

SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the Saginaw Valley
Amateur Radio Association

February, 2008

K8DAC - APRS Digipeater Changes

In the next month or so we will be making a change to the way the APRS digipeater operates. We are conforming to standards published by the APRS inventor Bob Bruninga. Right now the K8DAC APRS digipeater requires a Path string that starts with RELAY. To follow the new standard, the RELAY needs to be removed and WIDE2-2 needs to be used instead.

There is another APRS digipeater that covers parts of Saginaw County that already works with the new WIDE2-2 path so you can switch over now and be prepared. Once we discontinue listening for RELAY on the K8DAC APRS repeater, anyone still using RELAY will not have their packets relayed to the APRS net.

This change is really good and I encourage you to make the adjustment and test your equipment as soon as possible.

Here are the current Path Recommendations from Bob:

APRS User Recommendations under the New n-N Paradigm

WB4APR

- 1) RELAY, WIDE, TRACE, TRACEn-N and SS are obsolete, Use at your own risk.
- 2) Use WIDE2-2 for fixed stations (3-3 is ok for areas far-far from any city or mountains)
- 3) WIDE1-1, WIDE2-1 for mobiles (WIDE1-1, WIDE2-2 is ok for areas far-far from any city or mountains)
- 4) Use WIDE1-1, SSn-N for selected non-routine State or Section nets or when humans are present for large area emergent needs. (will not work reliably during transition period)
- 5) Use DIGI1, DIGI2, DIGI3... for point to point communications
(but realize success becomes vanishingly small beyond 2 hops)

Warnings:

- A) Never use WIDE1-1 beyond the first hop
- B) Never use anything other than WIDEn-N on a Balloon or aircraft. (N=2 should work well)

Best Wishes
--Keith (N8XD)

WORDS FROM THE OLD MAN

A quote from the 8th edition ARRL Operating Manual:

“The function of a repeater is to provide communications between stations not able to communicate directly because of terrain or equipment limitations. If stations are able to communicate without a repeater, they should. Always use simplex whenever possible so the repeater will be available for stations that need its facilities.”

Several years ago the local repeaters were being used by some to play chess or carry on very long QSO's. Luckily we don't have that problem today. Let's always remember the first part of the Radio Amateur's Code. The Radio Amateur is CONSIDERATE(and) never knowingly operates in such a way as to lesson the pleasure of others.

WA8GRI

Hello fellow hams!

KC8BDQ here, announcing the kick-off of my new forum at <http://users.boardnation.com/~amateurchat/index.php>. I have created a forum for ham radio operators in this area to post ideas, keep in touch, and tell a story, or offer help and advice to fellow hams.

Please be aware that this is **NOT** associated with SVARA in any way. This board is hosted, administered and monitored by yours truly, KC8BDQ, and I will do my best to keep it on track.

You are invited to check out <http://users.boardnation.com/~amateurchat/index.php> and have a look around. If you like what you see, please register (you only need to supply your call sign for your username, a password, and a valid e-mail address). Please invite any other hams you think might be interested too.

I look forward to seeing everyone there. I have made a few small posts to get things started.

Thanks for your time,
Jeff, KC8BDQ

Important SVARA Dates:

Club Meeting Dates (at Red Cross):

All dates are Fridays:

January 4 th	February 1 st	March 7 th	April 4 th
May 2 nd	June 6 th	July 4 th	August 1 ^s
September 5 th	October 3 rd	November 7 th	December 5 th

Club Breakfast Dates (at State Street Texan):

All dates are Saturdays:

January 5 th	February 2 nd	March 8 th	April 6 th
May 3 rd	June 7 th	July 5 th	August 2 nd
September 6 th	October 4 th	November 8 th	December 6 th

Board Meeting Dates (at State Street Texan):

All dates are Wednesdays:

January 16 th	February 13 th	March 12 th	April 16 th
May 14 th	June 18 th	July 16 th	August 13 th
September 17 th	October 15 th	November 12 th	December 17 th

Hi:

Does this bring back any memories? Enjoy.

Just received a great website for anyone with fond memories of the old Heatkits: <http://www.heathkit-museum.com/>

73,

Ed

Board of Directors
SVARA
January 16, 2008
Texan on State Street

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm. Present were: W8LPV, KC8BDQ, KC8BYI, WA8GRI, KC8YVF, and N8XD.

Reports:

President: An effort will be made to offer more training and projects in 2008. He mentioned committee appointments and the proposed purchase of an LCD projector for club use.

Vice-President: The Vice-President asked if we would be willing to grant a lifetime membership to a long-time club member.

