



# SVARA Harmonic

A monthly publication of the  
Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Association

October 2019

- **SVARA Meeting Presentations**

We are always 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:**

Covenant Hospital Anderson building, first floor lecture room on the corner of N. Bond St. and Almira St. on the 1<sup>ST</sup> Friday at 7:00PM unless otherwise noted. Changes are posted to the club website.

**Club Meeting Dates:**

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

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

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

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

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week following the general membership meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Biggby Coffee on Bay Rd. Dates for the new year are being decided. Changes in meeting dates are posted on the club website.

All dates for 2019 are to be announced at this time.

**ARES Members:**

Ares training for January is Preparing for Deployment. Winter Field Day planning will also be discussed. Visit the Ares website for more information. Ares training for February is Operational Stress.

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

<b>District 3 Net</b> 145.310 Sunday 6:30 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 October 4, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Mike N8XPS, who lead the pledge of allegiance with 14 members and 1 guest present.

Gordy KC8YVD, made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as published in the harmonic news and was seconded by Horst KD8ZXR. The motion passed.

Mike KD8MMH, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

Minnie KD8PAZ, announced upcoming swaps. Dave W8DW, announced upcoming contests.

Mike N8XPS, began the discussion on the club website. As was mentioned previously the hardware currently running club website is passed its life expectancy. There are currently several options being explored. Ron KC8YVF, is making copies of the club website as well as the Ares website. The challenge facing the club website is finding something that is compatible with our very old website or updating the website.

Mike KD8MMH, discussed the pricing for club T-shirts. Even though the company has changed names they still have the club's information. As before the T-shirts have a minimum order quantity of 10. Small to extra large is \$12.50 each, double XL and larger is \$14.50 each. Embroidered jackets and embroidered polo shirts can be purchased one at a time. Embroidered jackets are \$75 for S-XL and \$78 for XXL and larger, embroidered polo shirts are \$40 for S-XL.

We are sad to report the passing of Helen Kleinfeld, wife of Fred Kleinfeld and mother of Brian Kleinfeld. The Prineville family would like to thank us for our condolences, the flowers that were received and our support during this difficult time. Thank you to Mike KD8MMH, for purchasing and delivering the flowers. Mike reimbursed by the club.

Mike KD8MMH, discussed preparations for the upcoming Holiday in the Heart of the City event. Mike has spoken with Jim Wades and Jim is available and would like to participate again this year. Mike KD8MMH, made a motion to cover the usual expenses, room, dinner and gas card, for Jim. The motion was seconded by Horst KD8ZXR. The motion passed.

Gordy KC8YVD, has made and donated some "hold down" clips for securing papers during outdoor club activities such as National Night Out and Holiday in the Heart of the City. Quite handy as the weather rarely cooperates with us. Thank you Gordy.

Ron discussed the emergency preparedness Expo as well as the Simulated Emergency Test. Both events went well. The Expo went well thanks to a lot of help. Our booth was busy as usual however thanks to our prominent corner location we had even more visitors. The simulated emergency test also went well. An issue with the packet system at 911 was discovered however, thanks to ham ingenuity when Link messages were able to be sent using the MI6 network.

Rick KC8VOA, asked if there has been any news from the repeater committee. There has not been however, Dave W8DW, announced he had applied for a frequency pair for the recently donated 440 Dstar repeater. The repeater committee will need to hold a meeting to discuss the 220 repeater.

The motion to adjourn was made by Ron KC8YVF, and seconded by Rick KC8VOA.

## **Saginaw Valley ARA board meeting minutes for October 16, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Mike KD8MMH, with Mike N8XPS, Dave W8DW, Doris KD8MMG, Horst KD8ZXR, Mary WB8LZA, 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 Doris KD8MMG. The motion passed.

### **President's Report**

The president held his report for general discussion.

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

The Vice President was not present.

### **Secretary's Report**

The secretary asked a few questions regarding the club website but had nothing new to report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer was not present.

### **Chair's Report**

Mike KD8MMH, had a report regarding the December club breakfast. IHOP no longer takes reservations for large groups. Because of this research for an alternate location has begun.

### **General Discussion**

Mike N8XPS, begin the general discussion with the December meeting location the board discussed whether we should at the hospital this year or at the church as in the past. The church has amenities that the hospital does not including a microwave, oven and refrigerator. As well as convenient door drop off.

The club owned mobile dual band radio did not sell at the Midland swap. He if any club members have an interest in this radio. The price is \$100. Please see the flyer rooted in the harmonic for more information.

