



SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

May 2017

- **SVARA Meeting Presentations**

We are still looking for ideas for meeting presentations. If you have an idea for a presentation or would like to do a presentation after one of our meetings please contact Mike KD8MMH or any of the board members with your idea.

- **SVARA MONDAY NIGHT 2 METER NET**

Every Monday at 9:00 PM local time, on the Saginaw repeater – K8DAC 147.24, with a 103.5 PL tone or via Echolink. All are welcome and encouraged to join in.

Club Meeting Time and Place:

American Red Cross 1232 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw
1ST Friday of the month at 7:00PM unless otherwise noted

Club Meeting Dates:

All dates are Fridays: April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1

Club Breakfast Dates (at Levi’s on State St.):

A club breakfast is held monthly on Saturday morning after the meeting, 8:30 a.m. at Levi’s
All dates are Saturdays: April 8, May 6, June 3, July 8, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2

Board Meeting Dates (at Biggby Coffee, 3085 Bay Rd.):

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday following the general membership meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Biggby Coffee on Bay Rd. Changes in meeting dates are post on the club website.
All dates are Thursday: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 14, October 19, November 16, December 14

ARES Members:

Ares training for January will be “Alternative Food Sources”. Visit the Ares website for more information. Ares training for May will be “Dual Band J-Pole Antenna Build”.

Weekly Nets Please join us. All licensed operators are welcome.

District 3 Net 145.310 Sunday 6:00 PM	SVARA (Saginaw) 147.240 Monday 9:00 PM	MARC (Midland) 147.000 Thursday 9:00 PM
D3 Digital Training Net (Olivia 8/500) Seasonal 3.586 MHz USB Sunday 8:00 PM	BAARC (Bay City) 145.310 Tuesday 9:00 PM	MI Digital Traffic Net (Olivia 8/500) 3.583 MHz USB Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8:00 PM

Saginaw Valley ARA meeting minutes for April 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by Mike KD8MMH, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 13 members and 2 guest present. Introductions followed.

Janet KD8MMJ, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Gordy KC8YVD. The motion passed.

Dave W8DW, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

Mike KD8MMH, discussed the plaque for the Frankenmuth Credit Union and passed around a draft of what the plaque would look like. Mike also mentioned that the original motion for the plaque does not cover the entire cost. Doris KD8MMG, made a motion to pay the actual final cost of the plaque. The motion was seconded by Ron KC8YVF, and passed.

Our two guests, Barb W8BLP, and John W8JP, submitted membership applications which Mike KD8MMH, presented to the club. Joe K8CQF, made a motion to accept both as members. After being assured they had paid their membership dues, Gordy KC8YVD, seconded the motion. Please join us in welcoming Barb and John to the club.

The upcoming MS Walk in Frankenmuth was discussed and a sign-up sheet was passed around. If you would like to help with this event please contact Emmett NE8B, ne8b@arrl.net for more information. The Frankenmuth MS Walk is scheduled for Saturday, May 13. Minnie KD8PAZ, reported on upcoming ham swaps. Dave W8DW, reported on upcoming contests. There are quite a few state QSO parties upcoming. Ron KC8YVF, discussed the upcoming Ares training. In keeping with this year's theme (long-term power outage) this month's training "Alternative Food Sources" will be more like a potluck. Members are asked to bring an extended shelf life food item to share with the group. Some examples would be a freeze-dried meal, MRE or "C rations".

The upcoming Memorial Day Care Break was discussed and a sign-up sheet was passed around. If you would like to help with this event please contact Gordy KC8YVD, g_schram@yahoo.com for more information. Randy KE8AEW, mentioned a Coast Guard station open house and tour that may happen later this year. More information to come. Mike KD8MMH, mentioned to the Michigan ham swap set to be held at the Michigan international Speedway in October. Mike is going to check into the per person/seat cost of a rental bus to make the trip. Mike also reminded everyone of the upcoming club breakfast and board meeting.

