



# SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the  
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

June 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  
1<sup>ST</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 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 June will be a “Fox Hunt”. Visit the Ares website for more information. No Ares training for July.

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

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

## **Saginaw Valley ARA meeting minutes for May 5, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Mike KD8MMH, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 16 members present.

Doris KD8MMG, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Tom N8EUI. The motion passed.

Barb W8BLP, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Mike K8AVJ. The motion passed.

Mike KD8MMH, reported on the cost of chartering a bus to the new ham swap to be held at the Michigan international Speedway in October. The 57 passenger bus costs \$2500. That amounts to about \$44 per person if filled to capacity. It was also mentioned that the Gladwin club was also planning a charter bus. Mike also relayed a big thank you on behalf of the Midland club for everyone who helped with the MS walk in Midland. Mike also noted the emergency preparedness Expo was planning to return to the Bertrand Expo Center for September.

Ron KC8YVF, reported on the Ares training. A lot of different emergency food types were shared, some good some bad. The general consensus was most everything tasted like it was supposed to and in an emergency situation nothing would have been turned down.

Emmet NE8B, mentioned the upcoming MS walk in Frankenmuth. He said they were expecting more walkers this year and any help would be appreciated.

Mike KD8MMH, announced Midland had accepted our offer to join us for Field Day this year. The details have yet to be worked out but it looks like this will be a unique Field Day. In other exciting news, Mike announced that the Red Cross has agreed to let us move the radio room from the basement to the top floor.

Jeff KB8SWR, reported on the grant project. The majority of the equipment is still going through its break-in. The club website has a link to a brief video overview of the equipment. They plan to start installation at the Mayville site. Jeff also reported the 220 repeater would be up soon with a PL of 100. Work on the 6m repeater is still in progress.

Ron KC8YVF, mentioned he has met with the new 911 director and brought him up to speed in regards to Ares/amateur radio's role in emergency response. Ron also reminded everyone of the antenna build plan for Ares training.

The motion to adjourn was made by Gordy KC8YVD, and seconded by Emmett NE8B.

## **Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for May 18, 2016**

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

Mike KD8MMH, 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.

### **President's Report**

Mike KD8MMH, reported on some issues identified at the Frankenmuth MS walk. Mike also discussed a request from Jeff KB8SWR, for new antennas for the grant project.

### **Vice President's Report**

The Vice President had nothing official to report.

### **Secretary's Report**

The secretary had nothing official to report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mike N8XPS, discussed insurance paperwork required by the park for the field day rental. Mike also mentioned to donations that were received. A \$100 donation from AT&T as part of their employer matched giving program. And a \$10 donation from Terry KA9SXH. (Thank you Terry and AT&T.)

### **General discussion**

General discussion began with Field Day. Mike KD8MMH, made a motion to approve \$100 for the Field Day food budget. The motion was seconded by Duane KD8AUY and passed.

In discussing bonus points available for Field Day, the new social media bonus points were discussed. Mike KD8MMH, made a motion to have Anne KB8AWB create and administer a new "organization type" Facebook page. This motion was seconded by Mike K8AVJ.

During discussions for Field Day, Mike N8XPS, volunteer to be the Field Day chair. Mike K8AVJ, agreed to be the assistant chair to help coordinate with Midland.

Creation of a "welcome pack" for new members was discussed. Anne KB8AWE, made a motion to have Mike K8AVJ, create the materials. The motion was seconded by Mike KD8MMH.

The motion to adjourn was made by Duane KD8AUY, and seconded by Dave W8DW.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Elias K8AVJ  
Secretary

## **ARRL News**

### **Special Event in Mars (Pennsylvania) to Celebrate Martian New Year**

05/04/2017

The North Hills Amateur Radio Club (NHARC) sponsored a special event station K3M to mark the Mars New Year Celebration, Friday and Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Mars Area History and Landmarks Museum in Mars, Pennsylvania.

The Martian Solar Year is 1 year 322 days, and this is the second Mars New Year Celebration in Mars, Pennsylvania. Representatives from NASA were on hand with displays and educational programs from the Mission to Mars by NASA, as part of the NASA STEM Education program.

