

SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the Saginaw Valley
Amateur Radio Association

March, 2008

From Joe, K8CQF

A camp will be held at Loomis Math, Science, and Technology Academy (2000 Loomis Street; Saginaw, 48601) during the week of July 28th through August 1st from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. This camp for youngsters is great fun and I highly recommend it as a volunteer function. The kids begin camp by examining a variety of mechanical and electrical devices.. They end the camp by building something from various pieces of discarded machines and electronics. If you are interested in volunteering some time, drop KC8BDQ an email at his address on the back.

MS150 Bike tour

The dates have been set for this year's Mid-Michigan MS150 Bike tour, July 12 & 13. We are in need of operators to work the 2-day event. The MS150 event is the largest Amateur Radio public service event in South East Michigan. It requires a minimum of 75+ amateurs, to cover some 200+ miles of route, plus rest stops, and some 20+ mobile units each day.

Each amateur that participates in the two day event supplies his or her own equipment, mainly consisting of a 25 Watt or greater VHF/UHF Mobile radio, Magnet Mount antenna, cigarette lighter socket Y adapter, and power cords. Food and lodging for Saturday night are provided for by the MS organization. The event starts promptly at 7 am Saturday and concludes late Sunday afternoon after the last rider arrives back. The Saturday night entertainment at MSU is a fun time for all.

If you are interested in participating or need any questions answered, please email Fred, W8FSM - fred@moses.bz. We currently have many open assignments for either Saturday, Sunday, and many 2 day assignments as well. To sign up for the event or get more information visit our website: <http://ms150.moses.bz>.

73, Fred, W8FSM, MS-150
Amateur Radio Communications
Manager (ARCM)

From The Editor:

These are two great opportunities to log some Public Service hours. Other ways include the MS walk coming up in Frankenmuth, Care Breaks, and lots more.

Check the ARES website at ares.saginawradio.com for full details. You can submit your hours right online by selecting the Public Service Form link on the left side of the homepage.

Quick Reminder:

Visit my new amateur radio forum at: users.boardnation.com/~amateurchat/index.php

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 CONSIDERATEnever knowingly operates in such a way as to lesson the pleasure of others.

Jim WA8GRI

Words from the Old Man

Ham radio was represented at the Mid Winter Conference of the Michigan Association of Chief of Police held at the Amway Grand on February 7th 2008. Dale Williams Michigan Director for the ARRL and Sgt ED Hude a ham from the Mason City PD gave a presentation of "Ham Radio and Law Enforcement". The presentation focused on what amateur radio is and what it can do for your community. It provided information regarding trained weather spotters to resources for search teams. Explained ham radios relationship with the Red Cross and its place in providing communications during disasters.

WA8GRI

The authorities are being told about us. So I guess its up to us all to make sure that we get the training when it is offered. We want to make sure that we can deliver when called upon.

Words from the Old Man

I stopped by the Red Cross last Saturday to learn how to install “N” connectors. This was the best move I have made in 41 years of being a Ham.

The demonstration was conducted by Keith N8XD. He presented it in a very clear and easily understood manner. Carefully explained each step and let me have the opportunity of doing it myself. After assembling the fittings to the cable N8XD even tested the amount of loss and explained the process. I found this method of teaching interesting, educational, practical, and even a heck of a lot of fun.

Even though I started out with a piece of cable about 4 feet long and after redoing my mistakes a few times I had a piece about a foot shorter my finished product was tested and found to be OK. I am only sorry that more of the members did not take advantage of this session.

Jim WA8GRI

General Membership Meeting

February 1, 2008

Red Cross

Probably due to the severe weather earlier today, there was not a quorum (20% of the paid members) present, preventing business from being conducted this month.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ
Secretary

Board of Directors
SVARA
February 13, 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: The APRS system has been updated. Keith asked board members to come up with some ideas for training sessions. Board members were brought up to speed on the LCD projector research and findings.

Vice-President: No report.

Secretary: Motion by KC8YVF seconded by W8LPV to accept the minutes of the January board meeting. All were in favor.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was reviewed.

Chairman: The new board chair (KC8BDQ) had nothing to report and yielded the floor to W8LPV for a 501(c) (3) update. There were no changes to report.

Old Business:

There was no old business requiring immediate attention.

New Business

KC8YVF reported the CPR training was postponed until March 13th. Further, HazMat training would be moved to May 8th.

SkyWarn training will be held April 10 at the Covenant Cooper Lecture Theater. The SkyWarn portion will begin at 7:00 PM.

There will be a Radio Communications Class for Covenant staff on September 11th.

Comments:

W8LPV asked board members to reflect on why people attend meetings. Reasons mentioned included activities, training and socializing.

N8XD made a motion use 25% of the club's portion of the 50/50 drawing to buy a prize for 2nd place the next month. KC8YVF seconded the motion and all agreed.

KC8BYI reminded board members to start thinking about care break.

KC8BDQ suggested the club host an ice cream social for the August meeting.

On a motion by KC8BDQ, seconded by W8LPV, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 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.

2008 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 2010	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

2008 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	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