

SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

February, 2010

REMINDER!

February Club Meeting Time Change

This is a reminder that the club meeting for Friday February 5 will **begin at 7:30 pm** instead of the usual 8 pm start time and feature a presentation by the Genesee County K-9 One Search and Rescue group (the dogs will be there too). The business portion of the meeting will start at 7:30 and will conclude after the presentation if needed.

Ron Huss, KC8YVF
ARES EC

Dues

The board has been in discussion concerning the structure of our membership dues. While the club constitution stipulates that spouses, students, seniors and associates shall pay one half (1/2) of the regular dues, we have discussed eliminating the confusing "repeater support" of \$6.00 and simply having 2 rates for all memberships. There are two (2) proposed rate structures that will keep revenue from dues about the same. They are as follows:

Full membership: \$24.00
All Others: \$12.00

OR

Full Membership: \$30.00
All Others: \$15.00

Discussion was held at the January 8th general meeting. A vote at the regular February club meeting is scheduled. The treasurer will begin accepting the new dues after the vote.

Important Upcoming Club Dates:

Club Meeting Dates (at Red Cross):

All dates are Fridays: February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th, September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th, December 3rd

Club Breakfast Dates (at State Street Texan):

All dates are Saturdays: February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd, May 8th, June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th

Board Meeting Dates (at State Street Texan):

All dates are Wednesdays: February 17th, March 17th, April 14th, May 19th, June 16th, July 14th, August 18th, September 15th, October 13th, November 17th, December 15th

Ludy

General Meeting Minutes
American Red Cross Building

January 8, 2010

At 8:01 p.m. the club's new president, Duane KD8AUY, brought the business meeting to order with music to wake us up, proposing more energy at our meetings. Looking for uses for Christmas gifts from children (politician books, etc.). Duane asked members to do the best we can and have a good year, and asked for presentation suggestions & volunteers. Ron KC8YVF acknowledged that he would have a presentation later, and Joe K8CQF may also present in the future. Duane also requested that board members sit up front during the meetings 'in case of shoe throwing.' Welcomed all present with more music in the background during introductions; 20 in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Announcement: Will review Dues tonight

Secretary's Report:

Mike N8XPS submitted minutes, as well as year in review with the Harmonic.

Motion to accept as minutes as presented made by Gordy KC8YVD, with a second from Jeff KC8BDQ and unanimously passed by all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

Judy KC8BYI presented the year end summary for January through December of 2009. Motion to accept by Dave WB8LZA; second by Ron KC8YVF; unanimously passed by all in attendance.

Discussion: Do we do any charitable activities with the balance?

Care Breaks, Katrina, Red Cross, books donated to libraries, science fair, scholarships (no applications yet). Duane KD8AUY suggested donations of non-perishable goods.

Monthly Report presented by Judy KC8BYI, which included an extra charge of \$42 for the club's P.O. box, which Judy paid for with her personal account last February.

Motion to accept by Emmett W8EAB; second by Gordy KC8YVD; passed with no opposition.

Old Business:

Information and discussion regarding club dues. Judy presented two options recommended by the board, which will simplify the process and include repeater fees as an all-inclusive fee. Members will vote at February's general meeting.

Current Dues Schedule:

\$15.00 Full Membership

\$7.50 ½ Price Membership (seniors, spouses, students, disabled & associate members)

\$6.00 Repeater Fee

Option 1:

\$24 Full Membership

\$12 ½ Price Membership

Option 2:

\$30 Full Membership
\$15 ½ Price Membership

Discussion:

Emmett W8EAB: Both are good options. Should be included in next month's newsletter; editor will have the information to publish.

Joe K8CQF: Repeater dues would go away. Within the last 2 years, nobody has paid repeater fees only. Suggested adding a generic donation line item, as next month we should have more information on the club's 501c3 status.

Jeff KD8IOK: These options make things easier for the treasurer by eliminating change, using whole dollar amounts.

Judy KC8BYI: In the past, members joining during a partial year have paid the full rate rather than a pro-rated fee.

Jeff KC8BDQ: Do the by-laws specify the number of meetings a person can attend before becoming a member?

Dave N8ERL: Believes it is 3 meetings "free," then membership is required. However, this rule has not been enforced.

Ron KC8YVF: Does increasing from \$21 to \$24 cause any hardship? The intent is to simplify the process, but minimize hardships.

Jeff KD8IOK: Votes for a family rate (with a wink).

Judy KC8BYI: Constitution allows the board to reduce or waive dues for specific hardship cases.

Joe K8CQF: Suggested considering time contributions as "in kind" equivalent to dues?

Jeff KD8IOK: Maybe if we include the officers' time as "in kind" more people will volunteer for those positions.

Mike N8XPS: For comparison, national membership for the ARRL is \$39.

Joe K8CQF: If members renew their ARRL membership through the club, does the club still get \$1 back?

Judy KC8BYI: That was suspended for a while but may now be back. However, there was a long delay for membership to become active that way. Judy will check into it.

Jeff KC8BDQ: Suggested "SVARA Bucks" for participation and time contributions.

Dave N8ERL: Suggested moving along the meeting, as it was getting late.

