage you to subscribe.

In addition to the newsletter, Zero Retries hosts a Groups.io mailing list. In the Zero Retries group, they discuss the topics covered in the newsletter. One of the latest topics is “Top three priorities, in the next three years, for Amateur Radio in the 21st Century?” The purpose of this topic is “figuring out what should be the focus of efforts promoting amateur radio in the 21st century.”

Steve starts the discussion by listing three of his ideas:

- US Amateur Radio reform to remove the symbol rate limits and (preferably) bandwidth limits for the US Amateur Radio VHF / UHF bands.
- A more modern “single web page” directory for 21st century Amateur Radio that, for example, references Zero Retries, SARC The Communicator, the reference how.aprs.works for APRS, the upcoming ARRL book on digital networking, the RATPAC video conferences, references to HamSCI, etc. Something that someone thinking about coming into Amateur Radio would find relevant.
- Some guide, book, web page, video tutorials... something... current... that discusses how to use GNU Radio and GNU Radio Companion for experiencing within Amateur Radio. Includes a directory of various GNU Radio flowgraphs relevant to Amateur Radio such as a flowgraph about 1200 bps AFSK packet radio.

There are a lot of other good ideas in the comments, including:

- Better digital audio.
- LoRa on the VHF and UHF bands, and maybe even voice over LoRa.
- De-emphasize the emergency communications aspect of amateur radio and focus on the “fun” aspects of ham radio, such as POTA and SOTA.
- Outreach to young professionals and college students.
- A geosynchronous (or long orbital period) amateur satellite into orbit covering North America. Along with this, devise ground stations that are easy to reproduce on hobby budgets.
- Make open, non-proprietary digital voice modes widely available, built in to equipment or as add-ons.
- Develop open, non-proprietary DSP software for transmitter builders, with the goals of efficiency (polar modulation) and clean signals (amplifier linearization).
- Development of inexpensive small all-mode radios for use in all

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/>

03/15/2026

Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

Site: <http://www.w8hhf.org/>

03/21/2026

Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club Hamfest

Location: Lowell, MI

Sponsor: Lowell Amateur Radio Club

Site: <http://larc.club/>

Silent Key

microwave bands up to 100 GHz. Radios must have USB connection for various modes and content. Should be 12 Vdc powered.

- Really good basic level publications on GNU Radio that will allow the majority of ham operators to understand and use this powerful tool.
- Educate Technician class operators about the world of ham radio beyond a cheap handheld to kerchunk local repeaters.....

Take a look and see what you think. You can comment here, but I'd really encourage you to join the group and comment on the mailing list. It will add to the discussion.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/what-are-amateur-radios-top-three-priorities-in-the-next-three-years/>

A thrift shop find

My wife, Silvia, and I occasionally visit the Kiwanis Thrift Sale here in Ann Arbor. Over the years, I've purchased all manner of things there that have proven useful in my amateur radio operations. I have purchased computer keyboards for \$2, hand weights that I use to anchor the ends of my inverted-V doublet on POTA activations, and a roll of 300 Ω twinlead.

Cover of the book Allied's Radio-Formula and Data Book.

My latest Kiwanis Thrift Sale find cost me only 50 cents.

My latest purchase, as you can see from the photo at right is the 1953 edition of Allied's Radio-Formula and Data Book. This little booklet contains a wealth of information, much of it still very useful, and it only cost 50¢! The table of contents list the following:

- Bare copper wire table, which lists the dimensions, resistivity, and weight for copper wire from 1 gauge to 44 gauge.
- Resistor and condenser color codes
- Algebraic formulas, trigonometric relationships and a three-place log table. There were no electronic calculators back in 1953@
- Decibel table
- and much more

For example, on the page titled "Miscellaneous Formulas, there is a formula for calculating the capacitance of a vertical antenna shorter than a quarter wavelength. There is also a page for calculating the characteristic impedance, capacitance, inductance, and attenuation of two-wire, open-air transmission lines.

[Click here](#) to download a scanned version of the book. It's 35 Mbytes, so be warned that it could take some time to download.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/a-thrift-shop-find/>

Meeting Minutes 12/18/2025

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 – No new updates at this time.
- Field Day – Winter field day January 24th – 25th Will be held at the Whipple compound thank you Dan and Stephanie for hosting. For those interested in attending address is 1160 S. 42nd St., Galesburg, MI 49053
- Repeaters – No new updates at this time.
- VE – No December Test Session. Next Test Session will be February.
- POTA – Made 21,796 contacts. POTA is on Saturdays beginning with breakfast at Café Tal At 8 AM followed by set up and contacts at Lake Whitford Fort Custer recreation location pavilion area.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Constitution amendment from “club” to “Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society” full name voted and passes for 501(c)(3) as directed by IRS approval letter has been sent to us.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Grants forms approval and paper work will be started. There are many different grant sizes and lots of options with being a 501(c)(3).

Thank you Kevin Hoyt KE8UU for bringing in your radio for social hour.

Meeting Adjourned around 2000 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 01/08/2026

FINANCES:

- Checking \$3,848.7
- Savings \$501.94
- Cash on hand \$85.00
- Total \$4,435.64

Notes:

- Recent Expenditures: PO Box paid
- Upcoming bills: Church Rental, Insurance for 2026 (FEB)
- Upcoming income: Membership Dues

A week late for the meeting due to holiday.

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

In attendance tonight we have a Kevin Hoyt vice president Matt Woodman president Melanie Lake secretary Dan Whipple treasurer Dan Pash at large and Tracy Woodman. All officers are present.

Starting with HAMFest looking at the May 2 date for HAMFest at Calhoun county fairgrounds to include craft and artisans tables as well. Looking to get some food vendors or tailgaters. Also looking to host it at the sheep and goat building closer to the comfort center price is still to be discussed. 25 or 30 a table and a five dollar entry fee. Looking to do some raffle ticket sales before ham fest to be announced at HAMFest.

Our club has moved bank accounts to make it easier to adjust in the future as the board changes.

Insurance is paid through 2027 and rent is coming up due for the church for the year.

Please don't forget that dues are due

January meeting presentation CW Presented by Dan Pesch

And again don't forget about winter field day hosted by Dan and Stephanie Whipple at the Whipple compound set up on Friday starts at 11 AM on Saturday 24th through the 25th hope to see some of you there. Again the address is 1160 S. 42nd St., Galesburg, MI 49053 Winter field day location Whipple compound.

Also our QRZ page for W8DF has been updated looking good thanks Matt woodman.

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: January 15th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: February 5th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: February 5th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: February 14th @ 8:30am VE Session: February 26th @ 7:00pm Winter Field Day: January 25th – 26th @ 11:00am
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