



SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

June 2018

- **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. Changes are posted to the club website.

Club Meeting Dates:

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

Club Breakfast Dates (Savoy bar and Grill on Franklin St.):

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

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

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday following the general membership meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Biggby Coffee on Bay Rd. Meeting date may change based on room availability. Changes in meeting dates are posted on the club website.
All dates are Thursday: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 14, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20

ARES Members:

Ares training for June will be Direction Finding exercise at Randle Wicks park. Visit the Ares website for more information. No Ares training for July.

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 Tues, Thurs, Sat 8:00 PM

Saginaw Valley ARA meeting minutes for May 4, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mike N8XPS, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 14 members and 2 guests present.

Horst KD8ZXR, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Ron KC8YVF. The motion passed with one nay.

Ron KC8YVF, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Horst KD8ZXR. The motion passed with one nay.

The president reported on possible locations for the August meeting as well as the need to find storage space for the equipment from the roof. Several potential meeting places were discussed. A purchase offer for the building has been made and accepted with a closing date of June 28. A discussion on removing the equipment from the roof then followed. It was decided anyone who wanted to help remove the equipment should report to the Red Cross the following Sunday.

Ron KC8YVF, discussed how the Midland MS walk went and plans for the Frankenmuth MS walk.

The upcoming Midland swap was also discussed. As well as, a discussion on transporting the tower sections the club still has in its possession to the Midland swap. Our joint Field Day with Midland was also discussed. Midland will be grilling two turkeys as part of the food accommodations. Ron KC8YVF, made a motion to reimburse Midland for food expenses. The motion was seconded by Mike KD8MMH. The motion passed. The need to renew the club's insurance was also brought up at this point. Mike K8AVJ, made a motion to approve renewing the insurance. The motion was seconded by Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

The winner of the 50-50 drawing had ticket number 214754, but it seems I did not write down their name. So, congratulations, whoever you are.

The motion to adjourn was made by Doris KD8MMG, and seconded by Tom N8EUI.

Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for May 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Mike KD8MMH, with Mike N8XPS, Doris KD8MMG, Tom N8EUI, Brian K8HY, Horst KD8ZXR, Anne KB8AWE, and Mike K8AVJ, present.

Mike N8XPS, made a motion to accept last month's board meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Tom N8EUI. The motion passed.

President's Report

The president reported on preparations for Field Day. We are all set with the park reservation thanks to Rich K8UE who reserved the park for us. Thank you Rich. The insurance renewal also arrived, and a copy has already been submitted to the park.

Vice President's Report

The Vice President discussed questions about equipment, including the new microwave network.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported on his activity planning. The secretary is currently preparing to hold an antenna building activity in July. The current plan is to construct 2m copper J-pole antennas. However, this is subject to change. Further details to come.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported on the current membership list. We have about 30 current members with late membership renewals arriving occasionally. One such renewal was sent in on a very old form that listed a former president as the mail to address. There was concern that this outdated form was still available somewhere on the club website. However, the membership forms available on the website were checked and all are up to date.

Chair's Report

The Chair reported on removal of the HF beam and tower from the roof of the Red Cross building. Thank you to everyone that came out to help. (The Secretary apologizes for not having a list of the volunteers.) Potential meeting places were again discussed. Also discussed was the possible need to change the meeting day or time. Removing and storing club equipment from the Red Cross building was also discussed. This includes the equipment that was removed from the roof as well as the equipment that was moved upstairs. It was decided to plan a cleanup day for June 2 after the club breakfast.

General Discussion

The Frankenmuth MS walk was discussed. Exact numbers were not available, but it was estimated that about 500 people participated in this year's event. Communications went well and the microwave system was demonstrated to the public and to a representative from the Frankenmuth Credit Union Foundation.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mike KD8MMH, and seconded by Tom N8EUI. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Elias K8AVJ
Secretary

ARRL News

Xenia Enjoys a Second, More Successful Year Playing Host to "Dayton"

Hamvention® 2018 returned to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio, for a second year, earning high marks for attendance, the debut of many new Amateur Radio transceivers, and tasty food.

"Other than the rain showers Friday and Saturday, the event seemed to go very smoothly," said QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, who has been on hand for many past Hamventions. "Many attendees, great food, and a spacious layout that made it easy to get around. It is a *much* better venue than Hara," he added. Others who commented on the Hamvention Facebook page agreed, although some complained that the flea market area was too small, still muddy, and not as well attended as in past years, when the flea



market was Dayton Hamvention. Many credited the Dayton Amateur Radio Association ([DARA](#)) for putting on a great show while still addressing needed improvements.

Ford said the rain, which included a Saturday thundershower, did not deter the crowds, although indoor exhibit areas were packed at times, reminiscent of the steamy traffic jams of the past at Hara Arena during wet weather.

