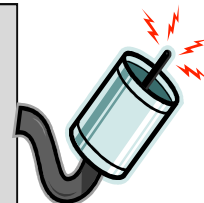




## **The Feedline**

**Oakland County Amateur Radio Society**  
**Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962**  
**Monthly Newsletter**  
**March 2017**



### **President's Message, by Scott Craig N2OPQ**

Welcome to March. Spring will be here soon. Recently we've experienced spring like thunderstorms with snow falling shortly after. The forecast for this coming week, so far, shows it starting with rain and ending with snow. March 4<sup>th</sup> was the start of this year's early warning siren tests. I feel better knowing that many hams from our club get out to verify that the sirens are working correctly.

If you know me very well, you'll probably remember that I mentor a high school robotics team in the FIRST FRC robotics program. I've been to district, state, and world competitions and I've come across ham radio operators at all levels. Each year it's a different challenge and students have 6 weeks to design, build, and test their robot. The robot can weigh up to 120lbs (without the battery). It's a great opportunity for mentoring students in areas of electronics, engineering, business skills, CAD, programming, and more. I've also come across mentors and volunteers who talk fondly of ham radio but haven't taken the plunge to join in on ham radio fun. It's no surprise for me to find an article on the ARRL website about FIRST robotics and ham radio.

See <http://www.arrl.org/ham-radio-spirit-lives-in-robots> to read about K9WIS' experience.

District competitions run for 2 full days (Friday and Saturday). Admission is free, and the public is welcome to come. They began on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and are on every weekend until April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Michigan State championship this year is in Saginaw, April 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. The world championship this year is in 2 places for the first time: Houston and St Louis. Next year will be Houston and Detroit. It will be in Detroit at least for 2018-2020. The team I work with, and that my son Nathan (KD8QWF) is on is FRC team 4362, Gems Robotics. We will be at Kettering University 3/10-3/11 and Parker Middle School in Howell, MI on 3/31 to 4/1.

If you wish to visit a competition, you'll probably find just as much interest in visiting the team pit areas (follow the signs) where you can get closer to the robots and ask questions. To do that, you'll need to have a pair of safety glasses. You can bring your own or sign out for a pair at the event. Here is a website showing the locations and dates of competitions:

<http://www.firstinmichigan.org/events/events.php?year=2017&program=frc>

73 de Scott N2OPQ.

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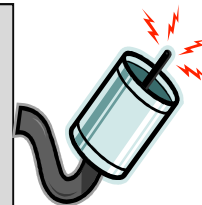
P.S. Do you know the identity of this famous ham radio operator?



### **Contest Corner (new feature)**

Greg N8GAS submitted his score towards the club in the 160 meter contest held in December.

If you worked any ARRL Contests and submit your score for the club, please inform Joe to be included in the contest corner.



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Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 12:30 for check-ins and on the Clarkston Repeater.  
Larry KB8POD is net control.

Tuesday, March 7, monthly meeting at 7:30, SDR Radio by Justin Ball W8JWB  
 Tuesday, April 4, monthly meeting at 7:30, Test equipment, Ned Keating KD8FCB  
 Tuesday, May 2, monthly meeting at 7:30, Digital Mobile Radio, Jeff Swiger N8NOE

Bethany Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford (between Cooley Lake & Commerce Rds.)  
doors open at 7:00, meeting begins at 7:30

Wednesday 10:15 – 11:30 am, Village Place restaurant  
S.W. corner of Dixie Highway and Andersonville Rd., Waterford

President:	Scott Craig N2OPQ	Directors:	Tim Pepper K8NWD
Secretary:	Ken Stuter W8KRS		Al Bailey K8SIX
Treasurer:	John Eldred N8FNN		Fred Holmes W1SKU
Trustee:	Brad Nowak N8SNM		Jim Vigne KB8TXZ

7:30 pm (local time) on the Clarkston Repeater, 146.840 MHz, p.l. tone 100 Hz, Joe KJ8O is net control, Dan KD8TXZ and Chris KD4LJT are both alternate net control operators, and welcomes participation from all area hams. The OCARS net is now accessible through Echolink node W8JWB-R.

Dates are local time, Monday evenings, with number of check-ins, time, and NCS:

- Feb. 6, 20, 30 min. KJ8O	- Feb. 20, 28, 40 min. KJ8O
- Feb. 13, 25, 45 min. KJ8O	- Feb. 27, 17, 30 min. KJ8O *

\* net ended early due to repeater locking up

[www.qsl.net/w8tno](http://www.qsl.net/w8tno) maintained by webmaster Scott Craig N2OPQ  
[www.qrz.com/db/w8tno](http://www.qrz.com/db/w8tno)  
<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/oakland-county-amateur-radio-society>  
 And on Facebook!!!

