

SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the Saginaw Valley
Amateur Radio Association

November, 2007

Hello Fellow Hams!

Tonight, (Friday at 8pm) we have a club meeting at the Red Cross. Duane KD8AUY will be giving the second half of his TV and broadcast presentation. Many of you remember the fantastic first half he gave this spring! I'm really looking forward to it. We will also start nominations for next years elected officers. Last weekend we opened the Red Cross for the CQ WW HF phone contest.

Though Friday evening was a little slow after the previous day's geo-storm, Saturday morning the ionospheric conditions were perfect.

Most all of the contacts were to the South and East, including the Caribbean, South America, Europe and the islands and mainland of Africa. Friday night we used the Drake for 40/80 meters and the Kenwood for 20m. Saturday, Mike Jury brought in his new Icom radio and we used that on 20m and 15m. We'll hear more from the participants at the meeting.

Our clubs' Emergency Coordinator, Ron Huss (KC8YVF) reported that the ham radio operators that helped with Angels Night (October 30) did a very fine job. They were stationed at firehouses and various other spots in the city. We even climbed up on Rosien Tower and relayed ATV video of the Saginaw cityscape back to the new EOC in the Court House.

Best Wishes --
--Keith (N8XD)

I would like to thank all that participated yesterday in the Angels Night event. Although there was not much activity, and the duties for the radio operators had not been thought out by the city, this was a great PR opportunity for the ARES group and the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association in general. A link was started between the City Fire Department and our group that hopefully will grow. It also showed what Amateur radio can do to many of the City and County officials including the mayor, county chair person, police and fire officials. Tim Genovese did a great job of promoting Amateur radio and our capabilities and we were able to show all the county heads live ATV video using the new ATV repeater. Although not through the avenue we would have liked, as usual, we got the job done and everyone was impressed. We have raised the bar as to what the served agencies will expect from us and we still have a long way to go, but we are headed in the right direction. Thank you for your commitment to amateur radio and volunteering your time.

Sincerely,
Ron Huss, KC8YVF
EC- Saginaw County ARES

WORDS FROM AN OLD MAN

WA8GRI

While tuning around on the 80meter band I here the call of an old friend of mine that I haven't heard from in a long time. Of course I contacted him at once and enquired about his family and asked if his XYL was the same darling that I use to know. To my surprise I found that I was not talking with my old friend Larry but a youngster by the name of Tony. After some inquiry about how come he was using Larry's call he informed me that he had been licensed about 90 days and didn't like the call he received so he got a Vanity call that he liked better. Further, I find that Larry had let his call lapse about 9 years ago.

Now it used to be that you could tell a Hams QTH and if he was a novice or an old timer by his call. And if they had been licensed for over two years and had past a written test more complicated than the First Class Commercial, and proved proficiency in Morse Code at 20 words a minute you could receive an Extra Class license and were entitled to a special Call sign. This was a good idea. It gave the recipient something to show for his accomplishment. Today things have changed, You may think you are contacting an out of state ham or an old timer and you find out it is really the guy down the street who gave the FCC a couple of dollars extra and was awarded a Vanity Call sign.

I looked up in Webster's the definition of Vanity: "Vanity – any act that is vain, idle, futile, or worthless; The act of being excessively proud of ones self, or possessions". Now is the Vanity call sign program a good idea or is it an instrument for our Government to make money and to make some ham seem like someone he is not?

Comments made by WA8GRI are not meant to be argumentative but are intended to promote friendly discussion.

Reminders:

Nominations will be accepted at the November meeting.

Pride Parade is coming up fast. Volunteer now for this exciting event!

The Club Breakfast will be Saturday morning, Nov. 3rd, at 9:00 am at the State St. Texan.

General Membership Meeting
September 7, 2007
Red Cross

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM. There were 21 members and guests present.

The Secretary's report was accepted on a motion by N8YXR seconded by KB8QO. All were in favor

The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by N8XPS, seconded by WD8OQH. All were in favor. KC8BYI then gave a summary report on Care Break.

N8XD thanked everyone for the cards, letters and flowers in memory of his father's passing. He also appreciated all who came to the funeral home.

Events

There will be a testing session on Sept. 15th at the First Ward Community Center for the youth who attended the summer program. It is open to everyone. Registration and testing will begin at 9:30 am. A discussion of identification requirements ensued.

KC8YVI is retiring as Emergency Coordinator. Your new E.C. will be KC8YVF.

Family Preparedness Day will be Sept. 30th from 2:00 to 6:00 pm at Kern Pavilion in Heritage Park in Frankenmuth.

