

SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

June, 2016

For ARES Members: Next meeting is the 26th of June at 7:00 pm.

(Please refer to the ARES website for contact and more information)

- **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 (at Red Cross): 7:00 pm

Club Meeting Dates (at Red Cross):

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

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

All dates are Saturdays: June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 8, November 4, December 3

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

All dates are Thursday: May 19 at 7pm, June 15, July 13, August 17, September 14, October 12, November 16, and December 14

General Meeting Minutes American Red Cross Building

May 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by President Mike KD8MMH, leading the pledge of allegiance and introductions. There were 14 members and 2 guests present.

Emmet NE8B, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by John K8WZM. The motion passed.

Mike KD8MMH, reported the Midland club has changed the location of their Field Day site. The new location is Homer Township Park in Midland. Mike also mentions the upcoming MS walk in Frankenmuth. Duane KD8AUY, presented the treasurer's report for the month of April. A motion to accept the report was made by Gordy KC8YVD, and seconded by Ron KC8YVF. The motion passed. Minnie KD8PAZ, reported on upcoming ham swaps, including the Midland swap. Mike KD8MMH, talked about the number of members who have paid their dues and mentioned tower parts and accessories are available from R.S. Gilmore. Talk to Mike KD8MMH, for the contact information.

The Midland club is offering technician classes and as usual will be offering a testing session at the upcoming Midland swap. Public service events for May were discussed including the Frankenmuth MS walk, the Dow Run/Walk in Midland and CareBreak. A sign-up sheet for CareBreak was passed around but came back with very few names. The club breakfast and board meeting times were announced. Name badges are available for order again. To place an order for name badges contact Mike KD8MMH.

Ron KC8YVF, gave a very informative presentation on the equipment currently in use for the 147.240MHz repeater system and the planned upgrades. The current system was put in, in the early 80s and has been running virtually 24 hours a day 7 days a week since that time. The current system is crystal controlled, which means the transmit frequency is controlled by a crystal and to change the transmit frequency the crystal must be changed. The system currently contains three remote receive sites located at Davenport manner on Davenport in Saginaw, Hemlock and Gera. The main transmit and receive site is located at Rosien tower next to the Saginaw County Courthouse. The remote receive sites retransmit signals they receive to the main transmit site located at Rosien tower. All of the receive sites have failed them been repaired at some point in time. The new receive site equipment will still transmit back to Rosein but would use microwave frequencies instead of the current 70 cm frequencies. If the receive site has a local Internet connection the equipment can be controlled through the Internet and status pages can be viewed from the Internet. An example of this can currently be found on the SVARA website at the bottom of the repeaters page (click voter next to N8ERL). The remote site could also use the Internet connection as a backup if the microwave link goes down. The new equipment will be bigger, better, "bad-er" then the old equipment. The total cost for the new system is \$5000, with about half of that cost already covered through a grant with Saginaw County. This leaves about \$2500 remaining to be covered.

After the presentation Ron answered many questions. I was not able to keep up with all of the questions but here is a digest of the responses. The new Fusion repeater is a backup not a replacement for the current repeater system. The Fusion repeater will not work with the current receive sites. The current repeater is getting upgrades in order to keep remote receive sites and make adding new receive sites easier. At the end of this discussion a motion was made by Randy KE8AHW, for the board to review the options for the repeater system and put forth proposals to be voted on during the June club meeting as well as a plan for club funds. The motion was seconded by Doris KD8MMG, and passed. A motion to adjourn was made by GordyKC8YVD, and seconded by John K8WZM, this motion also passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Mike Elias, KE8AVJ

Secretary

Do you need help programming your HT? Come to the next meeting and bring your HT and any manuals you have and we will do our best to help.

Ares training for this month consisted of DMR Basics (rescheduled from February) and the Fusion Repeater.

Ares training for June will be a Direction Finding exercise at Randle Wicks Park on McCarty Road.

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

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

Upcoming Swaps

06/04/2016	IRA June Hamfest
06/05/2016	Chelsea Swap & Shop
06/11/2016	LARS Hamfest
06/18/2016	Midland Hamfest
06/19/2016	Monroe Hamfest

Board Meeting Minutes State Street Texan Restaurant

May 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Duane KD8AUY, with Mary WB8LZA, Anne KB8AWE, Mike KD8MMH, Mike N8XPS, Mike KE8AVJ, Dave W8DW, Ron KC8YVF, and Tim KE8CDY, present. Dave W8DW, made a motion to accept last month's board meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Mike N8XPS. The motion passed.

The president and vice president did not make reports to allow more time for discussion of the repeater situation. The secretary reported that very few people had returned Field Day forms. Duane KD8AUY, presented the Treasurer's Report and discussed the ongoing need for a new public information officer. Mary WB8LZA, suggested a more detailed description of the position and job duties may help the search. Duane KD8AUY, also reported on the status of CPR training for club members. The training is set for mid June and will be held at the Kochville Township fire department. This is right next to our Field Day site. The exact date of the training will be announced. Duane KD8AUY, had one final announcement. He will not be seeking reelection and will be stepping down as club treasurer in January.

