

SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the Saginaw Valley
Amateur Radio Association

March, 2007

QRM from Dave, N8ERL

As this is written, the SVARA testing session on Saturday, February 25 was a big success. 19 hams upgraded or got their ham license. Good job to Keith, N8XD, and his team for a well-run and well-organized event.

April 21 and 22 is the Michigan QSO party. State QSO parties are a fine way to get a taste of contesting without having a lot of experience. A State QSO party usually runs over a weekend for about 12 or more hours, usually has fairly simple scoring, exchanges and categories and is a lot of fun.

The Michigan QSO party begins at 1600Z on Saturday and ends at 0400 Sunday (12 hours). Participants get one point for SSB contacts, two points for CW contacts, and stations may be worked once per band. Multipliers (for Michigan contesters) are Michigan counties, the other 49 states and the Canadian provinces. You get points for DX contacts but no multipliers. One of the very fun parts of a QSO party is going mobile or portable. Mobile, to give participants the chance to work you in a different county. Portable, to go to a rare county (the details are at the MIQP website <http://www.miqp.org/>).

Even if you only work the contest for a little while, you are helping folks get points. There were only a few of us from Saginaw County last year so it would be great to have more participation. Also, there is a club plaque so when you send in your logs make sure you enter as a SVARA member.

Speaking of logs, N3FJP, Scott, the author of the famous *Amateur Contact Log* has a MI QSO party log which is quite inexpensive. It can be found at his site <http://www.n3fjp.com/>.

The Marshall Swap and Shop is coming up on Saturday March 17. This is usually a pretty good swap. All of you new upgrades will no doubt find some HF radios for sale (it will be interesting to see if all the new general and extras will drive up used gear prices). There will also be some dealers there for new gear also.

Don't forget that Dayton (yeaaaaa!) is coming up in May. The date is May 18 through 20. If you haven't been to the Dayton Hamfest, you ought to make this your year. There is so much to see and so much to do. You don't just go to Dayton, you experience Dayton. It would be great if the three Tri-city clubs could get together and get a bus to go down for Saturday.

Also, the last weekend in June is Field Day (another yeaaaaa!). We've been having a lot of fun the last few years at Richland Township Park. Each year we get a little more participation and are hoping to have even more this year. If you would like to set up and captain a station this year, let me know (wz8ds@yahoo.com). We will give the folks who had stations last year first pick (of the mode and frequency they used last year) but they will have to reserve by May 1. If we have more than one request for a frequency and mode we will draw straws or something. The exception is the club trailer which will be on 20 meters sideband. I'm sure field day will be discussed at then March meeting so someone (me, if I don't have to work) will be there to answer any questions you might have.

Remember, I'm looking for things to write about so email me if you have anything newsworthy...please?

General Membership Meeting
February 2, 2007
Red Cross

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM. There were 24 members and guests present. The Secretary's report was accepted as printed in the Harmonic on a motion by N8YXR and seconded by KC8YVF with all in favor.

The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by N8XPS seconded by KC8YVE.

Announcements:

Swap in Traverse City February 10-11, 2007.

Repeater Coordination Renewal coming up.

Club Breakfast

ARRL DX Phone contest March 3, 2007 10:00 am at the Red Cross

There will be a Technician class at the Midland Salvation Army on February 6, 2007

W8LPV is the Chairperson of the Board for 2007

It was asked if the club would approve of N8YXR replacing KB8QO as Trustee. On a motion by KC8BYI, seconded by KC8VOA all agreed.

Old Business:

KC8YVF gave an ATV update. All equipment has been ordered and received. The county has purchased an 8'X18" 2-axle trailer for this purpose which will be stored at Harry Browne Airport.

WD8OQH indicated he still was not receiving QST.

K8DVX asked if anyone knew how to contact KB5TOJ for radio repairs.

W8HZF suggested the club concentrate on existing equipment. He also noted he would teach a class on theory from Ohm's Law to Q factors if there were enough interest.

New Business:

KC8BYI announced we had received applications for all 3 Care Breaks this summer. It was also noted that the 4th of July would be six (6) days. KC8BDQ moved to do all 3. After further discussion, N8ERL seconded and all were in favor.

Volunteers are needed to haul the club trailer to and from the care break site.

KC8YVF announced there will be Advanced Weather Spotter training in Elkhart, IN on March 10, 2007.

N8ERL asked if it would be viable to store the club trailer at Harry Browne as well.

At 8:51 PM KC8YVE did a presentation on High Voltage.

Afterwards, N8ERL made a motion to adjourn. The 50/50 drawing was held first, with KC8YVD winning \$14.50.

KC8YVD offered support for the motion to adjourn and most were in favor except for one nay vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Weirauch, KC8BDQ
Secretary

Board of Directors
SVARA
February 14, 2007
Texan on State Street

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 pm. Present were: KC8YVF, W8LPV, KC8BYI, and WA8GRI.

The Secretary's report was accepted on a motion by WA8GRI, seconded by KC8YVF.
The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

Discussion was held on the SVARA Scholarship. W8LPV presented the applicant requirements documentation. After revisions, KC8BYI made a motion to accept the documentation. The motion was seconded by KC8YVF. All were in favor.

Discussion was held on the 501c(3) status.

KC8BYI mentioned that KC8BDQ has e-mailed Darrin Bradley from News5 for the April meeting but has not received a response. It was decided that BDQ continue his efforts and if no response or is turned down, he should contact Mark Torregrossa.

On a motion by WA8GRI and seconded by KC8BYI the meeting was adjourned at 8:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Weirauch, KC8BYI
Treasurer



SVARA HARMONIC

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

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 1st 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.

2007 SVARA Officers

President	Keith DeLong, N8XD	989-695-5131	n8xd@arrl.net
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Board Member 2009	Aaron Stella, KD8AVA	989-497-0463	astella@bcdglobal.com

2007 SVARA Appointments

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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

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