

# SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the Saginaw Valley  
Amateur Radio Association

May 2006

## QRM from Dave, N8ERL

Don't forget that the 50th anniversary SVARA special events station will be on the air from 1200 to 1800 local time at the Red Cross on June 3. Please call me (989.781.0219) or email me ([n8erl@arrl.net](mailto:n8erl@arrl.net)) if you can join us to take a turn operating the station. Please mention about what time you would like to operate the station and if you would like to work SB or CW. We plan on keeping things pretty informal but if you can make it over we will make every effort to get you a chance to take a turn at the mike or the key.

Special event stations are a lot of fun and hopefully we can make this an annual event. Keith, N8XD, and I plan on being there the whole time. We will have the coffee pot on and snacks available all afternoon. We will also have a 2 meter FM station operating on 146.58 simplex. This will give our local folks a chance to get a certificate if they can't read us on HF. Let me know if you would be interested in operating two meters. If you're not sure you want to operate or log, just show up for coffee and a snack. Looking forward to seeing you there!

The summer storm season is here already and it seems like just yesterday we were shoveling snow (well, it's Michigan maybe we were). Make sure you have all your home emergency preparation up to date. If you have generator emergency power, now is a good time to test it out. Make sure you have extra batteries, food, first aid, and other supplies you might need in the case of a power outage. Keep those HT battery packs charged and ready to go in case you're needed to help with the weather nets.

Speaking of emergency preparedness, I visited with Ron, KC8YVF, in the Dick's Sporting Goods parking lot the other day and was very impressed with the mobile station he has set up in his van. He has APRS capability and 220 capability as well as 2 meter and 440. He also is finishing up a portable station that will allow him voice and packet capabilities when he is called out in an emergency.

In an emergency traffic situation, packet radio will be very important. Packet as a Ham hobby has fallen in popularity as the use of email has increased, however, to use a well used cliché, "when the big one hits", packet communication will be very important. Perhaps as a club we can find some activities to promote and practice packet messaging.

Field day is coming up the last weekend in June. This is a part of the hobby which is a lot of fun as well as a great practice session for setup and operating in the field. If you plan on setting up a station, my best advice to you is to rehearse everything sometime before the actual event. I'm not really an expert as I have set up a station for only a couple of years, but I have found that the things I set up and practiced with before hand went a lot better than the things I didn't. Start right now making a checklist of the things you think you will need and operate with the antenna and equipment you will be using before field day.

And...of course...try to make the time to get out to Field Day even if you don't have your own station. You will be a great help even if you just make it out for a couple of hours to help set up, or even to operate or log for a couple of hours to give someone a break. Don, KA8SFQ, and Jeff, N9AME, were a great help assisting me with set up and with operating last year. John, KC8WZM, helped log and of course Lou, W8LPV, (formally KD8LBZ) stuck with me until we went QRT in the wee hours of Sunday morning. Field Day is great fun. Try to make it. Remember don't be shy...if it looks like someone is too busy to talk to you it's not intentional. People have come out to operate and gone home kind of ticked off because they felt they were ignored. Last year Jeff, KC8BDQ, and Judy, KC8BYI did a great job making everyone feel welcome (as well as keeping us well fed).

Lastly, how about a few minutes at the end of our club meeting for a little show and tell from the members. It could be a project we are working on or something neat we just purchased. It's always fun to see or hear about something new.

## Joe Schram (KD8AFM) Update by Gordon, KC8YVD

Joe graduated from the Army Basic Combat Training, at Fort Knox Kentucky, on April 14, 2006. He is now in Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. Aberdeen is located north east of Baltimore between Baltimore and Philadelphia. Joe anticipates starting welding/metal working training on April 17<sup>th</sup>. But as Joe has found out, the Army's time table is unlike any he has encountered before. After much more physical activity than Joe was used to doing, Joe went from a size 34 inch waist to a size 29 inch waist. Whether it will stay like that is anyone's guess. Joe did say one of the best parts of the training was the communications section. Joe was able to assemble the field radio faster than anyone else in the group. When they gave the frequency to use, Joe had it entered while everyone else was asking – What? When the Drill Sergeant asked where he learned to do that stuff so quick, Joe said he smiled and answered "I'm a HAM radio operator!"

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED? By Jim, WA8GRI

Whenever you apply for a new amateur License or renew your old license there is a spot on form 610 (line 7) that you must sign that says "I have read and will comply with section 97.13(c) of the commissions rules regarding Radio Frequency (RF) Radiation Safety and the Amateur Service section of OST/OET Bulletin 65.