Joe K8CQF, mentioned a ham in need of help. Debbie KA8YKK, had a pine tree fall on her roof during the recent windstorms. Joe gave out the address and asked anyone who was willing to help to show up about noon the following day. (I helped out with this and with the people and equipment available we made short work of the tree. Fortunately for Debbie the tree did not cause any damage to her roof. She will however, need to replace her coax and rotor cable.)

Dave W8DW, gave a presentation on the Michigan QSO party. The presentation was very informative including past results and contest operating tips. Dave also encouraged everyone planning to participate, to use Saginaw Valley ARA as their club identifier.

The motion to adjourn was made by Gordy KC8YVD, and seconded by Randy KE8AEW.

Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for April 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Duane KD8AUY, with Mike KD8MMH, Mike N8XPS, Tom N8EUI, Doris KD8MMG, Dave W8DW, Brian K8HY, Mike K8AVJ, Anne KB8AWE, and Horst KD8ZXR, present.

Dave W8DW, made a motion to accept last month's board meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

President's Report

Mike KD8MMH, reported he had received the Care Break forms and they were due by May 5. Mike also passed around the finished plaque for the credit union.

Vice President's Report

Yielded time for discussion.

Secretary's Report

Yielded time for discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Mike N8XPS, reported on junk mail and membership dues received. Mike also reported the insurance has been paid.

Chair's Report

Duane KD8AUY, discussed Field Day planning. We are still looking for a Field Day Chair. If you would like to fill this position please contact Mike KD8MMH. Duane KD8AUY, also suggested inviting the Midland club to our Field Day.

The recent email sent by Jeff KB8SWR, was discussed. For clarification, this is a separate project and not in any way related to the grant project.

General Discussion

Resolutions for the radio room at the Red Cross were discussed. Mike K8AVJ, brought up several points about unfinished projects, setting club goals and holding activities. A discussion was had about paperwork for the grant project. Duane KD8AUY, made a motion to request documentation for the equipment used in the grant project. The motion was seconded by Mike N8XPS, and passed.

As a reminder, if you have not yet paid your dues for this year, as per the club constitution, your membership privileges have expired.

The motion to adjourn was made by Dave W8DW, and seconded by Mike KD8MMH.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Elias K8AVJ
Secretary

ARRL News

Article Links Amateur Radio Growth to Emergency Communications

04/13/2017

An April 11 article, "Emergency Communications Driving Increase in Amateur Radio Operators," in Emergency Management magazine links the growth in Amateur Radio numbers to interest in emergency communications.

"There has been a tremendous amount of interest in emergency preparedness since 9/11 and Katrina, and this is true for the Amateur Radio community as well," ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, told the publication. "Emergency communications is a gateway into Amateur Radio, and many join our ranks through an interest in being better prepared themselves and as a way to serve their community."

The article cites numbers from ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who notes that 2016 was the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses exceeded 30,000.

The article also cites ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jack Ciaccia, WMOG, who agreed with the premise that the uptick in new licenses is due to Amateur Radio's emergency capabilities.

"Interest really peaks after a large-scale event where ham radio has been utilized," Ciaccia said. "When regular phone service fails, Amateur Radio operators fill the communications gap with their independent transceivers and battery power backups," said the article, which also discusses the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

FCC Proposes Levying Huge Fine on New York Police Radio Jammer

04/17/2017

The FCC has proposed a fine of more than \$400,000 on a Queens, New York, man who has admitted making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with NYPD officers' communications. Jay Peralta, 20, is alleged to have transmitted false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers. The unauthorized transmissions began a year ago, according to the FCC.

"Through his actions, as he described them to the NYPD, Mr. Peralta has demonstrated not only a deliberate disregard of the Commission's authority and rules, but of the safety of NYPD officers and the public that they are called to serve and protect," the FCC said in a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL), issued on April 14. "Commission action in this context is therefore essential to safeguard authorized operations on spectrum licensed for public safety uses, and, accordingly, a substantial penalty appears warranted."