New Business:

Ron KC8YVF reminds members that K9 One will be presenting at the next general meeting (February 5). This will be a demonstration mainly for the ARES group, but should be interesting for everyone.

Ron KC8YVF: Last year the club participated in the Hobby Fair at Hemmeter High School. This event will be Saturday, January 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with setup at 9:00 a.m. Will need to track down the mice for CW; Judy KC8BYI will contact Rob KC8IJN.

Ron KC8YVF: FCC rules on Ham operation use during drills & exercises:

Ham operators cannot conduct business over amateur radio, even when regular communications are down. An organization must apply for a waiver to use an "on the clock" operator in an exercise.

Mike N8XPS: There are three articles in the January issue of the Linux Journal regarding the ARRL.

Appointments:

Public Information Officer: Lou W8LPV

Emergency Coordinator: Ron KC8YVF

Repeater Committee: Board, President, & Trustee each appoint one member, and the President also resides on this committee.

ARES Team: Same

EC Team: Ron KC8YVF is in charge, with assistants (Keith N8XD, Dave N8ERL, Emmett W8EAB)

SkyWarn Nets: Emmett W8EAB, Dave N8ERL, Ron KC8YVF

SkyWarn training is April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Covenant.

50/50 drawing was won by Mike KD8MMH.

Dave WB8LZA: North American CW Contest is this weekend. Phone contest is next weekend (January 16 @ 1:00 p.m. through January 17 @ 1:00 p.m.) Ron KC8YVF will send an email and open the Red Cross if there is enough interest.

Reminders:

Breakfast tomorrow (January 9) at 8:30 a.m.

Board meeting is Wednesday (January 13).

Don't forget to log time; include drive time, meetings, public service time, & mileage.

Not required to be a club member or an ARRL member to be a member of ARES; Dave N8ERL requested ARES applications on the website.

Member News:

Emmett W8EAB spoke with Roger on the radio a week or so ago. Sounded good.

Per Larry WD8RIK: Ed Ireland W8HZF is still on Oxygen, staying at Swan Valley Manor #221 and getting around ok. His wife Norma is doing quite well.

Motion to adjourn by Judy KC8BYI and second by Dave N8ERL.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Rachelle Stange, KD8UOK
Secretary

SVARA Board Meeting
January 13, 2010
Texan Restaurant, State St.

Meeting called to order at 7:56 p.m. with Duane KD8AUY, Judy KC8BYI, Jeff KC8BDQ, Mike N8XPS, Ron KC8YVF, Emmett W8EAB, Rachelle KD8UOK, Jeff KD8IOK, and Amanda KD8JAZ in attendance.

Motion made to accept December meeting minutes as presented in the Harmonic made by Jeff KC8BDQ and second by Emmett W8EAB. Accepted unopposed.

President's Report:

Past President: KC8BDQ received a call from Randy Wembly at TV5 regarding communications with Haiti. Jeff will return Randy's call, asking him to broadcast that if anyone needs to contact Haiti, please contact Emmett W8EAB; members are actively listening. Ron KC8YVF was also contacted by Tim Genovese at the County EOC.

Emmett W8EAB has been listening to the following active frequencies with traffic from Haiti:

14300 / 14265 until 6:30 or 7:00 p.m.

There was another massive aftershock around 5:15 p.m.

4.045 CW on 4 meters

There is some information coming from SATERN.org (Salvation Army):

14.265 / 7.265 / 3.977.7

ARRL Emergency Frequencies (IARU nets):

7.045 / 3.720

President: Nothing to report.

Vice President's Report:

Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report:

Past Secretary: Mike N8XPS has transferred the archive to the new Secretary, Rachelle KD8UOK – excluding the letters he recently wrote.

Secretary:

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report:

Copies of 2 reports, which were approved at the general meeting, were distributed by Judy KC8BYI.

Trailer

There was a miscommunication regarding the trailer. Judy KC8BYI asked Rob KC8IJN to contact Jeff KD8IOK and arrange to move the trailer; it is currently at Rob's house. Jeff KD8IOK retrieved the CW mice before the meeting.

Dues

An article will be sent to the editor of the Harmonic regarding dues.

Care Break

Gordy KC8YVD and his wife have agreed to run the Memorial Day Care Break. They have the sign up sheets; Judy will write him a check for supplies. Gordy has a concern that a non-club member (his wife) will be left alone if he is called to the hospital while on duty.

Still need someone to run the Care Breaks for July 4 and Labor Day.

Chairman's Report:

Committee Nominations

Ron KC8YVF was re-elected as Chairman via nomination by Emmett W8EAB, and second by Duane KD8AUY. Duane KD8AUY, as President will assume Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

Repeater Committee:

Current members are Jeff KB8SWR, Ron KC8YVF, Bob N8YXR; and automatically, the President.

The Board, President and Trustee each nominate a member.

Board nomination: Ron KC8YVF via Judy KC8BYI and second by Mike N8XPS.

President Nomination: Jeff KB8SWR

Jeff KD8IOK will contact the Trustee, Bob N8YXR for his nomination.

He will also ask Joe K8CQF if he is still interested in being the Club Historian.

