



FEEDBACK

May 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

FCC Approves Limited Emergency Use of 70 cm Band by AST SpaceMobile Satellites Outside the US

On April 21, 2026, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted AST SpaceMobile limited authorization when not over the United States to use five 50-kHz channels in the 430–440 MHz secondary amateur band for emergency Telemetry, Tracking, and Control (TT&C) operations for its planned satellite constellation ([DA-26-391 Docket No. 25-201](#)). The authorization applies only for communication with five specified earth stations, each located well outside of the United States and for which the foreign administration with jurisdiction also must separately authorize the communications.

More than 2,500 comments were filed during the proceeding including filings from [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) and other member societies of the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)), AMSAT, and individual radio amateurs worldwide.

After considering the filed comments, the FCC narrowed the requested authorization to emergency TT&C only and further provided that:

Use of these frequencies is permitted only in emergencies when no other spectrum is available

Each emergency event is limited to no more than 24 hours

Transmissions are restricted to five specific center frequencies (430.5,

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

Intl Digital Contest

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 Meters

Mode: Digital (excluding RTTY)

Date: 06/06 – 06/07

URL: www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest

June VHF

Bands: Above 50 MHz

Mode: Digital, Phone, SSB, CW

Date: 06/13 – 06/15

URL: www.arrl.org/june-vhf

Kids Day

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone

Date: 06/20

URL: www.arrl.org/kids-day

Field Day

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters and 50 MHz and above

Mode: Digital, Phone, SSB CW

Date: 06/27 – 06/28

URL: www.arrl.org/field-day

IARU HF World Championship

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters

Mode: Phone and CW

Date: 07/11 – 07/12

URL: www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship

**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>*

432.3, 434.1, 435.9, and 439.5 MHz), each with no more than 50 kHz bandwidth

In an April 29, 2026 [statement](#), the IARU expressed concern with the FCC's use of Article 4.4 of the ITU Radio Regulations, which allows administrations to authorize non-standard frequency use under certain conditions. The IARU stated that other frequency bands allocated for satellite TT&C should have been used instead of amateur spectrum and encouraged amateurs to report any interference to their national regulators.

ARRL filed comments (see [ARRL News](#)) in July ([PDF](#)) and August 2025 ([PDF](#)) opposing the application, arguing that:

The request represented an unprecedented use of secondary amateur spectrum for an unallocated use by a large commercial satellite constellation

Such operations could cause harmful interference, particularly to amateur satellites in the 435–438 MHz subband

The FCC should avoid authorizing non-allocated uses that could impact primary allocations for amateur services in other countries.

While the FCC ultimately granted the authorization, it imposed the above significant limitations in response to these concerns that reduce the likelihood of interference.

In the US, reports of suspected interference to amateur spectrum can be shared with the ARRL Regulatory Information Manager, email reginfo@arrl.org.

ARRL will oppose any similar unallocated uses of spectrum used by amateurs that might cause harmful interference to amateur services and in particular will monitor this situation.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-approves-limited-emergency-use-of-70-cm-band-by-ast-spacemobile-satellites-outside-the-us>

Is the ARRL out of touch? You decide.

In his email announcing the publication of a Great Lakes Division newsletter, Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, usually includes a paragraph similar to the following:

“So, grab a big glass of whatever makes you feel good, a sweet snack stolen from your wife's pantry and sit back in your easy chair and have a great read!!”

Now, I ask you, is Yonally out of touch or what?

First of all, many, if not most, hams look like they have had one too many “sweet snacks” already, and instead of sitting back in their easy chair, they should be out for a brisk walk.

Second, think about that phrase, “stolen from your wife's pantry.” I guess that Yonally thinks that only married men are hams and read the newsletter. With those five words, Yonally has excluded:

- teenage hams,
- single hams,
- female hams, and
- hams (like me) that share the cooking duties with their spouses

Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

06/06/2026

FCARC SummerFest

Location: Delta, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

Site: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

06/06/2026

IRA Hamfest

Location: Hudsonville, MI

Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association

Site: <https://w8ira.org/hudsonville-hamfest>

06/20/2026

Midland Amateur Radio Club Swap

Location: Midland, MI

Sponsor: Midland Amateur Radio Club Inc

Site: <http://www.w8kea.org>

06/21/2026

Monroe Hamfest

Location: Monroe, MI

Sponsor: Monroe County Radio Communications Association

Site: <http://mcrca.org>

07/18/2026

Auburn Hamfest

Location: Auburn, IN

Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

Site: <http://w9ou.org>

07/18/2026

LaPorte Tailgate Hamfest

Location: LaPorte, IN

Sponsor: LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club

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

and consider the pantry “their pantry.”

I’m sure that Yonally isn’t being intentionally exclusive, but it’s the thoughtlessness that’s the issue here. It’s the same thoughtlessness that led the ARRL to think that offering the [Gil mug as a membership-renewal incentive](#) was a good idea. I’m continually amazed that the ARRL is still offering this mug.

This may be a small thing, but it’s a real thing, and I’d go so far as to say that it’s attitudes like this that are driving people away from the ARRL. People who don’t feel welcome, quit organizations when they feel excluded, and intentional or not, the ARRL certainly isn’t rolling out the welcome mat to many potential members.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/is-the-arrrl-out-of-touch-you-decide/>

STEM On and Off the Air

The Garden School Amateur Radio Club in Jackson Heights, New York, K2GSG, was started in September 2016 as a way to implement the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) standard at the school.