October 6th will be the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test in Hemlock at Richland Twp. Park.

W8LPV passed along thanks from the organizers of the Metro Detroit Youth Day.

New Business:

WA8GRI won \$13.00 in the 50/50 drawing.

On a motion by KC8BYI, seconded by W8EAB, the meeting closed at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ
Secretary

General Membership Meeting
October 5, 2007
Red Cross

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM. There were 24 members and guests present.

The Secretary's report was accepted on a motion by N8ERL seconded by W8CWD. All were in favor.

The treasurer's made an error in calculating her report and needed time to correct it. KD8FQL made a motion to table the report until later in the meeting. After corrections, the Treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by KC8WZM that was seconded by K8CQF. All were in favor.

Announcements:

There will be a Technician class at the Salvation Army in Midland Oct. 9th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Silent Key: WD8OQH Jerry Cox went silent recently. Services will be held in Bay City, on Oct. 6, at 11:00 am at Gephart Funeral Home.

Old Business:

KC8YVF reported there were 15 club members that turned out for Family Preparedness Day in Frankenmuth. Pictures of the event will be on the club website. Thirteen people expressed an interest in receiving further information on amateur radio.

New Business:

There will be an Open House at the new E.O.C. and 911 centers on Oct. 11th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

C.E.R.T. will be held Oct. 27th and Nov. 4th the Saginaw Twp. Fire Station #3 on Gratiot and Center.

K8CQF asked if the club would be participating in the Pride Parade and Holiday in the Heart of the City festivities. KC8YVF made a motion to do so and was seconded by KC9BYI. All agreed.

Members were reminded that nominations would be accepted for club officers at the November meeting.

N8ERL gave a presentation on what you can do to prepare your own family for a disaster.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Larry Robinson, a guest of W8EAB. He pocketed \$15.00.

On a motion by WA8KFC, seconded by K8CQF, the meeting closed at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ
Secretary

Board of Directors
SVARA
October 17, 2007
Texan on State Street

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm. Present were: KC8BDQ, KC8BYI, WA8GRI, W8LPV, and N8XD.

Reports:

President: N8XD commented that he was looking forward to the second half of Duane's presentation on TV broadcasting. He will see if he can get him to do it at the November meeting. KC8BYI asked about having the Red Cross do a CPR class for club members. Chair asked for a motion to table the matter for the general meeting. KC8BDQ moved and W8LPV seconded. All were in favor.

He also mentioned intent to participate in the CQ World Wide contest on October 27th.

Secretary: The minutes of the August board meeting were accepted as presented on a motion by KC8BYI and seconded by W8LPV. All were in favor.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was reviewed.

Chair: W8LPV gave a report on progress of the 501 c 3. There has to be a dissolution clause included. He asked several board members for information necessary for this procedure.

New Business

KC8BYI asked for ideas on what to send the people who requested more information about amateur radio.

W8LPV asked N8XD if he would put on a Technician class. He said sure. N8XD will have dates later.

KC8BYI asked about trailer storage for the winter.

WA8GRI asked N8XD to please run for president again. Everyone agreed that would be an excellent thing for the club.

On a motion by WA8GRI, seconded by KC8BYI, the meeting closed at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ
Secretary



SVARA HARMONIC

The monthly newsletter of
The Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 1783 Saginaw, MI 48605-1783



Visit our web site at: www.k8dac.com

SVARA Members sponsor the 147.240+ PL 103.5 & 224.28 Open Repeaters K8DAC/R
-and- Emergency HF stations at the American Red Cross and auxiliary field operations.

General Membership meeting - monthly on the 1st Friday, 8:00 p.m.
at the American Red Cross, 1232 N. Michigan.

Board of Directors meeting - monthly on the 2nd Wednesday
following the general membership meeting,
8:00 p.m. at the Texan Restaurant, 5656 State St.

Club Breakfast – monthly on Saturday morning after the meeting,
9:00 a.m. at the Texan Restaurant, 5656 State St.

2007 SVARA Officers

President	Keith DeLong, N8XD	989-695-5131	n8xd@arrl.net
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Board Member 2008	Lou Vescio, W8LPV	989-799-1467	lvescio@midmich.net
Board Member 2009	Aaron Stella, KD8AVA	989-497-0463	astella@bcdglobal.com

2007 SVARA Appointments

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Repeater Committee	Ron Huss, KC8YVF		
	Brad Mellberg, W8QPO		
	Jeff Metiva, KB8SWR		

To subscribe or submit articles, please send requests to Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ -- weirauch@chartermi.net

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