K3M operated on HF, 80-10 meters, CW and SSB. ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Officials supported the activity, local radio amateurs demonstrated their homebuilt radio devices, and a D-Star hot spot was running on a Raspberry Pi.

SASE for QSL to Al Houston, N2MA, 281 Forsythe Rd, Mars, PA 16046.

### **Federal Court Complaint Filed to Recover Unpaid \$11,500 FCC Fine in Amateur Case**

05/24/2017

The US Government has filed a civil complaint in Federal District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania to recover an unpaid \$11,500 fine that the FCC imposed in a Forfeiture Order 2 years ago on Brian Crow, K3VR, of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. The complaint was filed in Federal District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania on the basis of Crow's residence. FCC records list what appears to be a private mailbox address in Boynton Beach, Florida, for Crow. The office of the clerk for the US District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania confirmed to ARRL that the complaint was filed on May 8.

In January 2015, the FCC levied the \$11,500 fine on Crow for allegedly causing deliberate interference. The FCC had linked its enforcement case against Crow with the separate case of Michael Guernsey, KZ8O (ex-ND8V), of Parchment, Michigan, whom the FCC has fined \$22,000 for allegedly causing intentional interference with other Amateur Radio communications and for allegedly failing to identify. In both cases, the FCC said, it responded in March 2014 to "several complaints of intentional interference" on 14.313 MHz, and Commission agents used radio direction-finding techniques to determine the transmission sources.

According to the court complaint against Crow, FCC agents in March 2014 tracked transmissions to Crow's residence and monitored them for approximately 3 hours and heard him transmit slow-scan television (SSTV) signals and a prerecorded voice transmission of another Amateur Radio station on the frequency. "During this March 14, 2014, monitoring period, Defendant's transmissions prevented other amateur licensees from communicating over the frequency and Defendant did not transmit his assigned call sign," the complaint said. Agents also inspected Crow's station and, the FCC reported, confirmed that it was capable of operating on 14.313 MHz.

As the complaint notes, Congress has decreed that forfeitures assessed by the FCC shall be "payable into the Treasury of the United States" and shall be "recoverable...in a civil suit in the name of the United States."

The complaint seeks payment of the \$11,500 fine plus interest and the plaintiff's costs.

## Growing the Ranks vs. Growing the Enjoyment

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Because I teach amateur radio classes and publish a series of popular amateur radio license study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/](http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/)), I often get kudos for "growing the ranks." In fact, Gordon West, WB6NOA, told me this just last week, when he stopped by the booth I was in at the Dayton Hamvention. I'm paraphrasing a little, but after telling me that he's heard good things about my study guides, he said something like, "You're doing good work in helping get more people into ham radio."

People say that as if this is—or should be—the ultimate goal of teaching a license class. While this may be one of the goals, if that's your primary goal, I think that you're barking up the wrong tree.

In a way, creating more hams is selfish. If there are more licensed amateur radio operators, they say, then amateur radio will have more political clout with the FCC and with Congress, making it easier to pass legislation like the Amateur Radio Parity Act. While this may certainly help the new ham down the line, its main thrust is to reduce restrictions on those who are currently hams.

My goal in teaching amateur radio classes isn't to create more hams. Instead, my goal is to help more people have fun with ham radio. The first step in helping people have fun with ham radio is, of course, helping them get their license. I do that by publishing my study guides and teaching ham classes.

The next step, and I'm only really getting started on this right now, is to help people learn what they need to know to become better ham radio operators. That's why I got a little excited when I saw the article, "Making a Good hobby Better Through Post-Licensing Enrichment" by Tim Busch, N0CKR in the latest issue of Radio Waves, the ARRL's email newsletter for amateur radio instructors.

