

# SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the Saginaw Valley  
Amateur Radio Association

April, 2008

## **QRM from Dave, N8ERL**

Field Day Update:

The 2008 ARRL Field Day is June 28 and 29 this year. As in the last few years SVARA is planning on participating again at Richland Township Park. If you have never participated this will be a great year to start, and for all you SVARA Field Day veterans, welcome back.

Since 1933, North American Hams have been setting aside a weekend in June to get together and practice their emergency setup and contesting skills. This annual happening has become the most popular amateur radio operating event, with the object being to contact as many stations as we can during the 24 hour period. One-half an emergency preparedness demonstration and one-half a radio operating contest, Field Day is a challenging, skill developing, bonding and just plain fun time.

We welcome everyone to participate whether it be to set up your own Field Day station, help to operate, be there to act as a host or hostess, help with food, and one of the most important things; to help with set up and tear down Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

There are quite a few changes to the rules this year especially to the GOTA (Get on the Air) station. Other changes for 2008 include the Demonstration Mode Bonus category being eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. Download the Field Day packet to get all the changes. <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2008-packet.pdf>

If you would like to set up a station there are lots of possibilities. The stations we have spoken for are: 40 meter phone, 15 meter phone and CW, 20 meter phone (the club trailer), 10 meter phone, and 20 meter digital and CW. That leaves a lot of frequencies and modes that can be utilized such as 160 meter phone and CW/digital, 80 meter phone and CW/digital, 40, 15 and 10 meter CW/digital, and a VHF/UHF station.

We can always use volunteers to help with setup and teardown, to man the information booth, to organize the Saturday evening potluck, to round up youngsters for the new youth element bonus, and many other things. And, of course, feel free to just come out and hang around. Every year we get people who stop by out of curiosity and look around. It is always a plus if we can have a club member there to answer questions. Please email me at [n8erl@arrl.net](mailto:n8erl@arrl.net) if you have any questions.

Michigan QSO Party: Saturday April 19 is the date for the Michigan QSO party. This is a very fun and fairly low key event which is just great for getting into contesting. For info go to <http://www.miqp.org/index.html>. I still hold the Saginaw County record since the new style scoring came in (Ed King, K8OT, who won the whole thing a couple of times in the 80's, holds the total QSO record) set in 2002 as WZ8DS (18,825). I would like to see someone break it.

## **Navy Seal Cadets**

On April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am until 12:00 noon we will be hosting an open house at the Red Cross for the Navy Seal Cadets from the naval facility at Wickes Park. We need several volunteers to demonstrate radio and its principles. Contact any board member or send email to the editor at [weirauch@chartermi.net](mailto:weirauch@chartermi.net).

## **From Jeff Bross, the Logistics Manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter:**

The date for our 2008 MS Walk in Frankenmuth is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008. We are going to have a new start/finish location this year and we have shortened the route slightly. HAM radio support is essential for Walk MS to insure a safe and smooth event. I know we are getting close to the day of the event and I am hoping that you will be able to help us out with communications as you have in the past. The MS Walk website can be found at <http://walkmig.nationalmssociety.org>

From the editor: We need your help to make this a successful event. Sign up to help out. This year our headquarters will be at Kern Pavilion in Heritage park. We usually help set up the event and volunteers are asked to arrive around 7:00 – 7:30 am. We should be packed up and gone around 1:00 pm.

### **EC Corner – April 2008**

Now that Spring is here, that means that severe weather season is not far behind. Predictions from the National Weather Service state a higher than normal chance for severe weather in Michigan. “La Nina will stick around for Spring and will provide normal to above normal temperatures and precipitation”. “The last time we had a La Nina like this, we had the 1965 Palm Sunday outbreak of tornados” said Mark Torregrossa of TV25. So now is the time to prepare.

One opportunity is the **NWS Skywarn training**. This training session will be held on **April 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Covenant Cooper Lecture Theater**. If you want to keep your Skywarn card current and be able to participate in Skywarn weather events, you will need to attend this session. This includes all ARES members, but non ARES members are encouraged to participate as well.

