



FEEDBACK

October 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.

Board of Directors:

President

Matt Woodman, AD8KA
matthewfwoodman@gmail.com

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Treasurer

Daniel Whipple, KE8DW
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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

Club Officer Elections

A reminder that Club Officer Elections are coming up in October. Currently, the Treasurer and Secretary are available if anyone is interested. Voting will happen during the October's meeting.

The Secretary records to minutes from the Club Meeting and the Board Meeting so they can be posted in the Feedback. This could be rolled into one of the other positions as well.

The Treasurer is responsible for the Club's finances including bills, reimbursement (if approved), and membership dues.

You are not restricted to only to the one opens, you can apply for any of the positions, these are just the ones that need to be filled.

Other News

Videos: What's next for POTA, ham radio helps rescue man trapped in cave

What's next for POTA?

I sometimes claim partial credit for POTA because Thom, W8TAM, was in one of my General classes. Maybe that qualifies me for one-half of 1%? one-quarter of 1%? Thom always teases me that I'm "ham famous," but I think his work on [Parks on the Air](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnXqEd_SzFE) (POTA) is making him way more ham-famous that I can claim to be. Here he is on the Q5 Worldwide Ham Radio video channel, explaining some of the changes coming to this popular program.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnXqEd_SzFE

Upcoming Radio Contests

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

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: 2.3 GHz and Up

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital

Date: 10/31 – 11/01

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

ARRL November Sweepstakes – CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 11/07 – 11/09

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

EME – 50 to 1296 MHz

Bands: 2.3 GHz and Up

Mode: Phone, CW, Digital

Date: 11/28 – 11/29

URL: www.arrl.org/eme-contest

ARRL November Sweepstakes – Phone

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

Mode: Phone

Date: 11/21 – 11/23

URL: www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

160 Meter

Bands: 160 Meters

Mode: CW

Date: 12/04 – 12/06

URL: www.arrl.org/160-meter

10 Meter

Bands: 10 Meters

Mode: Phone, CW

Date: 12/12 – 12/13

URL: www.arrl.org/10-meter

Rookie Roundup – CW

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

Mode: CW

Date: 12/20

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>*

Amateur radio tech aids Canadian cave rescue

On the next episode of the [ICQ Podcast](#), we are going to discuss an interesting cave rescue story. As it happens, we believe that five-watt [QDX-M transceivers](#) from QRP-Labs, operating on the 2200m band, were used to communicate through 100 meters of solid rock in the rescue operation at Rats Nest Cave in Alberta, Canada. The rescuers used [JS8-CALL](#) digital mode to send and receive text messages with the trapped man. Here's a news report on the rescue:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrSuT64SFB4>

The Calgary Herald also published a [story on the rescue](#) on August 21, 2026.

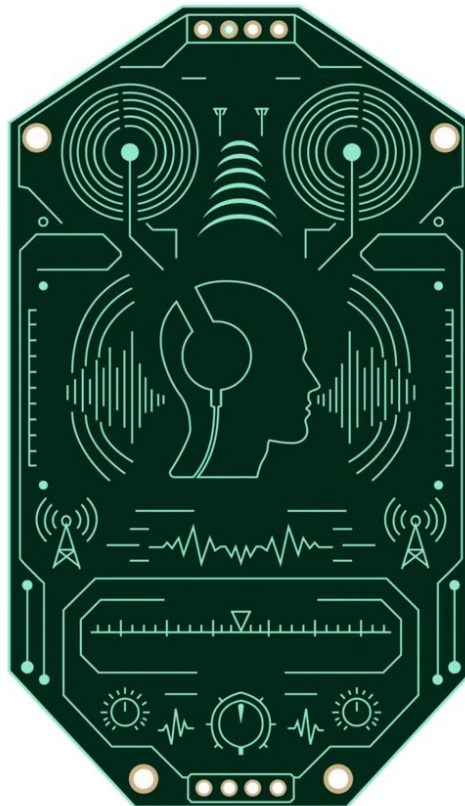
For more information on the technology, you might want to read the recent article in MAKE: magazine, "[Cave Radio – Talking Through Solid Rock.](#)"

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/videos-whats-next-for-pota-ham-radio-helps-rescue-man-trapped-in-cave/>

What do you think of this artwork for the ham radio EMF Explorer

Ever since I discovered the [EMF Explorer](#) I thought it would make a good badge for amateur radio. It's a simple circuit, it's easy to build, and does something amusing and interesting. [I actually built one](#) about a month ago.