The FCC said the NAL addresses nine unauthorized and interfering transmissions that Peralta has admitted to the NYPD that he made on its radio system. The FCC said Peralta's unauthorized transmissions included false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, said that with the NAL, the FCC is making it "abundantly clear that it will not tolerate unauthorized and illegal use of the radio spectrum." The entire Commission now must sign off

on such proposed fines, and Pai said he was grateful to his fellow FCC members for “agreeing to act swiftly and strongly” in the matter. “This may not be a typical pirate radio case in which an unauthorized operator inflicts damage on a radio broadcaster that is operating with a valid FCC license,” Pai said, “but it does involve unauthorized interference to critical public safety communications systems.”

Peralta was arrested last fall along with two other men suspected of committing several robberies. According to news accounts, police found a cache of scanners and radios in one of the suspects’ homes.

The FCC said it was alerted by a Twitter post about an unlawful intrusion on the NYPD radio system and dispatched an Enforcement Bureau agent to check it out. On September 30, the NYPD contacted the FCC’s New York Office and advised that it had arrested Peralta and another individual in connection with unauthorized transmissions on NYPD’s radio system. According to police reports, the other individual arrested — Ricardo Torres, 29, described as “a ham radio enthusiast” in some news accounts — allegedly provided the radios used.

Torres, is said to hold an FCC General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license but his name does not appear in the Amateur Radio licensee database. Police said they found 15 portable radios, 9 scanners, roof-top antennas, an amplifier, and assorted other electronics in Torres’s apartment.

Peralta has 30 days to pay or contest the proposed \$404,166 FCC forfeiture.

ISS Packet System Returns to VHF

4/15/2017

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet digipeater system is again operating on VHF -- 145.825 MHz. The failure of an Ericsson handheld VHF transceiver on board the ISS last fall had caused ARISS to shift packet operation to 70 centimeters. In February, a cargo resupply mission delivered a new Ericsson 2-meter handheld to replace the one that had failed, which had been used in the Columbus module for school group contacts and for Amateur Radio packet.

While the VHF transceiver was offline, ARISS shifted school contacts from NA1SS to the Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver in the Russian Service Module. NASA ISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said the VHF capability now back in Columbus can be used in conjunction with passes involving the HamTV digital amateur television (DATV) system, which operates on 2.4 GHz.

ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said recently that ARISS continues to make progress on the development of the new interoperable radio system on the ISS "that we hope to use to replace our aging radio infrastructure in the Columbus module and the Service module."

Packets digipeated in a valid APRS format via the ISS system and picked up by an internet gateway station are documented on the "Amateur Radio Stations heard via ISS" page. -- Thanks to Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, ISS Ham Project Coordinator

Do you need help programming your HT? Come to the next meeting, bring your HT, any manuals you have and we will do our best to help. Don't have a manual? We'll still give it a try.

2016 SVARA Officers

President	Mike Dougherty KD8MMH	Board Member	Doris Miles KD8MMG
		Term expires 2016	
Vice-President	Brian Kleinfeld K8HY		
Secretary	Mike Elias K8AVJ	Board Member	Tom Schmidt N8EUI
		Term expires 2017	
Treasurer	Mike Linton N8XPS	Board Member	Anne Elias KB8AWE
		Term expires 2018	

2016 SVARA Appointments

Newsletter Editor

To subscribe or submit articles, please send requests to
 Rob Wright KC8IJN 989-293-2224 ffrwright@sbcglobal.net

Emergency Coordinator

Ron Huss, KC8YVF 989-799-2679 kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com

Public Info Officer

Tom Schmidt N8EUI 989 245-7429 tschmidt50@charter.net

Repeater Committee

Ron Huss, KC8YVF
 Dave Paquette, W8DW (Trustee)
 Brian Kleinfeld. K8HY
 Jeff Metiva, KB8SWR

SVARA Elmers

General Questions	Joe Turner, K8CQF	k8cqf@arrl.net
CW (Morse Code)	Dave Paquette, W8DW	w8dw@qsl.net
Contesting	Dave Paquette, W8DW	w8dw@qsl.net
Hamnet/Meshnet	Mike Elias, K8AVJ	ke8avj@gmail.com



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