Do you know when severe weather is threading your area? A good weather radio with S.A.M.E technology is a must. These can be purchased for as little as \$20 from local Kroger stores, Radio Shack and many other electronic retailers. These new radios will provide county specific weather information and sound an alert if severe weather is predicted in your area. This will provide that extra margin of time to allow you and your family to seek shelter.

Another thing you can do is prepare your home and family for emergencies. Did you know that the *Saginaw County office of Emergency Management* and *Saginaw County Health Department* are sponsoring a “**Get Ready Saginaw County**” program? This program is designed to get you and your family ready for any type of emergency. The program gives twelve monthly steps to Citizen Preparedness. You can check out the 12 easy steps at <http://www.saginawpublichealth.org/getready/>.

It only takes a little time and energy to protect you and your family and help your community. Attend the Skywarn training, buy a good weather radio and **Get Ready Saginaw County!**

Ron Huss, KC8YVF, ARES Emergency Coordinator

### **Spring SkyWarn Training and Net Control Training and Tabletop Exercise:**

On April 10th, The Saginaw County Emergency Management office, Citizen Corps and the Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association will be sponsoring a Spring Skywarn Severe Weather training session provided by the National Weather Service in White Lake. This session will be held at the Covenant Cooper Hospital on North Michigan in the Lecture Theater. The Citizen Corps general meeting will begin at 6:30 pm and the Skywarn training will begin at 7:00 pm. All ARES members are encouraged to attend this session if you want to be able to participate in Skywarn spotting for 2008. Only current trained spotters will be able to report severe weather events to directed nets. Since seating is limited, please be there before 6:30 pm.

A Skywarn Net Control training session and tabletop exercise will be conducted for all Skywarn trained members at the Red Cross Building on Michigan Avenue, at 7:00 pm, April 24th. The exercise will include Net Control operations, proper reporting techniques, what to report and when, and other useful information. Members will need to attend the April 10th NWS Spring 2008 Skywarn training being held at Covenant Cooper Lecture Theater (4/10/2008, 6:30 pm) in order to participate in this training and exercise. This spring looks to be an active weather season, so please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend both events.

Hope to see you there.

Ron Huss, KC8YVF, Emergency Coordinator - Saginaw ARES

### **Words from the Old Man.**

Pronounce the following letters as fast as you can P G C B T V Z D E and ask your listener to copy them down in the exact order that you spoke them. There is a very good chance that the listener will not get them correct. Why is this? It is because they all sound alike. Now just imagine trying to get another ham to get your call correct if it contained any of these letters and there was a little QRM (noise) in the background. If you were transmitting in Morse code each of these letters would sound different after all Dahdahdit could never be mistaken for Dahdahdidit. But, Morse isn't a requirement anymore so we should try to use the phonetic alphabet when giving our call.

So the next time you are in a QSO please give the OM a break and use phonetics and remember that one 73 is enough so drop the 73s.

See you at the club meeting; this is:

Whiskey Alpha 8 Gulf Romeo India 73.

General Membership Meeting  
March 7, 2008  
Red Cross

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM. There were 24 members and guests present. The minutes of the January, 2008 meeting were accepted as read by KC8BDQ, Secretary, on a motion by KC8WZM and seconded by KB8QO. There was one nay vote, cast by N8REB.

The treasurer presented her report for January, 2008 and it was accepted on a motion by W8EAB and seconded by WA8KFC. All were in favor.

She then presented the budget report for February, 2008 and it was accepted on a motion by KD8AVA that was seconded by KC8WZM. All were in favor.

The club welcomed its newest member, Tim Wilkinson, KD8HHZ. W8LPV moved to accept him and WA8KFC sustained the motion and all were in favor.

Announcements:

N8XD gave a report on the ARRL DX Phone contest last weekend was a success. He also gave a recap of the N-connector workshop.

He continued by paying tribute to Quentin Carpenter, KA8TSK (SK). He also expressed appreciation to Joe Turner, K8CQF for facilitating the donation of some of Quentin's equipment to the club.

Reminder: The ARRL Youth Conference will be held April 12<sup>th</sup>, in Gaylord.

Old Business:

KC8BYI reminded club members that Care Break season is almost upon us.

N8XD and N8XPS reported their LCD projector findings. We will be purchasing a sharp XR30X based on their findings. N8REB made a motion to proceed with the purchase and KC8BDQ concurred. After some discussion, it was approved by all.