Since then, I've been talking with a couple of guys who are interested in doing the PCB layout for my ham radio version, and I have been working with an artist on the artwork design. Here's what's she's come up with so far:



Upcoming Hamfests & Conventions

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>

11/15/2025

Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer
Expo

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur
Radio Technical Society

Site:

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

12/06/2025

FCARC Winter Hamfest

Location: Delta, OH

Sponsor: FCARC

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

Silent Key

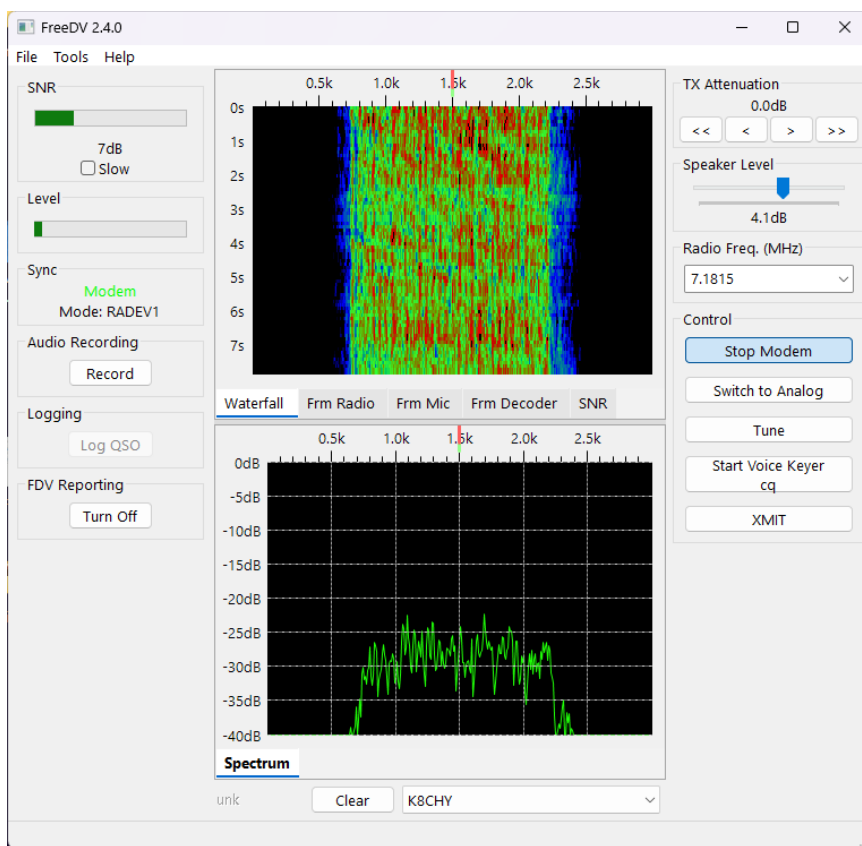
Jack Cox – N8LS

It might be a little busy, and it's going to need some modifications to accommodate the vias and the component designators, but overall, I kinda like it. I would like to hear what you think about it, though. Please email me or leave a comment below.

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/what-do-you-think-of-this-artwork-for-the-ham-radio-emf-explorer/>

Will RADE Be the Next SSB?

It's been a half century since single sideband (SSB) supplanted amplitude modulation (AM) as the most popular voice mode on HF, due largely to its spectrum efficiency, occupying roughly half the bandwidth of an AM signal. Now, there's a new digital voice mode from FreeDV called Radio Autoencoder, or RADE, that occupies half the bandwidth of an SSB signal and reportedly provides more natural-sounding speech. According to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), which funded research that advanced RADE's development, "FreeDV RADE combines machine learning with classical digital signal processing (DSP) and can operate at signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) as low as -2 dB. Its design also addresses spectrum use, speech quality, and power efficiency, all important considerations for voice communications over HF."