OST/OET Bulletin 65 is no small document. The bulletin consists of about 44 pages of very technical material. Granted most of it refers to commercial broadcast stations but there is a section that applies to Amateur Radio stations. It calls for the Amateur to evaluate his station for RF but only if you are running a certain amount of power. That power is:

160 to 40 m	500 watts
30 m	425 watts
20 m	225 watts
17 m	125 watts
15 m	100 watts
10 m	50 watts
VHF (all bands)	50 watts

## Why you need a Main panel surge arrestor. By: Tracy Albert, KC8YVE

### **You need To Protect Your Home.**

Our Homes are filled with electronics. Appliances, TVs, VCRs, Computers and other electronic devices employ microprocessors that are easily damaged by common power surges. It only takes a lightning storm near your home to create a high energy electrical surge that can enter your home and destroy your valuable electronic investments.

Proper protection from electrical disturbances is the responsibility of the home owner. Bullet Proofing your entire home from external electrical surges is best accomplished where the electric, telephone, and cable lines enter your home. Installing surge protection at this location (the breaker Panel or fuse box) prevents any intruding surge from reaching your valuable electronic equipment. Don't leave your home exposed when there is a safe, convenient and reliable solution.

### **What Are Power Disturbances?**

Power disturbances are sudden voltage and current increases (surges and Spikes) that travel through your electrical, telephone and cable lines this unwanted electrical energy causes equipment damage.

Surges result from external power sources, including massive energy impulses created by lightning, utility load switching and even other users on the power system. Surges can also result from power disturbances within your home from appliances such as freezers, air conditioners and power tools.

### **Why is a Surge Strip Insufficient Protection?**

Many people mistakenly believe that a surge strip will protect their sensitive electronic equipment. Inexpensive surge strips offer minimal surge protection and protection is limited to the equipment plugged into the strip. In addition, most strips do not offer surge protection for telephone or cable lines and leave your equipment vulnerable.

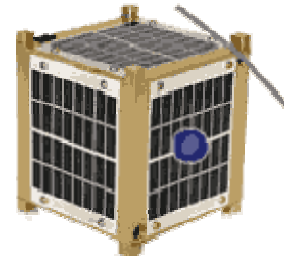
There are many manufacturers of main panel surge suppressors and many features available. There are 2 basic technologies in surge suppression: Gas tube and MOV (metal oxide varistor). Hybrid type arrestors employ both technologies. Cost can vary from around \$50.00 to over \$500.00. I prefer the \$50.00 units that are easy to replace. Lights and alarms are ok, but add cost to a unit that is going to die protecting your equipment anyway.

Regardless of the quality of your whole-houses surge protector, it cannot be effective unless it is connected to a good grounding system. An ideal grounding system will typically consist of one or more approved grounding rods and clamps. As a rule, the more grounding rods you have, the better the system. Be certain that the grounding wires are buried deeply enough not to be cut by your lawn mower or otherwise disconnected from the grounding system.

If you can install a breaker in your panel, installing a main panel surge arrestor is a half hour job.

### **Lots of Little Satellites** By Keith DeLong, (N8XD)

A couple of small experimental satellites have been recently launched by educational institutions. What makes these really amazing is that they have been squeezing everything into 4-inch cubes!



Oscar 56 (Cute 1.7) by the Tokyo Institute of Technology avalanche photo diode sensor, digital packet repeater– launched from Japan. Hear the CW Beacon on 437.385 MHz

Oscar 58 (XI-V) University of Tokyo New Solar Cell tests, digital motion camera, and digital packet repeater, Launched from Plesetsk, Russia. Here the CW Beacon on 437.465 MHz


There are more on the way. There is a constellation of these little 4-inch cube satellites have been built by university students in the United States over the last 4 years. Many are to the point that they will be launched in May and June! California Polytech, Cornell, U of Illinois, U of Kansas, U of Arizona, U of Hawaii, and U of Louisiana all have been working on one or more. All have telemetry downlinks and some kind of little experiment on board.