Currently, the Club has 13 members ranging from 4th graders to 12th graders and is an Affiliated Club of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®.

Well, last week they got a big surprise...they were on television...in Chicago!! CBS News in Chicago aired a short feature that showed the students using amateur radio to make contacts and then transmitting weather reports on the air to a SKYWARN training net!

You can watch the video at www.cbsnews.com/chicago/video/students-learn-how-use-ham-radio.

Their reaction to seeing the video, “They loved it!” said their teacher, John Hale, KD2LPM.

Hale said students are learning more than just how to push buttons...they are learning how to talk on and off the air! One student said he really did not know how to speak correctly but amateur radio was helping him improve his speaking, reading the station IDs and reading those weather reports. The group may participate in ARRL Field Day later this year.

Hale has been selected for the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) (TI) for an upcoming session on Long Island this summer. TI is a donor-funded professional development program designed to help classroom teachers elevate their STEM programs through the use of wireless technology.

Garden School was founded in 1923 to meet the need for a high-quality, independent school in Queens.

Article courtesy of <https://www.arrrl.org/news/stem-on-and-off-the-air>

Meeting Minutes 04/16/2026

Meeting Called to order at 1900

25 members in attendance

Welcome a new member KF8GEQ Brad Morgan

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hamfest – Ham fest 2026 up-and-coming May 2 8 AM to 2 PM all hands on deck. Again, we are in the goat sheet barn across from comfort center. Have an eye for cow pie due to wins in the morning of Hamfest.
- Skywarn – Bret KD8RHB from Skywarn says it's been a busy weather time and thank you for the help with the nuts and sirens we do have funding approved for I 94 and Washington school sirens. Union City will get a siren through Calhoun County. And in just a short time we've had as many tornadoes as we would have in a season. Textcom shut down new app BAND. Skywarn meets the third Tuesday of the month at American Legion on the corner of B Dr. and Beale Lake Road across the street from the old Harper Creek middle school at 6:30 PM.
- Field Day – Need to set up some time to work on the trailers and what not for Field Day. Although with it around the corner, it might not happen.
- Repeaters – No New Updates
- VE – Test session next week. We are also planning to have testing at Hamfest
- POTA – POTA parks on the air meet on Saturday 8 AM Cafetal for breakfast, following set up and contacts at Whitford Lake Fort Custer at 10 AM. Also Pota location changes from time to time so be sure to check in with Kevin Hoyt or Dan Pesch for any changes or updates on POTA.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We did get our charity gambling license approved thank you Dan Whipple and Matt Woodman and Kevin Hoyt for your hard work on this and becoming a 501 C3 we have raffle tickets for \$10. You may purchase as many as you like no need to be present prizes are as follows \$500 first prize \$250 second prize \$125 third prize thank you for your support. Proceeds will go to the club after winners are paid out. See Melanie for tickets.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Smoky and N5MKY and Dan W8RVT donated several of their things to the club. And what club members do not buy the rest will go to ham fest with proceeds going back to the club thank you our silent keys and friends you are missed.
- Had a special guest Rose Spershot whom also donated equipment to the club at tonight's meeting. She is from England and got into radio after the war her dad was a radio operator in the war.

PRESENTATION:

- None

Meeting Adjourned around 2015 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lake, KE8TPQ
SMARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes 05/07/2026

FINANCES:

- Checking \$4,626.15
- Savings \$1,005.15
- Cash on hand \$90.00
- Total \$5,721.30

Board meeting is held at the American Legion on 20th St., Post 298 on the first Thursday of the month and member is more than welcome to join. Meeting is at 6:30.

Hamfest: Significant financial loss. Many factors, including weather, change of date, change of location, excessive facility rental fees. The Club lost approximately \$855. Discussion revolved around alternative locations and dates as well as the possibility of not doing a Hamfest again. More to follow.

Donated Equipment Sales: The club received equipment from Rose Spershott VP9LP, the estates of Glen McCray N5MKY, David Smith W8RDX, and Don Larkin W8RVT. Additionally the club sold a couple of assets that we have owned for years. The total sold to this point is \$2,667. Many Thanks to Terry Tassos N8LN and Dan Whipple KE8DW for processing/ selling the equipment.

Cash Prize Raffle: Tickets on sale now. Drawing will be 27 Jun at 1600 at Field Day. Get yours now. If this endeavor goes well in could replace the Hamfest as our future fund raiser.

Field Day: 27-28 Jun, Calhoun County Fairgrounds in Marshall. We would like to get volunteers to help prepare the equipment in the trailers in advance. A date in early June will be set aside for this. AD8KA is working with the Shopper News to get an article out. Need Band Pass Filters, WB8KC volunteered his. A cleaning deposit was paid to Fairgrounds \$250. Looking to maximize points, we need volunteers to be Safety Officer, Site Responsible Officer, and Educational Activity Director – Dan Pesch is coordinating a CW activity and will ask Don Prosser to help.

Also anyone 18 and under who gets on the air is a Bonus 20 points. Bring interested kids and or groups out. We are open to opportunities to also invite Elected Representative so if you know anyone let a club officer know.

The Icom IC-7300 that was donated to the club will be maintained In Memory of N5MKY. A plaque will be applied to signify his contributions. The radio will be serviced by Matt at SAR Technology/ICOM Service in St. Joseph, Michigan and will be available for club activities.

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: May 21st @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: June 4th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: June 4th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: June 13th @ 8:30am VE Session: June 25th @ 7:00pm
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