Most significantly, ARDC reports that manufacturers are beginning to integrate the mode directly into their radios, starting with a module that can be [downloaded](#) and installed on certain FlexRadio models. Users of other transceivers may run the mode through computers connected to their radios. More details are available from [FreeDV](#) and on the [ARDC website](#).

Article courtesy of <http://www.arrl.org/news/will-rade-be-the-next-ssb>

Meeting Minutes 09/17/2026

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 – Matt reported there were five sirens that didn't activate this month. There is a simulated emergency test scheduled for October 3rd between 10 AM and noon. The monthly siren test will also occur on October 3rd at 1:00 PM. The Washington School siren has been repaired and the Urbandale siren should be fixed shortly.
- Field Day – Tom KE8GDN advised that repairs are needed to the black trailer. The side door is getting weak. Do we put money into the trailer to repair it, or do we sell it? Dan P. suggested that we consider selling the trailer as it's not being used. Further discussion on the trailer was tabled for a future meeting.
- Repeaters – Dan K. said he adjusted the 2m repeater. Dan W. reported the announcer on the VHF seems to be too hot. Per Matt, the 220 MHz repeater occasionally has problems.
- VE – Kyle W8KDB reported there were 5 candidates at the February VE Session. The next VE session will be October 22nd.
- POTA - Dan P. reported last weekend they had 4 operators. Currently, they are at 29,792 total contacts. They're trying to reach a total of 30k this weekend. They plan to do POTA activations on September 20th, and September 26th.

OLD BUSINESS

- SMARS Club cookout/potluck will be September 26th at 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at the Whitford Lake Pavillion in Ft. Custer.

Pulled pork and hot dogs will be supplied. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass.

- John W8JRD said the ARRL Special Service Club affiliation needs to be renewed. He also mentioned that the Park Antique Tractor Club will host their get-together on October 3rd at Scotts Mill Park. The public is invited!

NEW BUSINESS

- Matt mentioned that October 19th through 23rd is the ARRL School Club Roundup. Amateur radio operators are encouraged to get on the air.
- Matt said that he's approached Marshall Academy about doing a presentation for their science class. Dan P. mentioned that the club has a contact (Stephanie W8AEZ) with St. Philip High School. Stephanie said she would like to include a radio club presentation and demonstration as part of her introductory physics class.
- If any club members know of alternate locations where we could hold our meetings and VE sessions, please let Matt AD8KA know as it sounds like the room rental fee at our current location will be increasing this next year. Kyle W8KDB said the American Legion on Beckley Road was approached in the past about being a possible location for holding our radio club meetings. Skywarn has held some of their meetings at the Legion. Matt said he was also going to check with the VFW in Marshall. A decision on a new meeting location will need to be made prior to this upcoming January.
- Nominations are open for SMARS Officers next month. If you or someone you know would like to run for office, please let Matt know.

PRESENTATION:

- None

Meeting Adjourned around 2008 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie H., W8AEZ
(for Melanie L., KE8TPQ)

Board Meeting Minutes N/A

FINANCES:

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| • Checking | \$3,209.67 |
| • Savings | \$3,005.47 |
| • Cash on hand | \$100.00 |
| • Total | \$6,295.14 |

Board Meeting was canceled this month due to illness.

Some notes from the President:

- Dstar repeaters are being relocated to Terry N8LN's QTH.
- Jack Cox N8LS became a SK at the end of September.
- The ISP for the repeater site is getting changed as the current ISP is not longer supporting the service.
- Treasurer and Secretary are open position on the board and election will be held during this month's meeting.

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: October 15th @ 7:00pm BLB Luncheon: November 5th @ 11:30am Board Meeting: November 5th @ 6:30pm Club Breakfast: November 14th @ 8:30am VE Session: October 22nd @ 7:00pm
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