This AMSAT webpage has all of details for upcoming satellites: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/futures.php>

To find out when a satellite will pass over your location, put your grid square (or GPS latitude & longitude) into the page at: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/>

Frankenmuth 2006 MS Walk by Rick, KC8VOA

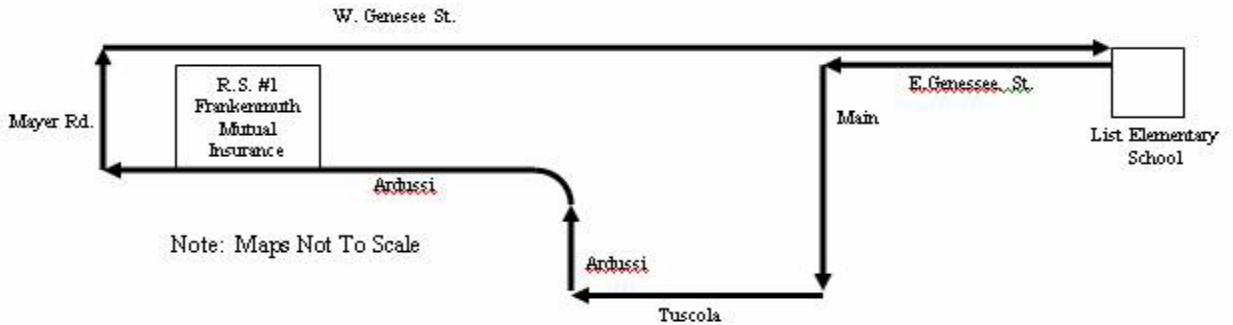
This is the information I have for 2006 MS Walk, Saturday May 13th: Registration opens Saturday morning at 8 am and the walk officially starts at 9. We are currently about 7% up in registration numbers so my best estimate at this point is 900-1000 people that day. There are only two walk routes this year a 3.2 mile and a 6.2 mile route. The walk should be complete around noon like last year. We are in need of volunteers.





Presented by 

## 2006 MS WALK – FRANKENMUTH

### 3.2 MILE ROUTE

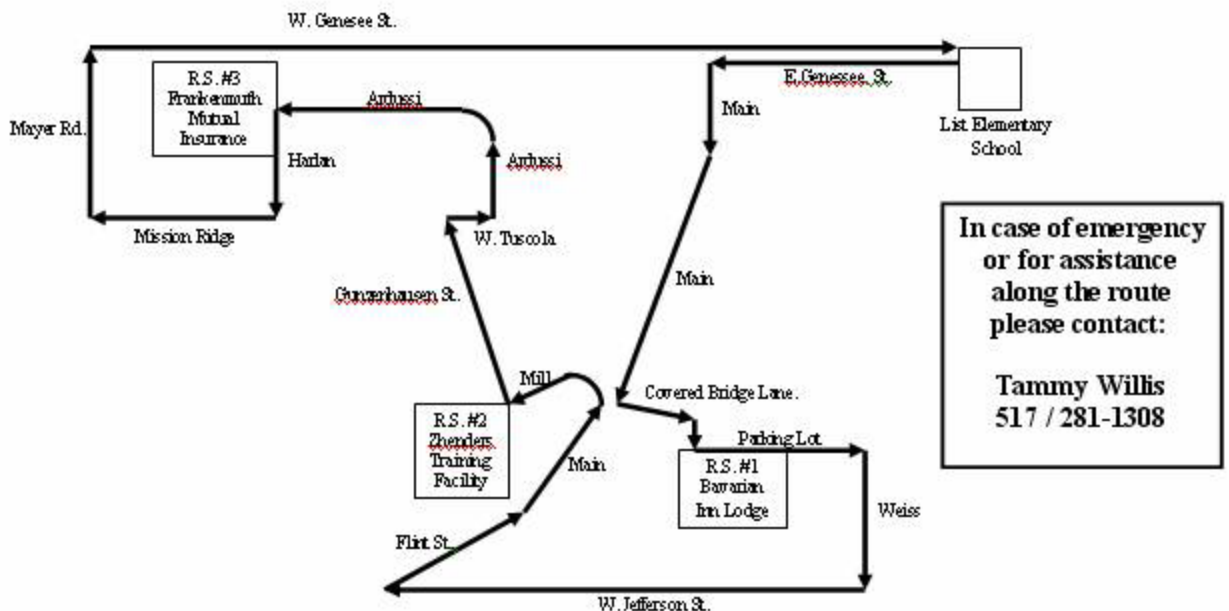




Presented by 

## 2006 MS WALK – FRANKENMUTH

### 6.2 MILE ROUTE



**In case of emergency  
or for assistance  
along the route  
please contact:**

**Tammy Willis  
517 / 281-1308**

## **General Membership Meeting, SVARA, April 7, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm.

Live auction of Steve, KC8BTE's estate.

Business Meeting started at 9:25 pm.