In the article, Tim describes several activities that his club encourages, including a "new ham net" and the Field Day GOTA station, but he also details a program of "mini classes" that will teach specific skills related to ham radio. These include:

- Programming Radios and Getting on the Air
- Soldering 101
- Multimeter 101
- Build and Use a Roll-Up J-Pole Antenna
- Build and Use a Satellite Antenna
- Foxhunts
- Operating Digital Modes: IRLP, AllStar, D-Star, EchoLink, etc.
- Remote Operation
- Software-Defined Radios
- Transitioning from VHF/UHF to HF Operating
- Chasing Awards
- Learn CW
- Contesting

Tim writes, "Each class is intended to be no more than two hours at a sitting, so they can be held before a monthly club meeting. The variety of subject matter allows many club members to get involved in leading a topic. Materials kits are prepared in advance, so students walk away with practical items they can use at home."

I think this is a great set of classes, and I plan to try some of these in the fall. A couple of other topics that occur to me are:

- Power Supplies 101
- Mobile Operation 101
- ARRL 101
- RFI/TVI 101

Helping new hams—and old hams—have more fun with amateur radio is a lot more satisfying to me than just "growing the ranks." It would be nice to say that we have a million licensed radio amateurs in the U.S., but I think it would be a lot more valuable to the hobby to say that a larger percentage of licensed hams were active and enjoying ham radio. I know that, for me, increasing the number of active, engaged hams would be more personally satisfying than simply creating a lot of new licensees.

When he's not working on helping new hams, Dan operates CW on the HF bands and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. If you have a good idea for a new ham "mini class," e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

### **TOM'S COMMENTS: Comments from Division Vice Director Tom Delaney W8WTD**

One of the key elements in getting and especially keeping new hams is training and involvement. It has come up many times in the meetings of the Entry Level License committee. It was a theme at Hamvention®, where it was mentioned by both Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, ARRL CEO, and Rick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL President. If ham radio is to survive, we need to attract new members, and just as important, we need to help them get on the air.

With Field Day coming up, we have a great opportunity to do just that throughout the Division. Clubs are already starting to make plans. I'd like to encourage not just the planning of where to put antennas and how many stations to operate, but also plans to reach out to new hams and inactive ones. It's great to have a big score and be the top in your class, but it might be more important, in the long run, to count how many hams participated at your local event, and how many new or inactive hams learned something and took a new interest in operating.

If your club has sponsored classes and exams in the past year, have you thought about personally inviting each of your graduates to Field Day? And even if you haven't held classes, there are ways to search the databases and get the contact information for every ham in your area. What would it take to drop an invitation in the mail? How many less-active hams could you encourage to show up?

There are all sorts of ways to build interest. Demonstrating the art of antenna building and placement will show newcomers that antenna work is not beyond them. In fact, wire antennas work well, and can be constructed easily and designed for almost any property. One group I know has even offered to teach soldering and basic connections during the Field Day prep time.

Don't overlook an important Field Day rule, designed specifically with newcomers in mind. That is the Get On the Air (GOTA) station. Look over that section carefully. Your club can add to its total contacts by having such a station. Even new techs qualify. There are ways to use control operators and call sign arrangements that allow a GOTA station to participate fully in Field Day.

You can also add a station without changing your class if that station is dedicated to 50 MHz and higher. Should we happen to get a nice six-meter opening, you can rack up lots of contacts and points just by putting that sort of station in your operating plans. It gives you an extra station to operate, so there won't be a shortage of stations for all those new operators you plan to get out there!

And youth count! Your club can get bonus points for contacts made by young people under the age of 18. There are lots of other bonus points available. One in particular your club may wish to use is Social Media. You could attract attention (see getting new hams involved, above) and get bonus points while doing it.

In this case, reading the rules is less a matter of following regulations, and more of a matter of finding new ways operate at Field Day. Use your imagination for what you can accomplish. And have fun!

73, Tom W8WTD Vice Director, Great Lakes Division

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

|                       |                       |                     |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>      | Mike Dougherty KD8MMH | <b>Board Member</b> | Tom Schmidt N8EUI<br>Term expires 2017  |
| <b>Vice-President</b> | Brian Kleinfeld K8HY  | <b>Board Member</b> | Anne Elias KB8AWE<br>Term expires 2018  |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Mike Elias K8AVJ      | <b>Board Member</b> | Doris Miles KD8MMG<br>Term expires 2019 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Mike Linton N8XPS     |                     |   |

## 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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