Trailer Committee:

Current members are Jeff KD8IOK, Judy KC8BYI, Jeff KC8BDQ, and Rob KC8IJN.

Will ask for volunteers at the March meeting.

Upcoming Events

Hemmeter Hobby Fair – January 30. Setup at 9:00 a.m. in the gym.

HF radio is at the Red Cross; Emmett W8EAB and Ron KC8YVF will pick it up on Saturday before the Hobby Fair. Ron KC8YVF received brochures and other freebie stuff from the ARRL today.

K9 One will present at the February general meeting. Their presentation will begin at 8:00 p.m. and last about an hour. Will need to start the meeting early – 7:30 p.m. Will broadcast the time change in every venue possible:

Judy KC8BYI will notify Rob KC8IJN to publish in the Harmonic.

Ron KC8YVF will send two weekly reminders via email, edit the calendar, and post the time change on the website.

The time change will also be broadcast on the radio in conversation, and during club nets.

SkyWarn

Spring SkyWarn training will be at Covenant on April 8, at 7:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last approximately two hours. Ron KC8YVF will send reminders.

Website is up to date.

Suggested changes for Rosien:

Jeff KB8SWR asked about changing the phone from a voice line to DSL.

Benefits: Cheaper (\$19.95/month), allows for constant Echolink, IRLP, VOIP, can control the repeater via computer. Will interface with the current repeater.

Concerns: Repeater maintenance depends on an "up all the time" PC. What happens when the computer goes down? Ron KC8YVF will have the ability to control it remotely. How will this affect/benefit club members?

Recommendations: Jeff KC8BDQ recommends that we wait until the Antenna & Radio at Rosien is worked out. Cannot jeopardize the Auto Patch capability.

Research: Jeff KB8SWR will conduct an engineering study – looking into whether a new card is needed. Verify whether the quoted DSL rate is for an individual or a business (club will be considered a business). Judy KC8BYI requested a complete report in writing for the Board to review.

Summary of Requirements to be discussed later with more info:

- Lower cost
- Keep current capabilities
- Possibly adding capabilities

Old Business:

Jeff KC8BDQ received several returned Christmas invitations in the P.O. Box. Pass these and any more along to Mike N8XPS, who will edit the database and pass along to Rachelle KD8UOK.

Traditionally, the club checking account is administered by the Treasurer and the President. In order to avoid having spouses together as authorized signers on the account, Lou W8LPV was the second signer with Judy KC8BYI last year. When asked, Duane KD8AUY requested that Lou W8LPV be asked to continue.

New Business:

Donation

Received a message that some electronic (not HAM) equipment may be available for donation to the club. Consider an auction at a meeting? Need to be sure unwanted equipment is not stored for any length of time.

Will ask for an itemized list, and solicit interest at the March club meeting.

ARRL

Judy KC8BYI suggested that someone should be assigned to update the ARRL with correct contact information. Since it should be someone on the Board, she was given the responsibility. Contacts are Duane KC8AUY as President, and Lou W8LPV as Public Information Officer.

Special Service Club

Judy KC8BYI will fill out application paperwork for Special Service Club.

Dues

Reviewed suggestions from the general meeting:

Consensus says that SVARA Bucks would be too much work, not enough incentive, and risks losing money.

Are dues a taxable write off donation?

Jeff KD8IOK agrees that offering free membership for officers could bring more volunteers, and possibly promote more accepted nominations in future elections.

Voting on Dues Changes

Paper ballot with 2 options, rather than a show of hands.

Must have a 25% quorum to validate the vote.

Considered offering an absentee ballot, but decided against it; as it would be too difficult to manage, and it is likely that a majority will be in attendance at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. via motion by Emmett W8EAB, and second by Jeff KC8BDQ.



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 is held monthly on the 1st Friday, at 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,
8:30 a.m. at the Texan Restaurant, 5656 State St.

2009 SVARA Officers

President	Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ	989-797-0692	weirauch@chartermi.net
Vice-President	Lou Vescio, W8LPV	989-799-1467	lvescio@midmich.net
Secretary	Mike Linton, N8XPS	989-598-0277	gabbyguard729@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Judy Weirauch, KC8BYI	989-797-0692	weirauch@northwood.edu
Board Member 2010	Ron Huss, KC8YVF	989-799-2679	kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com
Board Member 2009	Jeff Stange, KD8IOK	989-624-9461	kd8iok@jacsinc.net
Board Member 2011	Emmett Bengry, W8EAB	989-755-5112	w8eab@arrl.net

2009 SVARA Appointments

Newsletter Editor	Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ	989-797-0692	weirauch@chartermi.net
Emergency Coordinator	Ron Huss, KC8YVF	989-799-2679	kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com
Public Info Officer	Lou Vescio, W8LPV	989-799-1467	lvescio@midmich.net
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

CPR-AED Training	Roger Steffes, K8DVX	989-752-9891	RogerSteffes@speednetllc.com
General Questions	Joe Turner, K8CQF	989-793-7373	k8cqf@arrl.net
Morse Code	Larry Davison, WD8RIK	989-781-0370	wd8rik@provide.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