



# SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the  
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

August 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:** **NEW**

Lecture Theater in the Covenant Anderson building on the corner of N. Bond St. and Almira St.

1<sup>ST</sup> 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, July 6, 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, July 7, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 August will be the annual dinner and a movie. Visit the Ares website for more information. Ares training for September is to be determined.

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

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

## **Saginaw Valley ARA meeting minutes for June 1, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11pm by Mike N8XPS, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 11 members and 4 guests present.

Gordy KC8YVD, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Randy KE8AHW. The motion passed with one nay.

Mike N8XPS made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Mike K8AVJ. The motion passed.

Minnie KD8PAZ, reported on upcoming swaps. Ron KC8YVF, discussed how the Frankenmuth MS walk went. There were enough operators and things went smoothly. They were also able to show off the new microwave system to someone from the credit Union foundation. Ron also reported on the recent Ares training. They practiced sending simplex messages in the version of a small S.E.T. using ICS 213 forms.

Mike N8XPS, reported on upcoming events. A plan is in place for transporting the tower sections to the Midland swap. Field Day paperwork is also done. Mike discussed a plan for the removal of the equipment from inside the Red Cross building.

Jeff KB8SWR, proposed the purchase of additional microwave equipment that could be used at Field Day and beyond. Mike K8AVJ, made a motion to approve up to \$140 for the purchase of new equipment. This motion was seconded by Gordy KC8YVD. After some discussion was had a motion to modify the amount to \$300 was made by Mike KD8MMH, and seconded by Gordy KC8YVD. The motion passed.

Location for the August meeting was discussed. We will be using a conference room provided by Covenant Hospital with details to follow.

The motion to adjourn was made by Gordy KC8YVD and seconded by Ron KC8YVF.

## **Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for June 14, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12pm by Mike KD8MMH, with Mike N8XPS, Dave W8DW, Doris KD8MMG, Tom N8EUI, Brian K8HY, Horst KD8ZXR, Mary WB8LZA, Anne KB8AWE, and Mike K8AVJ, present.

Dave W8DW, made a motion to accept last month's board meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

### **President's Report**

The president reported on the Red Cross move. Mike suggested, and it was agreed that we should attempt to sell the computers and monitors from the Red Cross at the Midland swap.

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

The Vice President was not present.

### **Secretary's Report**

The secretary reported on plans for the upcoming antenna build and made a request for club funds to be used for this and future club activities. Mary WB8LBZ made a motion to approve \$200 towards club activities. This motion was seconded by Mike KD8MMH. The motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer had nothing to report.

### **Chair's report**

The chair discussed the Midland swap as well as the upcoming fox hunt.

### **General Discussion**

Dave W8DW discussed the final details of Field Day. Mike KD8MMH, made a motion to reimburse the Midland club or the purchase of the ham be served on Field Day. The motion was seconded by Mike N8XPS and passed.

The new meeting location in the Anderson building was discussed. The board also agreed to hold a July board meeting as in previous years.

Nine of us met at the Red Cross following the club breakfast, Doris KD8MMG, Minnie KD8PAZ, Horst KD8ZXR, Ron KC8YVF, Mike N8XPS, Anne KB8AWE, Mike K8AVJ, and Dr. O'Connor whose callsign I did not get. Thanks to everyone's help we were able to remove everything that was worth keeping and find a place to store it.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mike KD8MMH, and seconded by Doris KD8MMG.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Elias K8AVJ  
Secretary



## **Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for July 19, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at pm by Mike KD8MMH, with Mike N8XPS, Tom N8EUI, Anne KB8AWE, Mike K8AVJ, and Thomas present.

### **President's Report**

The President reported on the Midland ham swap. Thanks to Nate KD8GOW, Horst KD8ZXR, and Minnie KD8PAZ, we were able to sell all of the antenna sections.

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

The Vice President was not present.

### **Secretary's Report**

The secretary discuss details of the antenna project and passed around sample instructions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer gave a summary of transactions that included the purchase of the additional microwave gear.

### **General Discussion**

The new meeting location was discussed as well as the possibility of meeting at Fuzzy's for ice cream afterward in lieu of the traditional ice cream social. It was also mentioned that Brian K8HY, has the damaged power supply unit from the club trailer and will attempt to repair it. Field Day was discussed. Several operators from both Midland and Saginaw attended however, activities were cut short due to the threat of unpleasant weather.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mike KD8MMH, and seconded by N8XPS.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Elias K8AVJ  
Secretary

## ARRL News

# ARRL Board Adopts Volunteer Monitoring Program; Official Observer Program to be Retired

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted the recommendations of the Official Observer Program Study Committee, which would retire the venerable Official Observer (OO) Program and institute the Volunteer Monitoring (VM) Program. The Board took the action at its July 20 - 21 meeting in Windsor, Connecticut, instructing that the transition "be implemented as soon as practicable." Under the terms of the new program, current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors. The Board expressed its appreciation for the OOs and their dedicated volunteer service over the years.

The Board said the action is expected to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands and was undertaken at the request of the FCC in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff. Coordination of cases and evidence gathering would become the responsibility of ARRL Headquarters staff, while the FCC will retain the responsibility for final decisions regarding action in specific cases.

The study committee report spelled out the additional steps necessary to launch the Volunteer Monitoring Program. Among them would be the appointment of a dedicated Headquarters staff member or an independent contractor working under the direction of ARRL Headquarters to administer the new program and interface with its participants. The Volunteer Monitoring Program administrator would, among other duties, create a vetting and accreditation process for prospective Volunteer Monitors. The authority to accredit, appoint, and dismiss Volunteer Monitors would be assigned to ARRL Headquarters staff. Section Managers will continue to be a part of the vetting process for VMs, although they will not have appointment or dismissal authority.



**ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR (left), who moderated the Board meeting, and ARRL CEO Barry Shelley, N1VXY. [Steve Ford, WB8IMY, photo]**



**ARRL Chief Financial Officer Diane Middleton, W2DLM (top), and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, at the July ARRL Board Meeting. [Steve Ford, WB8IMY, photo]**

Volunteer Monitor accreditation would be limited to a 3-year term, renewable by satisfying requirements necessary to ensure competency. A new *Volunteer Monitoring Training Manual* is in the final stages of development.

The administrator will create a target for the number of geographically distributed Volunteer Monitors. Preliminary plans would include up to five Volunteer Monitors per ARRL Section and up to 250 Volunteer Monitors overall.

The administrator would also "develop a rubric or other aid for program participants to highlight offenses and other criteria that the FCC considers a priority," the motion said. The administrator also would be charged with organizing periodic webinars, highlighting technologies, techniques, and other continuing education topics that would assist, motivate, and better enable Volunteer Monitors. The FCC will be actively involved in the development and presentation of these

training opportunities.

The new Volunteer Monitor Program would continue to send notices recognizing good on-the-air operating practice. Under the new program, positive or negative operator notices eventually would be sent from ARRL Headquarters, not by individual Volunteer Monitors, in part to maintain their anonymity.

The action further authorized ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, to terminate the standing *Amended Agreement* between ARRL and the FCC Field Bureau regarding the use of amateur volunteers and execute a new *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* between ARRL and the FCC Enforcement Bureau. The *MOU* is under final review.

In other action, the Board:

- unanimously adopted recommendations of the ARRL Executive Committee to update ARRL's *Articles of Association and Bylaws* (see the July 2018 issue of *QST*, p. 74, or refer to Minutes 22 - 25 of the Board's July 20 - 21, 2018, meeting, when they are posted).
- established a 3-month general comment period for the *ARES Strategic Plan* with comments, due no later than October 31, after which the Public Service Enhancement Working Group (PSEWG) will present the final plan to the ARRL Annual Board of Directors meeting in January 2019 for consideration for adoption.
- received the preliminary final report of the PSEWG regarding the rollout of the ARES Connect program, which will be announced in the September issue of *QST*. The Board agreed to obtain additional field input this fall.
- received an update from the CEO Search Committee.
- accepted and discussed [reports](http://www.arrl.org/committee-reports) (<http://www.arrl.org/committee-reports>) from standing committees as well as ad hoc and advisory committees of the Board. Read [more](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-adopts-volunteer-monitoring-program-official-observer-program-to-be-retired) <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-adopts-volunteer-monitoring-program-official-observer-program-to-be-retired>

## FCC Cites Baofeng Importer for Illegally Marketing Unauthorized RF Devices

The FCC has issued a *Citation and Order* ([Citation](#)) to [Amcrest Industries, LLC](#) (formerly Foscam Digital Technologies, LLC), an importer and marketer of popular and inexpensive Baofeng handheld transceivers, alleging that the company violated FCC rules and the Communications Act by illegally marketing unauthorized RF devices. The FCC asserts that Amcrest marketed Baofeng model UV-5R-series FM handheld radios capable of transmitting on "restricted frequencies." The Baofeng models UV-5R and UV-5R V2+ were granted an FCC [equipment authorization](#) in 2012 to operate under Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio Service (Land Mobile) rules.



"Under § 2.803 of the Commission's rules, an entity may not market a device that is capable of operating outside the scope of its equipment authorization," the FCC *Citation* said. "RF devices that have been authorized under Part 90 rules, such as the model as issue, must operate within the technical parameters established in those rules." The FCC also maintained that the UV-5R 2+ is capable of operating at 1 W or 4 W, while the Part 90 Equipment Authorization limits the power output to 1.78 W.

Amcrest conceded that the units were capable of operating on restricted frequencies but told the FCC that, per discussions with the manufacturer, were "only capable of operating at 1 W, the FCC said. The company instructed the manufacturer to fix the problem and later confirmed with the manufacturer that all Amcrest inventory on order and in the future would operate only on 145 - 155 MHz and 400 - 520 MHz.

While the *Citation* does not mention Amateur Radio, the UV-5R series radios can be programmed in a channelized configuration to function on 2 meters and 70 centimeters. According to the *Citation*, Amcrest had added a warning in its user manuals and marketing and sales materials implying that the UV-5R V2+ could operate on unauthorized and restricted frequencies, including Part 87 Aviation Services frequencies, Part 80 Maritime Services frequencies, and frequencies reserved for federal government use.

Amcrest told the FCC that it had ceased marketing four models in the Baofeng UV-5R series "a few years ago," but it did not remove them from its website until last February. Numerous online retailers continue selling UV-5R series radios for less than \$25, with some ads indicating that these are "ham" equipment. Read [more](#) (<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-cites-baofeng-importer-for-illegally-marketing-unauthorized-rf-devices>).



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

<b>President</b>	Mike Linton N8XPS	<b>Board Member</b>	Mary Paquette WB8LZA
		Term expires 2018	
<b>Vice-President</b>	Brian Kleinfeld K8HY		
<b>Secretary</b>	Mike Elias K8AVJ	<b>Board Member</b>	Doris Miles KD8MMG
		Term expires 2019	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Anne Elias KB8AWE	<b>Board Member</b>	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



**SVARA HARMONIC**  
 The monthly newsletter of  
 The Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association  
 PO Box 1783 Saginaw, MI 48605-1783