The motion to adjourn was made by Doris KD8MMG, and seconded by Mike N8XPS.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Elias K8AVJ  
Secretary

**For Sale...** This transceiver and power supply are from a former members shack. The transceiver is a Icom 718 and has the optional CW filter installed. It includes the hand mic and power cord. The asking price is \$500.00. Also for sale is a 25 Amp power supply and the asking price for it is \$100.00. Both the transceiver and power supply are in excellent condition. I will sell separately but would like to sell as a package. I will also throw in, for free, a GAP Challenger DX vertical if you decide to buy both as a package. The antenna was in working condition when taken down. Coax not included. If interested contact me at (989) 321-1606 or at the club meeting. I am trying to sell this locally and give it a good home in the area if no one is interested I will list it on QRZ around mid November.

Dave  
W8DW



## ARRL News

# ARRL November Sweepstakes Offers Two Weekends of Fun

The [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) (SS) weekends again loom large on the amateur radio contest horizon. The CW weekend is November 2 - 4 -- this weekend -- while the phone weekend is November 16 - 18. Both events begin on Saturday at 2100 UTC and conclude on Monday at 0259 UTC. An [Operating Guide](#) that relates some of the history and evolution of these North American contests is available. SS offers operating categories for every preference. The goal for many seasoned SS operators is to complete a "clean sweep" by working all 83 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Sections. Some may just want to dabble. Others enjoy trying to make a clean sweep by working one station in each section. Most SS operators, though, simply try to run up the contact and multiplier counts, staying in the chair for the full 24 (out of 30) allowable hours.

Some multipliers are much rarer than others, although these can shift from one event to the next. Stations in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have been absent in recent years after hurricanes devastated those areas. Northern Territories (NT) is often the most difficult, and for a while, it looked as though the NT mainstay, VY1AAA (at the Yukon Territory station of J. Allen, VY1JA), might not be on the air this month. Allen has stepped away from amateur radio, and his station was supposed to have been dismantled already. But circumstances changed, the VY1JA station is still intact, and Gerry Hull, W1VE/VE1RM, says he'll be making the NT multiplier available to the SS multitude.



"100% I will be on with guns blazing, CW and SSB," Hull told ARRL this week. "The big 'if' was getting J's Alpha 9500 back in working order, and that happened last Friday. After that, we are done. So, a sweep will be possible."

Hull will operate VY1AAA remotely from New Hampshire. He said that for the CW event this weekend, he'll either stay very low in the band -- the bottom 5 kHz -- or operate above 40 kHz to avoid interference. And while he's a snappy CW operator, he promises to slow down for anyone.

"The trick will be finding my own Section," Hull added. "Let's see if the propagation gods are with us. I hope so, for this swan song."

Once the VY1JA station is finally dismantled, VY1AAA will also be off the air, unless Hull is able to secure another station. Hull told ARRL earlier this year that he's been searching for several months for another Northern Territories station that would be willing to host remote operation.

Allen cited long-term health issues and hearing loss for his decision to retire from ham radio, and his familiar VY1JA call sign will retire with him.



**Gerry Hull, W1VE/VE1RM, operates VY1AAA remotely during ARRL Field Day.**

"The VY1AAA team is greatly saddened by this turn of events," Hull said. "Hams around the world will surely miss J and the VY1AAA team on the bands. J has been an incredible friend and mentor." Over the past 4 years, VY1AAA has logged more than 35,000 contacts, and QSL requests will continue to be honored.

Operators with limited time to get on the air may want to raise the excitement level by "running" -- i.e, calling CQ -- a lot of stations or by operating later in the contest, when the SS regulars will be on the lookout for call signs they have not yet encountered.

For both the CW and phone events, stations exchange a sequential serial number (no leading zeros needed), an operating category (precedence), call sign, the last two digits of the year of first license for either operator or station (check), and ARRL/RAC Section.

Many areas of the US change from daylight saving time to standard time at 2 AM local time on November 3 by moving clocks back 1 hour. UTC is not affected. -- *Thanks to Gerry Hull, W1VE/VE1RM, and The ARRL Contest Update*

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.

### 2019 SVARA Officers

<b>President</b>	Mike Linton N8XPS	<b>Board Member</b>	
<b>Vice-President</b>	Brian Kleinfeld K8HY	Term expires 2019	Doris Miles KD8MMG
<b>Secretary</b>	Mike Elias K8AVJ	<b>Board Member</b>	Tom Schmidt N8EUI
<b>Treasurer</b>	Anne Elias KB8AWE	Term expires 2020	
		<b>Board Member</b>	Mary Paquette WB8LZA
		Term expires 2021	

### 2019 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      989-270-8974 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