New Business:

WA8GRI gave a formal proposal to grant honorary membership for life to Ed Ireland, W8HZF for years of dedication and service to the club. N8XD gave support and the proposal was accepted unanimously.

N8ERL discussed Field Day and encouraged everyone to come out and participate.

Some discussion led to a decision to have a pot luck dinner on Saturday.

Duane, KD8AUY talked about the Naval Sea Cadets and how SVARA might do a presentation for them on April 19<sup>th</sup>. KC8BYI made a motion to participate and all were in favor.

KC8BDQ proposed having an Ice Cream Social at the August meeting. KC8YVF seconded and all were in favor.

KC8BYI asked if we wanted to keep the same menus for the Care Breaks. It was agreed to continue as usual.

The 50/50 drawing was won by KD8FQL. He pocketed \$23.00.

W8EAB won a club T-shirt as a second prize.

N8NPW's guest Minnie won a T-shirt as well.

On a motion by WA8KFC, seconded by KC8BDQ, the meeting closed at 9:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ

Secretary

**Board of Directors**  
**SVARA**  
March 19, 2008  
Texan on State Street

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm. Present were: W8LPV, KC8BDQ, KC8BYI, KD8AVA, KC8YVF, and N8XD.

Reports:

President: The LCD projector purchase has been completed. The ARRL Phone DX completion went well as did the N-connector class.

Vice-President: There was no report from the vice president.

Secretary: Motion by KC8BYI seconded by W8LPV to accept the minutes of the February board meeting. All were in favor.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was reviewed.

Chairman: What is necessary to get the trailer ready for this year's events? KC8BDQ said he would handle it.

Old Business:

N8XD asked for ideas for amateur themed prizes for the 50/50 drawing. It was decided that the winner would receive 50% of the club's portion to buy a second place prize for the next month.

He also asked to have some tribute plaques made for the equipment donated by the Carpenter estate.

W8LPV reported he was intending to inquire to see if the 501 c (3) paperwork was on track.

New Business

KD8AVA asked for more information on the Navy Seal Cadet event. He was directed to Duane, KD8AUU.

KC8YVF announced that the MS Walk would be May 3, 2008 in Frankenmuth. The new start/finish line will be at Kern Pavilion in Heritage Park.

He also mentioned the repeater coordination of K8DAC had expired with M.A.R.C.

KC8BDQ went back to the issue of the Navy Seal Cadets. He pointed out the need to get a commitment and organize some volunteers and activities for the proposed date of April 19. We also need to inform KD8AUU of our intentions. W8LPV suggested we gather our equipment we use for Detroit Metro Youth Day. KC8BDQ will put an article in the Harmonic.

KD8AVA asked for verification of the verbiage to be on W8HZF's certificate.

There will be a General Class Examination on April 12, 2008 at the Salvation Army in Midland.

KC8BYI asked for sign-ups for Care Break. KC8YVF suggested a way to sign up through the website.

KC8BDQ asked N8XD to update the website with as many Harmonics as he had available and to let him know which ones he needed.

Motion by KC8YVF, second by KD8AVA, meeting closed at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ

Secretary

# MEMORIAL DAY CARE BREAK SIGN UP SHEET

	Friday, May 23	Saturday, May 24	Sunday, May 25	Monday, May 26
12 - 3 am				
3 - 6 am				
6 - 9 am		Joe, K8CQF Kionna	Joe, K8CQF Kionna	Joe, K8CQF Kionna
9 - 12 noon	Roger, K8DVX	Emmett, W8EAB	Emmett, W8EAB	Emmett, W8EAB
	Ron, KC8YVF	Ron, KC8YVF	Ron, KC8YVF	
12 - 3 pm	Roger, K8DVX			
3 - 6 pm	John, KC8WZM	Bill, WA8KFC	John, KC8WZM	
		George, N8NPW		
6 - 9 pm		John, KC8WZM		
9 - 12 midnight				

**Daily Contacts:**

Friday – Ron, KC8YVF



**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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
 at the American Red Cross, 1232 N. Michigan.

Board of Directors meeting - monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
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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

**2008 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](mailto:weirauch@chartermi.net)

**SVARA Elmers**

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