[w8tno.ocars@gmail.com](mailto:w8tno.ocars@gmail.com) or [kj8o.ham@gmail.com](mailto:kj8o.ham@gmail.com) (for an immediate response)

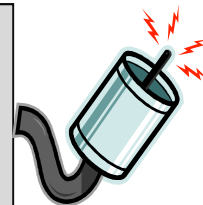
<http://www.arrl-greatlakes.org/>

<http://ares-mi.org/>



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### **Upcoming Hamfests**

See flyers at the last few pages

### **Upcoming Events**

The North Country DX Association will conduct their “RST” Event during the month of March (1<sup>st</sup> at 0000 to the 31<sup>st</sup> at 2359). This will include the polar entities of Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Greenland. (I have nearly 39,000 QSOs in my logbook, and only 1 from Nunavut. It is one of the required territories if applying for the Canadaward.)

Please see Page 100 of the February QST for additional special events.

Down the road, there will be series of Special Event stations marking the 100th anniversary of the Blessed Virgin’s appearance to three youngsters at Fatima in Portugal. Call sign K1F will be activated on Saturday May 13 from 1800 to 2300 UTC and is already listed on QRZ.com.

### **Contests**

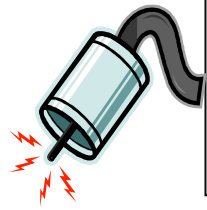
- |                 |                            |         |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| • March 25 - 26 | CQ Worldwide Worked Prefix | SSB     |
| • April 15      | Michigan QSO Party         | SSB, CW |

Please see Page 89 of the February QST for a full listing of amateur radio contests.

### **Traders Net**

Norman Wechsler ( [ndadwechs@gmail.com](mailto:ndadwechs@gmail.com) ) is willing to sell the entire collection of radios for \$1,500. (Please feel free to contact him even if only interested in part of this collection.)

Yaesu ft1000mp	Yaesu ft102	Yaesu ft101e	Yaesu ft1000
Yaesu ft101zd	Yaesu ft901dm [2]	Kenwood 830s	Kenwood 850s
Kenwood 940s	Icom746pro	Icom 751a	Icom 736
Icom 765	Collins 75s3b [2]		



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### **OCARS Meeting Minutes for 02/07/2017 - Kenneth R. Stuter W8KRS, Secretary**

Members socialized from 7:00 to 7:30

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Scott N2OPQ, president

We had 20 in attendance

#### **Business Meeting;**

Secretary's Report: Prior meeting minutes accepted by George WD8INW, seconded by Joe KJ8O. Carried Unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Given by John N8FNN. Motion to accept by Gary KD8EWG, seconded by Rob KE8CEB, Carried Unanimously.

**Old Business:** Polo Shirts \$23. If interested see Jim Vigne KB8TXZ.

#### **New Business:**

- Tim K8NWD, talked about the Oakland County DMR sight is up and working but not connected to the internet yet. For more info go to the County web sight at [www.arpssc.com](http://www.arpssc.com).
- Tim also mentioned we'll have better donuts next time thanks to Joe, KJ8O.
- Tim brought in a keyer and a 2 meter HT for free and a 2 meter 70 centimeter HT for \$50
- Joe KJ8O, brought in a 2 meter 70 centimeter HT receiver and some books for free.
- Greg N8GAS, brought in a WSPR unit that will check how well your antenna is getting out and has a sign up sheet to have him come and hook this unit to your antenna.
- Jim KB8TXZ, is starting a CW class this summer at the Orion Center. He wants to start practicing sending CW so he asked the club for some straight keys with keyers for practice. Greg W8VIJ, made a motion to purchase 3 keyers for around \$30 each. Joe KJ8O, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Break:** 7:30 to 8:10

**Presentation:** Joe KJ8O, did a presentation on Ham Memorabilia.

**50/50 Raffle:** George WD8INW, drew the winning ticket, and Ned KD8FCB won and donated the winnings back to the club. Thanks Ned.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:42.**



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### **Editorial Comments by Joe Miller KJ8O**

If any of you have heard my story of my beginnings in radio (besides last month's presentation or my page on QRZ.com) it was in 1967 when I discovered the shortwave bands. I became a regular reader of the Radio TV Experimenter and Science and Electronics, mostly for the articles on shortwave, and they included the White's Radio Log, a listing of the medium wave broadcast stations in the United States and Canada. And I should mention that it was difficult to read any radio related magazine at the time without hearing of the latest exploits of Don Miller (no relation) W9WNV (now AE6IY). He would regularly travel to different parts of the world to activate the very rare DX entities, and dealing with the very large pile-ups that ensued, he developed operating practices that today are considered standard practices.

For example, when sending a "599" signal report in CW, you would ordinarily send "..... ----. ----." and Don abbreviated to what is now called a cut number as "5NN" or "..... -.-." which would reduced both the sending and receiving time in half. The less time on each contact meant you could work more contacts.

Another of his developments was the use of split frequency operation, transmitting on one frequency and listening on another. Once the pile-up begins, if the DX station can pick out a call, he can call them back hopefully without interference on the listening frequency.