Duane KD8AUY, started the repeater conversation by saying the current repeater is getting old and will need to be replaced. Mike N8XPS, mentioned that the club trailer has also been neglected. Dave W8DW, mentioned there are three ongoing projects and the same people have been tasked with doing all three projects. Dave W8DW, suggested breaking up these projects so they can be completed faster. Dave W8DW, also stated he did not have a problem with the money raised from the golf outing going to the repeater upgrades but also mentioned it was only a small amount of money once a year and the repeater project would require much more. Along those lines Dave W8DW, stated he was willing to buy the fusion and its accessories from the club for \$1000. This would cover about half of the remaining cost for the repeater upgrades. Mike KD8MMH, mentioned that when the grant money and repeater project were discussed at Winter Field Day it was said the project could be completed without additional money. Mike KD8MMH, also mentioned, in regards to switching to a single receive site, that currently the Gera receive site provides very poor coverage to Frankenmuth anyway. Mike went on to say that the best use of club money is for things that are of benefit to the most members. Dave W8DW, mentioned it has always been hard to get into the repeater from MBS. He also mentioned that real systematic testing has never been done for the fusion and went on to say that no matter what is chosen in regards to equipment upgrades, the current equipment is old and something will need to be done eventually. Ron KC8YVF, was asked, if the fusion repeater was used as a single site system could we expect a performance and coverage level similar to Dave N8ERL's repeater? Ron stated that while Dave N8ERL's repeater located at Harrison was currently at the same height as the fusion repeater, Dave N8ERL's repeater is using a much better antenna and new higher quality feed line, as well as newer equipment. Dave N8ERL's repeater is currently using equipment that is very similar to what has been proposed in the repeater upgrades project. If the fusion were moved to Rosien and operated at 25W it would still not provide the same kind of coverage as Dave N8ERL's repeater system for the reasons mentioned. Ron KC8YVF, went on to say the idea behind the original system was to make it so club members didn't need extra stuff to get on the air. He also mentioned that if anything fails now that equipment will be down until it can be repaired or replaced. If the equipment at a receive site such as Hemlock fails that site will be down until replacement equipment can be purchased and installed or repaired. At this point the discussion became a question and answer session with Ron KC8YVF.

W8DW: The microwave stuff won't work with the current receivers?

KC8VYF: No, the current receivers are too old. The grant bought the thin clients and surge suppression equipment. No matter what we will need to replace the feedline antenna and transmitter.

W8DW: Can we break up these three projects?

KC8VYF: We can do that with the fusion but the other two projects need to be coordinated.

KD8MMH: Will the Oakley Township cross band (thing) still work?

KC8VYF: Probably not and if we put a new receive site there, interference from Wyandotte may require us to use a semi-directional antenna to null them out.

WB8LZA: Will the new system interface with the Internet?

KC8VYF: Yes. There is Internet available at Rosien so the idea was to get Internet into the microwave link and send it out to the remote sites so they can be accessed through the Internet.

WB8LZA: From an Emcomm perspective will it work without the Internet?

KC8VYF: Yes the primary connection is made through the microwave link. If the remote site has a local Internet connection, that can be used as a backup for the microwave link. Also, with Internet at Rosien the EchoLink connection could be moved to that location.

KD8MMH: Can we do it with what we have now?

KC8VYF: No, we would need some cables and a few other things.

KD8MMH: Someone told me if you're using a microwave link you want to have a backup.

KC8VYF: If the microwave link goes down the site is down but a local Internet connection could work as a backup for the microwave link.

KE8AVJ: What would be needed to add a new receive site for the new system?

KC8VYF: A microwave dish for the connection to Rosien, a radio, a thin client to control the radio, and cabling to connect it all together. The cost is about \$500.

KC8VYF: The city of Flint uses this same equipment to run their public safety communications system. The hardest part of this system is the initial set up, the maintenance is very simple. Because of equipment failures over the years the current system is all hodgepodge together and as a result the system's performance has degraded over time.

In keeping with the motion made by Randy KE8AHW, at the general board meeting, three options were identified for presentation at the next general club meeting. Mike KD8MMH, made a motion to cancel the general meeting for July and was seconded by Duane KD8AUY. After some discussion the motion passed. The motion to adjourn and was made by Duane KD8AUY, and seconded by Mike N8XPS.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Elias KE8AVJ
Secretary



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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 7:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross, 1232 N. Michigan.

Board of Directors meeting - monthly on the 2nd Wednesday following the general membership meeting, 7:00 p.m. at TBD.

Club Breakfast – monthly on Saturday morning after the meeting, 8:30 a.m. at Levi's

2016 SVARA Officers

President	Mike Dougherty	KD8MMH
Vice-President	Mike Linton	N8XPS
Secretary	Michael Elias	KE8AVJ
Treasurer	Duane Morris	KD8AUY
Board Member 2016	Dave Paquette	W8DW
Board Member 2017	Tom Schmidt	N8EUI
Board Member 2018	Ann Elias	KB8AWE

2016 SVARA Appointments

Newsletter Editor	Rob Wright KC8IJN	989-293-2224	ffwright@sbcglobal.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 Dave Schneider, N8ERL (Trustee) Brian Kleinfeld. K8HY Jeff Metiva, KB8SWR		

To subscribe or submit articles, please send requests to Rob Wright, KC8IJN -- ffwright@sbcglobal.net

SVARA Elmers

General Questions	Joe Turner, K8CQF	k8cqf@arrl.net
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