Secretary: Motion by KC8BYI seconded by KC8YVF to accept the minutes of the November board meeting. All were in favor.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was reviewed. KC8BYI then discussed the important club dates (meeting, breakfast and board) coming up this year. She then announced receipt of the Care Break packets for this year. We can apply for all 3 weekends again; the board agreed on a motion by N8XD, which was seconded by KC8YVF, we should apply for all three.

Chairman: W8LPV reported the 501 c (3) paperwork was on track.

Old Business:

N8XD reported that KB8SWR feels our current APRS equipment will be sufficient to make the change to the new format. Further investigation is needed.

KC8YVF asked to have the minutes of the December 2007 board meeting corrected to show the only SkyWarn training in 2008 will be in the spring (2nd Thursday in April) and sponsored by the County.

New Business

KC8YVF gave his 2007 EC report and mentioned a meeting with Tim Genovese concerning additional equipment for the county ATV system.

The board elected a new Chairperson this year. W8LPV graciously declined a nomination by WA8GRI, while KC8BDQ accepted a nomination by KC8BYI. By unanimous vote KC8BDQ is the new board chair for 2008.

For the repeater committee, N8XD nominated appointed KB8SWR (pending acceptance), the board appointed KC8YVF (accepted) and the trustee appointment is pending.

N8XD appointed KD8AVA as P.I.O. (pending acceptance).

KC8YVF was appointed Emergency Coordinator.

KC8BDQ will continue as newsletter editor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ
Secretary

General Membership Meeting
January 4, 2007
Red Cross

The meeting was called to order at 7:58 PM. There were 20 members and guests present. The minutes were accepted as printed in the Harmonic on a motion by KC8YVD and seconded by W8CWD. All were in favor.

The treasurer gave her yearly summary for 2007. She then gave her regular monthly report and it was accepted on a motion by N8YXR that was seconded by KC8WZM. All were in favor.

N8XD pledged more training in 2008. He wants to focus on technical, emergency and social events.

Old Business:

N8XD congratulated the incoming board of directors.

New Business:

N8XD presented the club with a proposal to purchase our own LCD projector for club use.

KC0RBV suggested we appoint a committee to research LCD's. KC8BDQ seconded and all were in favor. N8XD asked N8XPS if he would chair it. He agreed.

KC8BYI said she would chair the Care Breaks this summer but that she needed one person per day to oversee things. It was mentioned that we get great public exposure doing these.

At 8:36 K8CQF and N8ERL gave a presentation on Emergency traffic handling.

The 50/50 drawing was won by N8NPW. He pocketed \$17.00.

On a motion by KC8BDQ, seconded by N8YXR, the meeting closed at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ
Secretary



SVARA HARMONIC
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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
Vice-President	Jim Stutesman, WA8GRI	989-791-2156	wa8gri@arrl.net
Secretary	Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ	989-797-0692	weirauch@chartermi.net
Treasurer	Judy Weirauch, KC8BYI	989-797-0692	weirauch@northwood.edu
Board Member 2007	Ron Huss, KC8YVF	989-799-2679	kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com
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

Newsletter Editor	Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ	989-797-0692	weirauch@chartermi.net
Emergency Coordinator	Carl DeMeritt, KC8YVI	989-792-2151	cdemeritt@chs-mi.com
Public Info Officer	Aaron Stella, KD8AVA	989-497-0463	astella@bcdglobal.com
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

SVARA Elmers

Antennas	Tracy Albert, KC8YVE	989-714-2367	thealbert@earthlink.com
Antennas	Verne Williams, KC8FUV	213-689-5258	vw54@ncats.net
APRS + WX	Brian Buckstiegel, N8AVR	989-781-6875	brian@n8avr.us
CPR-AED Training	Roger Steffes, K8DVX	989-752-9891	RogerSteffes@speednetllc.com
Feed Lines	Tracy Albert, KC8YVE	989-714-2367	thealbert@earthlink.com
General Questions	Joe Turner, K8CQF	989-793-7373	k8cqf@arrl.net
MARS	Verne Williams, KC8FUV	213-689-5258	vw54@ncats.net
Morse Code	Larry Davison, WD8RIK	989-781-0370	wd8rik@diamondcs.net
RFI	Jim Stutesman, WA8GRI	989-791-2156	wa8gri@arrl.net
Satellites	Keith DeLong, N8XD	989-695-5131	n8xd@arrl.net
Slow Scan TV	Keith DeLong, N8XD	989-695-5131	n8xd@arrl.net
Towers	Verne Williams, KC8FUV	213-689-5258	vw54@ncats.net