I had a similar experience with the International DX Contest this past weekend. Many countries outside of the United States, and particularly Europe, allow phone operations from approximately 7.050 and 7.125 MHz. DX stations often call CQ in this part of the band and listen on frequencies between 7.2 and 7.3 MHz. Certainly, the experienced operator can quickly set up his radio for split frequency operation during these DX contest and DXpeditions.

Of course, many old timers will recall some of the less than positive aspects of Mr. Miller. He found himself frequently at odds with the DXCC desk at ARRL. In 1968, the ARRL hired a legal firm to defend the organization from one of Miller's lawsuits. And throughout the 1980's, one could say he had free room and board provided by the State of California. It was even said more than once or twice that if a well known Dxr didn't contribute to his dxpedition, that he could not hear them when calling, but those that did contribute were called.

In December, Martti Laine OH2BH invited Don Miller to his home in Finland and conducted several interviews with him. If you are interested in this part of ham radio history, more can be seen at:

<https://dxnews.com/w9wnv-oh2bh/>

<http://www.reocities.com/k2cddx/miller.html>

<https://www.qrz.com> (OH2BH)

P.S. Martti was working as EA8BH from the Canary Islands in the International DX Contest this past weekend.



# 2017 Michigan QSO Party



**What?** Michigan QSO Party

**When?** Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Noon to Midnight local time

**Where?** 10 thru 80 Meters (CW & SSB)

**Why?** Just Have Some Fun!!!!

- Chance to get on the air
  - Single Op, Multi Op, Mobile, EOC
  - Be the station others want to work
  - Maybe activate a rare county?
- Excellent Club Activity
  - Reason to get together as group
  - EOC station category
  - Excellent training in HF ops
  - Get new members on the air!
  - Friendly Competition

Let's all help make Michigan "radio-active" on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April!!!!

**Rules & More Info:** <http://www.miqp.org/>

**Sponsored By:** The Mad River Radio Club

## Registration for USECA's Charter Bus Day-trip to Dayton Hamvention, May 20th, 2017

Please PRINT clearly ALL information required below. Total cost, \$55.. does NOT include Hamvention ticket (\$25)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency contact # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, May 20th, 2017.. Bus leaves pkg lot @ 14 & Vandyke Walmart promptly @ 4am Email \_\_\_\_\_

Bus will leave Dayton Hara Bus parking area promptly @ 5pm

Deposit paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20) NOTE! Your deposit is non-refundable and forfeit if the remaining funds (\$35) are not received by 9pm February 13th, 2017 and USECA reserves the right to re-sell the seat. No exceptions.

Payment in FULL received: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (\$55 total)

Your signature REQUIRED below...

Please read carefully! I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand it is my responsibility to arrive at the embarkation points (both locally and in Dayton) and be aboard the bus ON TIME (4am here, 5pm Dayton). Failure to do so may well mean being left behind (here or at Dayton), in which case I'll be responsible for finding and funding my own transportation. Plan to arrive early at points of embarkation and allow enough time for loading any items you might have. If I am a "no-show", I understand that I forfeit my seat and any monies paid and that the seat may be resold as USECA sees fit. Once I pay in full for my seat, it is my responsibility... if I have to cancel for any reason; I understand it will be my responsibility to resell my ticket and notify USECA of that fact or my ticket may not be accepted in the hands of another person. I further agree to hold harmless and indemnify USECA and it's members for any unforeseen loss, liability, injury, or claims that may result from my participation in this activity. Please note that the bus is a non-stop with no stops for food or drink and plan accordingly.

-----  
Utica-Shelby Emergency Communications Association 2017 Day Trip to the Dayton Hamvention  
Saturday May 20, 2017 Bus leaves 14 Mile & VanDyke Walmart lot @ 4am, leaves Hamvention @ 5pm  
Only to be filled out for Payment in Full (non-refundable)

Received from \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 55 total

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (USECA officer) Registrants initials \_\_\_\_\_ Affirming  
the following: I have read and understand my responsibilities to arrive on time @ embarkation points and  
the consequences of my failing to abide by the stipulations set forth in the registration I signed before  
receiving this receipt and hold USECA and it's members harmless as stated in my signed registration. Save  
this receipt!!!

Mailed forms must be received no later than May 8th at the latest. Mail to USECA, PO Box 46331, Mt  
Clemens, MI 48046

-----  
Utica-Shelby Emergency Communications Association 2017 Day Trip to the Dayton Hamvention  
Saturday May 20, 2017 Bus leaves 14 Mile & VanDyke Walmart lot @ 4am, leaves Hamvention @ 5pm  
Deposit (non-refundable... remaining \$35 must be received by Feb 13th, 2017 or deposit is forfeit)

Received from \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (USECA officer) Registrants initials \_\_\_\_\_ Affirming  
the following: I have read and understand my responsibilities to arrive on time @ embarkation points and  
the consequences of my failing to abide by the stipulations set forth in the registration I signed before  
receiving this receipt. **Save this receipt!!!**



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Food

Mobility Scooters Available

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