The secretary's report was accepted as published on a motion by Jim, WA8GRI and seconded by Roger, K8DVX. Motion passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented on a motion by Jim, WA8GRI and seconded by Aaron, KD8AVA. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

Aaron, KD8AVA passed around the new QSL cards. Ron, KC8YVF brought a sample of the style for the new club jacket for review. Sign up forms were handed out. Order will be placed to have the jackets by Memorial Day Care Break.

### **New Business:**

Judy, KC8BYI passed around a sign up sheet for Memorial Day Care Break. We have not heard which dates we will be assigned. Club breakfast will be tomorrow at 9:00 AM. George, N8NPW won \$26.00 in the 50/50 drawing

On a motion by Aaron, KD8AVA and seconded by Ron, KC8YVF the meeting closed at 10:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ, Secretary

## **Board of Directors, SVARA, April 18, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm. Present were: N8XD, WA8GRI, KC8BDQ, KC8YFV, KC8BYI.

The Secretary's report was accepted as printed in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

KC8BYI presented the board with the final totals for the auction held at the general meeting earlier this month. The club netted \$1570.00 and an additional \$800.00 went back to the estate of KC8BTE.

The May general meeting will feature a presentation by Greg Surma, K8GL from WNEM-TV5.

KC8BDQ reported on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans. He showed board members a sample invitation designed around the club QSL card. It was decided to have 150 of them printed with RSVP cards. KC8BDQ made a motion to put postage on the RSVP envelopes. N8XD agreed and all were in favor. The board also chose the evening's menu.

N8XD showed the board the design for the commemorative pins. KC8YVF made a motion to purchase a quantity of 100. KC8BDQ seconded and all were in favor. At this time we have Jim Wades, WB8SIW confirmed as one of our speakers. As a final note it was agreed that the guest list needs to be reviewed for possible omissions and to identify potential VIP's.

N8XD reported that KD8BLZ was working on changing the club's non-profit status to 501(c)(3).

KC8YVF asked for more jacket orders. He currently has 10 and needs more.

WA8GRI announced the ¼ Century Wireless club's upcoming CW net on April 22, 2006.

KC8BDQ asked if anyone had any further information on the MS walk May 13<sup>th</sup>. N8XD indicated he would contact KC8VOA for details.

On a motion by KC8YVF and seconded by WA8GRI, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted. Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ, Secretary



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 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 second Tuesday following the general membership meeting,  
 8:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross (members always welcome).

Club Breakfast – monthly on Saturday morning after the meeting,  
 9:00 a.m. at the Texan Restaurant, 5656 State St.

**2006 SVARA Officers**

President	Keith DeLong, N8XD	989-695-5131	<a href="mailto:n8xd@arrl.net">n8xd@arrl.net</a>
Vice-President	Jim Stutesman, WA8GRI	989-791-2156	<a href="mailto:wa8gri@arrl.net">wa8gri@arrl.net</a>
Secretary	Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ	989-797-0692	<a href="mailto:weirauch@chartermi.net">weirauch@chartermi.net</a>
Treasurer	Judy Weirauch, KC8BYI	989-797-0692	<a href="mailto:weirauch@northwood.edu">weirauch@northwood.edu</a>
Board Member 2006	Roger Candiff, KB8QO	989-642-5661	
Board Member 2007	Ron Huss, KC8YVF	989-799-2679	<a href="mailto:kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com">kc8yvf@rhuss.cncfamily.com</a>
Board Member 2008	Lou Vescio, KD8BLZ	989-799-1467	<a href="mailto:lvescio@midmich.net">lvescio@midmich.net</a>

**2006 SVARA Appointments**

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Emergency Coordinator	Carl DeMeritt, KC8YVI	989-792-2151	<a href="mailto:cdemeritt@chs-mi.com">cdemeritt@chs-mi.com</a>
Public Info Officer	Aaron Stella, KD8AVA	989-497-0463	<a href="mailto:astella@bcdglobal.com">astella@bcdglobal.com</a>
Repeater Committee	Ron Huss, KC8YVF Brad Mellberg, W8QPO Jeff Metiva, KB8SWR		

To subscribe or submit articles, please send requests to Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ -- [svaraharmonic@yahoo.com](mailto:svaraharmonic@yahoo.com)

**SVARA Elmers**

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Morse Code	Larry Davison, WD8RIK	989-781-0370	<a href="mailto:wd8rik@diamondcs.net">wd8rik@diamondcs.net</a>
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Towers	Verne Williams, KC8FUV	213-689-5258	<a href="mailto:vw54@ncats.net">vw54@ncats.net</a>