**Alain De Carolis,
K1FM, didn't let
Hamvention curtail his
ham radio activity.
[Bob Inderbitzen,
NQ1R, photo]**

ARRL EXPO, the focus of ARRL's Hamvention presence, saw considerable traffic, and visitors kept those tending the ARRL Store quite busy. Ford said attendees seemed to appreciate the ARRL Stage, where talks on various topics were presented throughout the show. ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said the ARRL team included nearly 100 people -- from Field Organization volunteers, Section Managers, Officers,

Directors, Vice Directors, partners, served agency representatives, ARRL staff, and members who helped out.

Ford postulated that Hamvention 2018 may have witnessed a record number of new Amateur Radio products. New transceivers included Icom's IC-7610, Kenwood's TS-890S, Yaesu's FTDX-101D, and FlexRadio's FLEX-6400M and FLEX-6600M.

CommRadio introduced its CTX-10, a compact SDR-based QRP transceiver. Other new products ranged from CW keys, to digital mode interfaces, to audio processors and amplifiers. The August issue of *QST* will provide a roundup.

Showers persisted into Saturday. "Hamvention's attempts to mitigate last year's mud issues in the flea market area seemed to help, although the relentless rain proved to be a challenge," Ford observed. "As a result, the indoor exhibits appeared to receive the lion's share of the traffic."

Hamvention 2018 Amateur of the Year Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, ARRL and American Red Cross volunteer, receives her award from Hamvention Awards Committee member Frank Beafore, WS8B.

Perhaps as a result of the wet weather, Hamvention forums proved popular. For example, a nearly standing-room-only crowd to the RTTY Contesting forum heard ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Ned Stearns, AA7A, discuss FT8 as a possible replacement for RTTY in contest applications. Stearns has been involved in proving out FT8 DXpedition Mode. The ARRL membership forum also drew a substantial crowd. After comments by President Rick Roderick, K5UR, Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, addressed potential changes to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) program.

At Hamvention, ARRL Section Managers Oscar Resto, KP4RF (right) and Fred Kleber, K9VV, accepted the 2017 ARRL International Humanitarian Award on behalf of the radio amateurs of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

The skies cleared on Sunday, and bargain hunters flocked to the Fairgrounds. A number of exhibitors commented that it was the largest Hamvention Sunday attendance they'd seen in a long time.

Young attendees seemed to be in greater evidence this year, including teams of students interested in combining Amateur Radio with robotics. For example, the [First](#)

[Robotics](#) competition teams were on hand to demonstrate their creations.

The Yasme Foundation-sponsored "Ham Radio 2.0 -- Innovation and Discovery" area was a big hit, Yasme Foundation President Ward Silver, NOAX, said. "Subjects ranged from high-bandwidth satellite designs to Summits on the Air (SOTA), [HamSCI's](#) 2017 Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) research, and QSLs." Silver said the goal was to help diverse groups meet and interact. Researcher Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, who staffed the HamSCI booth, reported "a tremendous response."

Florian Zwingl, OE3FTA, of Austria, and Koos Fick, ZR6KF, of South Africa represented the IARU Region 1 group Youngsters on the Air ([YOTA](#)), promoting YOTA in IARU Region 2 (the Americas). The YOTA "[Summer Camp](#)" will be held in August in South Africa -- when it's winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

Florian Zwingl, OE3FTA (left), and Koos Fick, ZR6KF, represented YOTA. [Ward Silver, NOAX, photo]

"The weather notwithstanding, the mood was clearly upbeat. The open layout of the Xenia Fairgrounds drew compliments as attendees found it much easier to navigate

than Hara Arena," Ford said. "The Dayton Amateur Radio Association also received kudos for their smooth management of the event. The food vendors drew rave reviews with delights ranging from standard carnival fare to ethnic cuisine."

Syndicated Column

Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

- K0NR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio? (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)
- N0SSC's Millennials are killing ham radio (<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)
- PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio? (<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)
- NZ0T's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio? (<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, K0NR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? I've written about that topic, too (<https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/>).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post (<https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html>), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 – Damaging to Amateur Radio?" (<https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/>) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, N0SSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes,

“A hackathon isn’t a coding competition. It’s explained well in this Medium article (<https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601>). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders... anyone with an interest in **solving a problem with technology.**”

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn’t just millennials we’re talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don’t think it’s my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don’t even know if that’s really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I’m not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, “Hey, come and operate my station.” What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, “Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it.” Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I’m standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I’m really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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.

2018 SVARA Officers

President	Mike Linton N8XPS	Board Member	Mary Paquette WB8LZA
		Term expires 2018	
Vice-President	Brian Kleinfeld K8HY		
Secretary	Mike Elias K8AVJ	Board Member	Doris Miles KD8MMG
		Term expires 2019	
Treasurer	Anne Elias KB8AWE	Board Member	Tom Schmidt N8EUI
		Term expires 2020	

2018 SVARA Appointments

Newsletter Editor

To subscribe or submit articles, please send requests to
 Mike Elias K8AVJ ke8avj@gmail.com

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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